

BEFORE THE**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

Focus on Energy Quadrennial Planning Process IV

5-FE-104

**COMMENTS FROM CITY OF LA CROSSE, CITY OF MADISON, CITY OF GREEN BAY, CITY OF
MIDDLETON, CITY OF MILWAUKEE, DANE COUNTY, MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

Members of the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC, wlgcc.org) are pleased to provide these comments in response to docket 5-FE-104, the Focus on Energy Quadrennial Planning Process IV proceeding.

All of the WLGCC communities represented here have committed to substantial reductions in energy use and carbon emissions. Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects are an important piece of our local efforts to achieve these goals and, as such, we all interact with Focus on Energy regularly, both on projects specific to local government operations and on efforts to engage our broader communities in energy savings. The very first item on the list of WLGCC supported strategies on our website is “Increased funding for and emphasis on energy efficiency, including the Focus on Energy program.”

Additionally, our communities approach this planning process with an eye toward the recent federal *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* that includes \$500 million for State Energy Programs and \$550 million for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant Program, which will flow to state and local governments. This new federal funding will expand the scale and scope of locally-led initiatives targeting energy efficiency and renewable energy, creating additional opportunities for local government coordination with Focus on Energy. We are hopeful that Commission decisions in this planning process will serve to encourage that collaboration.

Proposed Scope of Quadrennial Planning IV

We support the Commission staff recommendation to organize Quadrennial Planning IV into three phases, beginning with macro issues and moving toward increasingly granular decisions based on the decisions made in previous phases of this planning process. The outlined process is logical and clear; for stakeholders like our communities that have multiple priorities, it is clear when we will have the opportunity to address various issues.

We also support the existing list of Macro Policies and Priorities in Phase I. The list includes issues like utility coordination with Focus on Energy and the role of Focus on Energy in addressing equity that are critical to clean energy efforts in Wisconsin. We respectfully recommend that one issue be added to the Phase I list: Collaboration and Coordination with Community-Led Clean Energy Initiatives. Communities throughout our state are implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives in parallel to Focus on Energy, and these efforts will likely grow in coming years as new federal funding becomes available. By addressing this issue now the Commission can be proactive and create a clear framework for Focus on Energy interactions that will benefit all parties, maximizing collaboration and consistency while minimizing confusion.

The lists of issues for Phases II and III seem reasonable at this time though we do hope that the Commission will have the flexibility to add additional topics, if necessary based on outcomes of earlier phases.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to participate in this docket, and we look forward to the Phase I discussion.

Dated this 19th day of November, 2021.

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