



Author's Message

Photo: Dave Hoefler
via Unsplash



My hope is that this climate action plan (CAP) will help to educate, motivate, inspire, and lead. I have no doubt that if we make a strong effort to dramatically reduce our carbon pollution emissions following this plan, we will also improve public health, build a stronger economy, and help make Dane County a more just and equitable place to live for all. I also know that it will take nearly everyone in Dane County coming together in an open, collaborative, and caring way to make this plan a success.



▲ The author, Keith Reopelle, Director of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change, with a hybrid musky he caught and released on Lake Waubesa. Climate change will eliminate ice fishing on the Yahara chain of lakes in the not-too-distant future.

It has been a great honor and truly humbling experience working with so many smart, driven, and hard-working individuals to put this document together. Dane County is a wonderful place to live, work, and play, and the people here, along with their dedication to making this a better place to live for our children and future generations, are the biggest reason. There are so many people that I want to thank. Appendix 5 has a list of individuals who contributed directly to writing a portion of this CAP, or contributed to tables, graphs, or images. But I will take a minute here to thank a few individuals who made major contributions.

First, and foremost, I want to thank Dane County Executive Joe Parisi for his climate leadership and vision and for giving me the opportunity to lead this incredibly important piece of work. Next, I want to thank the 38 organizations and their lead representatives who served on the Dane County Climate Change Council. This CAP report would not have been possible, nor would it stand much of a chance of succeeding, without them. I hope they are all proud of the work they did here together; they should be. I also want to thank all of the Office of Energy & Climate Change work group members for their valuable input on the recommendations in this CAP and for their ongoing input and support for the implementation for those recommendations.

I want to give special and more specific thanks to several individuals who directly contributed to the drafting of major sections of this CAP report, including Erik Lincoln and his colleagues at the Ho-Chunk Nation for writing the incredibly important and poignant introduction to this report. I want to thank Dan Vimont

and his colleagues at the Nelson Institute Center for Climatic Research and the UW Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences for writing the climate science section of this report which is a summary of the latest, and greatest, research on the local impacts resulting from climate change. They continue to contribute world-class climate science.

▶ **Smilla Jepsen** of Copenhagen, Denmark, spent a year in Madison over 2018-19 and made many major contributions to the writing of this CAP including the section on how Nordic nations are leading on climate mitigation.



I want to thank John Welch and David Liebl for authoring a majority of the waste materials and adaptation/resiliency sections, respectively. Special thanks go to Smilla Jepsen, who interned in the Office of Energy & Climate Change for a full year before returning to Denmark, and who wrote the “Global Leaders” and “Green Infrastructure” sections of the CAP and made major contributions to other sections, as well. I also want to give a special thanks to designCraft Advertising President, Yvette Jones, for her great editing and sage production advice, and her co-worker Lisa Lombardo for her wonderful design work.

I especially want to thank my lovely wife Trish for her unwavering support of my climate change work throughout my career. Nothing I have accomplished would have been possible without her love and support.

Lastly, I want to dedicate this CAP report to our two daughters, Kestrel and Teal, whose generation will inherit a warmer, somewhat compromised, and certainly less predictable planet earth because of our fossil fuel addiction. This CAP is one piece of my promise to them to do all I can in my lifetime to minimize the degree of compromise.

Sincerely,

Keith Reopelle

