



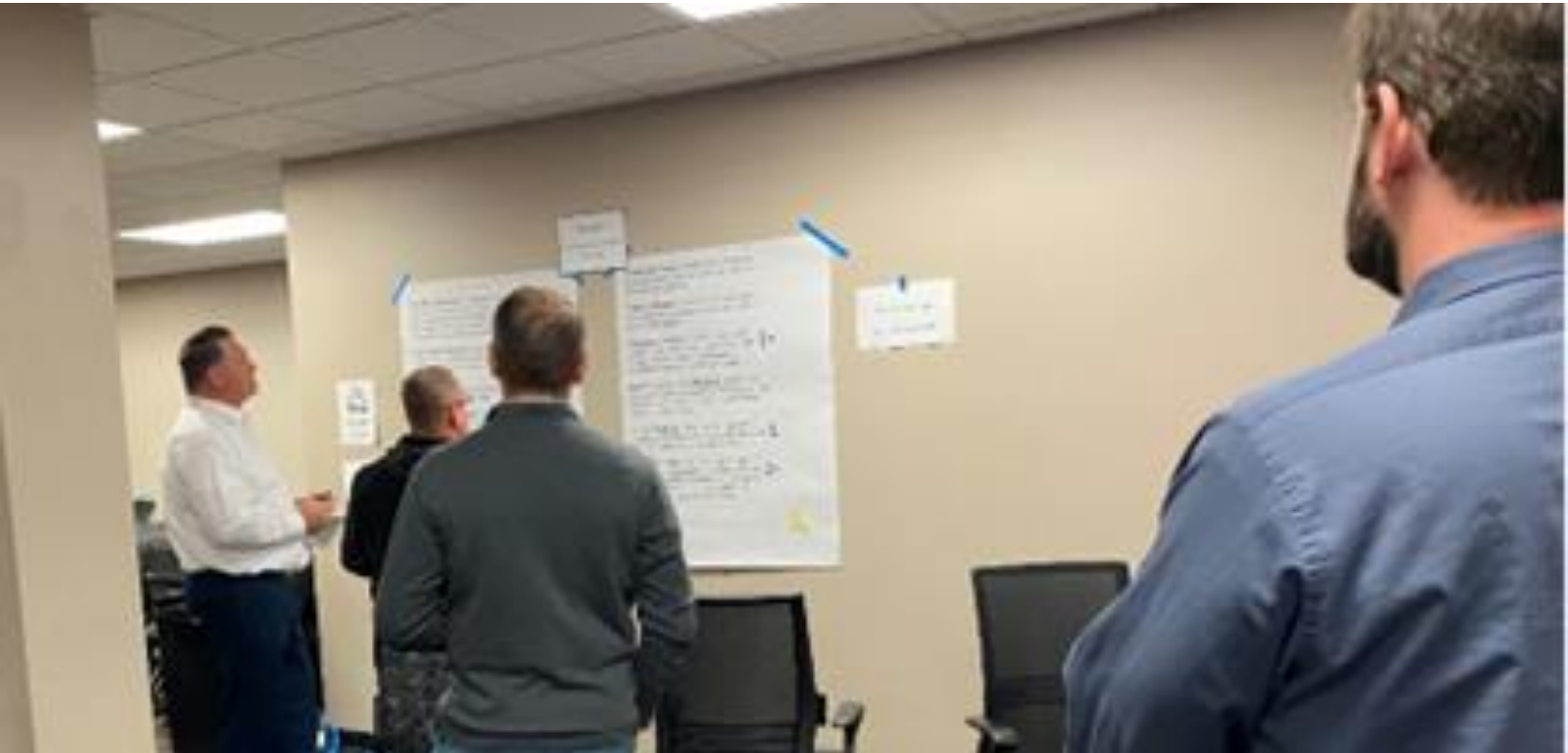
# Sustainability Input Forums

Input received in Bismarck, ND

PREPARED FOR



DATE  
December 2023



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Dakotans of all backgrounds were invited to come together to share innovative ideas, knowledge, and perceptions related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions during the state's Sustainability Input Forums held from October 31 through November 8, 2023, in eight locations around the state. In addition, more than 100 people shared their thoughts via an online survey through December 5, 2023.

Input received through this process will assist North Dakota in forming the basis for sustainability planning and actions in 2024 and for years to come. Information gathered will be used to inform the state's participation in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. North Dakota's Sustainability Input Forums are supported with a CPRG planning grant.

This report summarizes input received through conversations held in-person and online during three sessions in Fargo. Subsequent input received through the online comment form are italicized and attributed to this report based on ZIP codes indicated.

## CONTEXT

The North Dakota Sustainability Input Forums were open public meetings that were organized to be conversational and informal. The role of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) was to host and to listen, with the assistance of an independent facilitator.

NDDEQ's goals for the forums were two-fold: 1) hear what North Dakotans are thinking and doing related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and 2) fuel conversation and connection between diverse stakeholders. To this end, conversations were held in a circle and lightly facilitated around a handful of core questions, as outlined in the following sections. Each session generated at least two hours of interaction, with comments provided by participants in the form of verbal feedback, comment cards, and online polls and chats.

Bismarck sessions were held in two locations. The energy and agriculture meetings (morning and afternoon) were held in the Department of Environmental Quality offices conference room. The community meeting was held that evening in the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library conference room. Online attendees were able to participate via a live ZOOM feed.

Hosts for the forums were Dave Glatt, NDDEQ; Jennifer Skjod, NDDEQ; Allison Ahcan, ERM, Discussion Facilitator; and Isabella Binger, ERM, Online Chat and Zoom Support.

The attendees of these sessions, including online participants, offered an array of backgrounds. Individuals attending had experience within the oil and gas industry, renewable energy industry, public service, generational farming, agricultural organizations, environmental organizations, and community organizing. A total of 46 people participated in the Bismarck sessions.



## 1. CONVERSATION SUMMARIES

The overall tone of conversation that occurred within the three sessions held in Bismarck was productive and informative. Each session revolved around topics of community, energy, and agriculture despite an intended focus on just one theme. There was specific interest surrounding the conversation of what is already being done within the state of North Dakota to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with many specific examples being produced in all sectors. By nature of being the state's capitol city, Bismarck sessions drew participants who were representative of particular interests or sectors. There was significant interest expressed as to how change might have an economic impact or affect quality of life in the state. Additionally, there were many individuals who were interested in how this program will be implemented and how the timeline will impact the quality of work.

Further details of discussion topics follow. Online comments from the region, but submitted subsequent to the meeting dates, have been noted in *italicized type*. Please note that bullets contain verbatim comments from Comment Cards, although similar points may be combined if mentioned more than once.

### 1.1 BENEFITS

**Question:** What BENEFITS do you see for North Dakotans as greenhouse gas emissions are reduced?

Participants pointed out intrinsic and extrinsic benefits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Intrinsically, people could imagine benefits including increases in quality of life, cleaner air, and improved water quality through slowing climate change. Extrinsically, most people imagined benefits surrounding economic gains, employment opportunities, technology development, and potential state and federal funding.

**Comments:**

- Cleaner air
- Grant opportunities
- Keep existing industries competitive in the market
- Electrical literacy and energy literacy
- Technology development
- Potential business development
- Potential new tax base for North Dakota
- Potential employment opportunities
- GHGs are not bound by borders, reductions contribute to global reductions
- Limiting the effects of climate change
- Better quality of life
- Addressing inequality
- Economic opportunities
- Changing awareness from individualism to collectivism
- Ease regulations
- Improve investor relations, opens corporate lending for development
- Healthier ecosystems
- Longevity for our communities, industries, and families
- Global partner

- Decreased demand for finite resources (assuming reduction in fuel/coal use)
- Decreases in healthcare costs (asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and respiratory ailments)
- Environmental Social Governance (ESG) corporation benefits
- Increased tourism
- Healthier soils
- Protect growing seasons
- New/emerging industry that can be locally directed and controlled (ideally not giant corporations moving in from outside)
- Better relationships with Indigenous communities/tribes concerned about land and environment
- *Better balance of weather to produce better-quality crops*
- *Enhanced water quality*
- *Food security*
- *Cleaner infrastructure and working conditions*
- *Energy efficiency and cost savings*
- *Ability to use natural resources available to us*
- *Participate in a global effort*

## 1.2 DOWNSIDES

**Question:** What DOWNSIDES do you see for North Dakotans as greenhouse gas emissions are reduced?

This portion of the conversation heavily focused on economic challenges within efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in North Dakota. Within both online and in-person conversations, concerns focused on increases in energy costs, heavier restrictions on industry, loss of workforce, and technological challenges. Additionally, all individuals touched on the impact that this plan will have on North Dakotans' lifestyles and that there may be resistance to change.

### Comments:

- Regulatory burdens
- Limited global impact
- Lifestyle changes/resistance to change
- Economic impact (transformation adjusting to a new paradigm)
- Not following the science
- Placement of new infrastructure needed for energy (NIMBY)
- Technology may not exist
- Insufficient infrastructure will create a large investment for needed infrastructure
- Ability to obtain right-of-ways (ROWS) for infrastructure
- Increases in operating cost
- Reduction in economic justification for corporations to invest
- Forced reductions could lead to a decrease in quality-of-life
- May require regulation of processes/technologies
- Alternatives may not be viable
- Loss of jobs
- Education challenges
- Short-term thinking and planning could lead to other problems
- Not planning big enough to consider limitations to industry (Hard to keep up with technology, money involved should be innovative)
- Transition and cost of labor
- North Dakota will do the work but may not see the benefits
- Taxes on GHG

- Fight over who gets to make the profit with the transition
- Less meat to eat
- Loss of strategic flexibility
- Oil/coal economies negatively impacted if reduction not planned well
- Higher cost of living
- Political strife and breakdown of public discourse
- *The false pressure to closing coal mines in North Dakota and across the country*
- *Adds additional costs and regulations to businesses, may discourage some businesses from coming to North Dakota*
- *Increase in government spending*
- *Higher energy costs*
- *Restrictions on consumer preferences that make very little return in emissions reduction*
- *Windmills are visual pollution*
- *Unintended consequences (For example, renewable energy technologies impact land use, biodiversity, and local ecosystems)*
- *Increased cost/investment for change*
- *None*
- *Limited space*

### 1.3 EXISTING EFFORTS

**Question:** What ALREADY is being done in North Dakota to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Who is doing it?

Both the in-person and online participants emphasized many specific examples as to what those in North Dakota are already doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There were multiple comments referencing LI-HEAP, no-till/low-till farming, flaring reductions, methane capture at the Fargo landfill, and the Red Trail Energy Ethanol Plant. Many expressed that North Dakota has already implemented many measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that there needs to be better vocalization of these efforts.

**Comments:**

- Capturing most of released gas and decreasing flaring
- Coal drying technology
- No-till/ low-till farming
- Weatherization
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP)
- Solar electric, solar thermal, geothermal, wind, automation, and energy efficiency has been done by various groups
- Turtle Mountain Community College has combined automation, geothermal, and wind to create a 99% renewable campus
- Cannon Ball, North Dakota solar farm on Standing Rock
- Ethanol (Capture technology)
- Methane Capture (Landfill Fargo)
- Carbon Capture/Sequestration (DCC)
- GTL/Plastics
- Flaring Elimination - Gas Capture
- Geologic Sequestration - Direct Capture
- EV/Cars- Lawn equipment
- Satellite and onsite emission monitoring
- Building code improvement
- Company public commitments for zero routine flaring by certain date

- Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) research (Pyrolysis, Hydrogen)
- New industry to consume methane to ammonia (i.e. hydrogen); CO2 sequestration (Project Tundra)
- Clean Sustainable Energy Authority (CSEA)
- Bakken Production Optimization Program (BPOP), Plains CO2 Reduction (PCOR), Oil and Gas Research Program (OGRP)
- Sustained coal electric generation
- Directional drilling
- Cooperative energy efficiency programs
- City planning/development
- Governor's carbon neutrality goals
- Developing emissions inventory
- Outdoor Heritage Fund
- Rotational grazing
- Studies to understand processes/implementation factors
- Cover cropping fields to build soil and store carbon
- Environmentally Minded People of Minot doing community outreach
- Grassland livestock management (grazing systems) reduce net carbon and methane
- Coal plant has scrubbers and a high level of emission reducing technology
- Fungi in native grasslands use CO2 and methane for fuel (energy) to help grasslands be a big sink
- Local sourcing (buy local/shop local)
- Farmers markets
- Restrictions on industry (regulations)
- Conservation planning incentives
- Shift to different energy sources (local sourcing)
- Global partnerships with other countries
- Primacy for Class VI Underground Injection Control (UIC) for carbon storage
- Red Trail Energy Ethanol Plant - almost zero emissions
- Industry is setting reduction goals
- The Mandan Refinery considers GHG impact with every proposed engineering project: The owner of the refinery has committed to decreasing GHG at its fleet of refineries by 30% by 2030
- Coal fired power plant emissions are amongst the lowest in the nation
- High voltage direct current lines
- Dakota Capture East
- Anaerobic digesters
- *State agencies are incorporating climate change into their planning*
- *Power plant emissions scrubbers*
- *Crop rotation and livestock integration to reduce soil erosion and biodiversity to retain soil nutrients*
- *Recycling in homes*
- *Increase in bike lanes/paths*

## 1.4 POTENTIAL STATE INCENTIVES/SUPPORT

**Question:** In what ways would you want to see the state INCENTIVIZE, SUPPORT or just generally HELP with greenhouse gas reductions?

Both in-person and online comments suggested support for climate and industry research, financial incentives, public education, accessibility to resources, and energy efficiency measures from the state. In-person sessions emphasized the need to set realistic targets and establish long-term planning that changes as technological processes advance. Online comments focused more

on the need for equitable incentives to be accessible to everyone regardless of income, location, demographics, etc.

### Comments:

- Support research and development
- Create realistic approaches, targets and timelines
- Financial incentives
- Collaborative approach
- Increase incentives to choose energy efficiency equipment
- Cooperatives and utilities should offer locals fair compensation for solar distributed energy resources (DERs)
- EPA Solar for All and other incentives should be embraced by the state and commerce department and fully staffed
- Continue CSEA and Ag research (assistance in providing technical development)
- Improve building codes (statewide development) for energy savings
- Understand the current condition (Scope 1,2,3) and inventory
- Partner in technology deployment (silent partner)
- Educate the public
- Energy efficient building incentives
- Secure ROWs for infrastructure
- Renewable portfolio standard (RPS)
- Net metering up to 1 MW for wind/solar
- Use state buildings, fleets, operations as a living example of net zero concepts
- Streamline permitting
- State Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Carbon bank
- State Program: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP) to be open to more groups of people
- Federal Program: Rural Energy America Program (REAP) could have easier access to funding incentives
- Incentivize things that sequester carbon like our grassland managers (ranches) - Give them support for doing what is right and helping the whole state
- Theodore Roosevelt Library: Certification for carbon building
- Fertilizer management incentive - voucher for seed cost
- One stop permitting shop under offices of NDDEQ or state and local (or more clearly identify which agency does what)
- Consistency and collaboration in offices offering information and assistance to homeowners for solar energy efficiency, ways to install those systems, etc.
- Help industry with carbon capture incentivizing and help them be efficient also with their boilers and heaters because some are not covered by the rules
- Test soil (use appropriate fertilizers/inputs, seed vouchers)
- Incentivize in a way that does not use tax credits, as this excludes those who have no tax liability (municipalities, coops, nonprofits, low-income people)
- Do not let those who profited on polluting also profit on removing carbon
- Deregulate the electricity market
- Let both sides (industry and individuals) win at the same time
- Prepare colleges and universities to train new workforce
- Workforce opportunities
- Publicity for companies that are offsetting emissions
- Backdated incentives of those who have offset
- Retrain workers from oil/coal/gas to work in wind/solar/green building etc.
- More equitable distribution of resources
- *Incentivize organizations to turn unused greenspace into prairie restoration areas*

- *More focus on better utilization of consumption of energy resources*
- *Utility companies could offer reduced rates for switching energy sources*
- *Tax breaks for those who use fuel efficient vehicles*
- *State support of green industries*
- *Advanced bussing or transportation systems/land use planning*
- *Support sustainable communities with selective industry advertisement*
- *Publish information on websites using video, photos, reports, etc.*
- *Support proper use of electronic disposal*
- *Teach correct principles and let the people govern themselves*
- *Sufficient tax credits: A program for citizens to be reimbursed a portion of expenses to purchase upgraded high efficiency items/appliances or green products*
- *For example, credits to replace windows with triple paned well insulated models; to add insulation to houses, or to utilize spray foam insulation on new buildings; installing electric car chargers in personal garages*
- *Ability to install car chargers running off separate electrical meters that charge less per KWH to encourage plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) or battery electric vehicles (BEVs)*
- *A passenger train system in place for North Dakota that would mean less cars on the road*
- *Access to experts*
- *Gatherings for sharing of ideas and processes*
- *Symposiums for educating citizens, employees, and corporations*
- *Clear communication of expectations between state and businesses to encourage private investment*
- *Promote bicycle/ebike travel in the cities*
- *Don't punish traditional nongreen companies*
- *Push back against federal government mandating*
- *Create a state Office of Sustainability under the supervision of the NDDEQ*
- *Electric buses/public transportation in all major cities*
- *Educate the public on the resources and benefits*

## 1.5 OTHER

**Question:** Is there anything else you want us to know on this topic?

Both in-person and online participants expressed worry about how reduction initiatives will be implemented. Many individuals voiced concern that the process of this may be too largely scoped and will need more precision in its timeline and expectations. It was also stated that there is a need to include more people within these conversations.

### Comments:

- How are you going to include research and researchers in this process?
- How continuously will you incorporate innovation as new ideas come forward?
- Workforce is needed (EV/hybrid repairmen, more people who can educate about soil health, environmental science)
- A fact-based nonprofit or state agency that can provide GHG reduction info (Clearinghouse education, school programs)
- Proper insulation also reduces emissions and saves money
- What can the state do? Don't be afraid to do things differently
- Opportunities for communities to get to know each other, build and share neighborly relationships
- *Why is the legislature discussing banning local governments from eliminating the use of plastic shopping bags?*
- *If prairie restoration is a viable option for a carbon sink, it would be very important to ensure that organizations are using native prairie seed blends*



- *"Buy-In" for the transition to low or zero emissions needs to be done in stages and not forced on the consumer*
- *Do not spend taxpayer dollars to incentivize businesses. Rather create conditions where investment makes sense and doing business in North Dakota is easy*
- *Have transparent and clear expectations communicated up front about how to go about the process of getting whatever needed inspections, permits, and contacts for a particular kind of project*
- *Plant more trees in cities and create green ways/green spaces for people to enjoy*
- *The best way to reduce gas emissions is to incentivize bicycle/ebike travel throughout the state*
- *Encourage more electric semis or efficient electric trucks for regional deliveries*
- *Maximize incentives to bolster green technology and carbon free industry*

## 2. DISCUSSION OF EXAMPLE GHG REDUCTION STRATEGIES

To bring the conversation to a more tactical level, a series of greenhouse gas emissions reductions examples were displayed on posters during each session for participants' reactions. It was noted that these examples were not proposals, just examples of strategies that have been implemented in other communities.

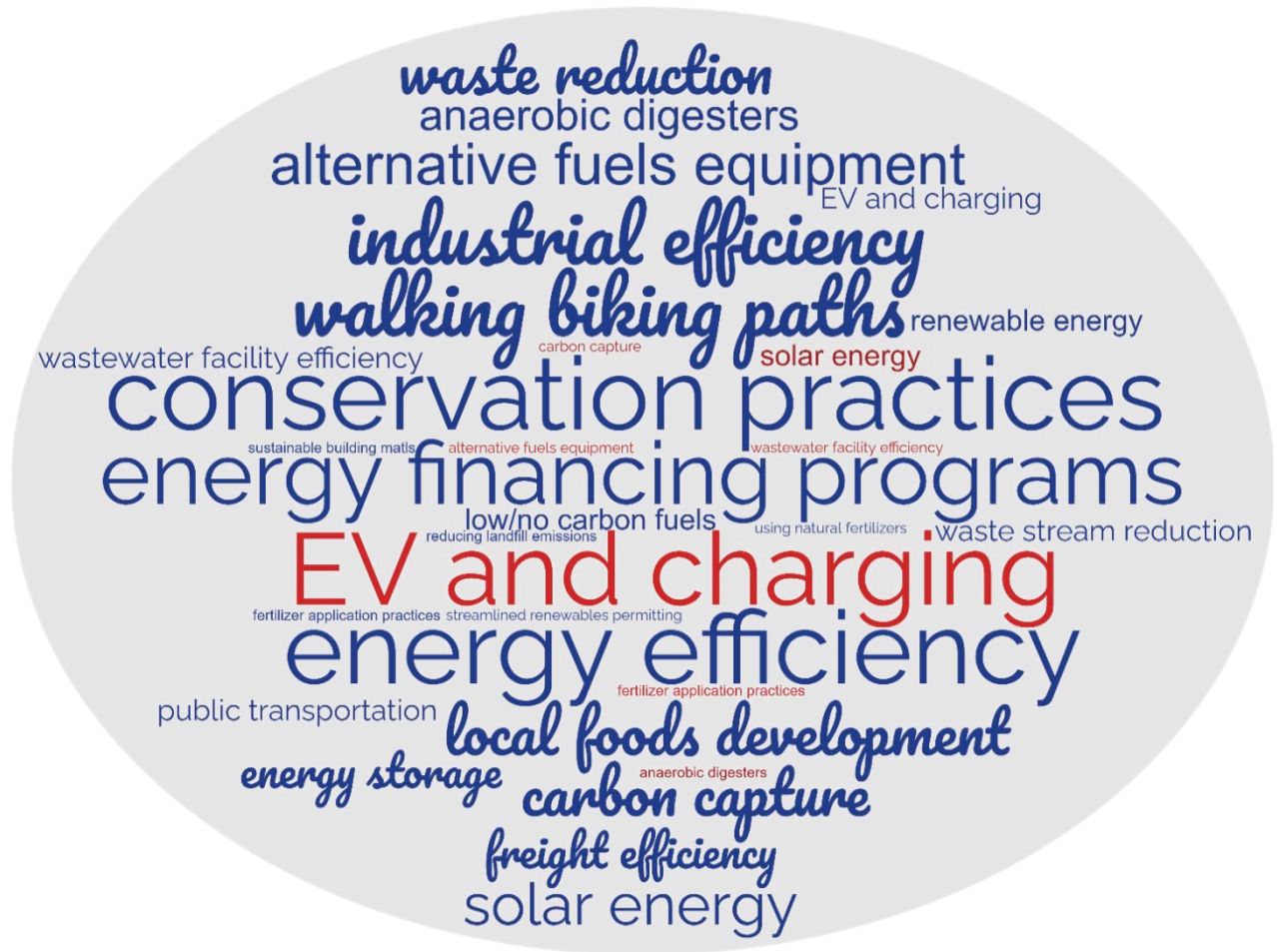
In-person participants were given red and blue sticker-dots to place next to any example on which they had an opinion. Blue was used to indicate support of an example for use in North Dakota; red indicated that they did not support the example for North Dakota. Participants were also given post-it notes to add additional examples, suggestions or comments/questions.

Online participants received a link via the chat in Zoom to a Microsoft form with the same list of examples. They were given the option to click "support", "not support" or "skip" the question. They also were able to elaborate on their responses.

All participants were cautioned that this process was meant to gauge general support or opposition to the various examples, that they were not voting.

The following "word cloud" graphic depicts how often (larger letters = more dots) that examples were selected, and to what degree they were supported (blue) or not supported (red).

**SUMMARY OF REACTIONS**



*Note: The larger the type, the more often a strategy received a dot during this activity in Bismarck.*

*Blue type = support. Red type = do not support.*



In addition to placing red or blue dots on sample greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies posters, participants were invited to discuss the options and compare reactions to the sample strategies.

Strategy	Verbatim Comments
Electric Vehicles and Charging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When all these EV incentives came out, I was like 'Wait a second, we just completely skipped the whole hybrid technology'.</li> <li>• There are applications in areas where electric vehicles make sense - in cities, downtown, commuting - but North Dakota is a rural state. Driving a couple hundred miles between locations at 40 degrees below zero, EV vehicles aren't going to make it.</li> <li>• I have a first responder extrication background and saving lives, it is hard to get into electric vehicles if there is a crash.</li> <li>• The pollution aspect, you have a one-ton battery, what do you do at the end of that lifecycle?</li> <li>• How do you charge an electric vehicle? You plug it in, electricity comes from somewhere, so are you really having the impact you think? I know Tesla owners and they are convinced they are zero-carbon people. It is just not the case, there is an education component missing.</li> <li>• I have an EV, but I did not put a blue sticker on there because there are already Federal incentives to put charging stations every 50 miles on the major highways.</li> <li>• They electrify forklifts inside plants. They are either electric or propane because they are better for people's respiratory system.</li> </ul>
Carbon Capture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be cool if you could do an offshoot of the Governor's Main Street Initiative, where they're using CO2 to actually put into a greenhouse to grow plants. There are ways to connect producers and farmers together with some of these innovative things where they can form partnerships.</li> <li>• If you are going to take your money and focus, capture and sequestration would have a much greater impact early on.</li> </ul>
Public Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have lived in other places where it is so convenient, I would love a train that goes from Bismarck to Fargo.</li> </ul>
Walking and Biking Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We all benefit when we have these reduction proposals that are also beneficial to public health.</li> </ul>
Conservation Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think this is something North Dakota does well, we have a lot of really good conservation programs in place. We have programs that work together.</li> <li>• For example, NRCS has their equip programs. We also have watershed programs that act in Soil Conservation District areas where equip dollars are also available. When those equip dollars run short and producers are still looking for cost share, if they have a 319 project in place, they can still get some of the funding.</li> </ul>
Anaerobic Digesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How big do you have to be to make anaerobic digestors work as a farmer or rancher?</li> <li>• There is a new biological agent that can be used with manure for digestors to increase the renewable methane by 2-5 times. It needs some further studying and some bench testing. If that works, it would be great for the industry and biodigesters of anerobic digestors. But the problem is, it has to be on some scale that actually works. If you really want to be efficient, what you're really talking about is a 36,000 head feed lot or you're going to have to be a 12,000-14,000 head dairy farm. We're not talking your typical family farm or ranch.</li> <li>• There is a benefit at agricultural food places, like Simplot, in the digestion of their waste. Sugar beat plants also have their wastewater treated through the digestors. Those are applications that bigger corporations maybe haven't thought of in their wastewater treatment processing.</li> </ul>

Solar Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When you actually look at the efficiency of solar energy in North Dakota, it is a bad investment of our resources and money. If you want to go after greenhouse gases, there are much better ways to do so.</li> <li>• The payback of solar panels takes a lot of time.</li> <li>• There are lots of variables to determine your price. If you are in North Dakota and have a utility that pays net metering, then you can basically send back your excess as credit at retail rate. As we manage the load, there are many solutions, and distributed energy is one of the best ways to manage the load. It needs to be distributed all over in little places and then the grid itself becomes less reliant on baseload power because it does not need to shift power across the line all the way to the end of the network.</li> <li>• In terms of solar energy incentives, if we criticize the federal government, they have done some great things to incentivize but typically those incentives are based in a tax code. What that does is that over half the people do not have tax liability, and so these tax credit-based incentives aren't applicable to those situations. It is an inequitable distribution of incentives to the people who are rich or have large corporations.</li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I see a lot of times when the federal government or states work on certain efficiency projects it doesn't get down to the actual person.</li> <li>• There's a federal program for that but it makes it really hard for farmers because of some of their regulations on how to collect the data on energy bills. Farmers kind of get left out of that whereas rural businesses are totally accepted into that.</li> <li>• I imagine there are some state programs, but I don't know if they are farmer specific, producer specific.</li> </ul>
Financing Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My wife and I would like our house to be more energy efficient, but the cost of those windows is high. We're living paycheck to paycheck so it's tough to do that. I get the cost savings down the road but that first investment, I got a quote for \$42,000 to put new windows in my house.</li> </ul>
Alternative Fuels Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What types of fuels are we talking about? There are fuels that come from crops, but those are not really efficient. Renewable fuels like what California wants takes a lot of energy to make.</li> <li>• There is a lot of demand, so you are forcing things to move faster without necessarily putting the care into the conservation end of the farming practices since there is such a push to make more, more, more.</li> </ul>
Fertilizer Application Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I mean it's great, you can talk about practices, but they need to be applicable and we do that already. We visit with producers and see it.</li> <li>• There are some coatings you can put on fertilizer that are stabilizers and work wonderful. Now, they cost a little money but when people understand the benefits of them and what they do, more people continue to look at that every year.</li> </ul>
Using Natural Fertilizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are you saying that natural fertilizers can have an impact on water? Yes, I get beat up for using fertilizers. I say you guys don't like anything; you try to do it organically they don't like it that way either.</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I used to be proud to be a North Dakotan. Not so much anymore.</li> <li>• How are you going incorporate North Dakota research going on. We have a lot of research with EERC, NDSU, research the trust has with carbon sequestration. How will incorporate that so that you keep those innovative ideas going? It is also research happening here in North Dakota, not South Carolina did some study, it's what is happening here and now.</li> <li>• A lot of educational programs are tailored towards new farmers, or farmers looking to transition to their children versus sit-down conversations with the whole family.</li> </ul>

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- Messaging is so important; you need to understand the diverse generations and have messaging adapted to each of those generations, so they are getting information in a way that feels comfortable.
  - Generally, there is a concern, and I don't think there's really a focus to that concern. I think there are potential opportunities and dangers in how you build this out, and you need to be careful.
  - We need to market ourselves, and actually convey everything we do. You look at conservation programs and how innovative they are, we started doing that back in the 70s (no-till, cover crops, etc.). We should let the public and farmers know the success and let them migrate towards it.
  - I changed a lot of language in terms of energy transition to expansion. It is going to be an expansion of for a period of time and eventually a transition.
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### 3. WAYS TO ENGAGE

Sustainability Input Forums and the corresponding online survey were the first in a series of engagement opportunities led by North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality in support of long-term sustainability planning and North Dakota's collective greenhouse gas emissions reductions work.

Video recordings, reports, notices of future engagement opportunities, and additional methods to provide feedback may be found at the NDDEQ website: <https://deq.nd.gov/sustainability/>

For additional information, contact Jennifer Skjod, NDDEQ Public Information Officer, via email at [jskjod@nd.gov](mailto:jskjod@nd.gov)

Thank you to those who shared their passions and wisdom as part of this conversation.

## APPENDIX - EXAMPLE STRATEGIES

The following examples were provided as examples of greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies being implemented in U.S. communities. These examples were provided by ERM to generate discussion and reaction during North Dakota Sustainability Input Forums. Please note that these were not provided as proposals, nor were participants asked to rank or vote on them.

### Energy Implementation and Development

- **Renewable Energy** - Incentives for installing renewable energy and energy storage systems on commercial properties
- **Energy Efficiency** - Incentives for installing end-use energy efficiency measures in commercial and residential buildings
- **Financing Programs** - Establish a financing program (e.g., grants or low-interest loans) for energy efficiency and renewable energy installations in new and existing buildings
- **Electric Vehicles and Charging** - Incentives to increase the share of electric vehicles (e.g., leasing and purchasing), and to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- **Carbon Capture** - Programs to support or incentivize carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) at industrial and energy facilities
- **Industrial Efficiency** - Programs to support or incentivize implementation of energy efficiency measures in industry, including energy audits, strategic energy management, equipment upgrades, and waste heat utilization
- **Low/No Carbon Fuels** - Programs to support or incentivize greenhouse gas emission reductions in industrial energy use and industrial processes, including use of low/no carbon fuels, electrification, renewable energy, and process improvements
- **Low-Carbon Materials** - Programs to develop, expand, and support markets for low-embodied carbon materials and products, such as cement and steel
- **Renewables Permitting** - Streamline permitting for renewable energy projects
- **Waste Stream Reduction** - Increase the efficiency or effectiveness of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, or composting programs. Reducing the amount of materials entering landfills.
- **Wastewater Facility Efficiency** - Incentives for installing renewable energy and energy efficiency measures at wastewater treatment facilities
- **Reducing Landfill Emissions** - Incentives to reduce methane emissions from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities, including through collection for use

### Agriculture

- **Anerobic Digesters** - Incentives to promote anaerobic digesters to capture methane and generate renewable energy or produce renewable fuel
- **Alternative Fuels Equipment** - Incentive programs to fund agricultural equipment technologies that use alternative fuels
- **Fertilizer Application Practices** - Incentives for technologies and techniques that reduce nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer application such as precision agriculture practices
- **Using Natural Fertilizers** – Reinforcing soil health with the life cycle of the animal

- **Conservation Practices** - Implement programs that support best practices in agricultural conservation to help protect soil health, including cover crops, no-till, other runoff reduction techniques
- **Economic Development** - Programs for local and regional economic development partners to establish food- and agriculture-based economic development strategies, such as community-based food co-ops

### **Community, Public Service and Government**

- **Solar Energy** - Increase access and funding for solar panels on your home or businesses in your community
- **Energy Efficiency** - Funding for increasing energy efficiency in your home or businesses in your community, including proper insulation
- **Electric Vehicles and Charging** - Increasing electric vehicle charging stations in your community
- **Sustainable Building Materials** - Utilizing sustainable building materials for your local buildings
- **Public Transportation** - Increasing the availability and access to public transportation in your community
- **Walking and Biking Paths** - Additional walking and biking paths in your community
- **Energy Storage** - Funding for battery technology to store solar energy at commercial businesses
- **Waste Reduction and Elimination Strategies** - Providing residential recycling and composting service
- **Freight Efficiency** - Increasing efficiency in freight movement.