

## March 16-22 Comment to the Forestry and Agriculture Work Group

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**From:** Mike Harris  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2008 11:10 AM  
**Subject:** Global Warming comment

The planting and maintenance of trees in Wisconsin is an important component of our stewardship of our Natural Resources. All Wisconsin residents should support the "20 million trees by 2020" program.

Mike Harris  
Forester - Town of Wescott

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**From:** Brown, Ian  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2008 11:24 AM  
**Subject:** Global warming template comment

To Whom It May Concern,

I'd like to voice support for inclusion of the urban forestry template within the final Global Warming Task Force report. Urban trees provide millions of dollars worth of energy conservation and carbon sequestration annually. The best part is that the majority of Wisconsin citizens can see and interact with this resource daily. The "20 million by 2020" initiative proposed by the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council will also empower citizens to take action and be involved in the solution. The Urban Forestry template includes environmental, political, and economic components for improving the State of Wisconsin. Please strongly consider including this template within the final report. Thank you

Ian Brown  
Technical Services Supervisor  
City of Milwaukee

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**From:** Todd Ernster  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2008 12:33 PM  
**Subject:** Urban Forestry Template

After reviewing Urban Forestry template by the Agriculture and Forestry Work Group and Conservation and Energy Work Group, I wanted to express my complete support of it.

Investing in city tree planting and tree care pays huge dividends, not just for residents, not just for businesses, and not just for government. Everybody reaps the economic and ecologic benefits trees provide.

Residents, business, and government are trying to conserve energy. Energy costs continue to climb, taking a bigger and bigger piece of budgets. Properly placed trees reduce heating and cooling costs. Utility companies promote proper tree placement to reduce use, and some utilities even provide trees encouraging this practice. Why would you not want to encourage and support the planting of city trees when the payoff is so large and so well documented.

City trees reduce storm water runoff into our surface waters, and helps improve water quality. The tourism dollars our surface waters provide the state alone should be reason enough for us to do everything we reasonably can to protect them.

Trees sequester carbon dioxide. Trees reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants by shading our homes, businesses and government buildings.

Please accept the Urban Forestry template presented to you and promote the initiatives suggested.

Sincerely,  
Todd Ernster  
City of Stevens Point City Forester

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From: Dave Martin  
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 3:02 PM  
Subject: comment

To the Governor's Global Warming Task Force:

I am writing to ask the Task Force to include urban forestry in it's Interim Report. Specifically, I endorse the main conclusion of the Agriculture and Forestry Work Group: that a concerted campaign to plant trees in Wisconsin's towns and cities would reduce demand for energy and sequester carbon. The Work Group's template indicates that it could also save the state money.

I come to this issue through service to Fitchburg as a member of the City's Resource Conservation Committee. For several months the Committee has been looking for ways the City could reduce its carbon footprint. Working with the City Forester, Ed Bartell, I think I see several paths to a greener Fitchburg--including elements of the Agriculture and Forestry Work Group's Template.

Sincerely,  
David W. Martin  
Fitchburg, WI

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**From:** Kathy O'Connor  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2008 6:34 PM  
**Subject:** cut waste

Years ago I realized that big government & big business would do virtually NOTHING to slow, stop & reverse global climate change. So transplanting southern forest tree species up north seemed the most critical coping strategy for individuals to begin during that 20th century. Preaching at people around Wisconsin was mostly a waste of breath. Is it too late to get forest seeds & seedlings from Arkansas & Oklahoma established all over Wisconsin, before the Sugar

Maple & other native trees before extinct in the USA ??? What has WI DNR done to import germplasm of long lived woody genera which will survive the Wisconsin climate of the 21st, 22nd & 23rd CENTURIES ????? Nothing ??? Figures! Ron Renkoski

What has the PSC done to get residents & businesses in WI to switch from electricity driven compressors & freon based air conditioning system TO direct cooling with cold water from WI's 14,000+ lakes & the shallow ground water & bedrock/ regolith / soils ?? Nothing ??

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**From:** John Gall  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2008 11:49 AM  
**Subject:** Urban Forestry Key Component

Please don't overlook the importance that trees play in solving the global warming equation that is currently before you. Especially in our urban heat sink areas, new tree planting initiatives such as the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council's "20 million by 2020" is a most important component in reaching a long term solution.

Please revisit the information contained in the proposed policy "Enhance Carbon Sequestration and Energy Efficiency in Urban Environments through increased tree planting". There are many facts contained in this document that say this is a win/win concept. Enjoining private citizens/homeowners to embrace tackling global warming by performing the simple task of planting trees is a strategy that will help in raising consciousness about this very real problem.

I implore the Governor's Global Warming Task Force include the urban forestry/ tree planting initiative in their Final Report to Governor Doyle.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

*John T. Gall*  
Special Projects Coordinator  
Certified Municipal Specialist  
Certified Arborist #WI-0249AM

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**From:** Eric Muecke  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2008 3:34 PM  
**Subject:** Global Warming Task Force Comments

I have read the Interim Report from the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming. I realize that the report is not yet complete and that more recommendations are coming. I encourage you to be sure that you not "Miss the Forest for the Trees."

As a technical, fast-paced society we often look for items and ideas that are the "latest and greatest," newest, trendiest, or most sophisticated. Old standards are overlooked or taken for granted. It is this mindset that causes people to complain about \$3 for a gallon of gasoline to the station attendant, who is also selling them a 20 ounce bottle of water for \$2.

It is easy to get excited about the prospect of Geological Carbon Sequestration with pipelines, infrastructure, interstate agreements, and scientific exploration of

the earth's crust. However, what is not considered is the loss of trees to accommodate the pipeline and the equipment used to place and maintain the pipeline.

It is easy to get excited about wind power and its ability to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. However, well-placed trees can reduce heating and cooling demands without the potential for complaints about ruining views and potential harm to migrating birds.

It is easy to push for green buildings of the future. However retrofitting the thousands of existing homes and buildings with trees and landscapes that not only reduce energy consumption, but also reduce storm water runoff and increase property values is an inexpensive undertaking.

I am not saying that increased Urban Tree Planting is the best solution to Global Warming. I am saying that, like Cool Whip, an increase in Urban Tree Planting will make everything else better.

The report lists goals and benchmarks for 2050. The Urban Trees planted in the next 5 years will just be approaching their maximum environmental benefit in 2050. Trees are the only approach that does not begin to depreciate when the project is completed. Every year they grow, they reduce more energy demands, sequester more CO<sub>2</sub>, reduce airborne particles, slow storm water runoff and increase property values.

In the Interim report there is also reference to Supporting Early Action, making Wisconsin a leader in Global Warming Solutions and Growing the Economy. Wisconsin is set to take advantage of these goals right now. The University of Wisconsin system has one of the best Natural Resources programs in the Nation. The Wisconsin Technical College system is breaking new ground in Urban Forestry education and training every day. Right now we, as a State, can turn out highly skilled and motivated Graduates to work in all sectors of Urban Forestry. We have trained Arborists ready to perform necessary tree maintenance and labor in the Public and Private Sectors. We have Researches ready to advance and protect our Urban Tree Resources from insects and diseases. We have Urban Foresters ready to manage the Urban Forests in our Cities, Villages, and Towns. They are all in the Educational System of Wisconsin right now!

Do not let the opportunity to put Trees to work, to put our students to work and to solidify Wisconsin as the leader in Urban Forest Management to reduce Green House Gas pass us by.

There is a saying among Urban Foresters:

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is today.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

*Eric Muecke*

*Assistant City Forester/WAA Database Manager*

*ISA Certified Arborist IL-0709A*

*City of Green Bay*

*Green Bay, WI*