

## TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

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### DISCUSSION ONE: GLOBAL TRENDS AND REALITIES

#### Question 1: Recent extreme weather events - thoughts? Does this echo or differ from previous?

- Recent events in Texas were terrifying. Texas was unprepared to address it.
  - No safe drinking water, forced to melt snow
  - The polar vortex in Texas and weakening of the north atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC), now the weakest in years. AMOC is weakening due to warming of surface waters. Climate changes that might seem bad for northern Europe are going to be as bad or worse for us in North America. When we had records for shorter time periods only it was harder to differentiate natural vs human based change.
  - What affects us globally also affects us locally
- How are we to be informed of these changes, as many are unanticipated? How do we continue to be informed? There are many new climate events that many here have never even heard of.
- Groups like LWVHO are doing a great job of getting information out into the public.
- Re: Texas, we're seeing a continuation of these outlandish storms. The climate has changed, and is changing, and these storms are regular now, they listed hurricanes, polar vortexes, wildfires, flooding, and intensity of moisture in the midwest. We are being affected. Nationally, we seem to be back on track with a climate policy that brings people in. But we're living in a new norm and have to adjust to it.
- Preparedness. We will never be prepared for these increasingly common climate disasters, but instead we'll always be playing catch up, as Texas just had to.
- What will the world look like when our grandchildren are our age?
- Recommended Bill Gates' new book on the climate crisis.
- The state should first do no harm. Our state representative is focusing efforts on repealing HB 6, which is a coal legacy generation bailout bill. Moving forward he stated he is going to be developing legislation in partnership with another representative on the way forward for the state, including a new environmental justice bill, utility reform, energy waste reduction, community solar, removing House Bill 6 from preventing solar and promoting efficient appliances. He is the ranking member on the energy and natural resources committee so he has a good relationship with the chairman.

#### Question 2: Cleveland and the Great Lakes region has been listed in the top 12 great locations to move to as a result of climate change. Your reaction? How would this affect us?

- “Really? We’re considered one of the best places to move? That's surprising.”

**Question 3: What are the weather changes we have experienced here in Hudson and what have been some of the resulting effects?**

- Raining at night in January, warming temps, dead trees, early spring, dry summers.
- Warming conditions that lead to wetter days cause harmful effects mentioned above.

## **DISCUSSION TWO: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE REALITIES**

**Question 1: Why are Environmental and Social Justice important as we make choices to address our climate change realities? In what ways are we all ultimately affected?**

- Climate change has a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, so if you want to mitigate the most significant effects, you can’t ignore those areas, as they have been historically.
- Climate change effects are self-reinforcing (positive feedback loops).
- This issue is a moral one
- More refugees means less resources for everyone
- We are already seeing refugees from the west and Puerto Rico. Ohio's population in general is shrinking, but as we get another decade or two into this crisis, we can’t imagine that will still be the case
- Although our water is “D grade” it is still drinkable, one reason why refugees would relocate to this part of the country.
- Ohio’s clean-up of the Cuyahoga River shows that we can make impactful change in reversing and ending the effects of climate change.

**Question 2: How have you personally been affected by changes in our local/regional climate?**

**Tree loss, crop/garden changes, storm water issues, new diseases/health effects for this area, changes in animal/bird species, loss of pollinators....?**

- My tomatoes were not pollinated because there are no bees.
- Changes with the plants that grow in their yard
- The COVID-19 Pandemic has spread so rapidly due to some environmental effects.
- Dead trees in the parks
- “We don’t see the variety of wildlife you saw before whether it be birds or insects, this does affect us as individuals..., we don’t get as many different species of birds to our bird feeders, we don’t see as many bees in our clover. We know that there is more moisture in the air, the good thing is that we haven't seen a major flood in Hudson for a number of years now. On one hand it may seem like the effects are minor, but on the other hand they're extremely noticeable.”
- Lightning bugs were everywhere in the summer, they are nearly gone now.

- My family had to move out of Puerto Rico to Texas due to climate effects, specifically Hurricane Maria.
- From a beekeeper - 95 percent hive survival rates have now decreased to 50 percent
- We don't see the amount of snowfall we used to

**Question 3: What do you see as the impact of these effects continues and increases in number and intensity?**

- There is another section of the IPP report that stated if we wait too long there is a global cost to adverse effects of climate change. It will get to the point where climate change will affect the global budget.
- Suggestions for what we in Hudson can do about this:
  - If you're on First Energy, you have the ability to shift to a different energy producer through the Energy Choice Ohio program and that allows you to shift to 100 percent renewable energy. "I use wind power for my home." this transition actually results in reduced energy costs. One can go to a website and make the transition, the program is available throughout Ohio.
  - We should encourage our energy provider to invest in more renewables. Where they (our energy provider) are going is not the future. Morgan Stanley published a report that anticipated that coal will no longer be used through 2033.
  - The option to install solar panels is also available, although ground solar panels are regulated, as are home wind generators, a green roof would likely not be code compliant, all of this ties in to the land development code
- Land development codes will need to be changed
- In one country in Maryland, all electric buses are being employed. This will save money on both energy and gasoline. Bill Gates references that we will not be able to succeed unless we put industry and government together. For example, the birth of Microsoft was partly the result of government investment in research and long-term technologies including semiconductors that private industry could use.
- How would we go about getting the LDC changed? We must attend city council meetings, and monitor the LDC to see if it is working well for the people of Hudson

**DISCUSSION 3: WHAT CAN WE DO HERE IN HUDSON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO?**

**Question 1: What actions/trends do you see that give you hope that we can do somethings to adapt to, lessen impacts or pursue alternatives?**

- Carbon capture technologies.
  - "Currently my understanding is that there are no air carbon capture systems that are functional, a lot of these projects have been built around oil facilities, you burn oil down into a reservoir, basically all of the demonstration plants built along those lines have failed economically. The challenge of trying to gather CO2 from the atmosphere is a very energy intensive process."

- The results of renewable energy have been extremely positive. We should be capitalizing on this, but this is an issue where we're seeing a lack of political will.
- 25 states are on board with renewable energy, a lot of effort outside of the federal government has been taken on this front, "It seems that we're in the majority, and the foot draggers are in the minority."
- Renewable energy is here and being utilized, it is clear that this is the future and that we are a foot dragger in this area. Renewable energy is going to be "bigger than the iPhone", it's just a matter of how quickly we accept it.
- Political will - we should act locally, since we're not going to be able to act against the super majority in the statehouse. Perhaps it would be useful to point out the economic benefits to the opposing side of this issue.
- Easy access to quality information is going to be important for generating individual action as well as action at the local level. As an example they mentioned hearing about the Lakewood municipal building being 100 percent solar
- Conversations have been had with Hudson high school about installing solar panels. So far they have gotten nowhere.
- There was also talk of turning an old Hudson juvenile detention facility into a solar farm, but those talks have also reached a stalemate, as the proposal failed in city council.
- A local representative mentioned that the city council is supposed to review their renewable energy portfolio this month.
- Sending emails, making phone calls, and living your life responsibly are all things we need to be doing to help the city and state deal with (and hopefully end) the climate crisis.
- Education - awareness is a big issue. We should think about convincing 100 people to make one phone call as opposed to making 100 phone calls on our own.

**This group did not get to questions 2 and 3.**