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Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy plan shows ways to lower energy bills for families, reduce reliance on out-of-state energy, invest in job training, and create more than 40,000 jobs by 2030.

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today, together with the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, released the state's Clean Energy Plan, the first-ever plan in the state's history as the governor directed in Executive Order #38. The Clean Energy Plan identifies dozens of paths and strategies aiming to lower energy bills and prices at the pump for Wisconsin families, promote energy independence by reducing reliance on out-of-state energy sources, create an estimated more than 40,000 jobs by 2030, and invest in job training and apprenticeship programs in innovative industries and technologies.

Wisconsinites continue to be concerned by rising costs in grocery store aisles and at gas pumps while industries face challenges getting resources and supplies. Oil and gas prices have been subject to major disruptions and volatility due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, creating uncertainty in markets at home, including gas prices in Wisconsin which recently exceeded $4 per gallon. National inflation has also recently reached the highest level in decades. At the same time, the plan comes as there are historic opportunities presented by an influx of federal dollars to invest in once-in-a-generation efforts to speed up production of cheaper, cleaner energy, replace water infrastructure to ensure access to safe, clean drinking water, reduce the impacts of extreme weather, help families and businesses save on energy costs through energy efficiency, and invest in innovative jobs, job training, and apprenticeship

programs. A 2019 study conducted by the Center on Wisconsin Strategy estimated that, each year, Wisconsin sends more than $14 billon out of state due to the state's dependence on out-of-state energy sources.

"Whether it's lowering energy bills and prices at the pump, building infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather events, ensuring every Wisconsinite has clean, safe drinking water, or investing in new jobs, apprenticeship, and training to address our state's workforce challenges—you name it—the strategies in our Clean Energy Plan can help us create good paying jobs that don't require a college degree and bring talented workers to Wisconsin while saving money, reducing energy costs, and building the sustainable future we want for our state.



"Wisconsinites should have the opportunity to make their own decisions about their energy use. Every year, we're losing more than $14 billion we're sending out of state, and that's money we could be using to invest in clean, made-in-Wisconsin energy to help lower energy bills while also creating good-paying job opportunities and apprenticeship training in innovative technologies and industries," said Gov. Evers. "By expanding and speeding up production of cheaper, cleaner energy like wind and solar here in Wisconsin, we can keep our money here at home rather than relying on unpredictable markets often disrupted by foreign leaders and conflicts."

The plan, which aims to change the adverse trajectory of the effects of a changing climate, builds on the work of the Evers Administration over the last three years, including the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, but it was also designed to be flexible to adapt to future technology innovation and market changes. The plan considers and incorporates thoughts, plans, and suggestions of people and entities throughout Wisconsin, including utilities, private industry, frontline communities, Tribal Nations, government partners, and academic experts, among others, to provide a framework to

ensure Wisconsin can transition toward cheaper, cleaner energy.

“Wisconsinites believe in conservation, and we want to protect our natural resources while protecting our pocketbooks at the same time. The good news is that we don’t have to choose—we can do both if we start working smarter as a state—and that’s what this plan is all about,” said Gov. Evers. “Folks, the cost of doing nothing is far too high. Whether it’s farmers, manufacturers, or our outdoor recreation industry, Wisconsin’s economy depends on fresh air, clean water, and fruitful land. But it’s more than that—it's part of who we are as a people, from handing down a family farm to teaching the next generation to hunt or fish to showing a loved one a new park or trail. We must deliver on the promise we made to our kids by leaving them a better life and world than the one we inherited, and this plan will ensure we can deliver on that promise for generations to come.”

Gov. Evers previously signed Executive Order #38 , creating the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, charged with developing the Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan to promote the development and use of clean and renewable energy across the state, advance innovative sustainability solutions that improve the state's economy and environment, and diversify the resources used to meet the state's energy needs. The order also established the state's goal to reach 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2050. Additionally, Gov. Evers also previously joined the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan group of governors who are committed to implementing the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement at the state level in an effort to combat climate change. Executive Order #38 also charged the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy with ensuring the state is fulfilling the carbon reduction goals of the Paris Agreement. The objectives identified in the Clean Energy Plan include putting Wisconsin on a path to achieve 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2050 and ensuring that the state of Wisconsin is contributing to the carbon reduction goals of the Paris Agreement.

“The Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy is pleased to roll out the state’s first Clean Energy Plan,” said Maria Redmond, director of the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy. “Over the past two years the OSCE team worked to create a collaborative path forward to address emissions in our state, and I’m looking forward to implementation of this plan and to continuing to work with partners across the state to support sustainable local economies, environmental justice, and direct actions to address climate change. The long-term impacts of the Clean Energy Plan and our collaborative efforts moving forward are vital to building a sustainable clean energy future.”

Central to the Clean Energy Plan is improving the affordability and accessibility of clean energy technologies for all Wisconsinites. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency ,

solar and wind are among the cheapest energy sources available in the world and getting cheaper every year. At the same time, the Clean Energy Plan cautions that without urgent, meaningful action to address the climate crisis, Wisconsinites will see an increase in their utility bills as they use more energy to heat and cool their homes in response to changing weather and temperatures in the coming years. By investing in clean, renewable energy today while costs are at an all-time low, Wisconsin can reduce the burden of future energy costs on utility customers.

In addition to outlining efforts to meet the state's carbon-free electricity goal and goals in the Paris Agreement, the plan also includes objectives toward reducing the disproportionate impacts of energy generation and use on low-income communities and communities of color, maximizing the creation of and equitable opportunities for clean energy jobs, economic development, and retention of energy investment dollars in Wisconsin, improving the reliability and affordability of the energy system, strengthening the clean energy workforce through training, reskilling, and education, and protecting human and environmental health, among other key strategies. The Clean Energy Plan is available here and includes four major pathways to a clean, reliable, and affordable energy future:

- **Accelerate Clean Energy Technology Deployment** by expanding Focus on Energy incentives, updating generation emission goals, leveraging existing state and federal programs and increasing funding options for projects, bolstering renewable infrastructure with projects like community solar development, and fostering advanced technology development by supporting businesses working to develop these technologies, among many other recommendations.
- **Maximize Energy Efficiency** by setting energy efficiency resource standards, increasing Focus on Energy program funding, increasing voluntary utility investments in energy efficiency, reducing agriculture energy use, promoting creative financing options and additional energy efficiency measures for low-income Wisconsinites, empowering schools to fund or implement energy efficiency programs, and supporting commercial and industrial energy efficiency, among many other recommendations.
- **Modernize Buildings and Industry** by updating commercial building codes, utilizing local building products and protecting Wisconsin forests, developing low-carbon building materials procurement policies, scaling up renewable heating and cooling in the industrial and building sectors, and deploying rapid building electrification, among many other recommendations.

- **Innovate Transportation** by supporting the transition to electric vehicles, bolstering electric vehicle charging infrastructure, leveraging available federal funding to build out this infrastructure, supporting municipalities in expanding multimodal options for communities, and connecting communities in ways that support alternative transportation, among many other recommendations.

In addition to the four pathways identified above, the Clean Energy Plan also includes several workforce development recommendations to ensure Wisconsin has a clean energy workforce to meet these needs, including establishing clean energy apprenticeship tracks, working with technical colleges to develop pathways into the industry, supporting reentry skills training programs for incarcerated individuals, and creating a Clean Energy Workforce Advisory Council to bring leaders together across industries. The Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy estimates with full implementation of this plan, the state could see more than 40,000 new jobs by 2030.