

Noah Lieberman

Response Provided: 02/26

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 has two facets to me:

First, we have a moral imperative to do all we can to combat climate change by eliminating carbon emissions. While Madison alone cannot reverse or stop the devastating impacts these emissions have had on the globe, we still must do all we can to lower our own impact on the planet. Success on this front would entail transitioning all power generated and used in the city to clean, renewable sources, replacing both public and privately owned gas-powered vehicles with electric models, and increasing the use of public transit throughout the city.

Second, we have to acknowledge the impacts climate change has already made and prepare our infrastructure appropriately to deal with the ramifications. We have already seen unprecedented heat waves and rainfall in Madison in the last few summers, and these trends will only continue. Success on this front includes building new cooling and shade shelters to help individuals who do not have access to relief during heat waves, improvements to the electrical grid to withstand greater use during these times, and reworking of infrastructure near our lakes to prevent both flooding and runoff during these storms.

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

We are lucky in Madison that we already have a legacy of climate activism, so I don't believe these initiatives would be as hard a sell as they would be in other municipalities. I think that committing the city to a long-term plan to reach these goals would be the most feasible, as it would give residents and business owners time to adjust to the changes. As for the new infrastructure, I think it would be easiest to work those changes into already planned projects, such as the John Nolen redesign.

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

The most pressing need in my community is to retrofit some of the older housing (especially the more affordable apartment complexes) to better withstand the heat and rain caused by climate change. These buildings are simply not equipped to keep their residents safe if we are consistently hitting 100 degree days in the summer. These units are also predominantly occupied by people of color, making this a clear intersection of both environmental justice and racial equity, which is further reason to prioritize it. I also would prioritize a green streets initiative during the South Park Street redesign that will happen as part of the implementation of the second BRT line. Park St is an incredibly important road for so many in my district to get into the city, and we need to make it a more feasible route for those not commuting by car. Doing so would help reduce the carbon emissions from transportation that are a major part of our overall footprint.

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

My community has done good work in setting up community gardens, restoring natural prairie habitats and plants, and building rain gardens. I think that this action is commendable and should be further supported by the city council through new funds and education for other communities and neighbors who want to take this step.

Isadore Knox Jr

(Incumbent) Response Pending. Deadline is February 28th. Check Back Later

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