



# Sustainability Input Forums

Round 2 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 Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums that were comprised of three online meetings held from January 9 to January 11, 2024, and a corresponding online survey was available to the public online from January 9 to January 19, 2024.

## 1. BACKGROUND

North Dakota was awarded a planning grant through EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program to develop a plan that identifies innovative strategies to build a sustainable future and transform energy economies in the state. 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 PCAP 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](http://www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability)).
- Online survey (Round One) – An online survey paralleled questions asked during Round One 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.
- Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums – Three forums were held between January 9 and January 11, 2024; these forums offered further opportunities for North Dakota stakeholders to inform the state's PCAP as specific implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies were being considered and refined.
- Online survey (Round Two) – An online survey paralleled questions asked during Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums and was made available online to the public from January 9 to January 19, 2024. The survey was completed by three participants.

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

- 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 PCAP, NDDEQ will begin the second phase of planning to inform the development of the CCAP. 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. All online forums were structured to engage North Dakotans from all backgrounds across the state in meaningful conversation. Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums focused on further narrowing GHG strategies identified in Round One to consider strategies that can meet EPA's grant criteria of "implementation-ready" and strategies with high degrees of public support. The Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums focused on the following questions:

- Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.
- What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Challenges identified early can help NDDEQ determine if the strategy requires additional resources.
- What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?
- Are there specific local or statewide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If yes, please explain.

Facilitators asked these four questions while displaying a list of GHG reduction strategies for the following sectors: Agriculture, Energy, Waste, and Transportation. See Appendix A for a complete list of the implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies displayed for each sector during the discussion. Responses and common themes are detailed in Section 3 Results. Participants offered their experiences with participating in various programs run by state, federal, and local agencies as well as interest groups. These program experiences provided NDDEQ with an understanding of what has been successful and can help NDDEQ focus on areas for improvement and value-added offerings when developing strategies for the PCAP.

Each Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forum was offered live via ZOOM, recorded, and posted on the NDDEQ website.<sup>1</sup> To accommodate diverse stakeholders, the Round Two Online

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<sup>1</sup> [www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability](http://www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability)

Sustainability Input forums were selected to occur during different times of the day to ensure that stakeholders had the flexibility to participate depending on their schedules. The forums were held:

- **January 9, 2024** – 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm CST
- **January 10, 2024** – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm CST
- **January 11, 2024** – 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm CST

A corresponding survey was posted online January 9 through January 19, 2024, for those who were not able to participate in the ZOOM events.

## 2.1 CONVERSATION DESIGN

NDDEQ chose to offer this second round of input forums online, as travel throughout the state in January is highly unpredictable. Each forum included two main elements:

- A refresher on EPA's CPRG program, EPA's timeline, the importance of meaningful engagement, and a review of feedback received and how it was incorporated into the PCAP development process, and
- Participant feedback on proposed GHG reduction strategies using an interactive, cloud-based tool called Mentimeter.<sup>2</sup> This tool enabled participants to answer questions, with responses showing on-screen as short answers or word clouds. Facilitators invited conversation via the ZOOM chat function or by volunteering to come off of mute.

GHG strategies presented to participants for discussion were organized into four sectors based on feedback given during the Round One Sustainability Input Forums. Using Mentimeter, participants voted on which order these sectors would be discussed.

As stated in the Round One Sustainability Input Forums, the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums were opportunities to exchange perspectives and ideas. As with all such state meetings, guidelines were established for civil engagement. Registration for the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums was required, including name, email, and ZIP code. Participants were asked to share their ZIP codes when registering to determine which participants may be located in low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC). Potential LIDAC residents were identified statewide utilizing the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen)<sup>3</sup> and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).<sup>4</sup> Those communities were cross-referenced by North Dakotan ZIP codes. Participants were welcome to identify themselves or to remain anonymous during the forums.

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<sup>2</sup> Mentimeter, available online: [www.mentimeter.com](http://www.mentimeter.com)

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

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

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1 PARTICIPATION

Extensive outreach was conducted to ensure a well-rounded and diverse group of North Dakotans participated in the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums. NDDEQ issued a news release, distributed email announcements to stakeholders on their listserv, shared event invitations through social media, and updated the North Dakota Sustainability website with meeting details. Multiple local news outlets shared the announcements.<sup>5, 6, 7</sup>

Forty-four people participated in the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums, with as many as 30 participating in one session. In addition, NDDEQ received three responses to the corresponding online survey. Nineteen participants said they had previously participated in a Round One Sustainability Input Forum held between October 30 and November 8, 2023.

Nine percent of participants were from ZIP codes described by the EJScreen and CEJST tools as a likely LIDAC area. Due to Mentimeter's anonymous nature, specific responses cannot be linked to a LIDAC-identified ZIP code, and none of the three participants who filled out the online survey were from a LIDAC-identified ZIP code.

Although the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums were tailored to North Dakotans, they were accessible to anyone who registered. Eight participants were from ZIP codes outside of North Dakota.

### 3.2 QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF DATA

Each forum was designed to both provide information and solicit feedback from participants meaningfully. The forums were structured to ensure feedback could be incorporated into the PCAP development process.

Feedback suggested that participants appreciated the engagement and the opportunity to create impact and meet fellow stakeholders. The quality of input received was high and participants engaged in robust feedback around each key question. Both common themes and unique, high-value perspectives are evident in the data gathered.

### 3.3 COMMON THEMES

Across all forum sessions, three overarching needs were identified related to implementing GHG reduction strategies across each sector:

- more education,

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<sup>5</sup> Minot Daily News. "Second round of sustainability forums scheduled." 21 December 2023. <https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2023/12/second-round-of-sustainability-forums-scheduled/>

<sup>6</sup> The Bismarck Tribune. "North Dakota DEQ to host online listening sessions on reducing pollution." 8 January 2024. [https://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/north-dakota-deq-to-host-online-listening-sessions-on-reducing-pollution/article\\_6c547724-9a05-11ee-bbbf-33e6062ecc57.html](https://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/north-dakota-deq-to-host-online-listening-sessions-on-reducing-pollution/article_6c547724-9a05-11ee-bbbf-33e6062ecc57.html)

<sup>7</sup> The Jamestown Sun. "North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality seeking public input in reducing carbon emissions." 19 December 2023. <https://www.jamestownsun.com/news/north-dakota/north-dakota-department-of-environmental-quality-seeking-public-input-on-reducing-carbon-emissions>

- funding opportunities, and
- access.

Participants noted the need for more education both on climate change and the opportunities to participate in programs to alleviate the effects of a changing climate. Education opportunities included raising public awareness and increasing education and outreach to legislators.

Participants noted the need for more robust educational materials on current programs that address climate issues, how to access these programs, and how to successfully meet funding and programmatic requirements. Participants noted that understanding how to find and effectively participate in programs can lead to success.

Those with prior experience participating in local or statewide programs related to the GHG reduction strategies discussed the difficulty in meeting programmatic requirements and that funding for technical support is important. Participants mentioned that higher funding levels for programs make them more enticing. By increasing price offsets and raising opportunities for new technologies, new ideas can enter the marketplace. For capital projects, many participants also mentioned the need to value ongoing maintenance and repair of infrastructure beyond the initial investment.

Access related to education, programs, and funding was commonly mentioned across all forum sessions. To increase access, participants described barriers that would need to be addressed, such as levels of paperwork required to participate in government programs. Participants noted that education increases access – knowing about the programs, how to apply and implement them, and appropriate funding levels encourage participation and ultimately lead to success.

The following common themes emerged across the four questions asked during each forum session. Facilitators engaged participants while displaying a list of implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies for the following sectors: Agriculture, Energy, Waste, and Transportation. See Appendix A for a complete list of the implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies displayed for each sector during the discussion. See Appendix B for a full list of responses to each question.

### 3.3.1 EXPERIENCE IMPLEMENTING GHG REDUCTION STRATEGIES

Participants had mixed experiences with implementing strategies across the four sectors discussed: Agriculture, Energy, Waste, and Transportation. While many participants had not implemented strategies in a formal manner, they did have experiences utilizing services and benefits of projects that relate to the GHG reduction strategies. For example, many participants had used a walking or bike path but did not participate in its creation. Individual experiences in implementing strategies were limited across all sectors. Those who had implemented strategies had both personal and professional experience. Many participants embraced climate mitigation actions in their personal lives.

### 3.3.2 CHALLENGES WITH IMPLEMENTING GHG REDUCTION STRATEGIES

When presented with a set of implementation-ready strategies tied to each of the sectors, participants identified funding as one of the biggest challenges they experienced when implementing the strategies. For many, it is difficult to begin implementation due to a lack of seed money to cover upfront costs. Participants said that local, state, or federal resources can

help to reduce this barrier. Additionally, several participants highlighted that it is difficult to garner public support or change the public's views when it comes to implementing some of the GHG reduction strategies. Lack of public support can lead to a decrease in available program resources.

### 3.3.3 BARRIERS EXPECTED WHEN IMPLEMENTING GHG REDUCTION STRATEGIES

Participants were given an opportunity to consider expected barriers that would prevent them from implementing the strategies tied to each of the sectors. A majority of participants said that funding and cost were the biggest barriers they perceived or experienced when considering implementing the proposed implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies. Many believe there is not enough funding available, and some had negative interactions with receiving funds (e.g., red tape, excessive paperwork). In addition to funding, participants noted that a lack of education about implementation hinders progress. Concerns ranged from public awareness, lack of understanding of how to receive funding, or a lack of workforce education. Participants felt that due to this lack of education, the public's view on many of these strategies would be a barrier to implementation.

### 3.3.4 EXPERIENCE WITH LOCAL OR STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

Participants named multiple ways they have interacted with local, state, and federal programs and agencies to implement some of the proposed GHG reduction strategies. Engagements most often named were:

- Badlands Conservation Alliance
- Bismarck Parks and Recreation
- Local Recycling
- North Dakota Commerce Department Programs
- North Dakota Game and Fish – Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS)
- North Dakota Natural Resources Trust – Carbon Monitoring Study
- North Dakota Parks and Recreation Programs
- North Dakota State University Extension
- Outdoor Heritage Fund Programs
- Pheasants Forever Programs
- Department of Energy – Various grant programs
- Department of Transportation – Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



### 3.4 SECTOR-SPECIFIC CONVERSATIONS

Each forum session focused on a set of implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies through the lens of economic sectors, including Agriculture, Energy, Waste, and Transportation. See Appendix A for a complete list of the implementation-ready GHG reduction strategies displayed for each sector during the discussion. All forums addressed each of the four sectors to maximize participant feedback.

#### 3.4.1 AGRICULTURE

In the Agriculture sector discussions, participants made it clear that the biggest hurdle to implementing the GHG reduction strategies detailed in Figure 1 is education, especially around conservation practices like no-till and cover crops and their benefits. Additionally, participants mentioned that the use and application of natural fertilizers is a difficult strategy to garner public support for. Many mentioned that because of the odor associated with natural fertilizers, much of the public tends to have a negative reaction to their usage. One commenter said, “Urban encroachment on farming land – the people in the houses surrounding the fields will say ‘it stinks.’” Public view and support are important considerations when implementing these strategies.

Participants identified that access to these implementation-ready strategies can come in many forms, such as funding, education, and real-world implementation. While some participants have found it difficult to implement these strategies, a few found success. One commenter said, “My family stopped using petroleum-based farming chemicals and got the land in CRP [Conservation Reserve Program] to allow it to heal, planting native grasslands.”

FIGURE 1: STRATEGIES DISCUSSED FOR THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

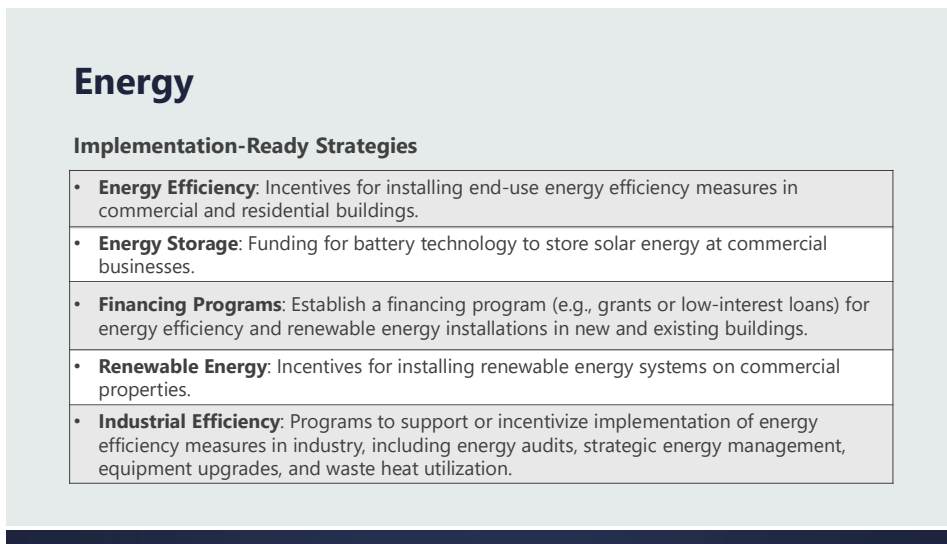


### 3.4.2 ENERGY

For the Energy sector discussion, many participants said they had previously interacted with the implementation-ready strategies described in Figure 2. However, more than 25 commenters mentioned that the cost of implementation is the biggest barrier. Lack of funding through federal- and state-run grant programs and tax credits impedes faster adoption of these strategies. Many commenters noted that the relatively low cost of North Dakota electricity does not create enough of an incentive for residents to invest in these strategies.

Additionally, commenters noted that the public’s perception of these strategies is a difficult barrier to overcome. Many participants stated that there is resistance when it comes to change and that implementing renewable energy strategies is challenging to get off the ground when it’s a divisive topic. Lastly, education and labor are two intersectional themes that many commenters felt were difficult barriers to cross. Many find that the public struggles to know where and when they can implement these strategies in their own homes. Commenters expressed the need for a more robust, educated workforce that can implement and maintain some of these strategies.

**FIGURE 2: STRATEGIES DISCUSSED FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR**



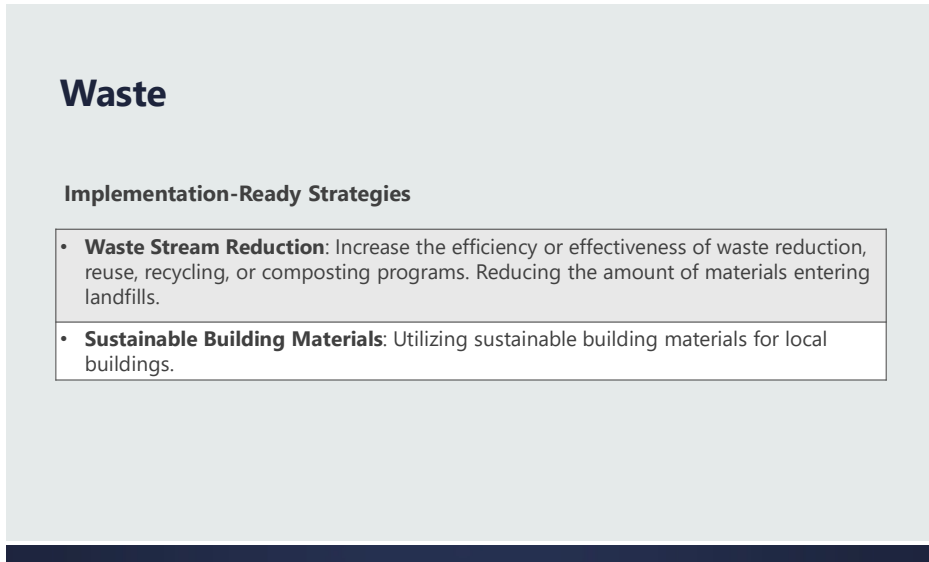
### 3.4.3 WASTE

For the Waste sector discussion, waste stream reduction (e.g., recycling and composting) was the top strategy that participants said they had experience implementing out of the list of strategies discussed in Figure 3. Participants identified that the toughest barriers to implementing these kinds of strategies are a lack of education, funding, and access. Many residents do not know how or where to recycle or compost, while others struggle to have these services provided to them by their local community. Others noted that the location of recycling or composting facilities can be inaccessible. One commenter mentioned that they “currently have to drive 100 miles to recycle” because their local community does not offer this service.

Some participants mentioned the need to increase green building development throughout the state but highlighted the challenges of acquiring materials needed for sustainable buildings, both

because of financial restraints and lack of infrastructure. One participant described their engagement with using urban wood products and expressed that this is a good resource to lower the emissions associated with building construction.

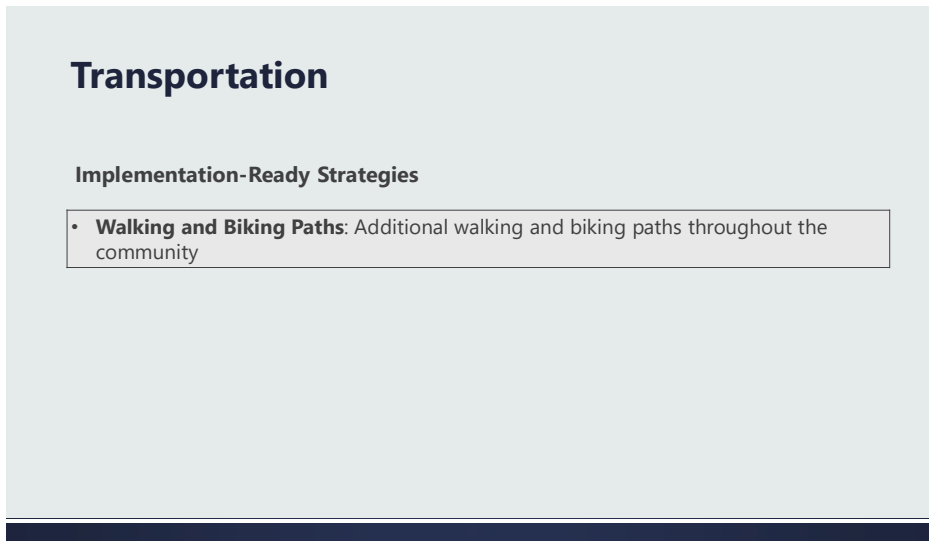
**FIGURE 3: STRATEGIES DISCUSSED FOR THE WASTE SECTOR**



**3.4.4 TRANSPORTATION**

For the Transportation sector discussion, many participants mentioned that funding for the implementation-ready strategy identified in Figure 4 is the biggest hurdle they expect to encounter. Walking and biking paths require up-front funding to install and dedicated annual local/state allocations to maintain. Additionally, this strategy can be difficult to implement and maintain because of the current car-centric society. Participants offered ideas to ensure bike and walking paths are successful investments, such as linking routes to priority locations such as office buildings, shopping centers, and schools. Some participants expressed concerns about safety and the right-of-way (ROW) challenges that they face.

FIGURE 4: STRATEGY DISCUSSED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR



## 4. OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums, North Dakotans voiced their support, concerns, and ideas. For each sector, participants suggested achievable wins that can encourage engagement, promote innovation, and bring North Dakota closer to a carbon-neutral state, as summarized below:

### Agriculture

- Increasing access to natural fertilizers using federal programs and coupling with a state agricultural program could move this strategy forward.
- Creating and promoting AgTech incubators to encourage advances in sustainable fertilizer technology.
- Leverage incentives for no-till and relay/double cropping where it is geographically appropriate.

### Energy

- Education to inform North Dakotans about the benefits of low GHG emission energy options and to dispel myths will need to be done to implement shovel-ready strategies. Encourage and invest in workforce development programs centered on renewable energy and energy-efficient jobs such as solar and wind installation, green building techniques, and design to increase employment opportunities in this sector.
- Increase access to sustainable building materials.
- Expand energy efficiency incentives.

### Waste

- Increase access to recycling facilities throughout North Dakota.
- Encourage composting to reduce GHG emissions associated with food waste from landfills.

- Encourage and invest in construction material recycling.

**Transportation**

- Increase investments into safe walking/biking path maintenance.
- Improve the design and placement of paths to make it easier for residents to use them for work and shopping.
- Separate paths/routes from roads used by cars to increase safety.

## 5. ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

Many participants in the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums had additional ideas and thoughts about GHG reduction strategies that were not presented across the four sectors. Additional strategies were encouraged during the forums to make sure all North Dakotans had the opportunity to contribute to the planning process. Below is a table of those additional opportunities identified by participants across all forum sessions. Minor changes were made to entries for spelling corrections and reading comprehension.

**TABLE 1. ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES**

| Response  |
|---|
| Biodiesel and renewable diesel are ready today. Need support for distribution system.   |
| Package of neighborhood renewal options: bike paths, energy systems, upgrades, etc.   |
| Planting more trees — aging shelter belts are not being replaced.   |
| Incentivize energy audits for all new construction.   |
| Incentivize net-zero buildings. and tax polluting constructions by their GHGs.  |
| Make bus routes a higher priority and provide startup funding for public transportation.  |
| Create incentives for community owned and municipality buildings/schools etc. distributed renewable generation. Geothermal or solar.              |
| Support bus routes during bad weather.  |
| Stop building state buildings or public buildings that aren't net-zero.   |
| Pass a law that all future buildings need to be net-zero.   |
| Reduce methane emissions from oil and gas drilling.   |
| Capping methane flaring statewide, restoring prairies through effective range management.   |
| Make the state fleet all-electric.  |
| 4-day workweek for all state employees (less work days = less emissions).   |
| Create an Office of Energy Efficiency in DEQ.   |
| Take care of abandoned or orphaned wells in oil/gas fields. It seems there is enough funding for covering and surfacing these. Complete the work. |
| Encourage better soil conservation measures.  |



## Response

New EPA rules for oil and natural gas operations will ban routine flaring of natural gas. Look into the bottlenecks for ND and look for solutions. Smaller well owners will need the state's assistance.

Expand the Office of Environmental Justice in DEQ.

Create a bike/trails program mirrored off of MN bike trails program for statewide trails.

Encourage micro grid systems.

Minor gas leaks due to older pipes, improper pipe tightening etc. are often overlooked. It is found that such leaks are substantial in older US cities. It is worth look into methane leak mapping.

Diversify energy production to more renewable sources.

I would like North Dakota to stop the endless promotion of the oil and gas industry. I would like North Dakota to put meaningful enforcement efforts in place to eliminate methane emissions and reduce waste from flaring. I would like the state to tax methane emissions and use the tax revenue to support Electric power projects, built on solar and wind. I would like North Dakota to invest in energy audits and upgrades for people's homes to improve the efficiency of their heating and cooling systems, roofs, and windows. I would like to see support for more community gardens, food preservation options, and home gardening. Wouldn't it be cool if you could take your tomatoes to a community canning place and everybody could just can their tomatoes there together safely? Instead of everybody having to try to purchase a pressure cooker device and learn how to do it? Thank you for taking this feedback.

With the TRPL slated to open July 4th, 2026 and the increase traffic in our lone national park, TRNP, the state needs to better plan and protect for the environment around the Badlands! If not now, when? Could send a strong message to the nation that we take our conservation responsibilities seriously and are attempting to uphold the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt in action.

## APPENDIX A GHG REDUCTION STRATEGIES

Overview of GHG reduction strategies identified during the Round One Sustainability Input Forums.

TABLE 2. IMPLEMENTATION-READY GHG STRATEGIES WITH **HIGH** PUBLIC SUPPORT

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Agriculture</b> | <p><b>Conservation Practices:</b> 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><b>Fertilizer Application Practices:</b> Incentives for technologies and techniques that reduce nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer application such as precision agriculture practices.</p> |
| <b>Energy</b>      | <p><b>Energy Efficiency:</b> Incentives for installing end-use energy efficiency measures in commercial and residential buildings.</p>  |
| <b>Waste</b>       | <p><b>Waste Stream Reduction:</b> Increase the efficiency or effectiveness of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, or composting programs. Reducing the amount of materials entering landfills.</p>   |

TABLE 3. IMPLEMENTATION-READY STRATEGIES WITH **MODERATE** PUBLIC SUPPORT

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Agriculture</b>    | <p><b>Using Natural Fertilizers:</b> Reinforcing soil health with the life cycle of the animal.</p>  |
| <b>Energy</b>         | <p><b>Energy Storage:</b> Funding for battery technology to store solar energy at commercial businesses.</p> <p><b>Financing Programs:</b> 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><b>Renewable Energy:</b> Incentives for installing renewable energy systems on commercial properties.</p> |
| <b>Industry</b>       | <p><b>Industrial Efficiency:</b> 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>  |
| <b>Transportation</b> | <p><b>Walking and Biking Paths:</b> Additional walking and biking paths throughout the community.</p>  |
| <b>Waste</b>          | <p><b>Sustainable Building Materials:</b> Utilizing sustainable building materials for local buildings.</p>  |

TABLE 4. LONG-TERM GHG STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER: **LOCATION-SPECIFIC PUBLIC SUPPORT**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Agriculture</b>    | <p><b>Anerobic Digesters:</b> Incentives to promote anaerobic digesters to capture methane and generate renewable energy or produce renewable fuel.</p> <p><b>Alternative Fuels Equipment:</b> Incentive programs to fund agricultural equipment technologies that use alternative fuels.</p> <p><b>Economic Development:</b> 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> |
| <b>Industry</b>       | <p><b>Low- or No-Carbon Fuels:</b> 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><b>Low-Carbon Materials:</b> Programs to develop, expand, and support markets for low-embodied carbon materials and products, such as cement and steel.</p>  |
| <b>Transportation</b> | <p><b>Freight Efficiency:</b> Increasing efficiency in freight movement.</p> <p><b>Public Transportation:</b> Increasing the availability and access to public transportation in your community.</p>   |
| <b>Waste</b>          | <p><b>Reducing Landfill Emissions:</b> Incentives to reduce methane emissions from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities, including through collection for use.</p> <p><b>Wastewater Facility Efficiency:</b> Incentives for installing renewable energy and energy efficiency measures at wastewater treatment facilities.</p>  |

TABLE 5. LONG-TERM GHG STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER: **VARYING PUBLIC SUPPORT**

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



## APPENDIX B MENTIMETER RESPONSES

Mentimeter participant responses across all three of the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums. Responses are organized according to sector. Minor changes made to entries for spelling corrections and reading comprehension.

### AGRICULTURE

| Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.  | What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.  | What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?   | Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience.  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> <li>Have some experience in organic gardening/sustainable agriculture. cost: slower and lower income. benefits: better soil health and resiliency. Currently a backyard gardener.</li> <li>No direct experience, but we promote conservation practices in our local and tribal mitigation plans.</li> <li>My family stopped using petroleum-chemical farming chemicals and got the land in CRP to allow it to heal, planting native grasslands.</li> <li>Many of these conservation practices have been around for years. They are voluntary and take some time, without incentives, to have wide adaptation.</li> <li>No till is great. A lot of people don't like it, but you waste a lot less fuel which equals less emissions.</li> <li>No</li> <li>Stopped using monocultural farming practices and diversified. There is no definition for "natural"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban encroachment on farming land - the people in the houses surrounding the fields will say "it stinks"</li> <li>Not enough guys to spread manure for hire to make natural fertilizer widespread.</li> <li>Money runs out for the conservation practices before they can be used as widely as wished</li> <li>Wish I had a greenhouse and could operate it efficiently in the winter!</li> <li>There are good resources for education and outreach, it's just finding the incentives to make it worthwhile.</li> <li>Worked and talked with many farmers on this. Helped alert them of new policy when implemented.</li> <li>Co-founded the Red River Market and wrote about urban agriculture issues for the food policy council</li> <li>Provide education and support No-till and crop rotations</li> <li>No</li> <li>Interned with the sustainable farming association of MN</li> <li>Regulated the ND crop production industry for over a decade.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education</li> <li>Outreach</li> <li>Red tape</li> <li>Lack of technical experts</li> <li>Waste</li> <li>Technical support</li> <li>Status quo</li> <li>One size doesn't fit all</li> <li>Industry-influence-ag-education</li> <li>Non-fundable practices</li> <li>laziness</li> <li>Red tape</li> <li>Expertise</li> <li>pushback</li> <li>Paperwork</li> <li>unrealistic</li> <li>Resistance to change</li> <li>Qualifications</li> <li>costs</li> <li>Paperwork</li> <li>5 year no pesticide clause</li> <li>Planning</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Unintended consequences</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Profit driven thinking</li> <li>Peer-to-peer experience</li> <li>Cost</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Cost and convenience</li> <li>Willingness to change</li> <li>Technical assistance</li> <li>Cost</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Willingness to change</li> <li>Cost</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200 character's</li> <li>Attending NDSU webinars promoting conservation practices.</li> <li>CRP has enabled our family to clean up the harmful chemical and monocultural farming practices - and allow the earth to heal and cleanse and topsoil to rebuild.</li> <li>NDSU on farm study</li> <li>Conservation practices can be local, state and national. They can be very complex and not necessarily programs that work well together on a farm</li> <li>The nexus would take a book</li> <li>CRP: agree</li> <li>CSP</li> <li>EQIP</li> <li>Farm service programs</li> <li>PLOTS program good for conservation and good for hunters</li> <li>Supplementing federal programs with state</li> </ul> |

| Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.   | What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.  | What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?   | Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience.  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked and talked with many farmers on this. Helped alert them of new policy when implemented.</li> <li>• Co-founded the Red River Market and wrote about urban agriculture issues for the food policy council</li> <li>• Provide education and support No-till and crop rotations</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Interned with the sustainable farming association of MN Regulated the ND crop production industry for over a decade.</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Experience with trees. Lots of planting!</li> <li>• Yes. Experience with conservation practices. Primarily focused on no-till, cover crops, etc.</li> <li>• Food Sovereignty initiatives, traditional food garden's Voluntary, incentive-based conservation practices can be attractive. Adoption is often uneven due to differences in the suitability of practices in different regions. One size doesn't fit all.</li> <li>• Yes, I work for a conservation service.</li> <li>• Yes. I use natural compost on my vegetable garden. we do not use any fertilizer or pesticides. I am also planting clover to replace the grass in my lawn.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Again, one size doesn't fit all. Incentives are often inadequate for many producers. Technical assistance can often be a challenge.</li> <li>• Costs. Benefits are not seen quickly and take time</li> <li>• Trees face natural predators—deer!</li> <li>• "Education</li> <li>• Cost barrier"</li> <li>• Cost and demand</li> <li>• Cultural change to normal operations.</li> <li>• None it is cheaper and easier.</li> <li>• "The state of ND with a budget surplus could better support the local food movement to feed our children in schools, and elders in nursing homes as a mechanism to promote sustainability and the importance of connecting ND residents with their food sources. We clearly felt the beef shortages during the Covid-Pandemic of 2020. The state could really address the various needs of ranchers, grazing coalitions, and conservation partners to advance numerous strategies that could aid not just ranchers, grazing associations and farmers, but the health of the state and our economy. We need to better balance the agriculture industry with the energy, and the growing tourism industries.</li> <li>• To many conservation organizations and land owners are trying to</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Quality control</li> <li>• Technical assistance</li> <li>• Short-term benefits</li> <li>• Can be based on their equipment.</li> <li>• Any environmental or conservation organization faces challenges due to political talking points and painting these organizations as 'radical,' or 'left-wing liberals.' Our politicians and media have segregated the general public into adversaries instead of collaborators working for the greater good. Will take a great deal of money, work, vision and millions of conversations to shift this paradigm.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• matching funds could be ideal</li> <li>• Put funding into education</li> <li>• NDSU Extension</li> <li>• NRCS</li> <li>• Soil conservation districts. Tree planting specifically. Some cover crops.</li> <li>• NDSU Extension</li> <li>• NDSU Extension does ongoing education for ag producers re: soil health and current best practices</li> <li>• "NRCS - EQIP, CSP</li> <li>• FSA - CRP"</li> <li>• Soil Conservation Districts</li> <li>• Meadowlark Initiative (state)</li> <li>• Pheasants Forever</li> <li>• Outdoor Heritage Fund. A lot of locally led projects</li> <li>• Not that I have participated in.</li> <li>• The NDNRT current carbon monitoring study in McKenzie, ND is a great example. Still, greater funding is needed to showcase best practices and help educate the entire agriculture industry, ranchers, farmers and politicians. If we don't act soon, our grasslands biome will be decimated and we will fall victim to our own climate disaster that was human created and</li> </ul> |

| <b>Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.</b>   | <b>What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.</b>  | <b>What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?</b> | <b>Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience.</b> |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>The Badlands Conservation Alliance is working to partner with like-minded organizations, ranchers and farmers to showcase best practices such as rotational grazing which could better protect grassland health, promote soil health, and illuminate the importance of preserving our dwindling grasslands biome via increased carbon capture monitoring. NDNRT is one example studying this work and BCA would hope grant money could further promote grassland health and new best practices such as virtual fencing. BCA would like to encourage greater proactive partnerships that promote ranching, grazing and market grass fed beef that can keep generational ranchers on the land and preserve a way of life for future generations. BCA is 350+ member driven organization that is committed to advancing sustainability by sharing best practices and reframing the environmental, conservation movement through new partnerships</p> | <p>survive the important collaborations are being missed due to old bias, beliefs and difficulties recognizing 'change' could be beneficial."</p> |   | <p>entirely preventable.</p>   |

## ENERGY

| Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.  | What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.  | What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?  | Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience.  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No.</li> <li>• Realized savings with led lights</li> <li>• Yes I worked for a G&amp;T utility for 30 years</li> <li>• Over the years, participated on the household level. Takes a lot of individual action to move the needle.</li> <li>• Yes. Installed energy efficiency practices, energy storage, solar thermal, solar photovoltaic...and performed energy audits.</li> <li>• Rooftop solar panel for 5 years</li> <li>• Only a personal level by installing an energy efficient furnace, but no programmatic experience.</li> <li>• Done Agrivoltaics. Solar and Ag</li> <li>• Installed solar with battery backup</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Yes, I am cofounder of an energy technology company developing solar PV, solar thermal, and energy auditing/conservation services in North Dakota.</li> <li>• Yes, installed both DG and battery back up. works well</li> <li>• Some, I've worked with policy experts in the private and government sectors. I've also looked at other countries policies and ideas.</li> <li>• Yes, there is interest in solar PV, solar thermal,</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battery storage needs the next brilliant version</li> <li>• Actual benefit-cost is often obscured... i.e., incentive hide costs</li> <li>• Utility policies are the major block to installing solar and making the return on investment fair.</li> <li>• Financing programs written for too narrow of audience/users</li> <li>• Labor shortages</li> <li>• Many coops do not compensate for self solar generation.</li> <li>• Renewable energy seems to have a good news/bad news persona</li> <li>• The financial incentives seem to outweigh implementation of the strategy. More financial incentives are needed.</li> <li>• The costs may outweigh the benefits.</li> <li>• Strategic energy plans</li> <li>• Lack of local providers and installers</li> <li>• Cost and trained workers</li> <li>• Electricity in ND is cheap. Cost/benefit ratio often doesn't pencil out.</li> <li>• Some energy co-ops and companies are not interested in promoting energy efficiency</li> <li>• Low cost of electricity</li> <li>• Lack of net metering policy</li> <li>• Community Energy Studies of Natural Resources. Policy and procedures to build smarter and more energy efficient</li> <li>• Hard to find solar installers —the wait can be long</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry cost for homeowners</li> <li>• Price</li> <li>• Price</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Price</li> <li>• Price</li> <li>• Cost benefit issues</li> <li>• Acceptance</li> <li>• Limited resources</li> <li>• Solar hidden costs</li> <li>• Reluctance</li> <li>• Awareness</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Awareness</li> <li>• Push back from industries</li> <li>• Behavior</li> <li>• habits</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Resistance from politician</li> <li>• Unrealistic targets</li> <li>• policies</li> <li>• Pushback from industry</li> <li>• Rural cooperatives</li> <li>• Not prioritizing</li> <li>• misinformation</li> <li>• Technological barriers</li> <li>• Lack of skilled workers</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Change</li> <li>• Lack of installers</li> <li>• Serviceability</li> <li>• Knowledge</li> <li>• Politics</li> <li>• Curriculum development</li> <li>• Politics</li> <li>• Workforce</li> <li>• workforce</li> <li>• Lack of interest</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Winter</li> <li>• Change</li> <li>• Energy studies</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax credits only</li> <li>• Don't know?!</li> <li>• On the wholesale level - tax credits</li> <li>• Tax credits</li> <li>• REAP program has been good...However, that's the USDA.</li> <li>• We switched all of our lights in our city buildings to energy efficient through grants</li> <li>• Accelerated depreciation</li> <li>• DOE Grants</li> <li>• Incentives for energy efficiency offered through my electric coop; seemed like the entry bar was high and weren't able to participate</li> <li>• Tax credits</li> <li>• Many renewable programs that are suggested get killed in the legislature.</li> <li>• Yes, the ND Commerce Department has a State Energy Program that provides grants up to \$50,000 for renewable energy projects. Sadly, the program has been historically understaffed and under publicized.</li> <li>• Volunteered with GreenStep Cities MN to help Moorhead get their program started</li> </ul> |

| <p><b>Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.</b></p>   | <p><b>What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.</b></p>  | <p><b>What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?</b></p>   | <p><b>Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience.</b></p>   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>energy conservation/efficiency, and battery storage, especially in commercial settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some with USDA’s REAP program. Focus on renewable energy installations and energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Yes, implementing renewable energy at a TCJ, Wind, Geo, Solar</li> <li>• Yes - energy efficiency. It was very difficult to front the cost of the technology and hard to prove ROI</li> <li>• Tribal College University</li> <li>• ROI- some state commerce grants are available, onerous process to apply</li> <li>• Unfortunately, no</li> <li>• With a recent change in leadership, BCA is now better positioned to advocate for greater collaborations to break down past barriers to partnerships and motivated to do the work with all willing partners to promote all strategies for energy efficiency, energy storage, renewable energy and greater industrial efficiency.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors appear hesitant to work with heat pulps</li> <li>• I think these are good ideas, and I would like to see them use more widely in North Dakota.</li> <li>• I don't feel the state of ND has fully supported renewable energy or new green technologies. We may be too committed to developing our vast oil &amp; gas reserves instead of promoting a more harmonious approach. The state could certainly fund training new employees that could work in the growing 'green economy.' The state could certainly provide greater incentives for home owners, landowners or businesses to go more 'green.'</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People feeling like electric doesn't work well in the cold and oil being a big money industry in the state.</li> <li>• I have looked into getting solar panels on my roof, but cannot find a local installer to provide me with a quote. Missed business opportunity for some North Dakotan out there!</li> <li>• See above comment.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started a farmers market</li> <li>• Wrote issue briefs for a food policy council</li> <li>• Community Action Partners -home weatherization</li> <li>• Geothermal tax credits</li> <li>• DOE grants and initiatives are successful for commercial building's</li> <li>• USDA REAP</li> <li>• Local co-ops - rebates for energy efficient electric appliances</li> <li>• USDA energy Sovereignty programs are a good source for smaller infrastructure upgrades</li> <li>• Local support networks that include energy efficiency into support plans</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• We would like to learn more of the menu of options and who in each industry with ND can highlight their best practices for the various categories listed above. We would enjoy an opportunity to sit down to better understand the work and have avenues to promote those leading the way.</li> </ul> |

## WASTE

| Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.  | What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.   | What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?  | Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience.   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Dakota could use an urban wood network</li> <li>• Recycling, needs personal commitment</li> <li>• Been helping design net-zero buildings. Ultra efficient. Solar Thermal and Photovoltaic powered with battery backup and high R-values</li> <li>• Waste reduction. switched garbage collection services because they offered curbside recycling.</li> <li>• Long time Reduce-Reuse-Recycle fan!</li> <li>• Recycling</li> <li>• Waste reduction: COMPOST! and backyard hens basically eliminate household food waste.</li> <li>• Recycling is very challenging for rural areas</li> <li>• Reducing urban wood waste by milling into wood for local buildings. Access to mills in ND is limited to decorative milling</li> <li>• ND should have incentivize builders to build better insulated, LEED, net-zero, or more energy efficient buildings on the front end. HVAC too. They would do it if there were incentives.</li> <li>• Check ND Forest Service Climate Action Plan for Urban Wood</li> <li>• Methane is way worse than carbon dioxide. EPA and DEQ make it hard to use alternate waste stream activities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA and DEQ make better options hard to attain</li> <li>• Some cities don't allow backyard hens.</li> <li>• Again, challenging for rural ND homeowners, business owners to recycle</li> <li>• Access to sustainable building materials could be problematic.</li> <li>• Builder education and lack of new design options</li> <li>• ND lacks energy auditors...and lacks builders and consumers who can calculate and see the long-term costs of building with low efficiency HVAC and poor insulation. 50% of pollution is for heat in ND.</li> <li>• Distance between a and b for anything in ND in regards to solution to problem distance</li> <li>• Tax credits run up against the budget</li> <li>• We are building unsustainable buildings. That's the norm here.</li> <li>• urban centralization vs. decentralize</li> <li>• Currently have to drive 100 miles to recycle</li> <li>• city commissioners' resistance for new program.</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> <li>• We could make hemp boxes but we don't have enough hemp to make a dent for example.</li> <li>• The typical pro-business way to nudge behavior is using financial incentives, but</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Price</li> <li>• Better design needed</li> <li>• Red tape</li> <li>• Misinformation</li> <li>• Change designs</li> <li>• distance</li> <li>• Misinformation</li> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Distance</li> <li>• Momentum</li> <li>• Not truly all of above ND</li> <li>• Public buy in</li> <li>• Subsidize fossil fuels</li> <li>• Education on implementing</li> <li>• Red tape</li> <li>• Lack of recycling facility</li> <li>• Distance</li> <li>• Lack support for renewables</li> <li>• Proper participation</li> <li>• Education on implementing</li> <li>• Inertia</li> <li>• Distance</li> <li>• Public buy in</li> <li>• Red tape</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Design</li> <li>• unwillingness to invest</li> <li>• corporate lobbying</li> <li>• No recycling facility</li> <li>• Public awareness</li> <li>• EPA</li> <li>• DEQ</li> <li>• New designs needed</li> <li>• Awareness</li> <li>• Pushback</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Lack of materials</li> <li>• Cost to start program</li> <li>• No infrastructure</li> <li>• Chicken and egg scenario</li> <li>• Downtime to implement</li> <li>• Skepticism</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curbside recycling can work if simple enough</li> <li>• City compost facility - it works</li> <li>• Not much support for these strategies in ND. We have had to seek federal programs. Sadly</li> <li>• City provides household compost containers for residents - and education about proper use</li> <li>• Not directly participated in but there are new standards for urban wood and recycled wood use in construction and whole organizations for this now.</li> <li>• Curbside recycling does carry a nominal extra cost on monthly bills.</li> <li>• But extra costs for recycling / composting can eventually reduce the need for landfill expansion - save money in long run</li> <li>• Bismarck recycling</li> <li>• Fargo and Casselton have recycling</li> <li>• Minot has curbside recycling</li> <li>• Bismarck City composting of grass clippings and leaves</li> </ul> |

| Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.   | What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.  | What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?   | Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience.   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methane is way worse than carbon dioxide. EPA and DEQ make it hard to use alternate waste stream activities</li> <li>• Urban sprawl neighborhoods are often terribly high consumers of energy. Should change this trend. Need green buildings. And incentives</li> <li>• Minimal.</li> <li>• Compost!</li> <li>• City of Fargo used to supply compost bins to residents. Unsure if they still do</li> <li>• Recycling and composting on an individual level. I put out the recycling every 2 weeks, not sure what happens to it after that, I'd be more incentivized if I saw the end process (recycling).</li> <li>• No.</li> <li>• Yes - compost, recycling, and local waste reduction efforts</li> <li>• Recycling</li> <li>• Recycling</li> <li>• No</li> <li>• Composting</li> <li>• Yes. I participate in curbside recycling, and I compost my food waste. I have also replaced all of the toilets in the house with low flow dual flush toilets, and I've added a bidet to reduce paper waste. We reuse items that we can for a construction project or household needs. I save my egg cartons and give them back to</li> </ul> | <p>regulatory intervention is needed to change behavior when it comes to waste products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost and education</li> <li>• Some parts of ND do not have recycling facilities</li> <li>• Lack of recycling options in various parts of state</li> <li>• Products are overpackaged which is not something I have much control over but I do intend to start purchasing products that can be refilled from a new store in town that sells bulk cleaning products and what not.</li> <li>• The state could lead by creating its own MIRF facility that all municipalities could utilize. This would decrease shipping costs out of state and the state could take the lead by creating the facility. North Dakota has a state mill, as state bank, why not a state MIRF?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Few recyclers in rural ND</li> <li>• Distance to recycle</li> <li>• End product use</li> <li>• Skepticism</li> <li>• Little incentive</li> <li>• Political will</li> <li>• Contractors unwilling</li> <li>• Hearing 1st hand that most of the recycling goes to the land fill makes it feel futile.</li> <li>• There is not a good building materials reuse store available near my home.</li> <li>• As a former City Council member in Minot, I have had plenty of insight working on landfill expansion and discussing the increased monetary/tax implications for residents by starting a recycling program. The state could lead the way and use our educational institutions to educate, promote and succeed by creating a state created MIRF. Too often the state politicians preach local control, but in fact act against local control by caving to special interest and industries connected to individual law makers. One reason residents are skeptical of law makers, government.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starts Composting Minot</li> <li>• Nonprofits collect aluminum cans for programs</li> <li>• I participate in the citywide curbside recycling program.</li> <li>• See above.</li> </ul> |

| Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.   | What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain. | What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies? | Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience. |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>local egg producers so that they can refill them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCA participates to the best of our abilities on the strategies listed above. As a conservation organization, we would like to see greater emphasis placed on waste stream reduction and sustainable building materials in the Badlands of western ND.</li> </ul> |   |  |   |

## TRANSPORTATION

| Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.  | What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.  | What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?   | Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience.   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nope. But I've used them!</li> <li>• Walking and biking paths can be tricky. ROW acquisition, safety, etc.</li> <li>• Love using the paths but don't even think of them as GHG reduction strategies.</li> <li>• Enjoy walking</li> <li>• No experience with implementing, but Bismarck wins awards for its walking paths, which are heavily used.</li> <li>• What is the GHG reduction per mile of path?</li> <li>• Low impact paths cost a lot more</li> <li>• Many times there are greenways accompany</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won't be enough to make a big reduction in GHG emissions</li> <li>• Cost per mile</li> <li>• Maintenance</li> <li>• Habits. Weather.</li> <li>• Culture Change needed</li> <li>• Is this a substantial place to create GHG reductions?</li> <li>• Bus routes might be more impactful than walking</li> <li>• Getting people to use them to replace cars</li> <li>• Paths are recreation not to work locations</li> <li>• Bikes. It worked for the Netherlands.</li> <li>• Population decreases in rural communities impacts tax bases and walking and bike paths</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Maintenance</li> <li>• Maintenance</li> <li>• Weather</li> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Maintenance</li> <li>• weather</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Weather</li> <li>• Access</li> <li>• maintenance</li> <li>• ROW acquisition</li> <li>• Convenience</li> <li>• Design</li> <li>• Weather</li> <li>• Utility</li> <li>• ROW acquisition</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Weather</li> <li>• ROW</li> <li>• Design</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRTS</li> <li>• Safe routes to schools</li> <li>• Sometimes federal highway programs include bike and walking paths, really hard to qualify for funding</li> <li>• No direct participation.</li> <li>• Game &amp; Fish / Trails programs</li> <li>• Game &amp; Fish trails is through FHWA</li> <li>• ND and Bismarck Parks and Recreation programs</li> <li>• Many of the city recreational trails</li> </ul> |



| Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.   | What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.  | What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?   | Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience.  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>path planning. These can be planted with native grasses, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravel is more dangerous than cars in rural areas</li> <li>Hard concrete vs rubberized etc.</li> <li>Have used and enjoyed where and when available. Have found limited access in my current community, as in not well designed.</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Hazard Mitigation Assistance funds have been used for greenways where flooding has occurred. These greenways often have walking and bike paths.</li> <li>Walkable communities are in short supply in ND</li> <li>My hometown is trying to implement a shared use path</li> <li>RTP projects</li> <li>Walking is great for mental and physical health, especially when situated within green areas.</li> <li>Yes- local planning commission and Walker/biker</li> <li>Built outdoor training courses during covid</li> <li>Plowing/clearing is an issue during winter months</li> <li>Bike and walk friendly communities attract workers and improve quality of life.</li> <li>Love them —especially for recreational purposes</li> </ul> | <p>likely become a low priority as a result.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would totally ride bike to work every day rather than drive if it were safer to do so.</li> <li>Our population concentration is low for these projects</li> <li>Denmark &amp; Netherlands punish car drivers and reward bikers - the result is people prefer to bike</li> <li>would sacrifice some backyard for better access</li> <li>It's too cold</li> <li>Safety of design for the user from both the path, interaction with the roads, and interaction with other users</li> <li>Cost</li> <li>Cities are geared towards traffic flow and moving cars in and out of commercial enterprises.</li> <li>Input from the public</li> <li>Pushback from drivers</li> <li>Making sure paths are located in areas where they will get enough use</li> <li>Special assessments cost money because they don't cover the full cost of the project.</li> <li>Finding correct location</li> <li>Lack of space to put in walking paths.</li> <li>Not prioritized by the city</li> <li>Density - somewhere to walk/bike to</li> <li>Cost of upkeep and maintenance</li> <li>They are often built along highways and other polluted areas :(</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation</li> <li>Participation</li> <li>ROW</li> <li>Convenience</li> <li>Access</li> <li>Funding</li> <li>Funding</li> <li>Weather</li> <li>Specials</li> <li>Cars</li> <li>Lack of funding</li> <li>Lack of funding</li> <li>Car centric communities</li> <li>Poor city planning</li> <li>Poor city planning</li> <li>Low impact on gas emission</li> <li>Timetables to build</li> <li>Maintenance</li> <li>Cars</li> <li>Urban sprawl</li> <li>Maintenance</li> <li>Funding</li> <li>Driver vs Bike Lanes</li> <li>People who don't them done</li> <li>ATV's, dirt bikes [emoji thumbs down]</li> <li>Lack of connectivity</li> <li>Many cold months reduce year-round use.</li> <li>Unfortunately, there are no bike or walking paths that I can take to church or the grocery store so I ride in the street and there is very limited bike parking. Also there's no safe bike trail or even road or sidewalk to go to the mall and there's nowhere to park your bike at the mall.</li> <li>Environmental organizations such as the Badlands Conservation Alliance</li> </ul> | <p>are funded through Federal Highway dollars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To supplement and expand - yes</li> <li>National guard training program.</li> <li>ND Park and Rec Recreation Trails Program provides 80% funds for recreational trails.</li> <li>Trails day</li> <li>Safe Routes to School (funding partner for sidewalks)</li> <li>Local parks board</li> <li>DOT at times</li> <li>Local bike retailers</li> <li>AARP</li> <li>I like to walk on the hiking trails that are available in the city</li> <li>The Outdoor Heritage Fund has huge potential. BCA attends numerous meetings and hopes to make greater in-roads with organizations like the Badlands Advisory Group of the Little Missouri Scenic River Commission. Unfortunately, the state of ND has only recently recognized the importance of tourism and the</li> </ul> |

| Do you have experience implementing these strategies? If yes, please explain.   | What challenges do you see with implementing any of these strategies? Please explain.   | What barriers have you experienced and/or do you expect with implementing any of these strategies?   | Are there specific local or state-wide programs related to these strategies that you have participated in? If so, please explain your experience. |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, I like to walk and bike to church and to the grocery store and downtown.</li> <li>• The Badlands Conservation Alliance is a Voice for Wild North Dakota Places. We are currently collaborating with the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association to address trail repair needs and advocate for greater land protections of the Badlands of western ND that could aid the tourism industry and promote a conservation legacy Theodore Roosevelt would be proud of through our work.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter can be tough for maintenance</li> <li>• Safety along roads- "stroller test"</li> <li>• Not well lit at night</li> <li>• Not cleared often enough in winter</li> <li>• Cost and extra right of way required</li> <li>• Winter</li> <li>• We have a beautiful nature trail being threatened along the Missouri in the interest of a boat dock</li> <li>• The cities are car centric and not pedestrian or bike friendly.</li> <li>• The state of ND needs greater harmony between industries and collaboration amongst industries. The stress and strain from Oil &amp; Gas development could greatly impact the tourism economy around our lone national park, TRNP and the Badlands of western ND.</li> </ul> | <p>and other conservation organizations are considered 'radical' or 'liberal extremists.' As a result, conversations are not had, work not approached collaboratively and division grows due to politicians and media outlets.</p> | <p>potential value our rivers play.</p>   |

## ADDITIONAL IMPLEMENTATION-READY STRATEGIES

### Are there additional implementation-ready strategies you would like the state to consider?

- Incentivize energy audits for all new construction.
- Biodiesel and renewable diesel are ready today. Need support for distribution system.
- Allow alternative waste stream strategies but also make them easy and provide funding or technical support
- incentivize net-zero buildings. and tax polluting constructions by their GHGs
- package of neighborhood renewal options: bike paths, energy systems, upgrades, etc.
- Make bus routes a higher priority and provide startup funding for public transportation
- Provide funding for contractors/builders to increase R-values, insulation walls, roof, windows and HVAC units.
- Expand energy efficient incentives
- Create incentives for community owned and municipality buildings/schools etc. distributed renewable generation. geo or solar
- ...and support bus routes during bad weather!
- Greenway initiatives
- Stop building state buildings or public buildings that aren't net zero.

### Are there additional implementation-ready strategies you would like the state to consider?

- North Dakota energy efficient incentives
- Make a law that all future buildings need to be net zero. It's not hard to do. We've done it.
- Reduce methane emissions from oil and gas drilling
- Capping methane flaring statewide, restoring prairies through effective range management.
- Taking the state government's emissions to zero by building green and installing renewable energy at all state-owned properties, while moving away from fossil fuel sources of heat and electricity.
- Making the state fleet all-electric
- 4 day workweek for all state employees (less work days = less emissions)
- Office of Energy Efficiency (in DEQ)
- Office of Energy Efficiency (in DEQ)
- Office of Energy Efficiency (in DEQ)
- Take care of abandoned or orphaned wells in oil/gas fields. It seems there is enough funding for covering and surfacing these. Complete the work
- Planting more trees —aging shelter belts are not being replaced
- Planting more trees —aging shelter belts are not being replaced
- Better soil conservation measures
- New EPA rules for oil and natural gas operations will ban routine flaring of natural gas. Look into the bottlenecks for ND and look for solutions. Smaller well owners will need the state's assistant
- Office of Environmental Justice (DEQ)
- I wish there was a department in ND like MN bike trails program for statewide trails
- Training workforce for more green jobs
- Micro grid systems
- Minor gas leaks due to older pipes, improper pipe tightening etc. are often overlooked. It is found that such leaks are substantial in older US cities. It is worth look into methane leak mapping
- Diversify energy production to more renewable sources.
- I would like North Dakota to stop the endless promotion of the oil and gas industry. I would like North Dakota to put meaningful enforcement efforts in place to eliminate methane emissions and reduce waste from flaring. I would like the state to tax methane emissions and use the tax revenue to support Electric power projects, built on solar and wind. I would like North Dakota to invest in energy audits and upgrades for peoples' homes to improve the efficiency of their heating and cooling systems, roofs, and windows. I would like to see support for more community gardens, food preservation options, and home gardening. Wouldn't it be cool if you could take your tomatoes to a community canning place and everybody could just can their tomatoes there together safely? Instead of everybody having to try to purchase a pressure cooker device and learn how to do it? Thank you for taking this feedback.
- With the TRPL slated to open July 4th, 2026 and the increase traffic in our lone national park, TRNP, the state needs to better plan and protect for the environment around the Badlands! If not now, when? Could send a strong message to the nation that we take our conservation responsibilities seriously and are attempting to uphold the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt in action

## APPENDIX C COMMUNICATION

NDDEQ posted the Sustainability input forums on their sustainability website, located at [www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability](http://www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability). NDDEQ also posted announcements on their Facebook page. NDDEQ emailed 485 stakeholders from their listserv the Sustainability Input Forums information. A follow-up email was sent to the 76 registrants who did not participate in the Round Two Online Sustainability Input Forums, encouraging them to provide feedback via the online survey. See Figures 5-7.

FIGURE 5: NORTH DAKOTA SUSTAINABILITY WEBSITE POSTING

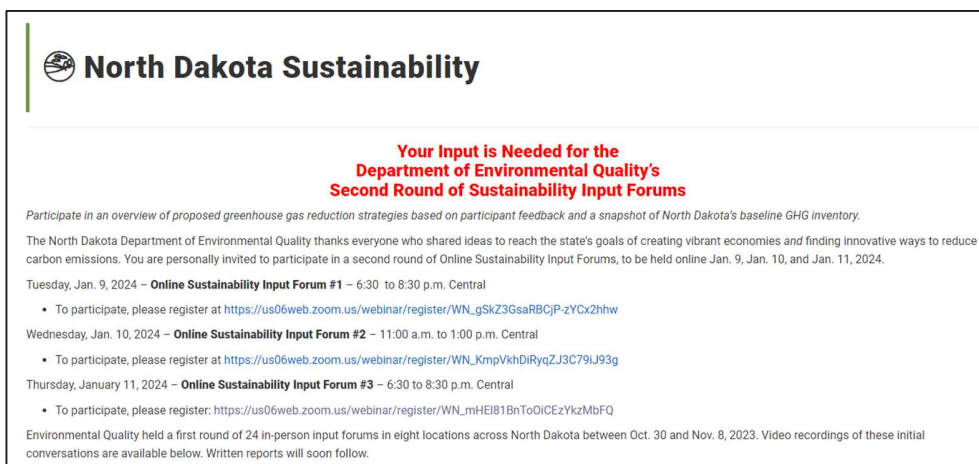


FIGURE 6: NDDEQ FACEBOOK POST



FIGURE 7: NDDEQ EMAIL INVITATION

**Your Input is Needed for the  
Department of Environmental Quality's  
Second Round of Sustainability Input Forums**

*Participate for an overview of proposed greenhouse gas reduction strategies based on participant feedback and a snapshot of North Dakota's baseline GHG inventory.*

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality thanks everyone who shared ideas to reach the state's goals of creating vibrant economies *and* finding innovative ways to reduce carbon emissions. You are personally invited to participate in a second round of Online Sustainability Input Forums, to be held online Jan. 9, Jan. 10, and Jan. 11, 2024.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024 – **Online Sustainability Input Forum #1** – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Central

- To participate, please register at [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gSkZ3GsaRBCjP-zYCx2hhw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gSkZ3GsaRBCjP-zYCx2hhw)

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024 – **Online Sustainability Input Forum #2** – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Central

- To participate, please register at [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_KmpVkhDiRyqZJ3C79iJ93g](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KmpVkhDiRyqZJ3C79iJ93g)

Thursday, January 11, 2024 – **Online Sustainability Input Forum #3** – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Central

- To participate, please register: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mHEI81BnToOiCEzYkzMbFQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mHEI81BnToOiCEzYkzMbFQ)

Environmental Quality held a first round of 24 in-person input forums in eight locations across North Dakota between Oct. 30 and Nov. 8, 2023. Video recordings of these initial conversations are available on the Environmental Quality's website at [www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability](http://www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability). Written reports will soon follow.

The Online Sustainability Input Forums in January will share the feedback aggregated from our first round and are an opportunity for North Dakotans to provide input on the proposed reduction strategies.

These efforts are supported through a planning grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program. Feedback from the Sustainability Input Forums will inform North Dakota's initial action plan and corresponding grant request, due to EPA by Spring 2024. Ideas, perspectives, research, and planning from this process will also inform the state's longer-term sustainability planning and work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.