

Abdi Siad

Instructions: The length of responses can range anywhere from a few sentences to two paragraphs. If you have any questions or need an extension, email mark.putman@350wisconsin.org

What does climate success look like to you?

Climate success means a Madison where the entire population of the city receives benefits of clean, resilient, and sustainable environment regardless of their economic status or residential area.

Attaining climate success requires addressing the climate crisis through clear vision and approach that address climate challenges and also up keeping the planet for upcoming generations so that future generations inherit a habitable planet.

Madison sustains a strong public transportation system that provides excellent bus service that supports accessibility and efficient operation. The city keeps track of its regular assessments of its journey towards net-zero emissions and shares these findings:

******Madison keeps progress reports to ensure accountability while continuing to build climate resilience together with environmental justice and continuous improvement.

******The city works with the school district to promote curricula that includes climate education helping students better understand the impact of climate change. Madison invests in workforce training programs that teach essential environmental topics to promote environmental awareness.

******The city provides public awareness campaigns that teach residents essential knowledge and skills about environmental issues and how they impact the lives of the residents which will promote a clean environment for future generations.

Given our current socio-political environment, how do you plan to achieve your vision of climate success?

Achieving climate success in our current socio-political requires effective management of our socio-political climate situation and demands visionary leadership alongside strategic partnerships and practical approaches and policymaking process that brings together diverse stakeholders. Here is how:

******Promote collaborative projects between the government and private sector to grow renewable energy initiatives and ensure affordability and access for all residents.

****Promote effective energy assistance programs that support low-income homeowners and renters to improve their energy efficiency and afford attainable upgrades.**

****Allocate clean energy investments first to communities impacted by environmental injustice.**

These Communities normally face the greatest burden from pollution and climate change and therefore should be first recipients of clean energy investments.

****Develop public engagement programs which help residents understand climate policies through practical activities. Public engagement initiatives should make climate policies tangible for residents through workshops on energy efficiency along with green job fairs.**

What projects in your community would you prioritize for climate and environmental justice?

As an alder for District 7, I would prioritize and champion for projects that address climate and environmental justice especially in underserved communities that face proportionally higher impact of climate change, while ensuring equitable access to resources for all residents. I will prioritize the following for District 7:

****Investment in pedestrian-friendly streets and bike infrastructure**

****Expanding rain gardens and permeable pavements to prevent runoff**

****Support for community gardens**

****Partnerships with local schools and technical colleges to prepare young people for green careers.**

What actions around climate justice has your community already taken that you're proud of?

Madison has taken bold and tangible steps to enhance public transportation by investing in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), making it more dependable and accessible for everyone. In addition, the city invested in expanding bike lanes and created more walkable spaces that not only make it easier to get around but also help cut emissions and reduce resident's dependence on cars thereby reducing fossil fuel usage. As an alder, I will push for more funding for clean energy projects, support good-paying green jobs that are accessible to all, and fight for stronger protections for communities affected by environmental hazards. My vision includes Madison where environmental protection becomes an integral part of our future therefore leaving a clean environment for our future generations.

Badri Lankella

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What does climate success look like to you?

Climate success to me looks like a world that has achieved net-zero emissions while maintaining a thriving economy and improved quality of life for people globally. This would include widespread renewable energy infrastructure, efficient public transportation networks, and sustainable agricultural practices that reduce environmental impact while ensuring food security.

Drawing from my lifetime career at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, I've seen firsthand how effective resource management and conservation efforts can make a tangible difference. Success means implementing the ecosystem management principles we've refined in Wisconsin on a global scale, balancing human needs with environmental protection, using science-based approaches to land and water management, and fostering collaborative partnerships between government, industry, and communities. The expertise I've developed working with Wisconsin's diverse landscapes and stakeholders provides a practical foundation for addressing climate challenges with both environmental integrity and economic sensibility in mind.

Given our current socio-political environment, how do you plan to achieve your vision of climate success?

Given our current socio-political environment, I plan to achieve climate success by focusing on building broad coalitions that transcend traditional political divisions. Drawing from my experience at DNR, I've learned that lasting environmental progress requires bringing diverse stakeholders to the table, including business leaders, agricultural communities, conservation groups, and everyday citizens.

I intend to emphasize the economic opportunities of climate action, highlighting how investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate-resilient infrastructure create good-paying jobs while reducing costs long-term. By framing climate solutions as both environmental necessities and economic advantages, we can overcome ideological barriers. I'll leverage my experience working within government systems to identify practical policy approaches that can gain bipartisan

support, while also engaging directly with communities to build grassroots momentum for climate action that reflects local priorities and concerns.

What projects in your community would you prioritize for climate and environmental justice?

First, I would focus on upgrading aging water infrastructure in underserved neighborhoods. My experience has shown that vulnerable communities often face disproportionate exposure to contaminated drinking water and flooding risks. I would push for investments in green stormwater management systems that both prevent flooding and create community green spaces.

Second, I would champion community solar projects with equitable ownership models that ensure low-income residents can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition. Having worked extensively with resource management across Wisconsin, I've seen how distributed renewable energy can reduce pollution from fossil fuel plants that have historically affected disadvantaged communities while creating local jobs and energy resilience.

Additionally, I would prioritize expanding public transportation options and safe walking/biking infrastructure, particularly in areas where transportation costs burden residents and where air quality issues from vehicle emissions are most severe. My years at the DNR and as board member of Transportation Policy and Planning Board of City of Madison, have demonstrated that such improvements deliver multiple benefits, reducing emissions while improving access to jobs, education, and essential services.

What actions around climate justice has your community already taken that you're proud of?

Drawing from my experience at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Board Member of Transportation Policy and Planning Board for City of Madison, I'm particularly proud of several climate justice initiatives our community has already implemented.

Our community has successfully established a green infrastructure program that prioritizes flood mitigation in historically underserved neighborhoods. Through my work at the DNR, I helped secure funding and coordinate between state resources and local implementation teams. These projects have not only reduced flooding risks but created new green spaces in areas that previously lacked environmental amenities.

I'm also proud of our community's transition to electric buses in public transportation routes that serve lower-income neighborhoods. This initiative has significantly improved air quality in areas that previously experienced high levels of diesel pollution.