

Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee 12-7-23 Resilience Conference Follow-up

The 5th National Climate Assessment has been published.

- The American desert is moving West. By 2019 it had already moved 140 miles. This is impacting breadbasket areas such as Kansas, Oklahoma, North Texas.
- Net zero by 2050 has very serious implications
 - Huge investment in carbon capture, which is not currently feasible
 - Huge reduction in energy use, to 1920's levels
 - Huge reduction in meat consumption, support rewilding
 - Economic repercussions, huge mineral mining required

Takeaways for Climate in General:

- According to James Hanson's team:
 - Change is accelerating. Current warming is around .35 degrees C per decade
 - 1.5 C is no longer a viable goal
 - 2.0 C will likely be exceeded in the 2030's barring some huge, global effort
 - This will drive many tipping points, i.e., we will not recover the climate of the 20th century for tens of thousands of years.
 - It is still worth pursuing decarbonization
- According to Emily Schoerning, next year is likely to be a very tough year for agriculture, so
 - Food banks should buy now before the price goes up
 - Encourage local food production
 - Engage local governments and NFPs to develop strategies to prepare for food price increases, possible shortages.

Takeaways and actions for Central Wisconsin:

- Longer frost-free season
- Warmer nights, eventually warmer days as well
- Flash droughts & temperature whiplash may disrupt crop yields - focus on efficient irrigation, water quality, preservation of water tables
- A moderate increase in large rain events may be disruptive – continuing to invest in stormwater management is a good idea.

SEEC Actions - starting point for discussion

1. Accelerate work on Climate Action Plan (committed in GHG resolution) Maybe wrap in resilience, as we already have a Council mandate for the CAP.
2. Subgroup to use the National Climate Resilience Framework, the work being done in Minnesota, and other resources from the "Notes" handout to propose a local framework and local action.
3. Use every possible resource to eliminate mining in our watershed. We have to protect our water supply.
4. Solicit local citizen input on proposed actions for community resilience.