



## Discussion Summary Report of the LWV Climate Crises Workshop #1 - October 10th, 2019

### Summary of discussions following HLWV climate change workshop Oct. 10, 2019.

#### Topic 1 – key threats/issues/concerns for air quality and public health

HB#6 taking away state regulation. Hudson's contract to buy coal-generated electricity {x3}. Want removal of Hudson's regulations making renewable electricity difficult/impossible. Want to see incentives for renewable energy including solar panels {x3}. High-sulfur coal is a problem. Fear of threat to air quality as EPA regulation are being overturned.

Alternative energy did not mention nuclear.

Small particulates in air – not reported on here.

Education is lacking for the public {x5}. Explain where our energy comes from and other details people don't know. Educate people to empower them to make changes. Public needs to be aware of climate change, the youth especially. Need to mobilize. There are obstacles to climate changes. Benign? Should be called climate CRISIS.

Power plants are a big problem, need to do more solar and other renewable. Summit county program for property improvements? (PACE) with tax reduction? Currently for businesses only. Need more charging stations (for cars, I think).

Tree planting program is needed {x2}. Hudson controls clearing of trees, but trees are not being replaced. Phase 2 will increase # of trees.

Make public aware of limited time left for making changes.

EPA air standards have been lowered {x2}. Auto emissions {x5} – plan was for smaller more fuel efficient cars but seems like we are going in the wrong direction. Too much idling of vehicles. Air quality is actually better now than in the 60s. Too many SUVs.

Take action at the household level to reduce power use and emissions. Measure emissions. Set up a system of permits.

Lower air quality standards may affect individuals with respiratory illnesses.

Sports teams need to take water breaks in hot weather.

*E. coli* washing into water and Lake Erie after storms {x2}. Jeopardizing recreational use of water for tubing, etc.

Asthma and allergies are increasing {x6}. More respiratory problems. Problems for diabetics (?). A worry for future generations.

Increase in Lyme disease, increase in migration [of insects?]. More ticks and tick diseases {x2}.

On the radio, more air quality alerts, which put elders and individuals at risk.

# of vehicles and their emissions have become a huge problem {x2}. Carpooling would help by reducing fuel use. There is a lack of public transportation.

Even Hudson is having problems with water levels.

More bugs {x5} and more spraying for mosquitoes and concern for this poison in the air {x5}. # of dead and failing trees is concerning. Oak trees are distressed. For which climate conditions do we select trees to plant?

Fewer birds and bees {x3}.

Planting milkweed attracts bees and other pollinators.

Climate change is a driving factor. Human development is cancer to the earth. Technology (renewable energy) can help.

Lack of public transportation {x5}. We need more sidewalks. Add more tree lawns/lines.

Bicycle options not fully available, safety risks in cycling and walking are deterrents {x2}. Recent deaths.

Fracking, use of unknown chemicals in the process {x2}. Targeting farmland for fracking.

Hard question because not as clear impact.

One person did not consider this a topic of concern.

Continual revisiting to the idea of threats existing.

Climate migrants and refugees, how to plan for them. Population increases here.

## **Topic 2 – Key threats to local food production**

Wild precipitation changes. Storm runoff. See standing water in places where it has not been before. Overbuilding and creating more impermeable surfaces can't build by streams.. Encourage more subsidies for permeable surfaces. This is controlled somewhat. More enforcement of existing regulations.

Loss of bees {x4}, worried about pollination [x5]. Neo-nicks are harmful to pollinators and humans. Monarch butterflies get nourishment from crops – but they should be gone. Algal blooms {x2}. Need riparian corridors where can't build by streams.

Run-off removing good soil, land available to grow crops decreasing {x2}.

Need more local food production {x3}. Need to accept local food and not demand perfect specimens. Quality of local produce is higher.

Invariant (unpredictable?) results as a result of climate change {x2}.

Woods and farmlands need to be protected and not developed {x2}. Public incentives for this? Tax incentives.

Distribution of wetlands. Some pristine Category 3 wetlands have been paved over. Retention basins are not adequate.

Always more construction, population increases cause problems. Costs increases if we delay actions to mitigate problems now.

Crops like tomatoes not doing as well.

Wet springs cause trouble {x2}. Late start to corn production. Standing water in fields.

Need programs about handling food waste {x3} and composting facilities. Food is wasted at Laurel Lake. Need education on what can be done with wasted foods. Want food labelled as locally produced and want more of it.

In garden see more fungus and mildew {x2}, thinks it's due to wet springs and warming environment. More parasites. Less success than in previous years in gardening, more climate extremes now..

Fungus growing on lawn mower.

Rural vs urban tension for development in future. Different problems. Loss of productive farmland {x3}. Big Farming.

Flooding due to excessive rains, warmer weather bad for crops {x2}. Nutrients in the soil are affected because the soil is drier.

Concerns about chemicals in lawns and gardens.

Leaves falling later.

Stress on environment affects livestock.

### **Topic 3 – key issues of storm water run-off, flooding, water supply and quality**

There have been more 100+ year storms {x3}. Getting 300+ year storms! Storm water contains farm and urban fertilizers, waste from livestock yards {x3}. Precipitation changes, swings and how to control effects. Hidden costs of flooding and of using fossil fuels. Overall lack of renewable energy.

More flooded areas, including bridges and roadways {x3}.

Variations in floods and cracking.

Acid rains {x2}. Mercury in streams {x2}. Less understory in forests. Wooded areas becoming wetter.

2003 flood in Hudson resulted in issues being addressed. Phase 1 planned to mitigate flood risk.

Need to plant things to slow the water before it gets to irrigation systems.

Algae in the lake {x2}. Can't just jump in the lake anymore. Silver Lake has had to close on occasion, toxins in water, harmful to dogs.

DIY to fix water issues often does not work.

Closing off drains in your yard to fix things for yourself can make the situation worse for neighbors.

Overuse of fertilizers and pesticides, i.e. golf courses.

This area was a swamp, now lawns with grass. Try to be environmentally conscious with your lawn. Go for ecofriendly lawns and plantings rather than for aesthetics. Go for food, not lawns/aesthetics. Homeowners Associations often stymie such attempts. Lawn care companies.

Increased erosion {x2}, increase in flood plain storage.

Water quality is a concern.

Management of storm water appears complicated and expensive. Feel we don't know what Hudson is doing – want a model.

Loss of greenspace and wetlands due to development {x3}. Increased run-off.

Antiquated water and sewage systems – need to replace.

Storm water runoff – observation of recent news items about # of days of unsafe water at Lake Erie so concern about rainfall extremes {x2}.

### **Other effects of and issues in climate change**

Daily life is wasteful of energy.

Need more opportunities for energy storage.

Parking Spot – not getting the word out, people believing that climate change will take care of itself. Need a positive, “do it” feeling. Greta Thunberg and others causing a snowball effect. Government regulation is wasteful and evil.

How do I learn all I need to convince government to change things? How can we organize info to compel change? Find main idea and focus on that, do not get distracted. DO MY part to improve circumstances.

Here we live in a “bubble”.

Master gardeners can educate people about chemical use in lawns and gardens and what they can use instead.

There is disconnect between facts (science) and how politicians talk about things.

Population growth.

Hudson High School has a hydroponic garden to grow vegetables.

Increase in electric bills from running ACs.

Question - is asphalt as bad as concrete in creating excessive heat?

Recycling – need more and it’s complicated.

“With specific farming you can add more scientific farming.”

## **List of Report to Plenary**

Asthma

Decreases in pollinators

Algae in water

Fungus on grass in spring due to wet springs and warming temperatures

Harder to grow plants on our lawn

Pesticides running off golf courses

Drastic changes in precipitation (droughts and floods)

Planting and replanting of trees

Increased toxins in water supply

*E. coli* and fertilizers in water supply

Concerns about wetland – development over wetlands

Lack of education

Infrastructure/cities built for cars, not people

Deterrents to biking and walking

Number of days of unsafe water in Lake Erie

Acid rain, mercury in streams

Car emissions, for examples – idling vehicles

Ugly foods and higher local food prices

Costs of water management

Allergies

Flooding (2002)

Does Hudson have a plan?

Development

Big Farming/barriers to local farming

Homeowners Associations