

**Sent:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 2:13 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Draft Climate Solutions Plan Feedback From a Private Citizen -- CC. ROBUST AND FAIR FEDERAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

Dear Governor Bullock, Council Members and Critically Important Assigned Staff:

Reference: **GHG Committee -- Recommendations Still under Consideration but Needing Further Discussion and Revision**

Section: CC. ROBUST AND FAIR FEDERAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

Commenting on where a refunded carbon tax, similar to the Citizens' Climate Lobby's Carbon Fee and Dividend (CFD) proposal, which has now largely been incorporated into The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA) H.R. 763; has been implemented with a dramatic economic up-side. You don't have to go far to find one.

British Columbia announced it in February 2008 and it was implemented in July 2008 at a rate of C\$10 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, rising in C\$5 annual increments to C\$35/tonne. B.C. strengthened its carbon tax on April 1, 2019 raising the rate to C\$40 per tonne. When B.C. first introduced its carbon tax, it was the first economy-wide price on carbon pollution in North America. Among explicit carbon prices, B.C.'s is still first on the continent. It is designed as a revenue-neutral tax, meaning that all carbon-tax proceeds collected by the government are returned in the form of income tax cuts and rebates.

B.C.'s conservative government relied on the thinking of Dr. Shi-Ling Hsu, who is now a Professor at Florida State University College of Law. Dr. Hsu has also been a Professor at the University of British Columbia School of Law and an Associate Professor at George Washington University. He is an expert in the areas of environmental and natural resource law, climate change, law and economics, and property. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Hsu was Senior Attorney and Economist for the Environmental Law Institute in Washington D.C; Deputy City Attorney in San Francisco; and practiced law with Fenwick & West in Palo Alto, California. Dr. Hsu has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University, a J.D., from Columbia Law School, and a M.S. in Ecology and Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics, both from the University of California, Davis. (Professor Hsu can be reached at [shsu@law.fsu.edu](mailto:shsu@law.fsu.edu).)

The tax is now raising over C\$1.2 billion per year with the proceeds are distributed roughly equally between personal and business tax reductions. Personal returns are now averaging C\$154.50 per adult and C\$45.50 per child annually in the form of tax credits.

We now have more than a decade of data available. Among Canadian provinces, B.C. has registered the fastest rate of economic growth since 2008. B.C.'s outperformance is forecast to continue – even accelerate – through 2020, according to RBC Economic Research. Canada's westernmost province also boasts the lowest unemployment rate, the lowest personal-tax rate for incomes under \$125,000 and one of the lowest corporate-tax rates in the country. B.C.'s recent history and forecast of strong economic performance suggests that pricing pollution is more likely to help, not hinder, growth – especially as the world increasingly transitions to a cleaner economy. B.C.'s booming clean-tech industry is a prime example of the benefits of pricing pollution. Entrepreneurs cite carbon pricing as a key tool for stimulating clean innovation. In B.C., clean tech is on a roll, posting job growth that's among the fastest of any sector in the province. B.C. is home to seven of the companies on the 2019 Global Cleantech 100 list, more than the rest of the country combined. According to Cleantech Group, the firms on the list have collectively raised more than US\$14-trillion in investment. With B.C. companies leading the way and ready to serve the world, B.C.'s clean-tech industry will provide a huge competitive advantage in ensuring an increasingly prosperous future for the province. It's an enviable position to be in, thanks, in part, to B.C.'s carbon tax. Fuel efficiency increased, personal and corporate taxes decreased, and greenhouse gas emissions are down. Since introducing pollution pricing in 2008, per capita emissions in B.C. are down by 14%, while the economy has grown by 26%. B.C.'s carbon tax has reduced the use of gasoline and

natural gas by 7% per person and spurred people to buy more fuel-efficient cars. The B.C. government has used some of the revenues to cut income taxes and, more recently, to cut health premiums and invest in green technologies. #2-01

(All dollar amounts from here forward will be in U.S. dollars unless otherwise noted). This transition has occurred at a time when the renewable energy sector was largely still in development. It is now becoming mature, and therefore cost competitive with traditional fossil-fuel based alternatives. Over these twelve years there have been dramatic advances in solar and wind technologies and associated major manufacturing and operating cost reductions. Berkshire Hathaway's MidAmerican Energy of Iowa, serving 780,000 customers and is poised to be the first investor owned utility to supply its customers with 100% renewable sourced energy. A \$1 billion 690-megawatt solar farm, with at least 380 megawatts lithium-ion storage batteries should be under construction soon in the desert outside Las Vegas. It will be the largest in the U.S. By comparison, in 2018 China had 174,000 megawatts of cumulative installed solar capacity and the largest project at 1,547 megawatts. China's goal for 2050 is to reach 1,300,000 megawatts of solar capacity.

The auto industry is poised to go all electric. GM announced a \$2.2 billion investment in Michigan and Ohio to retool partly used or idle factories to build electric vehicles by 2021, including an electric pick up. GM's announced VISION: Making an all-electric future a reality. Ford announced a similar investment starting with an electric Ford 150 starting in 2022. The capital markets are betting on electric vehicles. Tesla, the electric vehicle and solar panel maker, has seen its stock jump to nearly \$900 per share. Tesla lost \$862 million in 2019 but it turned a profit during the last two quarters of the year, including \$105 million in quarterly earnings posted last week. Among the positive news coming from the automaker: Tesla said it expects to exceed production of 500,000 vehicles this year at its factories in Fremont, California, and Shanghai. It appears to have worked the kinks out of making the Model 3 small car, the company's lowest-priced vehicle. And it announced it will start producing the Model Y, a small SUV with broad global appeal, sooner than expected.

Based on its success with a refundable carbon tax, B.C. appears poised to continue to increase its tax based on the capacity of its population and businesses to lower GHG emissions dramatically while capitalizing on these maturing renewable energy alternatives.

Similar economic stimulus was predicted, on a much larger scale, for a similar revenue neutral carbon tax for implementation in the U.S. That prediction comes from the comprehensive economic and engineering analysis prepared for the Citizens Climate Foundation in 2014, and in subsequent studies referenced in this section: CC. ROBUST AND FAIR FEDERAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION (GHG Committee -- Recommendations Still under Consideration but Needing Further Discussion and Revision).

Following British Columbia's 2008 lead, Canada enacted the federal Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA), which passed in December 2018. It is one of the most ambitious carbon pricing programs in the world. Under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Liberal government has enacted a nationwide tax on oil, coal and gas that starts at C\$15 per tonne of carbon dioxide in 2019 and will rise to C\$38 per tonne by 2022. The tax is a core part of Mr. Trudeau's plan to reduce Canada's emissions 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Most of the revenue will be refunded to Canadians on their tax bills; the government estimates that these refunds will offset higher energy costs for about 70 percent of people. A number of key industries that face intense trade competition, like steel and chemicals, are exempt from Canada's tax. Instead, they will participate in a separate program in which the dirtiest companies within each sector will either have to pay the government for their excess emissions or buy carbon credits awarded to the cleanest companies. Individual provinces can opt out of the federal program by designing their own local climate policies. British Columbia, of course, has its own higher carbon tax in place, which rose to C\$40 per tonne this year, and Quebec has enacted a local cap-and-trade system. But four provinces, including Ontario, refused to create their own plans, and the federal tax went into effect in those places on April 1, 2019.

Canada held a national election in October of 2019, and the opposition Conservatives vowed to repeal the tax if they took power. According to the National Post, the Conservative Party of Canada attempted to "make the carbon tax the single issue" of the 2019 federal election campaign. This argument did not succeed, as the Canadian voting public supported parties that also supported the carbon tax, leading CBC News to declare Canada's carbon tax to be "the big election winner" and "the only landslide victor" in this election.

The provisions of the GGPPA were opposed by the governments of Saskatchewan and Ontario, and challenged in provincial courts. On May 3, 2019 The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal ruled in favor of the federal government in a 3-2 decision concluding; "The Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act is not unconstitutional either in whole or in part." On May 31, 2019 Premier Scott

Moe appealed that decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Ontario government's challenge was decided by The Ontario Court of Appeal by a four to one margin on June 28, 2019 that the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act was constitutional. The Ontario government filed an appeal of that decision with the Supreme Court of Canada on August 28, 2019. These Appeals will be heard in 2020.

#2-01

At the end of section: 'CC. ROBUST AND FAIR FEDERAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION', there is presented: ALTERNATIVE APPROACH ON CARBON PRICING FROM "THE UTAH ROADMAP". Is it correct to assume this is part of section: 'CC'?

Following that, there is apparently two sections: 'DD' and 'EE', neither of which are identified as such, or named. Both are authored by Chuck Magraw. Can you please clarify?

Again, sincere thanks,

John A. Noreika, Sr.

[REDACTED], Belgrade MT 59714

Ph: [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 1:22 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Draft Climate Solutions Plan Feedback From a Private Citizen

Dear Governor Bullock, Council Members and Critically Important Assigned Staff:

I have two recommendations on your process:

1. To ensure you are receiving input/feedback from Montana Citizens, require persons and organizations provide their legal addresses.
2. Throughout this planning process, after the plan is approved, and particularly over the years of implementation, as part of a communications strategy, offer the public a climate solutions score-card. I propose this consist of weekly news-releases to media outlets, newspapers, but particularly local TV and radio stations. In the form of public service announcements, arrange for airing at key local news and weather forecast times. Fund as needed through grants, gifts and as a last-resort, the state's budget. The information conveyed would include the latest monthly global temperature numbers from NASA, any key climate change data nationally and locally, and key updates the public needs to know on Plan implementation.

Again, sincere thanks,

John A. Noreika, Sr.  
[REDACTED], Belgrade MT 59714

Ph: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 10:50 AM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support I-187

Thank you for your service, Council members.

Initiative 187 will address many of your recommendations. -Please include support of I-187 in your report.  
See [MTCARES.org](http://MTCARES.org) for more information.

Pamela Morris  
Corvallis, Montana

**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2020 3:21 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Climate change mitigation, wood gasification boilers

Hello!

This is Terry Davenport from Victor MT.

I'm a custom home builder and know a lot about energy efficient, net zero and carbon neutral home construction. After watching a great program on Montana PBS, Nova, Polar extremes, I became re-interested in the carbon production and how it affects our climate. I realized that most fuels from underground were not good, and fuels (for home heating) from above ground were good. So I would like the State of Montana to promote bio mass heating much more.

I had a potential client in Missoula that wanted to do a wood gasification boiler, only the Zoo town folks (Missoula) didn't allow it, because they are basing their information on old inefficient wood boilers and not the gasification type of boiler that burns at 2000F degrees, like Europe is using and metering.

I would like to see the building codes, both state and local accept this type of heating system. Europe has already gone to this system of carbon neutral heating and it works quite well.

Missoula is not being realistic in their approach to climate change by banning these boilers.

And along with a more climate friendly heating system, we need to do the forgotten about C word, conservation. So insulate those poorly insulated buildings.

To get a home to net zero energy in Montana in a climate of 7700 heat degree days, I need to do a wall and roof R value of 70, which is over three times the current code. So saving the heat is paramount.

There is a lot of biomass in Montana and we need to get a grip on this climate change of adding carbon dioxide otherwise our forests are going to burn like we have never experienced before.

So if you haven't already, please watch the PBS program on Nova, Polar Extremes and watch some of the videos on You Tube of gasification boilers.

Thank You and be well!

Terry D!

Natural Housebuilders and Terry Davenport Design

Victor MT 59875

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 12:25 PM  
**To:** Bullock, Governor; Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Draft Climate Solutions Plan available for public review

Governor Bullock,

Thank you for sharing the document. I am so thrilled to know you have created a committee who has begun the work of addressing our changing climate, and for identifying how we Montanans can play a supportive and crucial role in that work.

Please keep moving forward.

Marlene

**M Hutchins, Art Director & Musician**

*You keep talking. I'll be right back. —Rush White*

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**From:** Bullock, Governor <governor@mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:37 PM  
**To:** M Hutchins [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Draft Climate Solutions Plan available for public review

Dear M:

Today I announced that the Montana Climate Solutions Council has released a set of draft recommendations intended to help Montana reduce emissions, prepare for climate impacts and address challenges and opportunities tied to transitions.

The recommendations come from the early deliberations of the Montana Climate Solutions Council, and have been issued for public review and comment through March 31, 2020.

I am excited to share the early recommendations of the Montana Climate Solutions Council with you to encourage the engagement of all Montanans in the work of the Council as they identify and refine options to prepare our state and our economy for climate impacts.

Last July, I established the Council through Executive Order and announced Montana has joined the U.S. Climate Alliance. The Council is tasked with issuing recommendations by June 1, 2020, that move the state toward an interim goal of net greenhouse gas neutrality for average annual electric loads in the state by no later than 2035 and economy-wide at a date to be determined by the Council.

In addition, the Council must identify strategies that build resilience, address the needs of communities in transition through appropriate economic and workforce development, and harness potential opportunities in the development and commercialization of new technologies.

Our state's efforts to craft home grown solutions will be critical to addressing not only the risks facing Montana from climate change, but also capitalizing on the many opportunities tied to clean energy and climate-driven transitions happening in our region and around the world.

The draft Montana Climate Solutions Plan is available now at the following link: <https://deq.mt.gov/Climate>. The Plan includes preliminary recommendations, dissenting views, and key questions to encourage upfront engagement as the

Council works toward its final product in June.

#2-05

The Council invites feedback from the public through March 31, 2020. Comments may be submitted by email to [ClimateCouncil@mt.gov](mailto:ClimateCouncil@mt.gov). All comments received will be made available for public review.

I won't pretend that our changing climate is an easy problem to solve. There's a lot at stake, but done right, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, drive economic growth, and continue creating good-paying jobs all across Montana. Like all difficult issues we tackle here in Montana, I know we can find a pathway forward by coming together, rolling up our sleeves, and focusing on the values we share in common.

Thanks again for your support and your efforts to combat climate change in Montana.

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor



**From:** John Noreika [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Building a National Consensus Through Interface between our Governor's Climate Solutions Council and the U.S. Senate and House Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucuses.

Dear Governor Bullock, Council Members and Critically Important Assigned Staff:

With the Governor's Climate Solutions Council's release of its initial Plan for public comment between now and March 31, 2020, to be finalized before the 2020 elections; this is an unprecedented leadership opportunity for our Governor and our Congressional Delegation to remove climate change as a partisan issue in Montana and, possibly ensuring continuity between state administrations.

But we will also need a deep bipartisan national consensus like that achieved to win World War II, that endures for the rest of this century. The 2020 elections are our last chance to unite the country in rebuilding our energy economy.

There is an extraordinary opportunity to help build that national consensus through an interface between our Governor's Climate Solutions Council and the U.S. Senate and House bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucuses. I urge both our Senators and our Representative to join these Caucuses.

The House Caucus has co-chairs, Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL) and Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL). It is well established with 63 Members currently, 22 Republicans and 41 Democrats.

But the current momentum is in the Senate. On November 6, 2019 Senator Mike Braun, R-Indiana said: "As a life-long conservationist, I am proud to launch the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus." "For too long Washington has been polarized by partisan gamesmanship, unable to have productive conversations about our changing climate. Through this caucus, we can have real conversations about protecting our environment, securing America's energy future and protecting America's manufacturing jobs."

On February 6, 2020 Senators Chris Coons, D-Delaware, and Braun announced four additional members — Senators Marco Rubio, R-Florida; Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan; Susan Collins, R-Maine; and Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisconsin. These will join, in addition to Coons and Braun, Senators Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska; Jeanne Shaheen, D-New Hampshire; Mitt Romney, R-Utah; Angus King, I-Maine; Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina; and Michael Bennet, D-Colorado.

Senator Lindsey Graham: "I believe climate change is real. I believe that we as Americans have the ability to come up with climate change solutions that can better our economy and our way of life." "The United States has long been a leader in innovation. Addressing climate change is an opportunity to put our knowledge and can-do spirit to work to protect the environment for our benefit today and for future generations." November 6, 2019.

Senator Marco Rubio: "Changes in our climate, such as the rise in sea levels, are measurable facts. Many communities in Florida are already dealing with the consequences of these changes and will have to adapt and mitigate against their impacts for decades to come." "I look forward to working with my colleagues to find real and responsible solutions in a bipartisan way." February 7, 2020.

"I am excited to announce the addition of four new colleagues to the Climate Solutions Caucus who will bring important perspectives and diverse experiences to the group," said Senator Coons. "We look forward to continuing the discussion on bipartisan solutions and engaging with leaders from the business community, state and local governments, workers and advocates across the country who are identifying meaningful ways to address climate change and strengthen American competitiveness."

Since launching this Caucus has held regular meetings, including with Microsoft founder Bill Gates and with CEOs who are members of the CEO Climate Dialogue. In the coming weeks, the caucus will hold meetings with executives from Fortune 500 companies who are members of the Climate Leadership Council, representatives from the Global CCS Institute, member companies of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, ambassadors and leaders from a variety of faith traditions to discuss their concerns and priorities for federal climate policy and opportunities for collaboration.

#2-06

Again, sincere thanks,

John A. Noreika, Sr.

[REDACTED], Belgrade MT 59714

Ph: [REDACTED]

**From:** Eliza Donahue [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:20 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Citizen Comments on Montana Climate Plan  
**Attachments:** Eliza Climate Council Letter(1).pdf

Hi there,

Please see attached comments on the Montana Climate Plan.

Thank you!  
Eliza Donahue

Eliza Donahue  
Climate Council Letter  
February 2020

To the Climate Council,

I am a student at Montana State University studying human geography, environmental history, Native American studies, and sustainability. My classes regularly engage with climate-related topics such as water quality, energy, and environmental policy. I also work in the outdoor recreation industry as an educator. I am offering comments on section one, regarding preparing Montanans for climate impacts.

I appreciate the holistic approach to climate adaptations the plan takes. Intentional, reflective collaboration between state agencies, sovereign tribal nations, the Montana university system, communities, businesses, and producers is key to a multi-faceted response to the growing threat of climate change. Of particular interest and importance to me are the implementation of solutions integrating natural systems, the development of climate information and tools specific to the outdoor recreation industry, and the prioritization of communication and resource sharing across the state via Climate Extension Specialists and the Climate Smart Montana network. I think it's important to acknowledge, support, and build upon current climate initiatives in diverse communities rather than attempt to start from scratch and/or impose top-down alternatives. Relationship building is important to healthy and active communities. Since climate change will disproportionately affect minority groups, climate initiatives must build enduring relations with and support antiracist and social justice organizations. Climate leadership should come from minority communities at the frontlines of climate change.

As the effects of climate change continue to become more pronounced, it is crucial to expand reliable, sustainable sources of energy here in Montana. Montana's energy needs are addressed in section one via the need to integrate climate adaptation with emissions reduction planning. As a state with some of the largest recoverable coal reserves in the nation and with some of the highest producing coal mines<sup>1</sup>, we need to implement just energy transition strategies supporting fossil fuel-reliant communities and economies through the move to cleaner renewable energy systems. I believe just energy transitions planning must be integrated into the community adaptation strategies of the Montana Climate Solutions Plan. Climate change effects and adaptations will directly affect the livelihoods of coal-reliant Montana communities, and the plan must address these communities directly.

When addressing complicated climate adaptations at multiple scales, I believe the climate plan must also prioritize engagement with students and youth. As an MSU student involved with environmental studies, I have never heard of the Climate Smart Montana network. Opportunities

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<sup>1</sup> US Energy Information Administration. "Montana: State Profile and Energy Estimates," 16 January 2020. <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=MT>. Accessed 18 February 2020.

to strategize with, learn from, and collaborate with climate change- related networks and projects within the university have been limited and uncoordinated between academic departments. I am graduating from Montana State University this year feeling disconnected with ongoing community-based climate change efforts. Climate adaptation committees and networks outlined in the Montana Climate Solutions Plan should actively reach out to and involve students at both the university and high school level. Youth involvement will motivate, inspire, and foster the next generation of climate leaders here in Montana.

I appreciate the opportunity to read and give feedback to the Climate Solutions Plan and hope that community involvement in climate change adaptations will continue to grow and diversify.

Thank you,  
Eliza Donahue

**From:** Robby Parsons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Climate Solutions Plan Draft Feedback  
**Attachments:** Feedback Letter.pdf

Hello,

I have attached a letter containing feedback on the recently released Montana Climate Solutions Plan draft. I hope it finds you well.

Best regards,  
Robert Parsons

## Montana Climate Solutions Plan

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Mr. Steve Bullock

Governor of Montana

Helena, MT 59620

Montana Climate Solutions Council

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Robert Parsons. I'm currently a student at Montana State University and will be receiving my Bachelor's of Science with emphasis on Snow Science in the Spring of 2021. I find the issue of climate change to be of pivotal importance for the state of Montana, especially concerning the importance of snow and how it pertains to human use.

I write this letter in regard to the Montana Climate Solutions Plan draft that was released on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. I wish to share some of my thoughts regarding the first part of the plan in which you outline strategies for "effective climate change adaptation." Strategies of adaptation are and will continue to be extremely important as the effects of climate change continue to manifest and become an increasing issue for communities throughout Montana.

While both the mitigation and economic innovation/community transition sections are both important in their own rights, the adaption section is an important realization for Montana communities. Adaption is crucial since there are components of climate change that have already taken place—such as an increase in global temperature—as outlined by the International Panel on Climate Change. I applaud the Montana Climate Solutions Council for addressing that climate change is a real and ever-present issue facing our communities. I especially appreciate the section in which you explain the strategies in order to adapt Montana's built environment in section 1D. This section is very promising since it offers examples that are realistic enough to be integrated, such as the strategy of incorporating nature-based solutions.

I would however, like to build on some of the questions that are outlined at the end of this section. There is certainly value in estimating the cost of implementing climate adaption strategies in Montana. Like many fiscal decisions, there is more than likely a threshold in which adaption strategies are seen as a worthwhile cost for taxpayers. What would the cost of these adaptation strategies be? Would it be a greater cost to Montanans if these adaption strategies weren't integrated? If not, in what way will the Climate Solutions Council best approach convincing citizens these adaption strategies are important?

Thank you for your time,  
Robert Parsons

**From:** LC Compost Solutions [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:59 AM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] draft Montana Climate Solutions Plan  
**Attachments:** climate-change-plan-comments-toDEQ\_022020.pdf

Please see attached document with my comments to the MT Climate Solutions Plan.

Thank you,

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Cora Helm  
LC Compost Solutions, LLC





*The logical choice for a sustainable planet.*

To: [climatecouncil@mt.gov](mailto:climatecouncil@mt.gov)

From: Cora Helm, LC Compost Solutions, LLC [REDACTED]

**20 February 2020**

### Comments to Montana Climate Solutions Plan

As a small composter in Helena, I would like to provide the following comments on the Climate Solutions Plan. Composting should not be an after-thought, but an active and aggressively pursued method for reducing greenhouse gases and capturing carbon.

1. Expand nature-based solutions (p 7):
  - a) This should include incentives/encouragement for all landfills to compost organic wastes. Page 21 of the report mentions studying other sources of non-CO2 greenhouse gases that would include landfills. Don't just conduct a study! Actively encourage landfills to compost organic wastes. Currently, food waste accounts for 22% of waste in landfills. There is more food waste in landfills than plastic or paper. Disposing of food and other organic wastes (butcher waste, mortalities, manure) in landfills creates methane gas when it degrades anaerobically. By composting these materials, using chipped yard waste, which is also readily available at landfills, the state could significantly reduce greenhouse gases, and create a product that could be made available to customers that will aid in carbon capture. Composting these organic wastes, rather than landfilling them, will also reduce odors at the landfill and create a more pleasant work area for employees (when they don't have to run over a dead horse with their loader).
  - b) For rural areas, encourage and promote small scale composters to collect and compost food waste with tax incentives and/or grants. Community gardens and community compost areas should be promoted together.
  - c) In the meat industry, small-scale butcher shops need to be nurtured and promoted. Reducing the farm-to-market distances and the energy and water-intensive corporate meat producers impact on the environment means providing alternatives for local butcher shops to dispose of their wastes, either by composting those wastes at landfills or allowing the shops to manage their own wastes on their own property, or in a community-based compost facility. To allow butcher shops to compost their own wastes, MDEQ composting rules may need some additional modifications to allow for more of this

Cora Helm  
Owner

[REDACTED]  
Helena, MT 59602

[REDACTED]  
[lccompostsolutions.com](http://lccompostsolutions.com)

type of waste reduction (relaxing distances to property lines), while still protecting water quality and managing odors.

2. Developing Industries (p 33). Waste segregation and development of a usable product: compost.
  - a) Promote composting and waste segregation at landfills. Landfills are the best locations for composting, given that they have access to the waste, the woodchips, and heavy machinery. Compostable wastes include all food scraps, paper plates, napkins, tissues, paper towels, compostable paper cups, and wood-based disposable cutlery.
  - b) MDEQ already allows for no-cost permits for composting on small scales. Promote this option by offering grants to small start-ups to increase their composting capacity by purchasing equipment to speed up composting.
3. Education/Training – Ordinary citizens do not understand what can be composted, or that composting comes with costs, just as recycling does.
  - a) Promote a composting mind-set: educate public on removing non-compostable packaging from their daily lives. Encourage businesses to provide compostable carry-out containers; Made in Montana products should be packaged in compostable packaging, to the extent practicable.
  - b) Conduct an education campaign to encourage composting at local level: to educate citizens on backyard composting; what can be composted; how businesses can divert compostable wastes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this ambitious, but much-needed climate plan.

Cora Helm

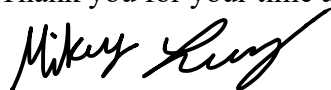
**From:** Mikey Levy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:10 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MT Climate Adaptation Plan  
**Attachments:** MT Climate Plan Letter.pdf

Dear Governor Bullock & The Climate Solutions Council,

My name is Mikey Levy, I am currently a senior at Montana State University studying Environmental Studies with a minor in Sustainability Studies. Throughout my time in college I have been privileged to live in such a town that is so environmentally conscious. Before coming here I hadn't really heard of climate change (or at least the severity of it), so my understanding of the ways to adapt to our current crisis were unknown. Going forward I hope to work in some sector that focuses on sustainability or conservation, and by reading the Montana Climate Plan it has allowed me to better understand what goes into making an official climate plan as well as the strategies being used in my state.

I focused my reading on the first section in regards to adaptation and preparing Montanans for climate impacts. In reading this section, I support the notion of letting the Montana University Systems lead assessments, by doing this students and faculty are more in the driver seat when it comes to decisions regarding our climate plan. Montana State students and staff seem to have great interest in doing our part to reduce our footprint, and using like-minded people to develop a plan is a great strategy. I also was interested in the "built environment" section, specifically the strategy that focuses on increasing the amount of urban forest canopies in communities to provide shaded areas, resulting in increase public health and reduction in energy consumption. However I wonder if this strategy could potentially be used on a larger scale such as, planting trees on unused plots of land around towns. For example, recently in Bozeman a huge demolition project was done and flattened a building on Main Street next to World Boards. This was several years ago. Could an area like this be used in one of these urban canopy projects? Maybe turn it into more of a green space like a park instead of a debris ridden concrete square. Moving onto more agricultural terms, the aspect of diversifying Montana farmers and ranchers' income by utilizing upcoming carbon markets, and rewarding those who use this system seems like a great way to see progress. Throughout my brief time studying sustainability I have learned about the power of money and positive reinforcement. In that, by rewarding those farmers who reduce their carbon emissions they are more likely to continue to do it, as well as others who see their neighbor getting paid more will incentivize them to do the same. Overall, I support the adaptation plan contained in this document, but I do have one thing that I think would be a great additional topic of conversation, and that is improving public transportation. At least in Bozeman our public transportation system is very unreliable and inefficient. By making routes more efficient and more accessible this will increase the amount of individuals that will utilize this great public service. I enjoyed reading about your climate plan and am excited to see what is to come in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mikey Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mikey Levy

**From:** Catie Geib [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:08 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mt State Climate Solution Plan  
**Attachments:** Governor Bullock letter .pdf

Governor Bullock,

As a junior at Montana State University, climate change is woven into every class regardless of the subject. Hostility rises between my classmates as we wrack our heads for solutions. The weight of our warming world rests on our shoulders, and it's getting too heavy. With every class discussion, every paper, every inspiring TED talk about how things can change, my anxiety spikes. I question my degree, my aspirations, and purpose; what do they mean in a world riddled with life-altering climate impacts? We are staring down the barrel of a gun, and our government has their finger on the trigger. I am scared.

I am attending a University where, not long ago, "climate talk" was taboo. My light at the end of the tunnel is obscured. We are too late for mitigation; we were too slow for hope. Instead, my optimism has to lie in adaptation. How are we going to protect those marginalized and impacted by our changing climate outside of action plans and educational programs? When tribal members and lands are some of the most affected/targeted subjects of environmental impacts, how do we start a conversation about adaptation? How, when we have a puddle and Native people have a lake?

Climate plans and reduction intentions fuel our momentum. However, at what point and by what means do we surpass the momentum of our fossil fuel reliant energy system and transportation dependent economy? The Montana Climate Solution Plan is extensive, reassuring, and impressive. But it's not enough. Until adaptation with hopes of mitigation is on the top of our agenda, anxiety will rise, optimism will decrease, and our chance at a viable future will diminish. My chance at a future will diminish.

Sincerely,  
Catie Geib.

**From:** Drew Crocker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:11 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MTState ClimateSolutions Plan Draft: FEEDBACK

Dear Climate Solutions Council,

I am currently a senior at Montana State University majoring in Environmental Studies. I have taken many outdoor ecology classes including Wildfire Ecology and Energy Resources Ecology. I noticed how these two classes go hand in hand when the topic of climate change implications are brought up. You bring up how more wildfires are expected with the heating up of the earth, a common thing that has been done to maintain the severity of wildfires is prescribed burns. Prescribed burns are a good “reset” for the landscape they are performed on.

There have been efforts to do prescribed burns here near Bozeman but with the growing population there are many outdoorsmen who are unable to recognize potential devastating wildfire signs. Hyalite reservoir is a huge contributor to our water and to all the hobbies that people love to do around here, but when looked at in the sense of wildfire risk, it is dangerous. People prefer the green mountain sides rather than burned mountains even if it puts the area in danger, this is a big dilemma for anyone especially ecologist that are trying to keep our areas healthy and maintained for generations to come. There was a case where a prescribed burn was being planned and then loggers were going to clean up the area more and donate the proceeds to a local school. The people who have views of this mountain side decided to just write a check for the amount that was expected to be donated and to not allow the burn, saving their views, but adding to the severity of wildfire potential.

So my question is, when you are thinking of ways to plan and prepare for these inevitable dangers, how do you plan on convincing a very wealthy population that would rather cut a check to keep things exactly the same? Even if it is not the healthy and safest option to prevent more catastrophic events to our climate change problems.

I do think having multiple reasons including one that is globally discussed is more convincing and appealing than one that is only seen by ecologists. Climate change is a cause of many environmental problems but society only jumps on board when it is something they can see and something that can easily be linked to their everyday life. Rather than one that is commonly mistaken as easily avoidable such as prevention and suppression of wildfires.

Thank you for trying to do something.

Drew Crocker  
Environmental Studies Major  
Montana State University  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Shad Bailey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 21, 2020 10:09 AM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] public response to climate change

Thank you very much for allowing the public to weigh in on this issue. I think Montana can be a leader in the country if not the world when it comes to climate change. First, a simple thing – get rid of all the plastic sacks in grocery stores. I see people coming out of the grocery store with a cart full of plastic sacks which will be put into the landfill and sit for a very long time not disintegrating at all. Next, do not allow Styrofoam containers to be used by restaurants or anywhere else. We have a sign in our church kitchen (Episcopal Church of the Incarnation) that says you will not use Styrofoam cups or anything else Styrofoam. Third, there has to be some way that we can build a cost effective plastic processing plant. I used to take my plastic containers to the recycle center and then China said we are not going to do it anymore - tough for you. If everyone in Montana could put in \$50 or hundred dollars into a fund for a plastic recycling effort, it would help a great deal. When I see a sale going on at a grocery store for water and I see people hauling out case after case of small plastic bottles, I have a grave concern. We have to start thinking boldly and without reservation and without anyone telling us that we cannot do that. I would pledge \$100 without even blinking an eye if we were able to even think about getting some kind of plastic recycling center in the state. If we had one in the West and one in the East, we could do a lot. For now, one would do. I had a job in Minneapolis where I taught elementary students and one day we had a van come to show kids how plastic bottles can be made into soft sweaters. In Minnesota we worried about the cold and a soft nice sweater would be important. Later on I was looking for a rug at a rug shop and a fellow asked me if I would be interested in a rug that was made in part from Coke bottles. Yes, I would. We can do wonders. I would like very much to be on some kind of committee for getting funding for plastic recycling. You asked and I am telling you this is my feedback. I really think this terribly important for us as Montana citizens to make something happen. I came back to Montana because I needed to see mountains again and be at peace with the world. When I was in Minnesota, I had some good jobs but I did miss Montana and I am glad I made the move some over 20 years ago. I am here to stay and I am here to work on this very important issue. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Shad Bailey  
[REDACTED]  
Great Falls Montana  
[REDACTED]

Let's do it!



**From:** Leaf Magnuson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 22, 2020 11:05 AM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] feedback on Draft Climate Solutions Plan

The last bullet under 1b is critical. All the university scientists in the world cannot convince rural agricultural county commissioners it's a serious issue. Somehow get some evangelicals and right wing people on board. I'm not saying all rural people in Montana are evangelicals and right wing, but they lean that way. "I don't see a problem today so there must not be one...god will take care of everything" He gave us brains too. The tool might be volunteer fire fighters in smaller rural communities. And disaster response groups mentioned in 1c. Out here people are concerned with fire. And weeds. They are more concerned with weeds. Any way to tie weed spread to climate change that people will understand?

Since counties are all about money. Putting a financial value on protecting our outdoor recreation and tourism might pique the attention of county and municipality managers. In my county fishing is really big. But nobody talks about how much it brings in. Money talks.

The ideas in 1g are of course not new and sound positive but could the Governor's office intercede with the Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Native Ecosystem Council to get them to quit making a living holding up forest management projects with lawsuits? The best intentions stop there. Not sure how you'd go about it. Judges let lawyers for those two organizations charge upwards of \$300.00an hour. Can the state pass a law that requires them to make what public defenders make? That's about \$85 an hour. Don't get me started.

I feel the plan points in the right direction. But there's not a lot of effort required to convince educated urban populations that climate is an issues. Consider spend more time and energy on community leaders in agricultural areas, towns, and counties. And good luck with that.

*"We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly...We need millions of people doing it imperfectly." ~ Anne-Marie Bonneau*

Leaf Magnuson  
[REDACTED]  
Dillon, MT 59725  
  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Leaf Magnuson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 22, 2020 11:11 AM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback draft Montana Climate Solutions Plan PART 2

Hi, this goes with my last email. I searched for buy back energy in the Plan and saw none. Helping people pay for energy efficient buildings etc is good. But people who can install solar or alternative energy have no means to benefit from putting the extra power back into the grid. Power companies can still make money, or they can figure out alternatives to get their profit somehow else. They have engineers and smart people. But no incentive to do the right thing.

*"We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly...We need millions of people doing it imperfectly." ~ Anne-Marie Bonneau*

Leaf Magnuson  
[REDACTED]  
Dillon, MT 59725  
  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Anne Greene [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 22, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback on draft of Montana Climate Solutions Plan

Dear Committee members,

I commend you heartily on your draft of the Montana Climate Solutions Plan. It is comprehensive and represents a great deal of work.

Plans like making community solar a reality are urgently needed right away. According to Dr. Michael Davies, who gave a sobering presentation on climate "disruption" last week in Missoula, we have less than a decade to avert catastrophic consequences.

Most of us feel helpless as we watch many of our elected officials deny that anything serious is happening. To read such a comprehensive and informed plan gives us hope.

While I agree with everything suggested in the plan, I have no expertise in how to implement it. What expertise I have is in writing...specifically teaching how to write science so a general audience can understand it. I believe this draft could be made clearer and more understandable, and I would happily volunteer my time to help you make it so.

Sentences such as:

*In the end, effective adaptation is an iterative process that requires taking action to reduce risks as well as a commitment to monitoring results and learning from successes and failures, and a willingness to try a different approach if necessary.*

are wordy (41 words), abstract, and include too many long words. A normal reader would not understand what it means. By revising for clarity, we could not only make this report easier to understand but also shorter...a lot shorter.

I have taught scientific writing at The University of Montana for 17 years and am the author of "Writing Science in Plain English" published by the University of Chicago Press in 2013. The topic is of the greatest importance. It deserves to be written so that as many people as possible can read and understand it.

Sincerely, Anne Greene  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Paul Pacini [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 22, 2020 2:21 PM  
**To:** Climate Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Montana Climate Solutions Plan

Climate Change Council:

I have reviewed the draft Montana Climate Solutions Plan and was impressed to find many good recommendations as to how our carbon footprint can be diminished and climate change slowed. However, our insistence upon the use of private automobiles for nearly all of our transportation needs is a major contributor to the threat of climate change. The Plan discusses the possibilities of electric vehicles, ride sharing, and even the promotion of bicycle transportation to decrease the amount of fossil fuels burned. To my disappointment, I could find no discussion of the potential of mass transit for both local and intra-state travel. Buses, trains, and shuttles could remediate greatly, our carbon footprint. By combining the ever improving electric propulsion systems with the mass transit concept, even greater gains are possible.

Montana is in a unique position with its existing rail system which serves both the high-line of Montana as well as the more populated southern half, which is often referred to as the Hiawatha Route. These two routes merge near Williston, North Dakota and at Sandpoint, Idaho to form a continuous rail transportation loop around the state. Amtrak now serves the high-line with one passenger train per day, which is used extensively by locals for medically related travel, shopping trips, and family contact. The southern Hiawatha route is used only for freight.

Convenient, comfortable, and affordable passenger rail service around this entire loop, with connecting bus or shuttle service to population and business centers would entice countless businessmen and women, university students, families, and tourists to park their cars and hop the train.

Smaller self-propelled commuter style passenger coaches would be ideal for this use. They are available with electric propulsion, but even if Montana relied on more conventional diesel-electric locomotives, there would be a very significant reduction in the burning of fossil fuels. On the east coast CSX freight trains claim that they can move 1 ton of material 500 miles on 1 gallon of diesel fuel. EPA claims that for every ton-mile, a truck emits about 3 times more nitrogen oxide and particulates than a locomotive does.

The greatest obstacle to mass transit systems in America is attitude. At the same time, it is hard to deny that a well used mass transit system across the State of Montana would greatly reduce pollution from internal combustion engines. The Montana Climate Solutions Plan would be remiss to ignore the opportunity to address mass transit systems including trains, buses, and shuttles.

Very Sincerely,

Paul Pacini



RECEIVED #02-18  
FEB 20 2020 19 Feb 20  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Governor's Office


Dear Ms. Harbage;

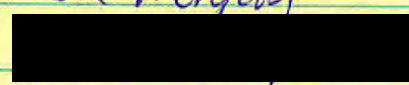
My name is Joe Mergam. I have a letter here written to the Governor.

You may read it and then please read it to him and the rest of the Climate Big Money Scam Council.

Keep in mind it looks horrible because it was written at 05: in the morning 5 min. before I had to head out the door to my job.

Sincerely

  
Joe Mergam

  
Keena, mt. 59601

P.S.

I almost addressed it to the H.A.'s at the old Mtn. West Bank. The place that if I walk past to go to the bread store I see all of the out of state vehicles of the people that have been hired at the D.E.Q. for \$80,000 a year or more salaries. All out of state people who have been hired →



as a D.E.Q employee in Montana  
(State employee) from another state.

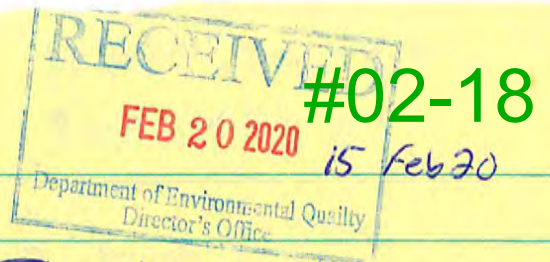
Why? Aren't Montana residents  
smart enough to hire to work  
for the state of Montana?

Also the building is sure  
nice. Dick Anderson the landlord  
provides a nice facility for  
you folks to work out of. I'll  
bet it costs alot to heat and  
Cool.

Dick Anderson I remember  
when Gov. Bullock was up for re-election  
for Gov. against Gianforte. Dick -  
Anderson just got done with a  
\$40 million State contract of building  
the "New" DNRC building. Then  
Dick Anderson gave a televised  
endorsement for the governor's re-election.  
That T.V. endorsement cost mt.  
taxpayers \$40 million. Then one day  
I find out Dick Anderson is  
also a State Landlord.

Jul





Dear Gov. B.;

About your **IGNORANT** climate plan  
I have some thoughts for you to think about.

First you need to have faith. You do not have faith at all. Because climate change is not man caused. A higher power than we controls the climate.

Anyone who supports Abortion: has no faith. That also brings me to my next theory. Climate change is all about population control as well. "ABORTION" is population control. So you and every Global Warming Alarmists are all faithless bozos.

See we can control pollution. Not the climate you Ding Dong.

If you want emission control ideas. Reduce the size of the Government. Anyone who supports Climate Change as man cause always has to grow the size of the Government. ~~Government.~~

Gov. Bullock it costs a lot to heat and cool those buildings - that all of the Gov. employees are working in. Lights, heat, AC, computer use's - All the vehicle's





Volcanos Polute Pretty Heavy. Lets  
Cap Yellowstone's ~~Geysers~~ Geysers. #02-18

that the Government owns and  
drives. FWP is a prime  
example of buildings and  
vehicles. They have too  
many of each.

Climate Change is FAKE NEWS  
Governor. It is a big \$ Scam.

Those who support and push this  
Lunatic Theory that man can  
control ~~the~~ how weather will  
perform are greedy and they  
are idiots. But they do have  
a lot of suckers believing  
it is real.

~~The~~ Climate Change is all  
about control of everyone's lives and  
thoughts. It is the creation  
of a One World Government.  
One more thing:

Even Polar Bears Bitch about  
the cold weather. ~~And~~ This  
Man Caused Climate Change Theory  
is just a Symphony of  
Destruction.

Sincerely  
Joe Morgan

P.S. Listen To The Earth  
She's Saying Drill Baby Drill

Joe

Helena, mt: 59601



**EVEN POLAR BEARS**

**BITCH ABOUT GOLD WEATHER**

**LISTEN TO THE EARTH**  
**It's saying "Drill Baby, Drill"**

*These are 2 bumper  
stickers I have.*