

## **Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience - Phase 1**

The study of Climate Change was divided into two 1-year phases because of the magnitude of the subject. Phase 1 took place during June 2019 - March 2020 and covered general, basic tenets to confirm our foundational understanding. Phase 2 occurred during April 2020 - March 2021 and delved into a more detailed understanding of climate change preparedness and resilience.

This section of the Archives contains information on Phase 1. The second section which follows provides information on Phase 2.

1. The **Position** for Phase 1 can be found on the LWV-Fox Cities website under Local Positions, Natural Resources section, Position VII. Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience (2020).
2. The **study team members** were Karen Bachhuber, Margy Davey, Barb Dorzweiler, Miriam Douglass, Kate Hancock-Cooke, Bill Hansen, Jane Keggi, Jill Mitchler (Co-chair), Helen Nagler, Ligia Rivera, Sandi Rohde, Maria Serna (Co-chair), Ronna Swift and Cathy Thompson.
3. **Study Process**

Weekly study committee meetings (21 in all) were held during June 2019 through January 2020.

Interviews of officials from Appleton and County governments and other organizations were held using the interview form in Appendix A. From Appleton - Tim Hanna, Mayor and Cassidy Walsh, Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Appleton; Kurt Eggebrecht, Public Health Officer, City of Appleton; Paula Vandehey, Director of Public Works, City of Appleton. From County Government - Greg Baneck, Director, Outagamie County Land Conservation Department; Nate Borman, Sargent with the Outagamie County Sheriffs' Department; Dean Steingraber, Outagamie County Highway Department; Brian Van Straten, Director, and Joanne Gorski, Outagamie County-Highway and Solid Waste Department; and Bernie Sorenson, Emergency Manager Calumet County. From other organizations - Dr. Marcia Bjornerud, Walter Schober Professor of Environmental Studies and Professor of Geosciences, Lawrence University; Jeanine Knapp, MPA, Theda Care Facilities Sustainability Leader; Toby Paltzer, Chairman, Town of Center; and WI Green Fire Voices of Conservation. Note: The League assured the interviewees that their comments were confidential. The information gathered was very useful to the study, but is not included in the archives.

An Educational Forum for LWV members and the public was held on February 3, 2020 (a pdf file of the Power Point presentation is in Appendix B below). A consensus meeting for LWV members was held on February 8 (pdf files of the Power Point presentation and Definitions are in Appendix B below). The draft position was reviewed by the Board on

March 3 and the position was approved by the membership at the May 21, 2020 Annual Meeting.

An April 20, 2020 Earth Day event, “Fostering Climate Change Leadership at the Local Level”, featured guest speaker Keith Reopelle, Dane County’s Energy and Climate Change Director.

#### 4. **Definition of Terms** related to climate change

Adaptation - the process of adjusting to new climate conditions in order to reduce risks to valued assets

Climate - the long-term average of weather conditions

Climate change - a long-term change in local or global climate patterns, including major changes in temperature, precipitation and wind patterns

Climate mitigation - actions to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases that cause climate change and long-term risk to people and property

Global warming - an increase in global average temperature near the earth’s surface; caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

Greenhouse effect - the warming of the earth that results when greenhouse gases in the atmosphere trap heat from the sun.

Greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and halocarbons

Hazard mitigation - actions to reduce risk to people and property

Resilience - the ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to hazardous events, trends or disturbances related to climate change

Vulnerable populations - people who are most at risk from the adverse effects of climate change; include low income, some communities of color, indigenous groups, immigrant groups, children and pregnant women, older adults, vulnerable occupational groups, persons with disabilities and persons with preexisting or chronic medical conditions.

Weather - the temperature, rain and wind patterns on a single day or short time period

#### 5. **Bibliography**

##### Books

“Building A Resilient Tomorrow”, Alice C. Hill and Leonardo Martinez-Diaz, (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2020)

“Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming”, Paul Hawken, Editor (New York: Penguin Books, 2017)

“Earth – The Operator’s Manual (Companion to the PBS Documentary)”, Richard B. Alley (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 2011)

“Our Choice – A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis”, Al Gore (New York:Rodale, 2009)

“The Resilience Dividend – Being Strong in a World Where Things Go Wrong”, Judith Rodin (New York: Public Affairs Books, 2014)

“The Right to be Cold – One Woman’s Fight to Protect the Arctic and Save the Planet from Climate Change”, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2018)

“Six Degrees – Our Future on a Hotter Planet”, Mark Lynas (Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2008)

“The Uninhabitable Earth – Life After Warming”, David Wallace-Wells (New York: Tim Duggan Books, 2019)

### Government

<http://www.ipcc.ch> - The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change

[www.epa.gov/climate-change](http://www.epa.gov/climate-change). Environmental Protection Agency

[nca2018.globalchange.gov](http://nca2018.globalchange.gov) - National Climate Assessment

[toolkit.climate.gov](http://toolkit.climate.gov) - US Climate Resilience Toolkit

### Wisconsin

[adaptationworkbook.org/explore-impacts](http://adaptationworkbook.org/explore-impacts) - Climate change Impacts for northern WI and western UP

[climatechange.wi.gov](http://climatechange.wi.gov) - Governor Evers’ Task Force Climate Change Report, 2020

[readywisconsin.wi.gov](http://readywisconsin.wi.gov) - emergency preparedness

[wicci.wisc.edu](http://wicci.wisc.edu) - Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change, Nelson Institute and WI Department of Natural Resources

[www.wisconsinacademy.org/climate-fast-forward-2019-resources](http://www.wisconsinacademy.org/climate-fast-forward-2019-resources) - Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters

## **Appendix A - Interview Form**

# 2019 League of Women Voters - Appleton Climate Change Preparedness Study Interview Form

(Feel free to modify your talking points and questions as needed)

Name:

Title:

Meeting Date:

We're from the League of Women Voters. We annually review our Positions on current issues and we've determined that we don't have a position on preparing for the impacts of chronic and erratic weather patterns or resilience in extreme and chronic weather impacts (such as we experienced on July 19 and 20). We have a team of people who are working on a study to develop a Position on this topic for Outagamie and Calumet Counties which could possibly be adopted by the State LWV.

- 1) Are there plans in place to deal with wide-spread impacts of severe weather or chronic conditions such as heavy volumes of rain or flooding or drought?
- 2) What agencies do you depend on/collaborate with to help deal with severe extreme weather events such as storms, floods, extreme cold or heat (or chronic conditions like drought)?
- 3) Is there more that could be done to prepare for these needs? If yes, what and how can they be achieved?
- 4) How do you prioritize where to spend the funds allocated for these types of issues?
- 5) Is there funding, and what are the possible sources of resources budgeted for climate change preparation?
- 6). How can the LWV help you advocate for what is needed?

## **Appendix B - Links to Presentations - pdf Format**

[Educational Forum 2.3.2020](#)

[Consensus Meeting Presentation 2.8.2020](#)

[Definition of Terms for Consensus Meeting 2.8.2020](#)