



Sustainability Input Forums

Round 1 Summary Report

PREPARED FOR



DATE

FEBRUARY 2024



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North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) is leading the state's planning process to meet North Dakota's goals of creating vibrant economies and finding innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere. Input received through an extensive stakeholder engagement process will assist North Dakota in forming the basis for sustainability planning and actions in 2024 and for years to come, including the state's participation in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program.

This report summarizes processes and learnings from the first round of stakeholder engagement, Round One Sustainability Input Forums, which included:

- 24 Sustainability Input Forums in eight North Dakota communities between October 30 and November 8, 2023; and
- Online survey available to the public from October 30 to December 1, 2023.

1. BACKGROUND

North Dakota was awarded a planning grant through EPA's CPRG program to develop a plan that identifies innovative strategies to build a sustainable future and transform energy economies. As part of this planning grant, NDDEQ is collaborating with North Dakotans to ensure the state's plan reflects communities' needs and is supportive of local planning efforts. The CPRG program requires NDDEQ to submit a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), a short-term plan with implementation-ready strategies to reduce GHG emissions, by March 1, 2024. Following the PCAP, NDDEQ will develop a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), a long-term plan with a more comprehensive set of strategies to reduce GHG emissions, due to EPA by fall 2025. To inform this planning process, NDDEQ is focused on collecting North Dakotans' ideas to develop the state's Priority Community Action Plan and capturing long-term planning ideas to inform NDDEQ's future CCAP planning process.

NDDEQ gathered North Dakotans' ideas through a variety of engagements:

- Round One Sustainability Input Forums – Three forums in each of eight communities throughout the state, offered simultaneously in-person and online (via ZOOM) between October 30 and November 8, 2023. Video recordings and site-specific reports from the forums were posted to NDDEQ's website (www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability).
- Online survey (Round 1) – An online survey paralleled questions asked during Round 1 in-person forums and was made available to the public from October 30 to December 1, 2023. The survey was completed by 121 participants, two of whom were from outside of North Dakota.

In addition to engagement conducted through the Round One Sustainability Input Forums, NDDEQ is performing the following outreach:

- Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums – Three additional online forums, held January 9 to January 11, 2024, offered further opportunities for North Dakota stakeholders to inform the state's Priority Climate Action Plan as specific implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies are being considered and refined. A corresponding online survey was available online to the public from January 9 through January 19, 2024.

- Consultation and engagement with the state’s five tribal nations was conducted by NDDEQ through the North Dakota Indian Affairs Council regular meeting on November 20, 2023. Three of North Dakota’s tribes hold independent CPRG planning grants from EPA, and all were invited to provide input and comments as part of the state’s planning process.
- Options for direct stakeholder contact with NDDEQ staff, including voicemail and email.
- Engagement with state and local governments and key sectors (e.g., energy and agriculture) occurred through coordination meetings and one-on-one conversations to gather ideas, collaborate, and inform planning processes.

Following the completion of the state’s Priority Climate Action Plan, NDDEQ will begin the second phase of planning to inform the development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. As of the release of this report, the specific process and timeline for CCAP planning has not been determined.

2. APPROACH

NDDEQ is focused on building a plan that reflects North Dakotans’ needs and is supportive of local planning efforts. The forums were structured to try and engage North Dakotans from all backgrounds across the state in meaningful conversation. Round One Sustainability Input Forums focused on these questions:

- What BENEFITS do you see for North Dakotans by reducing GHG emissions here?
- What DOWNSIDES are there for North Dakotans by reducing GHG emissions here?
- What IS ALREADY being done in North Dakota to reduce GHG emissions? Who is doing it?
- In what ways would you want to see the state INCENTIVIZE, SUPPORT, or just generally HELP with GHG reductions?

Each forum was held in-person and offered live via ZOOM. The forums were held at the following sites:

Bismarck, October 30 – NDDEQ meeting room (day-time forums) and Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library (evening forum)

Devils Lake, November 8 – Agricultural Center at Lake Region State College

Dickinson, November 1 – Veterans Pavilion

Fargo, November 2 – West Acres Mall Community Room

Grand Forks, November 6 – Choice Health & Fitness Community Room

Jamestown, November 1 – Knights of Columbus

Minot, November 6 – Carnegie Center

Williston, November 2 – James Memorial Art Center

NDDEQ held three sector-specific forums at each of the eight meeting sites. The forums were scheduled during the morning, afternoon, and evening to maximize accessibility for participants at each meeting site. The original intent was for the morning forums to focus on energy, the

afternoon on agriculture, and the evening on community and public service; however, conversations in each forum naturally meandered across sectors and topics.

2.1 CONVERSATION DESIGN

Conversations for the Round One Sustainability Input Forums borrowed from *Art of Hosting*¹ and *Appreciative Inquiry*² methods, which are practices already being used in North Dakota and tribal communities for decision-making. Such methods can allow for efficient and effective capacity building, and greater ability to respond to opportunity, challenge, and change.

Round One Sustainability Input Forums were structured to gain perspectives and ideas to form the foundation of a climate pollution reduction plan that truly reflects North Dakota.

Across platforms and meeting sites, the following information was provided as framing for participants:

North Dakota Sustainability Input Forums

- North Dakotans from all backgrounds are invited to share ideas
- We are looking for your help to meet the state's goals of:
 - Creating vibrant economies *and*
 - Finding innovative ways to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere.
- The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is collaborating with North Dakotans to build a plan that reflects our communities' needs and is supportive of local planning efforts.

Forums were not designed to be debates; rather they were structured as conversations held in a circle format to enable sharing and listening. Each conversation was documented through written comment cards and online prompts for those participating via ZOOM, and conversations were recorded and transcribed.

The questions and sample greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies posed during each conversation were carefully selected to be neutral and open-ended to ensure that all participants felt welcome to share their perspectives.

NDDEQ staff were present at every meeting and provided information and introductory framing, with a primary role as listeners. Experienced facilitators were hired from ERM, a sustainability consulting firm, to keep the two-hour conversations moving during each forum through facilitation.

¹ Art of Hosting, available online: <https://artofhosting.org/what-is-aoh/methods/>

² Center for Appreciative Inquiry, available online: <https://www.centerforappreciativeinquiry.net/resources/what-is-appreciative-inquiry-ai/>

Participants were invited to bring their whole selves into the forums, even if they typically represented an organization or a particular point of view. Self-introductions were optional; all that was asked was for participants to provide their ZIP codes to allow NDDEQ to track participation across the state. Interpretive services and other assistance were offered.

3. RESULTS

3.1 PARTICIPATION

Participants in live forums totaled 65 in person and 125 via the ZOOM online platform. In addition, NDDEQ received 121 online survey responses. Turnout varied across meeting sites, with as many as 21 participants in-person and 22 on ZOOM. Participants navigated snow and wind at some meeting sites.

Nine percent of online ZOOM forum participants and online survey respondents were from ZIP codes considered low-income or disadvantaged community (LIDAC). Potential LIDAC residents were identified statewide using the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen)³ and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).⁴ Those communities were cross-referenced by ZIP code. Participants were asked to share their ZIP codes when registering for the Round One Sustainability Input Forums in order to determine which participants may be in LIDAC areas. Among those attending in-person, there were at least two people participating in each location who were from geographic areas qualifying as LIDAC.

3.2 QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF DATA

Each forum was designed to be intimate, and the number of participants was expected to be somewhat low. Factors contributing to limited participation at some meeting sites included inclement weather and limited notice, along with NDDEQ establishing a new conversational format for public participation that had not been conducted in previous NDDEQ public meetings. Some participants were surprised by the forums' conversational nature and had come prepared with messages and testimony as though it would be a typical public meeting as NDDEQ has held in the past. Forum feedback suggested that participants appreciated the forum engagement and the opportunity to create impact and meet fellow stakeholders. The quality of input received was high. Participants engaged in robust feedback around each key question. Patterns are visible in the data as described further in the following report sections, as are high-value, unique perspectives. The diffuse responses and range of perspectives shared suggest a high degree of safety felt by participants.

One variable between meeting sites was the strength of available internet access, which did affect the quality of audio and corresponding transcription for some sites. However, written comment cards and responses typed directly into online chats or surveys were readily captured.

³ U.S. EPA, EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, available online: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

⁴ Council on Environmental Quality, Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, available online: <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#8.68/7.0256/-126.0798>

3.3 MAJOR THEMES

Detailed reports from each of the eight meeting sites are available at the NDDEQ website here: www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability. This summary report focuses on themes common across North Dakota, including all meeting sites and online survey responses, while highlighting perspectives that showed meaningful differences between regions.

“Word clouds” are used in this section to represent how often a forum/geographic area included mention of a specific word or concept in answer to the four key questions listed in Section 2 (Approach) related to benefits, downsides, what already is being done, what the state could be doing, and reactions to specific example GHG reduction strategies. Word color in the first four word clouds (Figures 1 - 4) is solely meant to enhance readability. Word color in Figure 5 is used to represent support (blue) and opposition (red). The size of each word in a cloud reflects the number of forum participants and online survey responses where the word or concept surfaced, so the larger the word the more widespread the reaction. Lists of words and concepts are further detailed in Appendix B.

3.3.1 GHG REDUCTION BENEFITS

Benefits to North Dakotans from reduced greenhouse gas emissions generally centered on enhanced quality of life (e.g., human health, cleaner air and water, jobs), fewer extreme weather events, increased access to GHG-sensitive markets (e.g., low-carbon energy), stability and resiliency of communities, and communities that are more attractive to investors, young people and workers. This pattern held across the state.

FIGURE 1: FORUMS WHERE A BENEFITS WORD/CONCEPT WAS MENTIONED



3.3.2 GHG REDUCTION DOWNSIDES

Participants were also asked what the dis-benefits, or downsides, might be from reducing GHG emissions for North Dakotans. Common responses proved to be more regional, although perceived cost and regulation were widely named, as was general concern with change, regulation, and a loss of control. Responses mirrored local economies, with threats perceived to employment in oil and gas industries and ranching livelihoods in the western part of the state. In the eastern part of the state, threats were more often perceived to be specific to farming. Disposal of windmill blades and solar panels were often mentioned among those with alternative energy concerns.

FIGURE 2: FORUMS WHERE A PARTICULAR DOWNSIDE WORD/CONCEPT WAS MENTIONED



3.3.3 GHG REDUCTION STRATEGIES ALREADY HAPPENING

Across all forums, participants provided extensive lists of actions already being taken among North Dakotans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. No-till farming and other agriculture conservation practices, carbon capture and sequestration from manufacturing and energy processes, efforts to eliminate flaring, reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants, and the destruction of methane from municipal waste sites were among actions commonly named.

FIGURE 3: HOW OFTEN FORUMS INCLUDED MENTION OF GHG REDUCTION STRATEGIES THAT ARE ALREADY HAPPENING



3.3.4 STATE INCENTIVES, HELP AND SUPPORT

This conversation centered on ideas for what could be done by the state to incentivize emissions reductions. Among the forum topics, it generated the most diverse responses from participants. Programs that provide education (e.g., public, K-12, trades, sector) were most often mentioned, followed by solar, energy efficiency (e.g., weatherization) for residents and businesses, research, and financial incentives. There were a wide range of ideas for information-sharing and education mentioned throughout the state.

FIGURE 4: HOW OFTEN FORUMS INCLUDED MENTION OF SOMETHING THAT THE STATE COULD DO TO INCENTIVIZE, HELP, OR GENERALLY SUPPORT GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS



3.3.5 GHG REDUCTION EXAMPLE STRATEGIES

To further gauge North Dakotans’ interests in specific GHG reduction strategies, facilitators provided a list of examples of GHG reduction strategies from various sectors for participants’ reaction. The list of strategies were examples of best practice approaches seen across the U.S. by ERM rather than specific proposals being put forth by NDDEQ.

For those participating in-person at the meeting sites, the facilitators listed the examples of GHG reduction strategies on large posters. Online forum attendees participated by responding via the ZOOM chat or poll. In-person participants were invited to use as many blue (support) or red (opposition) stickers as they chose to indicate the strength of their opinions. This exercise was intended to stimulate conversation and was not structured as a ranking or voting exercise. The descriptions of GHG reduction strategies provided to participants may be found in Section.

Figure 5 represents the responses from all forum participants in support and in opposition to the list of example GHG reduction strategies. The more often an example strategy was supported or opposed by forum participants, the larger the size of the word. Words in blue show levels of support; words in red show opposition.

FIGURE 5: NORTH DAKOTANS’ SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION FOR EXAMPLE GHG STRATEGIES.



Note: Blue represents support, red represents opposition.

Overall, every example GHG reduction strategy received at least some support, with conservation practices and energy efficiency strategies receiving a high degree of support statewide. The strength of reactions to various GHG reduction strategies did differ by region, which can best be seen in the detailed site-specific reports (available online at www.nd.deq.gov/sustainability). For example, electric vehicles and related charging stations overall drew both moderate support and opposition and, at some meeting sites, very strong support or opposition.

3.4 LIDAC-SPECIFIC RESULTS

By design, all Round One Sustainability Input Forum comments (both online and in-person) were collected anonymously. Online comments, however, can be coded to ZIP codes requested in the survey. An analysis using EJScreen and CEJST identified the following ZIP codes as LIDAC from which NDDEQ received online survey responses: 58103, 58369, 58381, 58385, 58757, 58801, 58854.

The following four sections summarize themes from online survey responses to the four key questions listed in Section 2 (related to benefits, downsides, what is already being done, and what the state could be doing) received from respondents in LIDAC areas.

3.4.1 GHG REDUCTION BENEFITS - LIDAC

The opportunity to improve local air quality and quality of life were commonly mentioned as benefits, as were possibilities of new jobs in the wind and solar industry, improved human health, and the health of soils and water. Examples of comments received include:

- “The efforts it takes to reduce GHG will introduce a new era of technology and jobs into the state. In addition, there is an opportunity to create cleaner air for ND and the world. Cleaner water for our rivers and streams. Ultimately, less energy expenses for businesses, farms, and homeowners. And a better quality of life for all residents.”
- “Cleaner air, soil, animals and people. A safer and more diversified energy grid.”
- “Quality of life to attract more citizens.”

3.4.2 GHG REDUCTION DOWNSIDES - LIDAC

As with North Dakotans overall, those in LIDAC areas named cost as their primary concern as GHG reduction strategies are implemented. In addition to affordability, these respondents raised concerns about potential changes to standard of living, mistrust over who profits from strategies such as carbon capture and sequestration, competitive disadvantage versus polluting countries, private landowner rights, and energy grid instability. Examples of comments received include:

- “Explosive rise in energy costs leading to a cascade of cost increases down the line. More poverty.”
- “Maintaining current standards of living because we are a fossil fuel-based economy.”
- “Times are tough financially for ND citizens. Now would be a terrible time to increase energy costs.”

3.4.3 GHG REDUCTION STRATEGIES ALREADY HAPPENING - LIDAC

Respondents cite efforts across agriculture, energy, transportation, and waste sectors already in progress in North Dakota to reduce GHG emissions. Policy and regulation already changed and in place also are cited, although continuing strife is evident. Examples of comments received include:

- “Some farmers, businesses and individuals are working to change the way they exist and do business to ensure a safer environment and future for the next generations.”
- “Much of this has been accomplished through regulation, such as requirements to reduce NG flaring or reduce well-head methane emissions. Having said that, they have made these changes.”
- “Some people are reducing their carbon footprint. We have a ways to go in recycling in North Dakota and on reservations.”

3.4.4 STATE INCENTIVES, HELP AND SUPPORT - LIDAC

Suggestions of ways the state might incentivize, support or help with GHG reductions ranged widely from financial incentives to do nothing. Education and giving credit for existing action are themes among LIDAC area respondents that are similar to the broader population. Examples of comments received include:

- “We should monetize grasslands that are managed in a manner that optimizes carbon sequestration.”
- “Get the word out to all communities in North Dakota on the importance of the reduction of greenhouse gasses and protecting our Mother Earth for future generations.”
- “Please leave it alone.”
- “Make it mandatory without compensation for the larger offenders.”

While the number of online survey respondents that could specifically be tied to a LIDAC area was relatively low (12 respondents), the depth and detail of their comments provide themes that can speed further engagement and exploration within LIDAC communities.

4. OPPORTUNITIES

Conversation among North Dakotans continued through January 2024 to further refine understandings and priorities to inform the state's Priority Climate Action Plan, the short-term plan intended to identify implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies (due to EPA March 1, 2024).

During the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums in January 2024, NDDEQ focused on sharing the feedback aggregated from the Round One Sustainability Input Forums. Round Two also gave North Dakotans an opportunity to provide more detailed input on an updated set of implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies. Additional details about the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums will be available in the Round Two Summary Report.

Tables 1 – 4 describe categories that NDDEQ created for the sector-specific GHG reduction strategies, primarily as a result of the feedback received during the Round One Sustainability Input Forums and online survey responses. The strategies listed in Tables 1 – 4 are the same example GHG reduction strategies discussed by participants during Round One Sustainability Input Forums. Here they are categorized according to degree of public support and consideration for short-term or long-term planning efforts, informed by:

- Feedback from North Dakotans via the Round One Sustainability Input Forums and online survey comments.
- Researching existing North Dakota state and local plans.
- Reviewing best practices that have been implemented in other communities.
- Considering EPA's grant criteria required for North Dakota's short-term plan, the Priority Climate Action Plan.

The Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums focused on public feedback related to the implementation-ready strategies listed in Tables 1 – 2 to support the state's short-term plan development. The long-term strategies listed in Tables 3 – 4, along with any additional strategies received through public feedback remain under consideration for the state's long-term planning and stakeholder engagement process that will commence by Summer 2024.

TABLE 1 - IMPLEMENTATION-READY GHG STRATEGIES WITH HIGH PUBLIC SUPPORT

<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>Conservation Practices: Implement programs that support best practices in agricultural conservation to help protect soil health, including cover crops, no till, other runoff reduction techniques.</p> <p>Fertilizer Application Practices: Incentives for technologies and techniques that reduce nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer application such as precision agriculture practices.</p>
<p>Energy</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency: Incentives for installing end-use energy efficiency measures in commercial and residential buildings.</p>
<p>Waste</p>	<p>Waste Stream Reduction: Increase the efficiency or effectiveness of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, or composting programs. Reducing the amount of materials entering landfills.</p>

TABLE 2 - IMPLEMENTATION-READY GHG STRATEGIES WITH MODERATE PUBLIC SUPPORT

<p>Agriculture</p>	<p>Using Natural Fertilizers: Reinforcing soil health with the life cycle of the animal.</p>
<p>Energy</p>	<p>Energy Storage: Funding for battery technology to store solar energy at commercial businesses.</p> <p>Financing Programs: Establish a financing program (e.g., grants or low-interest loans) for energy efficiency and renewable energy installations in new and existing buildings.</p> <p>Renewable Energy: Incentives for installing renewable energy systems on commercial properties.</p>
<p>Industry</p>	<p>Industrial Efficiency: Programs to support or incentivize implementation of energy efficiency measures in industry, including energy audits, strategic energy management, equipment upgrades, and waste heat utilization.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Walking and Biking Paths: Additional walking and biking paths throughout the community.</p>
<p>Waste</p>	<p>Sustainable Building Materials: Utilizing sustainable building materials for local buildings.</p>

TABLE 3 - LONG-TERM GHG STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER: LOCATION-SPECIFIC PUBLIC SUPPORT

Agriculture	<p>Anerobic Digesters: Incentives to promote anaerobic digesters to capture methane and generate renewable energy or produce renewable fuel.</p> <p>Alternative Fuels Equipment: Incentive programs to fund agricultural equipment technologies that use alternative fuels.</p> <p>Economic Development: Programs for local and regional economic development partners to establish food- and agriculture-based economic development strategies, such as community-based food co-ops.</p>
Industry	<p>Low- or No-Carbon Fuels: Programs to support or incentivize greenhouse gas emission reductions in industrial energy use and industrial processes, including use of low/no carbon fuels, electrification, renewable energy, and process improvements.</p> <p>Low-Carbon Materials: Programs to develop, expand, and support markets for low-embodied carbon materials and products, such as cement and steel.</p>
Transportation	<p>Freight Efficiency: Increasing efficiency in freight movement.</p> <p>Public Transportation: Increasing the availability and access to public transportation in your community.</p>
Waste	<p>Reducing Landfill Emissions: Incentives to reduce methane emissions from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities, including through collection for use.</p> <p>Wastewater Facility Efficiency: Incentives for installing renewable energy and energy efficiency measures at wastewater treatment facilities.</p>

TABLE 4 - LONG-TERM GHG STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER: VARYING PUBLIC SUPPORT

Energy	Renewable Permitting: Streamline permitting for renewable energy projects.
Industry	Carbon Capture: Programs to support or incentivize carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) at industrial and energy facilities.
Transportation	Electric Vehicles and Charging: Incentives to increase the share of electric vehicles (e.g., leasing and purchasing), and to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

APPENDIX A ENGAGEMENT

NEWS RELEASE



NEWS | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Oct. 24, 2023

Department of Environmental Quality Announces Sustainability Input Forums

North Dakotans invited to share their ideas for reducing carbon emissions at listening events throughout the state starting Oct. 30

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakotans from all backgrounds are coming together to share ideas to meet the state’s goals of creating vibrant economies and finding innovative ways to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Three listening sessions, each with a special focus, will be held in eight locations throughout North Dakota from Oct. 30 through Nov. 8.

North Dakota Sustainability Input Forums will form the basis for planning and actions over the next few months and years to come. Focused sessions will be held:

- **Oct. 30 – Bismarck** - Daytime sessions (9:30 and 1:00) at the Department of Environmental Quality board room (4201 Normandy St.) and evening session (6:30) at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (515 N. 5th St.)
- **Nov. 1 – Dickinson** at Stark County Veterans Pavilion (801 5th Ave, W.) and **Jamestown** at Knights of Columbus (519 First Ave. S.)



- **Nov. 2 - Fargo** at West Acres Mall community room on the lower level, JC Penney wing (3902 – 13th Ave S.)
- **Nov. 2 – Williston** at James Memorial Art Center (621 First Ave W)
- **Nov. 6 – Minot** at Carnegie Center (105 Second Ave SE) and Grand Forks at Choice Health and Fitness community room (4401 S 11th St.)
- **Nov. 8 – Devil’s Lake** at Lake Region State College Agricultural Center (1801 College Drive North)

At each location, three forum sessions will be held with the specific focus on Energy Implementation and Development (9:30 a.m. – noon), Agriculture (1:00 – 3:30 p.m.) and Community, Public Service and Government (6:30 – 9:00 p.m.).

Each session will be livestreamed via ZOOM. Please see <https://deg.nd.gov/sustainability/> for specific links for each session and other ways to provide input to the North Dakota plan.

North Dakota received a planning grant to support this effort. [The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants \(CPRG\) program through U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) supports innovative strategies to build a sustainable future and transform energy economies.

“North Dakota is uniquely positioned with its innovation, experience and resources to embrace this opportunity to fuel local economies, strengthen U.S. energy independence, and reduce carbon emissions,” said Dave Glatt, Environmental Quality Director. “These listening forums are the first step in shaping North Dakota’s approach. All ideas are welcome and needed.”

For more information contact:

Jennifer Skjod

Public Information Officer

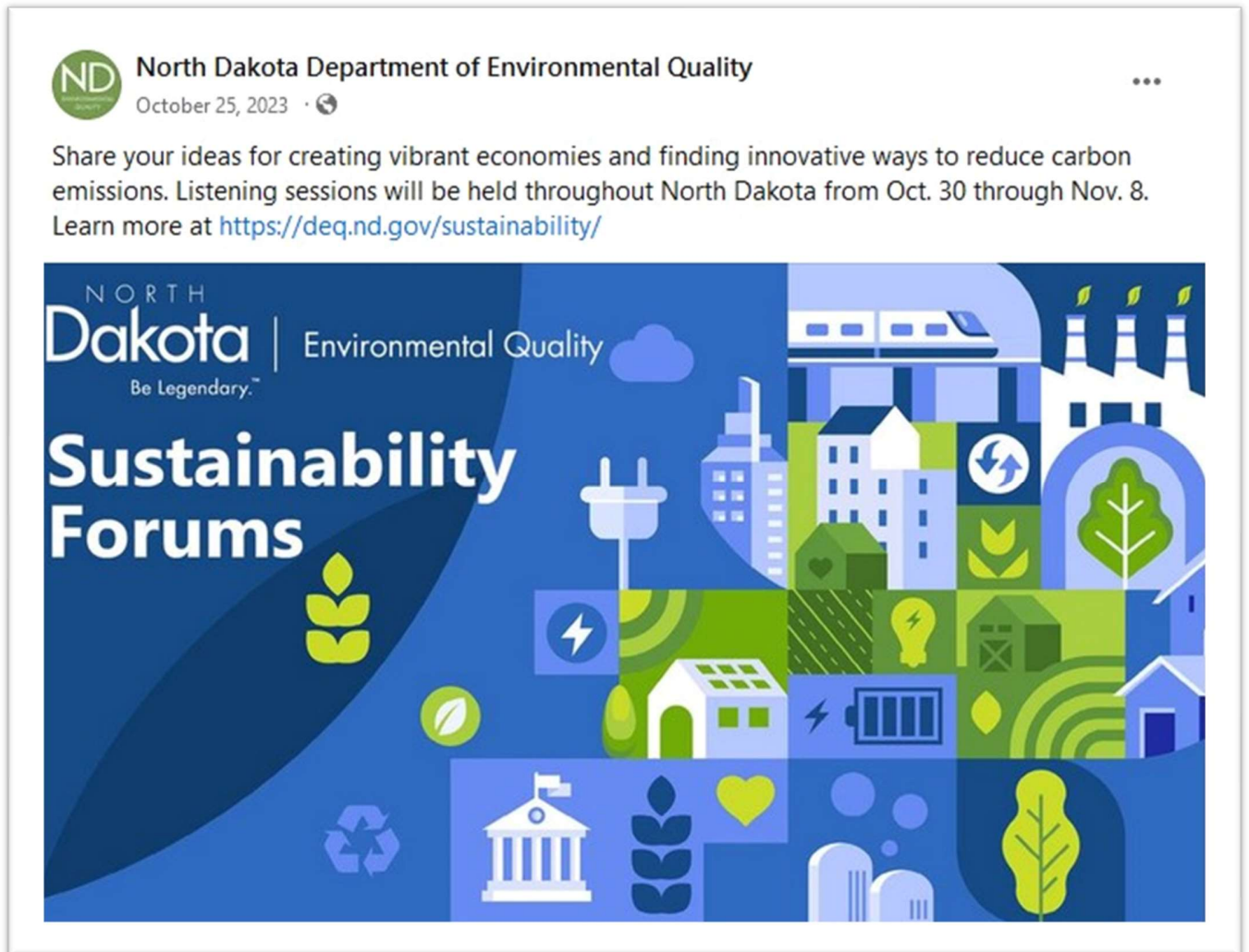
4201 Normandy Street | Bismarck, ND 58503-1324 |

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www.deg.nd.gov



FACEBOOK POSTS





North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

November 20, 2023 · 🌐



Your ideas matter to us! Please share this survey opportunity with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!

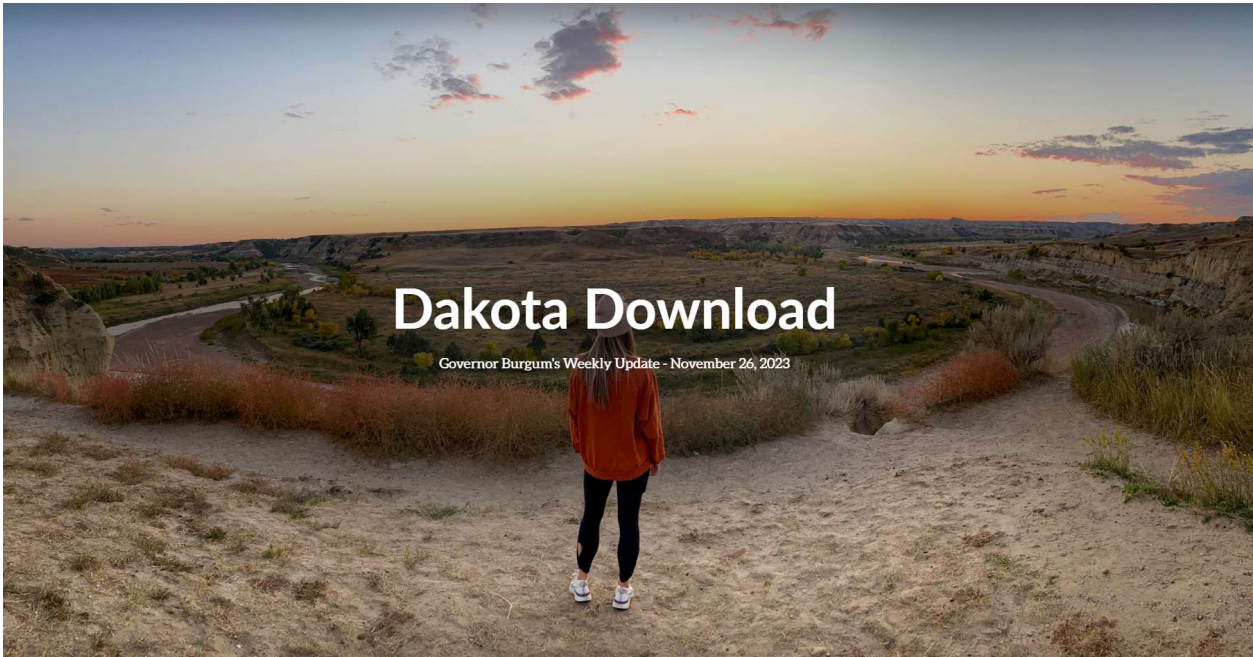


Share *your* ideas for North Dakota's Sustainability Plan!

Learn more at deq.nd.gov/sustainability!



GOVERNOR BURGUM'S WEEKLY UPDATE (ONLINE)



Share *your* ideas for North Dakota's Sustainability Plan!

Learn more at deq.nd.gov/sustainability/



North Dakotans from all backgrounds are invited to share ideas to meet the state's goals of creating vibrant economies and finding innovative ways to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

Information collected will be used to develop the North Dakota Sustainability Plan. North Dakota received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program to support this effort.

The plan development process will be a major step toward North Dakota's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

[Take the survey](#)

APPENDIX B RAW DATA

BENEFITS

What BENEFITS do you see for North Dakotans by reducing greenhouse gas emissions here? (Note: *Italic type used to show inputs received through the online survey.*)

BISMARCK

Cleaner air

Grant opportunities

Keep existing industries competitive in the market

Electrical literacy and energy literacy

Technology development

Potential business development

Potential new tax base for North Dakota

Potential employment opportunities

GHGs are not bound by borders, reductions contribute to global reductions

Limiting the effects of climate change

Better quality of life

Addressing inequality

Economic opportunities

Changing awareness from individualism to collectivism

Ease regulations

Improve investor relations, opens corporate lending for development

Healthier ecosystems

Longevity for our communities, industries, and families

Global partner

Decreased demand for finite resources (assuming reduction in fuel/coal use)

Decreases in healthcare costs (asthma, COPD, and respiratory ailments)

ESG corporation benefits

Increased tourism

Healthier soils

Protect growing seasons

New/emerging industry that can be locally directed and controlled (ideally not giant corporations moving in from outside)

Better relationships with Indigenous communities/tribes concerned about land and environment

Better balance of weather to produce better-quality crops

Enhanced water quality

Food security

Cleaner infrastructure and working conditions

Energy efficiency and cost savings

Ability to use natural resources available to us

Participate in a global effort

DEVILS LAKE

Cleaner environment = air, food, and water quality improvements

Improved energy efficiency

Potential to address climate change

Potential to reduce climate disasters

A livable, Sustainable future for all

Better quality of life

Keep weather from getting warmer

DICKINSON

Less federal/state overreach

Expanded production opportunities

Potential of new partnerships

Job creation

Less regulations

Economic opportunities

Innovation potential

A cleaner environment

Reduction in health issues

Climate stability

Very few benefits

FARGO

Cleaner air

Fewer extreme weather events

Improved quality of life

Lower carbon emissions

Improved perception of North Dakotans' attitudes toward the environment

Improved sunlight exposure for crops

Maintain planet for future generations

Less production cost

Soil and water health

Economic opportunity

Growth of renewable fuels

Increased market opportunities for commodities

Remain competitive on global markets

Diversify economy

Be a good neighbor to our country

Encourage Innovation

Healthier animals

Waste reduction by utilizing biodiesel made from fat/cooking oil waste

Reduce dependency on fleeting fossil fuels

Energy security- reduce reliance on foreign oil production providing protection against geopolitical instability

Rural development with additional income opportunities

Additional jobs

Slow global warming

Increased resiliency

Decrease in climate related refugees

GRAND FORKS

Improved quality of water

Reduced use of urea-based fertilizers

Reduced air pollution

Low carbon products

CO2 for EOR (enhanced oil recovery)

There are no benefits- it is not necessary to reduce carbon; plant life does it just fine.

JAMESTOWN

Property tax incomes and increased property owner income from CO₂ pipelines

Tax incentives for businesses

Improved health

Continual operation of ethanol plants

Cleaner air

Increased allure to new, younger residents

Increased diversity of industry

Monetary incentives

Change in growing season

Being part of a global effort

New industries and markets

Potential weather stabilization

Redirection of funds away from more harmful practices

Become a change leader

Decrease cost of insurance related to weather disasters

Increased job opportunities

Energy security- reduce reliance on foreign oil production providing protection against geopolitical instability

Rural development with additional income opportunities

Additional jobs

MINOT

Federal funding and support

Less produced water and oil spills

Better soil with land management changes (better yields)

More equitable quality of life

Maintain wild spaces in North Dakota and preserving badlands/prairies

Decrease cost to combat effects of climate change

Making all citizens of North Dakota responsible

Better air quality

Bringing more workers to North Dakota

More regular growing seasons

Less health issues

Global stability

Save our natural land from oil developments

New economies around renewable energy

Clean water

Less dependence on oil and gas companies

Innovation in industry

New job creation using clean technology

Decrease in dependence on foreign oil

WILLISTON

Improvements in soil health lead to improved ag profitability due to better yields, better resilience, and reduced input costs

Healthier landscapes

Improvements in health

A more stable environment resulting in a more stable economy

Reduction in global warming impacts

Collaboration across industries

New industry opportunities bringing jobs, tax revenue, and landowner benefits

An expansion of ND's identity

More federal funding

Less defensive measures, more proactive approaches

Innovation in industry

Promotion of ND as national/global player

Reduction in energy expenses for businesses, farms, and homeowners

Many businesses have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and chose to locate their data centers where energy is produced with lower emissions

Downsides

What DOWNSIDES are there for North Dakotans by reducing greenhouse gas emissions here?

BISMARCK

Regulatory burdens

Limited global impact

Lifestyle changes/resistance to change

Economic impact (transformation adjusting to a new paradigm)

Not following the science

Placement of new infrastructure needed for energy (NIMBY)

Technology may not exist

Insufficient infrastructure will create a large investment for needed infrastructure

Ability to obtain ROWs for infrastructure

Increases in operating cost

Reduction in economic justification for corporations to invest

Forced reductions could lead to a decrease in quality-of-life

May require regulation of processes/technologies

Alternatives may not be viable

Loss of jobs

Education challenges

Short-term thinking and planning could lead to other problems

Not planning big enough to consider limitations to industry (Hard to keep up with technology, money involved should be innovative)

Transition and cost of labor

North Dakota will do the work but may not see the benefits

Taxes on GHG

Fight over who gets to make the profit with the transition

Less meat to eat

Loss of strategic flexibility

Oil/coal economies negatively impacted if reduction not planned well

Higher cost of living

Political strife and breakdown of public discourse

The false pressure to closing coal mines in North Dakota and across the country

Adds additional costs and regulations to businesses, may discourage some businesses from coming to ND

Increase in government spending

Higher energy costs

Restrictions on consumer preferences that make very little return in emissions reduction

Windmills are visual pollution

Unintended consequences (For example, renewable energy technologies impact land use, biodiversity, and local ecosystems)

Increased cost/investment for change

NONE

Limited space

DEVILS LAKE

Additional cost to economy

How long could it take to transition?

Is it sustainable?

What are the unintended consequences?

Potential waste of resources

May not be as impactful as we hope

Less power or electricity

Limited public knowledge

DICKINSON

Increase in regulation
 Job elimination
 Individuals will not be able to afford the change
 More regulation; job elimination
 More federal government involvement
 Transition costs to the state

FARGO

How are we measuring improvements?
 Potential cost to producers
 Cost of new infrastructure
 Risk to public health
 Dramatic change to oil and Agriculture based economy
 Added controversy- misinformation
 Time consuming
 Change of traditional practices causes unrest
 Reduced power in engine units/equipment
 Loss of local control over regulation
 Destruction of current economic model
 Less reliable power grid
 Product affordability
 Loss of jobs and need for alternative revenue
Cost outweighs the benefits by adding emissions elsewhere in the production of new materials
There are no downsides
No readily available solutions to heavy-duty transportation/machinery

GRAND FORKS

Change in lifestyle/tradition
 Higher valued products/more expensive energy
 Unfair regulation

Undue burden on farmers who cannot adapt practices
 De-facto taxes on traditional farming materials including diesel and fertilizer perpetuates bad policy practices
Upfront cost to transition
Risk to human health if done wrong
Increased taxes on citizens
Carbon capture is unsustainable and will contribute to waste long-term

JAMESTOWN

Higher utility costs
 Increased taxation
 Increased regulation
 Political issues
 Cost of food grade CO2
 Additional competition for resources
 Cost vs benefit concerns
 We are alone in our efforts
 Loss of local control
 Infringement on personal property rights
 None
 Change of current economic model
 Risks associated with storage of carbon
 Potential green-washing
Reduction of energy efficiency
"There are no downsides unless Republicans want to create them"
Dry gas will be harder to control

MINOT

Financially damaging to the current mode of operation for the coal and gas industry (local and state revenue)

Impact to gas sales tax revenue as vehicles move to electric

Reduction in personal travel independence as Electric Vehicles (EVs) don't have the ability to travel long distances yet

Controversial

Increased expenses and regulations that cost money or decrease productivity

Contributor calling out the other to place blame

Educating the public

People may move away to find opportunities

Change is difficult

Coal/oil towns will struggle

Political backlash

Individuals will need job trainings for new industries

Loss of jobs

Limits or changes to farming practices

Visual pollution from wind turbines and their short lifespan requires regular maintenance

WILLISTON

Reduced agricultural production (i.e., crop response to higher CO₂ levels)

Carbon offsets (i.e., ND reduces emissions, but big corporations take advantage of it to offset their emissions)

More mandates/restrictions

Reducing GHG could cause a swing towards over regulation resulting in harm to industries that are beneficial to ND

Economic downturn

Long-term benefits, but at the expense of a short-term downturn

Changes in lifestyle

Confusion around net vs total emissions

Money funded by government

Loss of workforce/jobs

If cattle grazing is removed, this will destroy our native rangeland

Long term impacts and the uncertainty that creates

Creation of new goals, who decides and how far do we take it

Who will regulate reduction measures

What happens to those not pulling their weight

Public Opposition

Upfront economic costs of transitioning towards new practices

EXISTING

What ALREADY is being done in North Dakota to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Who is doing it?

BISMARCK

Capturing most of released gas and decreasing flaring

Coal drying technology

No-till/ low-till farming

Weatherization

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP)

Solar electric, solar thermal, geothermal, wind, automation, and energy efficiency has been done by various groups

Turtle Mountain Community College has combined automation, geothermal, and wind to create a 99% renewable campus

Cannon Ball, ND solar farm on Standing Rock.

Ethanol (Capture technology)

Methane Capture (Landfill Fargo)

Carbon Capture/Sequestration (DCC)

GTL/Plastics

Flaring Elimination - Gas Capture

Geologic Sequestration - Direct Capture

EV/Cars- Lawn equipment

Satellite and onsite emission monitoring

Building code improvement

Company public commitments for zero routine flaring by certain date

EERC research (Pyrolysis, Hydrogen)

New industry to consume methane to ammonia (i.e. hydrogen); CO2 sequestration (Project Tundra)

Clean sustainable energy authority

BPOP, PCOR, OGRP

Sustained coal electric generation

Directional drilling

Cooperative energy efficiency programs

City planning/development

Governor's carbon neutrality goals

Developing emissions inventory

Outdoor Heritage Fund

Rotational grazing

Studies to understand processes/implementation factors

Cover cropping fields to build soil and store carbon

Environmentally Minded People of Minot doing community outreach

Grassland livestock management (grazing systems) reduce net carbon and methane

Coal plant has scrubbers and a high level of emission reducing technology

Fungi in native grasslands use CO2 and methane for fuel (energy) to help grasslands be a big sink

Local sourcing (buy local/shop local)

Farmers markets

Restrictions on industry (regulations)

Conservation planning incentives

Shift to different energy sources (local sourcing)

Global partnerships with other countries

Primacy for Class VI UIC for carbon storage

Red Trail Energy Ethanol Plant - almost zero emissions

Industry is setting reduction goals

The Mandan Refinery considers GHG impact with every proposed engineering project: The owner of the refinery has committed to decreasing GHG at its fleet of refineries by 30% by 2030

Coal fired power plant emissions are amongst the lowest in the nation

High voltage DC lines

Dakota Capture East

Anaerobic digesters

State agencies are incorporating climate change into their planning

Power plant emissions scrubbers

Crop rotation and livestock integration to reduce soil erosion and biodiversity to retain soil nutrients

Recycling in homes

Increase in bike lanes/paths

DEVILS LAKE

Midkota Power plants trees and checks that they are growing

Local recycling programs

Equipment programs: FSA/NRCS, CRP-CSP

Progressive farming techniques like reduced tillage

Carbon capture in Bakken

The state government is discussing ways to reduce emissions

DICKINSON

Flare reduction in oil and gas

CO2 sequestration

Tracking what emissions are being captured by the landscape

Pipelines (trucks off the roads)

Zero emission premature controls (oil and gas)

Oil and gas efficiencies

Soil quality improvements

Education events and demonstrations

EERC collaboration in enhanced oil recovery from CO2

Carbon Capture in Beulah (Red Trail Ethanol Plant)

Pipeline companies maintaining lines for leaks

Emission regulations in energy production

FARGO

Wind turbines

Rebates/tax credits for energy efficient appliances

Farmers/ranchers using adaptive practices

Scrubbers on smokestacks

Prairieland research on species impacted

USDA

Soil Conservation Districts

Land and Water Conservation

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) incentivizing farmers for changes and food stewardship

DEF fluid and biofuels

Underground storage

Utility companies offering peak differential rates

Red Tail Energy- CCS

Primarcy for Class VI UIC wells

Electric vehicles

Methane capture

Nonprofits like Audubon and Pheasants Forever

Recycling concrete for roads

Development of carbon capture and sequestration technologies

Production of renewable diesel by Marathon Petroleum at South Heart

Biodiesel by ADM at Velva

Additional bus stops increasing accessibility

Ethanol-based public transportation

Private solar power

I don't know

GRAND FORKS

Red Trail and Blue Flint are ethanol plants that inject CO₂

Continue development/investment in wind energy

DGC research and regulatory framework for capture and sequestration of CO₂

Geo-thermal energy in workplace

No-till and other adaptive farming practices

Oil field operations addressing fugitive methane emissions

Great Plains Synfuels plant capturing and sequestration of CO₂

Tax credits for energy star appliances and practices

Regulations on flaring from petroleum and gas production

JAMESTOWN

Drying coal before using

Windfarms

Plans for a water to fertilizer plant powered by wind

Corn and soybean biofuel production

Modern ag practices including no-till, cover crops and rotational grazing

Electric car charging stations

Hydroelectric power

Red Trail and Project Tundra sequestration

Capture of flare gas

Improved rail access

Soil and Water Outcomes Fund

Electric vehicles and charging stations

Land preservation/conservation efforts such as ND Game and Fish, USFWS

Businesses are reducing fuel use

Minimize food waste

Increased use of personal practices such as turning off lights, recycling and using less water

Environmental monitoring/compliance checks

Basin Electric is working on carbon capture

MINOT

Increased use of cover crops/ no-till farming

Family farms/local food production

Prairie restorations in Minot (Ramstad, Minot Air Force Base (MAFB))

1000 Trees for Minot

Carbon capture in oil/gas

EV implementation

Waste management

Oil well flaring regulations

Renewable regenerative fuels

Rotational grazing systems

Minot Pollinator Project

Minot Recycling

Commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030

City compost bins

Minot bike lanes

"Kiss the Ground" movie screening

Project at Minot State University (MSU) for prairie restoration

Research center in Mandan

Net metering

Carol Davis at Turtle Mountain Water Keepers

Keller Paving solar panels on buildings

There are state programs for energy efficiency upgrades (Rural Economic Area Partnership Program (REAP) and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP))

New solar installation for research within agriculture in ND

New local food hub potentially coming to Minot

Standing Rock standing against Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL)

Wind and solar farm developments

Geothermal heating

Small-scale efforts to store CO2 underground

Investment into new technologies

Williston
Agriculture practices that protect soil, improve soil organic matter, and soil health

Coal-fired generating plants have taken steps to reduce emissions

No-till farming and cover crops

Equipment that is being regulated to be more environmentally friendly

Carbon capture in soil

Conservation programs

Introduction of Kernza grain (perennial agriculture)

Improved grazing management by ranchers

Seeding cropland back to grass for grazing production

Leadership in communities to understand the task at hand and benefits

ND investing in a team to explore CPRG

Wind energy expansion

Blue Flint aggregating at facilities

Change in regulation/legislation/politician's perspectives

NRCS and SCD-led conservation efforts

Richardton Ethanol plant with CO2 storage on-site

CCS efforts with Project Tundra

University of North Dakota research on CCS and deep geothermal electricity production

Dr. Rebecca Phillips of Ecological Insights is researching natural carbon sequestration in grassland when coupled with managed cattle grazing

Summit Carbon Solutions is working within North Dakota and surrounding states to capture carbon from ethanol production and sequester it in North Dakota

INCENTIVES

In what ways would you want to see the state INCENTIVIZE, SUPPORT, or just generally HELP with greenhouse gas reductions?

BISMARCK

Support research and development

Create realistic approaches, targets and timelines

Financial incentives

Collaborative approach

Increase incentives to choose energy efficiency equipment

Cooperatives and utilities should offer locals fair compensation for solar DERs

EPA Solar for All and other incentives should be embraced by the state and commerce department and fully staffed

Continue CSEA and Ag research (assistance in providing technical development)

Improve building codes (statewide development) for energy savings

Understand the current condition (Scope 1,2,3) and inventory

Partner in technology deployment (silent partner)

Educate the public

Energy efficient building incentives

Secure ROW for infrastructure

Renewable portfolio standard (RPS)

Net metering up to 1 MW for wind/solar

Use state buildings, fleets, operations as a living example of net zero concepts

Streamline permitting

State Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Carbon bank

State Program: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP) to be open to more groups of people

Federal Program: Rural Energy America Program (REAP) could have easier access to funding incentives

Incentivize things that sequester carbon like our grassland managers (ranches) - Give them support for doing what is right and helping the whole state

TR Library: Certification for carbon building

Fertilizer management incentive - voucher for seed cost

One stop permitting shop under offices of DEQ or state and local (or more clearly identify which agency does what)

Consistency and collaboration in offices offering information and assistance to homeowners for solar energy efficiency, ways to install those systems, etc.

Help industry with carbon capture incentivizing and help them be efficient also with their boilers and heaters because some are not covered by the rules

Test soil (use appropriate fertilizers/inputs, seed vouchers)

Incentivize in a way that does not use tax credits, as this excludes those who have no tax liability (municipalities, coops, nonprofits, low-income people)

Do not let those who profited on polluting also profit on removing carbon

Deregulate the electricity market

Let both sides (industry and individuals) win at the same time

Prepare colleges and universities to train new workforce

Workforce opportunities

Publicity for companies that are offsetting emissions

Backdated incentives of those who have offset

Retrain workers from oil/coal/gas to work in wind/solar/green building etc.

More equitable distribution of resources

Incentivize organizations to turn unused greenspace into prairie restoration areas

More focus on better utilization of consumption of energy resources

Utility companies could offer reduced rates for switching energy sources

Tax breaks for those who use fuel efficient vehicles

State support of green industries

Advanced bussing or transportation systems/land use planning

Support sustainable communities with selective industry advertisement

Publish information on websites using video, photos, reports, etc.

Support proper use of electronic disposal

Teach correct principles and let the people govern themselves

Sufficient tax credits: A program for citizens to be reimbursed a portion of expenses to purchase upgraded high efficiency items/appliances or green products

For example, credits to replace windows with triple paned well insulated models; to add insulation to houses, or to utilize spray foam insulation on new buildings; installing electric car chargers in personal garages.

Ability to install car chargers running off separate electrical meters that charge less per KWH to encourage PHEV or BEV vehicles.

A passenger train system in place for North Dakota that would mean less cars on the road

Access to experts

Gatherings for sharing of ideas and processes

Symposiums for educating citizens, employees, and corporations.

Clear communication of expectations between state and businesses to encourage private investment

Promote bicycle/e-bike travel in the cities

Don't punish traditional nongreen companies

Push back against federal government mandating

Create a state Office of Sustainability under the supervision of the DEQ

Electric buses/public transportation in all major cities

Educate the public on the resources and benefits

DEVILS LAKE

Educational programs for communities, farmers/ranchers, schools and industries

Bring hands-on agriculture education back to schools

Incentivize recycling/waste management with iron, plastics and chemical waste

Facilitate the use of manure management for farmers/ranchers as a fertilizer

State funded charging stations in rural areas

Fair taxation across brackets to support all income levels

Support small businesses/farmers to keep rural towns and families strong- they are the backbone of North Dakota

Invest more in solar energy

DICKINSON

Advocate for industry

Continue to advocate for innovation over reclamation

Work with private industry and incentivize it

Public education

Partner with smaller companies within the state instead of big business

Utilize and incentivize solar energy and solar farms

Install meters on every oil and gas well to monitor emissions

Enforce violations with meaningful fines

Install air quality monitors (for volatiles as well as particulates) in the Western part of the state to enhance knowledge of oil field emissions

Expanded CRP program to use prairie land and grasses for carbon capture

FARGO

Create net metering

Solar community gardens

Focus more on funding transition to energy efficiency

Incorporate people from solar and clean energy on the sustainable energy authority

Balance planting incentives by making more environmentally friendly choices like grasslands vs corn more economically obtainable

Establish solar panel and wind turbine recycling

Reward those who are already working towards environmentally friendly practices

Invest in precision fertilizer application practices/research

Develop and fund educational programs for farmers to improve practices

Promote/work closer with the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund and other programs

Incentivize producers to convert low yield land back to pastures/grasslands

Research measuring carbon sequestration

More environmentally friendly building codes and ordinances

Madate recycling bins in multifamily dwellings

Publicize what is currently being done to educate residents

Incentivize composting facilities in larger cities

State regulated climate friendly purchasing plan

Create a private sector climate council

Empower cities/municipalities through providing programs to report and track sustainability

Pull all investments from fossil fuel and coal industry and redirect funding to clean energy

Prioritize the production and use of biodiesel with state policies

A sustainable surface utilization rating system-incorporating air, soil and water as touchstone receptors

Air quality monitors

GRAND FORKS

Fund GHG reduction research and how to keep current energy dependable

Education of legislatures and citizens

Create trust between regulatory bodies and the people

Continue to offer discussion forums for people to talk collectively and think critically

Utilize state colleges and programs to research fertilizer application rates

Stop throwing our money away

JAMESTOWN

Finance the conversion of wastewater gas to usable gas

Provide data on infrastructure costs vs operational costs

Advocate for grazing and cover crops as a form of carbon storage

Incentivize urban planting and maintenance of trees and the use of trees for carbon sequestration

Provide more educational opportunities

Research CO2 contributions from traffic

Begin a slow transition to renewable fuels

Ensure markets are viable and ready for transitioning

Invest in more biofuel production plants

Improve existing infrastructure such as rails, highways and pipelines

Provide grants for retrofitting/integrating energy efficient tools into new and old construction

Expand DEQ air quality monitoring

Work with municipalities to create local climate action plans

Funding for a highspeed passenger rail

Grants for undergraduate/graduate research

Support for regional food production and processing

Electric buses/public transportation

Support cities who promote walkability/bikeability

Focus more on plant sequestration of carbon

Raise taxes on oil extraction

Mandate advanced biofuel utilization

MINOT

Engage with individuals, organizations, and industries

Address issues at the local level

Support municipal compost efforts

Actively restore prairie

Tougher enforcement of flaring

Cap open frack wells

Partner funding to electrify local bus and municipal fleets

Create an energy efficiency county position

Partner funding to install solar on municipal/ public entity buildings

Increase use of regenerative fuels

Create a knowledge base of carbon sequestration

Utilize North Dakota State University (NDSU) and other institutions for research, especially on quantifying carbon sequestration

Audubon Dakota, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Delta Waterfront, North Dakota Natural Resource Trust all have created programs to help incentivize conservation practices for agricultural interests

Utilize federal money in local communities

Promote no-till/low-till farming and education about sustainable farming practices

Transparency around funding and campaign contributions

Offer education/info about energy efficiency

Use research-based decisions for best environmental outcomes

Invest in renewable energy

Keep oil companies accountable using more enforcement

Offer state grant for churches/nonprofits for solar on roofs and energy efficiency

Transparency in reporting of emissions from the coal plants and industry

Incentivize solar and wind including heat pumps for homes

Direct education from climate scientists research at universities

Job trainings

Food waste reduction programs

Increase accessibility to information (multiple languages, online and in-person resources, etc.)

Policy changes at the local and state levels

Greener building codes

Create a dedicated Sustainability division housed within the NDDEQ

Tax incentives for EVs and hybrid vehicles

Utilization of CO2 capturing bricks in North Dakota

Graphyte (Breakthrough Energy Ventures carbon-laden plant matter blocks)

Change farm subsidy laws

Tax incentives for recycling

WILLISTON

Support educational events to keep producers informed on latest research findings that promote soil health and hear from other producers who have seen benefits from changes

Support on-farm demonstration projects/programs that improve soil health and reduce emissions

Cost share for farmers to adopt some of these practices

Demonstration farms to display these successful practices

Make climate data publicly available in a way that is engaging and easy to understand

Don't limit incentives to new adopters

Reward producers for what they are already doing

Invest in infrastructure - transmission lines

Smart policy to support renewables

Streamline permitting processes

Provide larger grants for projects and conservation practices

Prioritize sustainable and high-density development

Preserve natural habitat

Higher regulation of oil and gas development/operations

Revise building code standards to have higher insulation standards and provide incentives to do so on existing structures

Modernize construction trades' educational programs to encompass sustainable building practices

Electricity codes including at minimum one charging port for EVs

Create sustainability CEU's for contractor licensing requirements

Incentivize solar panels on roofs of businesses

Outline transition from coal to natural gas, to an eventual phase out of most fossil fuels over the next 50 years

Expand incentives for geothermal energy

Rebuild electric energy system as a distributed system, to allow small solar farms and home/business solar installs to easily share with the grid

Include greenhouse gas reduction as a criterion when selecting where state funding goes

Provide resources and information on energy reduction measures