



Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition

Before the
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

2021 Energy Innovation Grant Program Design
Memorandum and Request for Comment
Docket #9709-FG-2021

Comments from
The Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition

The Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the 2021 Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP).

WLGCC -- representing one out of every three citizens in the state -- provides a unified voice for the local governments that are pursuing clean energy and climate change solutions in the state. The Coalition provides a platform for members to collaborate on overcoming barriers to decarbonization, accelerating local climate change solutions and ensuring the benefits of the clean energy economy are distributed to everyone throughout the state. Local governments and elected officials -- as both large electricity users and policy making entities -- have a unique perspective on the threats and challenges that climate change poses, a perspective that is often overlooked in the policy debates.

Over the last decade Wisconsin local governments have made significant commitments to reducing carbon, increasing their reliance on renewable energy to meet its energy needs and other ambitious climate goals. To assess progress in meeting those commitments, local

governments are faced with complicated and costly processes and procedures to monitor and track progress. Even before the pandemic, our local sustainability offices were stretched thin, trying to balance local priorities with increasingly complicated tracking and reporting.

The WLGCC membership would encourage the Public Service Commission and the EIGP to support a comprehensive energy usage and emission monitoring, tracking and reporting solution for local governments.

Clearly, in our collective efforts to reduce carbon emissions and foster a clean energy future for the state and its communities, local and state government need data on the resources being used for energy production and the amount of carbon emissions of those energy resources. Indeed, the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change Report specifically encouraged state agencies to support this goal. *Strategy #5, Improve Data Collection*, directs "agencies to work collaboratively to accurately report emissions, inform other reporting and carbon tracking efforts, monitor progress, and provide data in decision-making to help Wisconsin reach its goals."

For each local unit of government to establish and administer their own energy production and carbon emission tracking programs, would be overly burdensome, expensive, inefficient and wasteful. Utilizing OEI to develop a statewide tracking system that is accessible to local governments would be efficient and effective. Such a tool would give local governments the resource they need to ensure actions at the local level are helping to reduce carbon emissions and promote clean energy. A state-supported tool would also provide consistency between municipalities, helping to reduce confusion associated with different methodologies.

We appreciate the opportunity for WLGCC to comment on appropriate uses of the EIGP funding and hope that consideration will be given to OEI using some of the resources to develop an energy usage and carbon emissions tracking tool to be used by local governments and other stakeholders.