

North Dakota Climate Action Plan

Community Survey Results Analysis | Responses 1-436

HIGHLIGHTS

- North Dakotans responding to the community survey place high importance on the benefits of sustainability that were offered.
- Of highest importance are those benefits with direct impacts to health and pocketbooks (better water quality, better air quality, reduced energy bills, improved public health).
- Among respondents from potential low-income disadvantaged communities, air and water quality, improved public health also are rated as very important or important, with the addition of improved soil health.
- Voluntary, open-ended comments illustrate the complexity of perspectives across North Dakota. Among 191 respondents who chose to leave comments, some challenged the premise of the survey, that there are benefits to taking climate action. Most respondents, however, offered detailed comments on how the state should prioritize its approach.

BACKGROUND

In the Fall of 2024, The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) employed an online community survey to gather feedback from North Dakota residents and communities to help develop its first statewide climate action plan. Participants were asked to rank the importance (very important to not important at all) of 11 potential benefits of actions being considered for North Dakota's Climate Initiative and sustainability plan.

1. Better air quality
2. Better comfort in your home
3. More job availability in and around where you live
4. More access to public transportation
5. Improved walking and biking opportunities
6. Reduced energy bills (for your household, commercial business, or government)
7. Improved public health
8. Improved soil health
9. Improved water quality
10. More access to green space

11. Increased access to composting and recycling

Survey respondents were asked four questions:

QUESTION 1: Actions being considered for North Dakota’s sustainability plan can result in a variety of benefits for North Dakota’s communities and the environment. Please rank the following benefits on a scale of 1 (very important) to 5 (not important at all). [mandatory]

QUESTION 2: What else do you want NDDEQ to know about your answer? [voluntary]

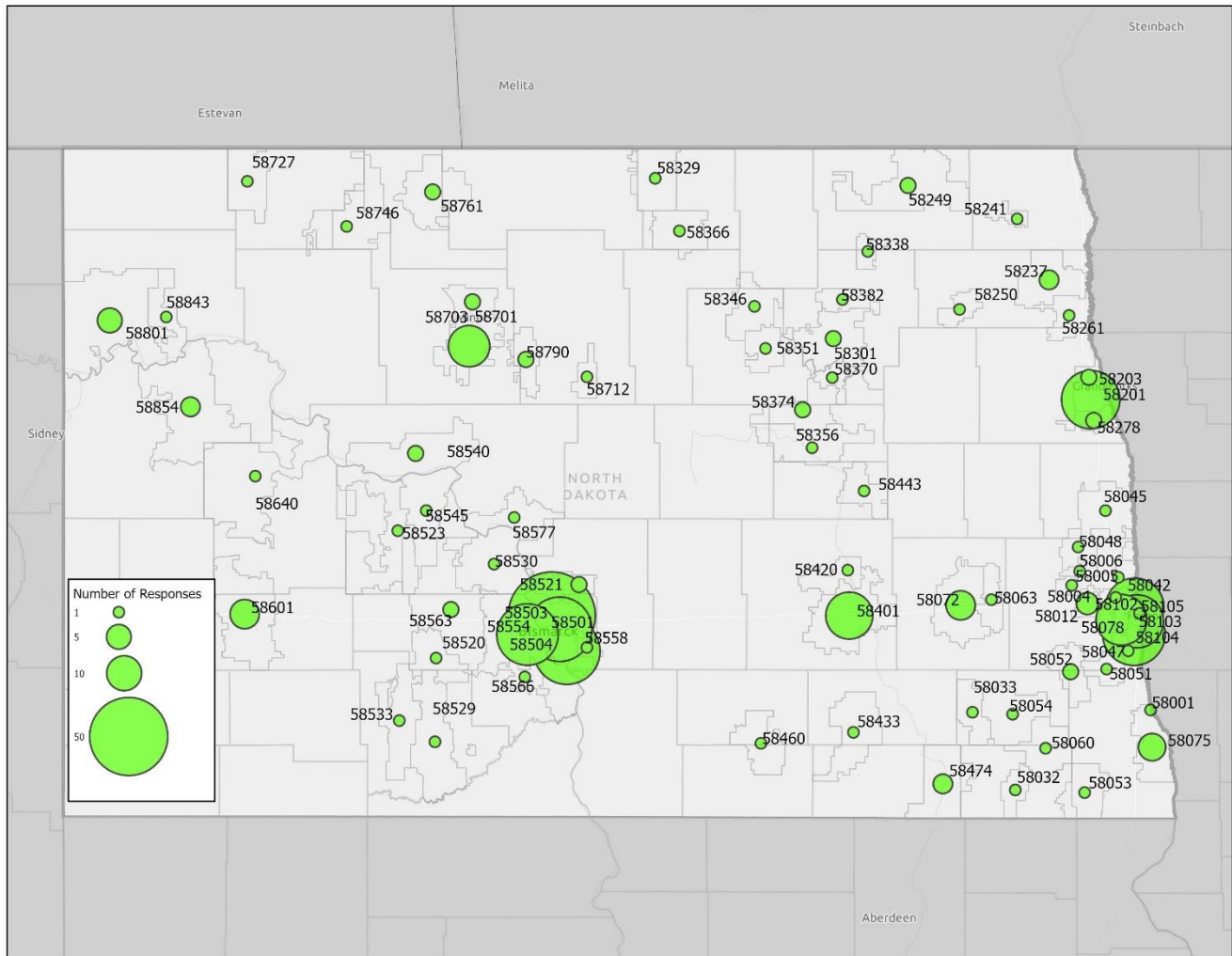
QUESTION 3: ZIP Code: _____ [mandatory]

QUESTION 4: If you would like to hear ideas for reducing North Dakota emissions and opportunities to engage in planning efforts, please provide information for your preferred primary contact method. [voluntary]

The survey was conducted online, using Microsoft Forms. It was open Sept. 22, 2024, through Nov. 22, 2024, promoted through postcards handed out at events, social media, and a mention in Governor Burgum’s newsletter.

ZIP codes were used to identify geographies that are potentially low-income disadvantaged communities. Those who shared contact information will be added to DEQ’s database for ongoing initiative follow-up.

FIGURE 1: ZIP CODES FROM WHERE SURVEY RESPONSES ORIGINATED



RESULTS

The survey was completed by 436 respondents, results of which are provided in the Excel grid in Attachment B and depicted in Figure 1. For more information on ZIP codes, this may be a useful resource: <https://www.unitedstateszipcodes.org/nd/>.

Of respondents, 196 individuals provided open-ended thoughts and feedback about their answers and the development of a sustainability plan in North Dakota. Overall, the majority of participants indicated that taking actions to support North Dakota’s environment is very important or important.

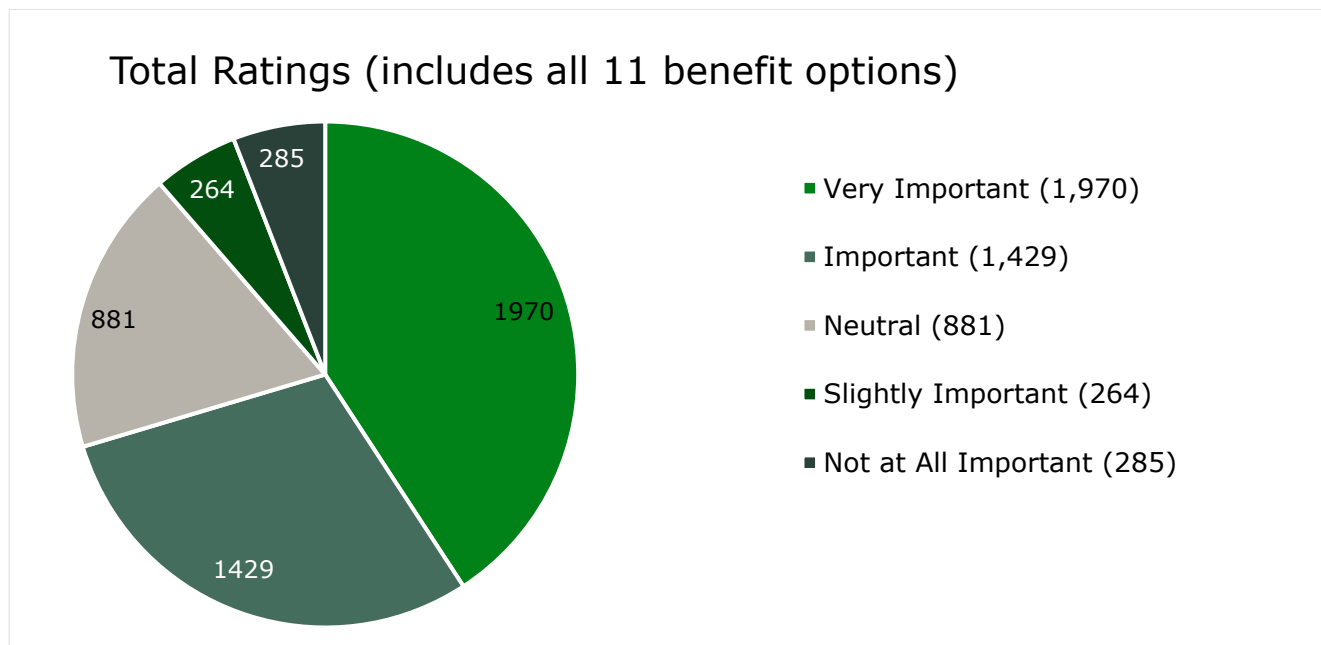
When looking across all potential benefits rated by 436 people:

- 41% are Very Important
- 30% are Important
- 18% are Neutral

- 5% are Slightly Important
- 6% are Not at All Important

FIGURE 2: OVERALL RESPONSES

Survey question: “Actions being considered for North Dakota’s sustainability plan can result in a variety of benefits for North Dakota’s communities and the environment. Please rank the following benefits on a scale of 1 (very important) to 5 (not important at all).” This graphic shows total responses across all 11 benefit options.



“VERY IMPORTANT” RATINGS

Of all benefit ratings in the survey, 41% of selections were rated as **Very Important** and 30% were rated as **Important**. Twenty-three participants (9% of respondents) indicated that every one of the 11 benefits are very important to them.

Water Quality

The benefit ranked as Very Important, more than any other, was improved water quality. Among those who responded directly to water quality were the following individuals from ZIP codes 58701, 58503 and 58501:

"Produced water spills are bad. I miss the outdoor recreation opportunities I had in other states! Biking, hiking, trees, shady creeks, river tubing, swimming beaches. Sitting next to a muddy Reservoir full of noisy boats and jet skis doesn't do it for me. Canada's parks are nicer." -58701

"I'm appalled that there is no simple way of making our river water drinkable on a smaller scale due to the agricultural runoff." -58503

"North Dakota is heavily reliant on the fossil fuel industry, which is a major consumer of water (millions of gallons for fracking wells and millions for coal-fired power generation steam and cooling). Transitioning to renewables and distributed energy resources saves hundreds of millions of gallons of freshwater, which is often overlooked when quantifying the effects of our energy choices in ND." -58501

For one participant in the 58102 ZIP code, water quality was the only issue they considered to be very important. They asked the DEQ to *"please consider the impact of three pollutants not currently being talked about very much: microplastics, herbicide and pesticide residue and the unintended impact to wildlife, the impact of our water sources..."*

Air Quality

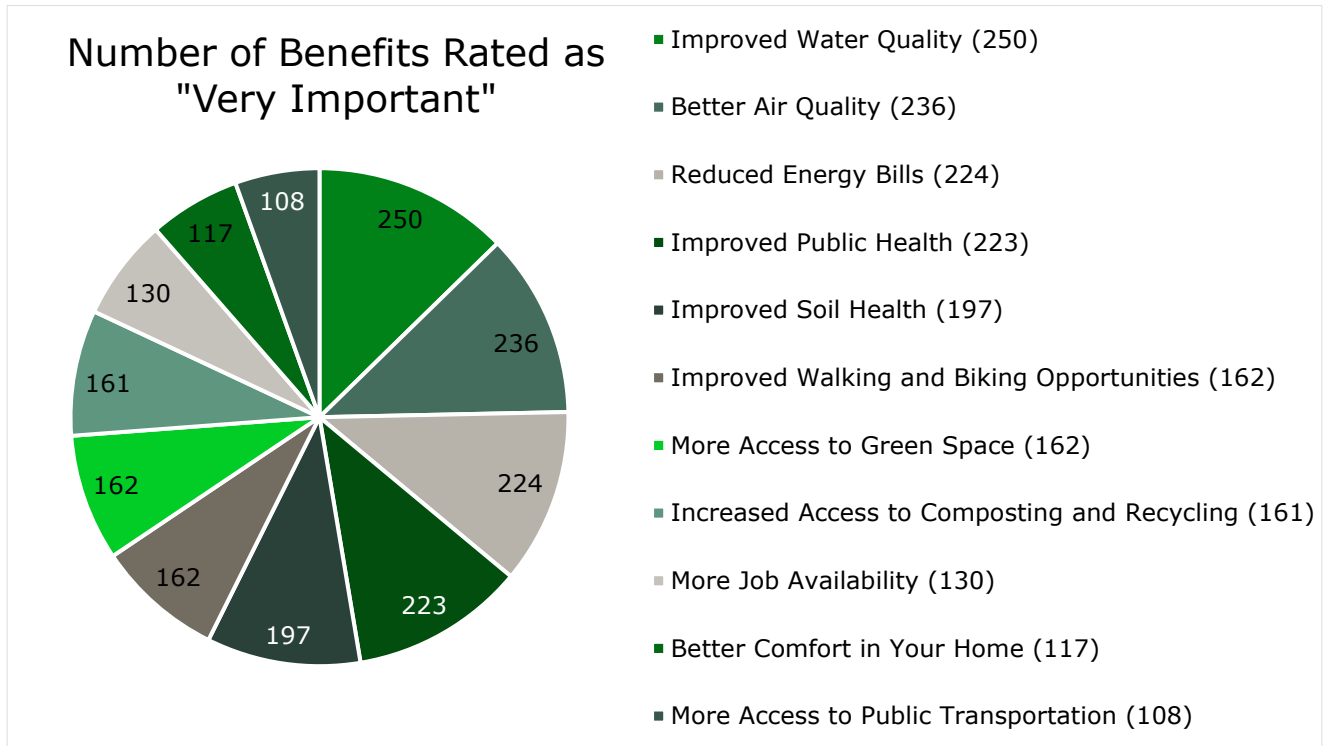
The second-highest-ranked benefit by importance is better air quality. Among 236 respondents who rated this benefit as Very Important, two asked why North Dakota doesn't have air quality alerts to warn people when there are air quality issues in their areas.

Reduced Energy Bills

Reduced energy bills received the third-most Very Important ratings. When referenced in comments, participants showed interest in utilizing renewable energy methods to reduce their costs. One participant asked why North Dakota doesn't offer energy rebates like they do in Minnesota.

FIGURE 3: BENEFITS RATED AS "VERY IMPORTANT"

Survey question: "Actions being considered for North Dakota's sustainability plan can result in a variety of benefits for North Dakota's communities and the environment. Please rank the following benefits on a scale of 1 (very important) to 5 (not important at all)." Figure 3 depicts those benefits rated by respondents as "Very Important".



In reviewing the extended responses of those who considered all benefits to be Very Important, two themes emerged.

1. North Dakota's conflicting focus:

"All of these things are important...The main question is, how will ND get there? With EERC sending funding to UND for a coal study this year and large natural gas plants being proposed to handle incoming data centers and crypto mining operations, it feels like North Dakota is trying to walk two paths...The first step could be to start a public messaging campaign and actively share with North Dakotans what programs are available..., combat mis- and dis-information about these programs, and update building codes and regulations to be more stringent and hold contractors to higher standards that prioritize cleaner building practices." -58103

"It's hard to talk about sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a state in which the political majority is very obviously against taking these issues seriously and we

see our legislators siding with those that claim conspiracy theories about GHG science.” – 58701

2. Lack of alternative energy options:

“ND should support more sustainable choices in energy...Seems we are forced to use oil and gas for everything.” -58554

“There used to be a time in which alternative energy users in residential areas could sell back extra energy produced to the commercial grid. What happened to that program? Wouldn't it give folks freedom to choose their energy source yet also take some pressure off the commercial grid?” -58329

“IMPORTANT” RATINGS

Better comfort in your home was rated Important by 36% of participants, followed by improved soil health (32%), improved walking and biking opportunities (31%), more job availability (30%), improved public health (30%), and reduced energy bills (128 or 29%). One participant provided feedback on how they’d like to see more “comfort” or incentives for things they can do in their home:

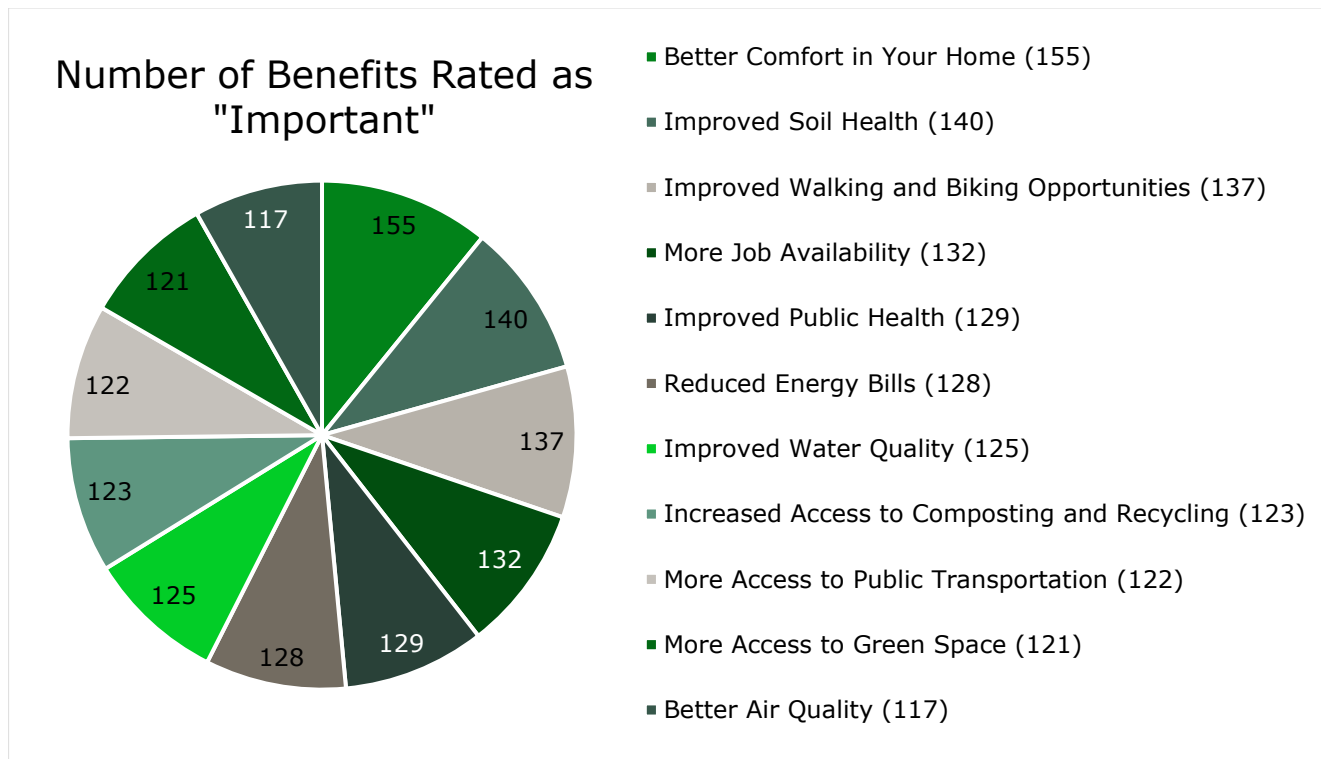
“I would like to see more programs that incentivize things like rain gardens, pollinator grasses, less use of sprinklers and fertilizers within our towns and cities. There are more sustainable ways to do all of these things, if there is an outreach and focus to do so.” - 58501

Another participant expressed interest in making homes more efficient by stating:

“I am very in favor of increased efficiency for household and commercial appliances; however, these changes should only be implemented by incentives and rebates.” - 58503

FIGURE 4: BENEFITS RATED AS “IMPORTANT”

Survey question: “Actions being considered for North Dakota’s sustainability plan can result in a variety of benefits for North Dakota’s communities and the environment. Please rank the following benefits on a scale of 1 (very important) to 5 (not important at all).” Figure 4 depicts those benefits rated by respondents as “Important”

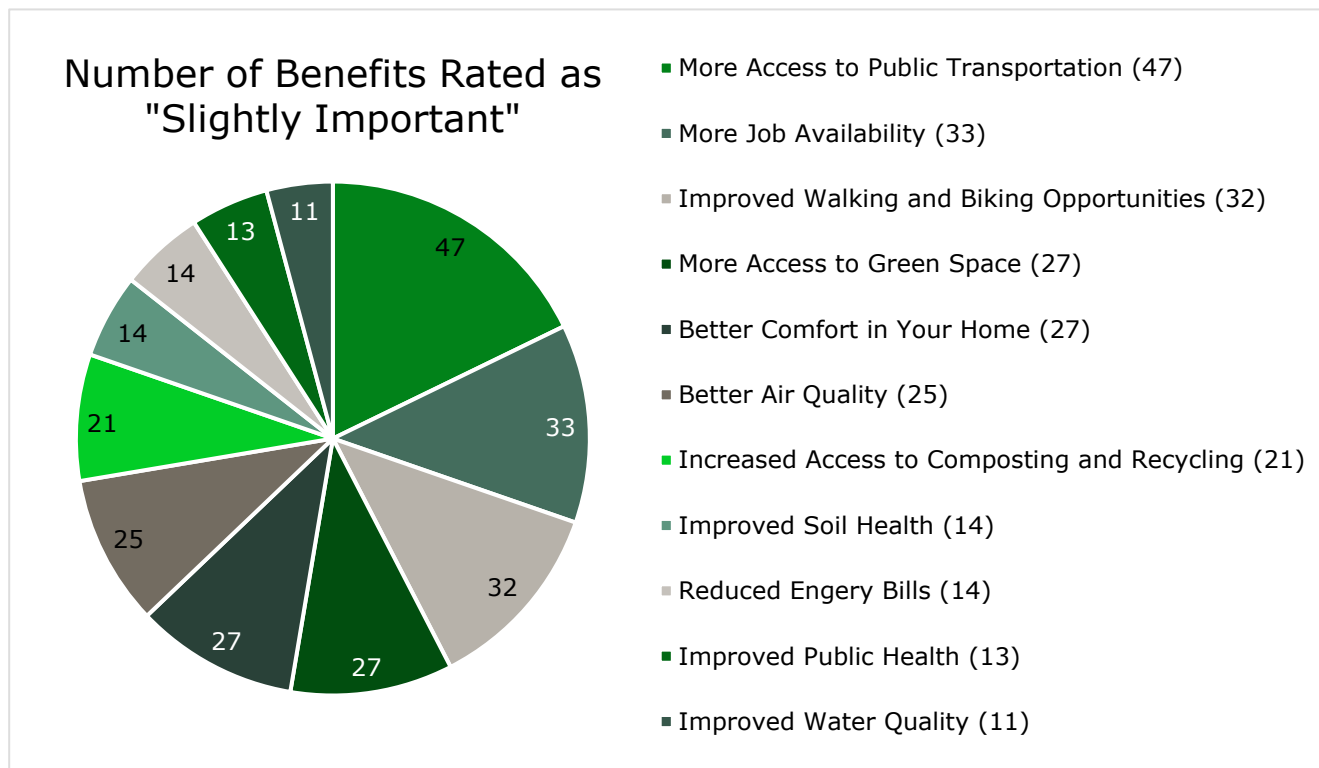


“SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT” RATINGS

Relatively few of the benefits in the survey were considered Slightly Important overall. Those who did rank benefits as Slightly Important shared comments that spoke to peoples’ freedoms to choose what is best for their land, believed North Dakota is already very clean, were more interested in reliable energy over renewable energy, or felt like taxpayer money should be spent on other issues like the cost of low-income housing or offering higher paying jobs. One of these, a participant from the 58012 ZIP code advised to “keep our coal-powered generators going. Keep our oil industry going. Wind generators are a blight on our horizons.”

FIGURE 5: BENEFITS RATED AS “SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT”

Survey question: “Actions being considered for North Dakota’s sustainability plan can result in a variety of benefits for North Dakota’s communities and the environment. Please rank the following benefits on a scale of 1 (very important) to 5 (not important at all).” Figure 5 depicts those benefits rated by respondents as “Slightly Important”.



“NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL” RATINGS

When combined, 11% of benefits were rated by survey respondents as either Not Very Important (5%) or Not Important at All (6%).

Of the survey's 436 respondents, only three respondents rated every issue as Not Important at All or Slightly Important. One of these three, in ZIP code 58048, suggested that North Dakota *"quit wasting money on wants and not needs. This is taxpayers' money. No new taxes. Hard enough to make ends meet."*

The second respondent, from ZIP code 58503, simply said that they *"like North Dakota the way it is"* and they don't want it to change.

The most vocal of these three individuals, from ZIP code 58201, asked that North Dakota, *"not pass any laws that infringe on the rights of North Dakotans to use their land and resources as they see fit."* They stated that North Dakotans *"don't want 'green' energy initiatives...as they are a major source of government waste and exclusively based upon dubious science."* This person also advised North Dakota to remove the "environmental blight that is the wind farm" and bring nuclear energy to the state.

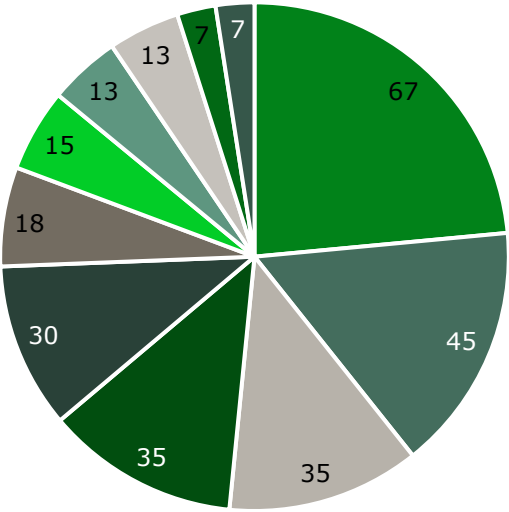
Another point raised by this individual, and two others surveyed, is the idea that one of the biggest threats to air quality is Canadian wildfires, and that Canada should do a better job of maintaining their forests to prevent them.

Despite the comparatively less important ratings that some benefits were given, some spoke in their favor. For access to public transportation a handful of individuals expressed interest in increasing public transportation between communities, especially between larger cities and rural communities. Composting and recycling was a somewhat polarizing topic as some applauded other states for providing free composting and doing a good job of diverting these items from landfills while others did raise concerns around "greenwashing" and companies labeling products as recyclable that just end up in landfills. This point was utilized to suggest the futility of recycling programs. Regarding the benefits of access to green space and biking and walking paths, comparatively fewer people added expressions in support, but no one spoke out against them.

FIGURE 6: BENEFITS RATED AS "NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL"

Survey question: "Actions being considered for North Dakota's sustainability plan can result in a variety of benefits for North Dakota's communities and the environment. Please rank the following benefits on a scale of 1 (very important) to 5 (not important at all)." Figure 6 depicts those benefits rated by respondents as "Not Important at All".

Not Important At All Benefits



- More Access to Public Transportation (67)
- Increased Access to Composting and Recycling (45)
- Improved Walking and Biking Opportunities (35)
- More Access to Green Space (35)
- More Job Availability (30)
- Better Air Quality (18)
- Better Comfort in Your Home (15)
- Improved Public Health (13)
- Improved Soil Health (13)
- Reduced Energy Bills (7)
- Improved Water Quality (7)

ENVIRONMENT-FOCUSED BENEFITS

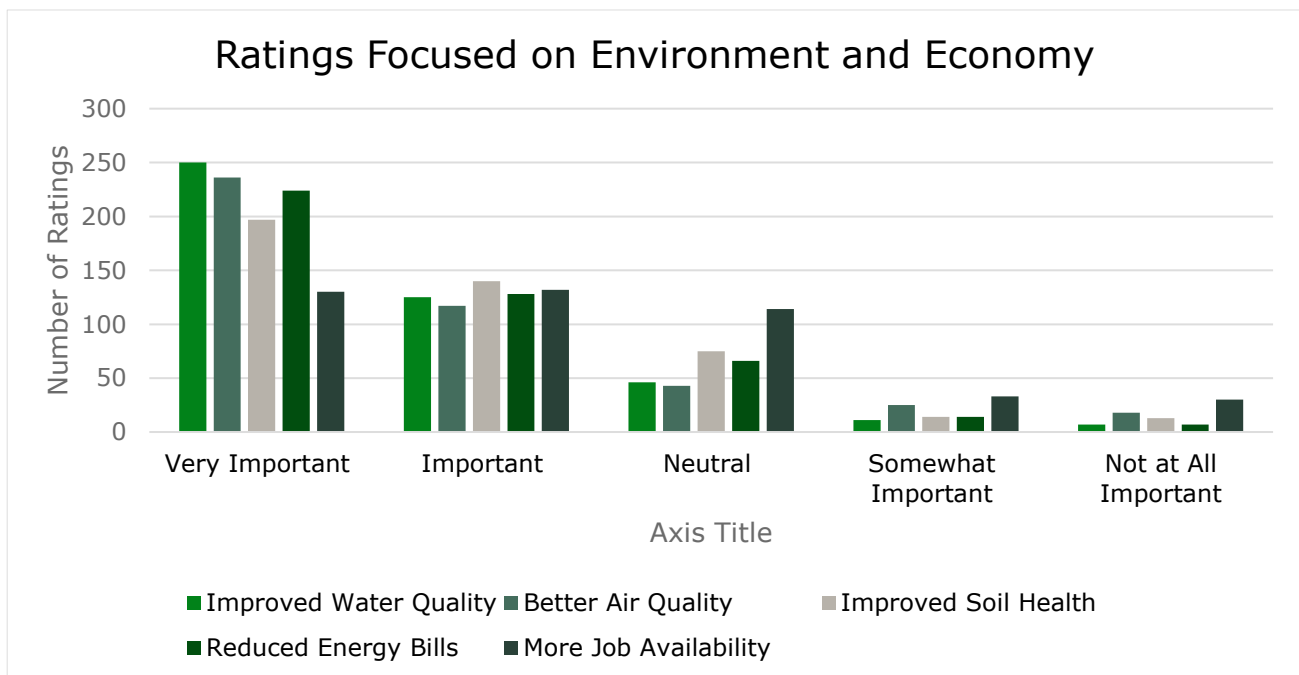
Of the 11 benefits, three are more focused on the quality of the environment: better air quality, improved soil health, and improved water quality. Thirty-three percent, or 142 participants, considered these three actions to be Very Important. One participant addressed all three of these directly when stating, "I think in North Dakota we often take our air, water and soil quality for granted, but it seems the health of those is largely a result of a small population. As industry continues to grow, we need to be proactive in protecting the air, water, and soil that sustains us."

ECONOMY-FOCUSED BENEFITS

There are two benefits listed in the survey that focus more on direct benefits to residents, community members and businesses: reducing energy bills and more job availability. Half (51%) of respondents considered reducing energy bills to be Very Important and 30% considered more job availability as Very Important. Respondents further expressed interest in higher paying jobs and climate-centered, sustainable and conservation-based jobs. In terms of saving costs on energy bills, residents expressed concern about saving costs at the cost of reduced reliability and increased outages.

FIGURE 7: ENVIRONMENT- AND ECONOMY-FOCUSED BENEFITS

Survey question: "Actions being considered for North Dakota's sustainability plan can result in a variety of benefits for North Dakota's communities and the environment. Please rank the following benefits on a scale of 1 (very important) to 5 (not important at all)." Figure 7 depicts ratings that are focused on environmental and economic benefits.



LOW INCOME DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY (LIDAC) RESPONSES

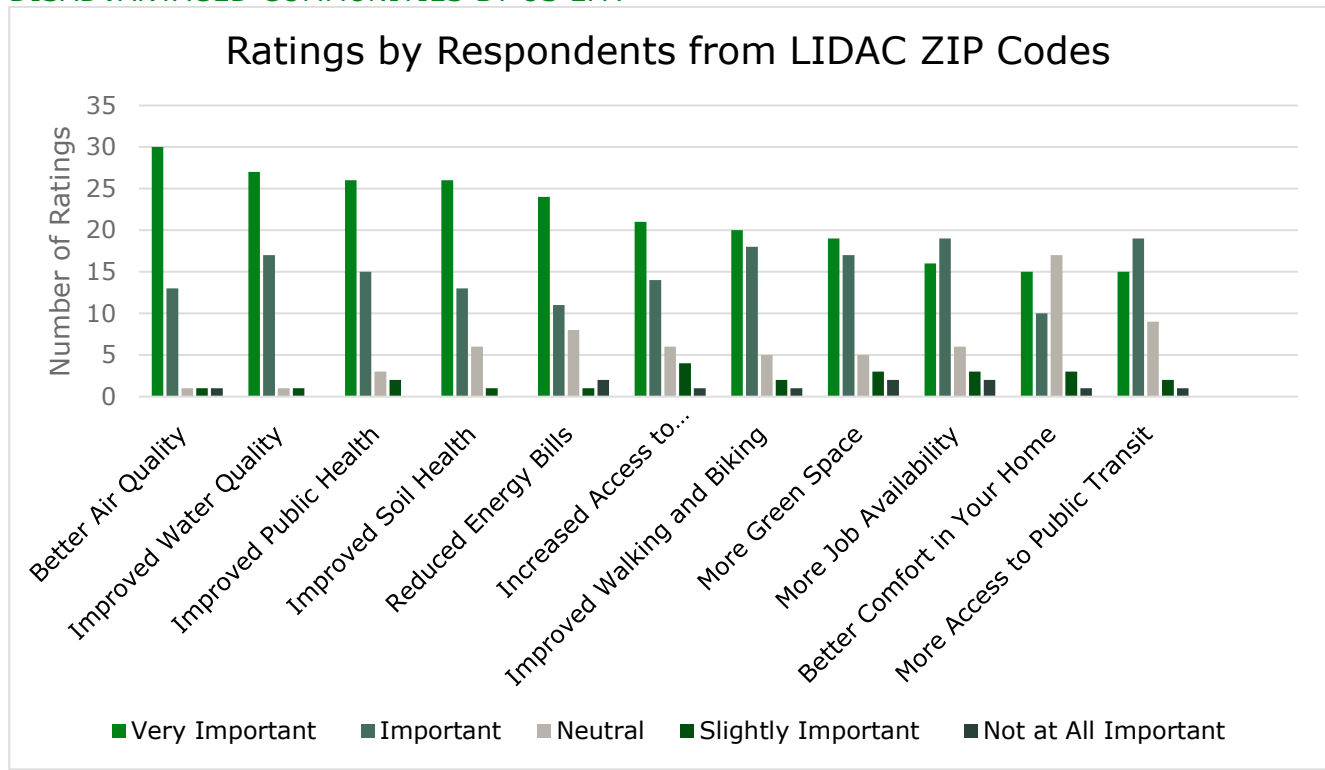
Of the 436 survey respondents, 46 are from communities defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as potentially “communities with residents that have low incomes, limited access to resources, and disproportionate exposure to environmental or climate burdens”. Attachment A lists ZIP codes considered by EPA as potentially low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC).

Of the 46 respondents living in potential LIDAC communities, benefits rated as Very Important or Important were:

- Improved water quality (44)
- Better air quality (43)
- Improved public health (41)
- Improved soil health (39)
- Improved walking and biking (38)
- More green space (36)
- Reduced energy bills (35)
- Increased access to composting (35)
- Recycling and more job availability (35)
- More access to public transportation (34)
- Better comfort in your home (25)

Of all comments provided by participants in potential LIDAC ZIP codes, two participants appeared to not feel sustainability efforts are beneficial. One commented that “*North Dakota has some of the best soil, air and water quality in the world*” and didn’t feel that any improvement was needed. The other participant is concerned about sustainability becoming a bureaucratic nightmare and believes that their grandchildren have been scared by what they’re seeing on TV about climate change.

FIGURE 8: RESPONSES GENERATED IN ZIP CODES CONSIDERED LOW INCOME DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES BY US EPA



ATTACHMENT A LIDAC ZIP CODES

Zip Code	Number of Participants	Zip Code	Number of Participants
58053	1	58523	1
58103	23	58540	2
58301	2	58640	1
58329	1	58727	1
58356	1	58801	5
58366	1	58843	1
58370	1	58854	3
58374	2	TOTAL	46

Source: US EPA

ATTACHMENT B COMMUNITY SURVEY

In 2023, North Dakota embarked on developing its first environmental sustainability plan, aimed at identifying practical opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This plan is designed to align with our commitment to prudent stewardship of our natural resources, while reflecting our core values, fostering innovation, and envisioning a prosperous future.

Our goal is to create a plan that is sensible and beneficial for North Dakota’s unique economic landscape, and which opens doors to new opportunities beyond our borders. We are actively engaging with residents, communities, Tribes, industries, and government entities through July 2025 to explore actionable and ambitious measures that support a sustainable environment, vibrant communities and a robust economy for both present and future generations.

This survey seeks to better understand how environmental sustainability can positively impact North Dakota’s economy. Your input will help to shape the state’s approach to sustainability planning, supporting job opportunities, and prioritizing investments.

For more background on North Dakota’s sustainability planning, visit www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability.

Deadline: November 22, 2024

QUESTION 1: Actions being considered for North Dakota’s sustainability plan can result in a variety of benefits for North Dakota’s communities and the environment. Please rank the following benefits on a scale of 1 (very important) to 5 (not important at all).

Potential Benefits	Very Important 1	Important 2	Neutral 3	Slightly important 4	Not important at all 5
Better air quality					
Better comfort in your home					
More job availability in and around where you live					
More access to public transportation					
Improved walking and biking opportunities					
Reduced energy bills (for your household, commercial business, or government)					

Improved public health					
Improved soil health					
Improved water quality					
More access to green space					
Increased access to composting and recycling					

QUESTION 2: What else do you want NDDEQ to know about your answer?

QUESTION 3: Zip Code: _____

QUESTION 4: If you would like to hear ideas for reducing North Dakota emissions and opportunities to engage in planning efforts, please provide information for your preferred primary contact method.

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. For questions or more information, email DEQ@nd.gov, call (701) 328-5226, or explore our website (www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability).

ATTACHMENT C OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

1.	Even in a small town, I think access to walk/bike paths can help reduce the need for people to drive a vehicle to the grocery store, post office etc.
2.	Stop the airplanes with the contrails that cause the sky to cloud up. NO WEATHER MODIFICATION.
3.	Let's not get caught up in "green "initiatives. It is good to be sustainable, but it should only be in ways that are economical. Mass renewable energy undermines the benefits of distributed generation. It's better to generate at the point of use than transmit. There is more benefit for all that way, even if it's hard to measure and prove. I am very skeptical of studies that show that we are actually affecting climate. The reality is that most of the climate is measured in big cities which keep getting bigger. They get hotter as they get bigger. That's not a true reflection on the rest of the world. That isn't to say that we should be careless either. We should be good stewards of what we have.
4.	We will be running out of fertilizer. Farmers must figure out how to deal with this. How to care for the soil. Not just till it.
5.	Keep our coal powered generators going. Keep our oil industry going. Wind generators are a blight on our horizons.
6.	I am completely committed to sustainability and respecting our natural resources. We have a long way to go with personal responsibility and I appreciate any state efforts to lead us there.
7.	Climate change is real. But, it's not as man-made as the government wants us to believe. The earth goes through natural changes. 100% green energy is not the answer. We still need fossil fuels.
8.	I worry deeply about the water quality. I believe that there are things added that aren't healthy.
9.	Quit wasting money on wants and not needs. This is the taxpayers money. No new taxes. Hard enough to make end meet. Figure out how to balance the budget on less.
10.	The very rural areas need more public transportation not just the larger cities. The rural areas also need higher paying jobs closer to their homes. The rural areas also need more public low cost public housing.
11.	Questions appear slanted towards renewable energy answers
12.	Climate change is important
13.	Your survey text says: "This survey seeks to better understand how environmental sustainability can positively impact North Dakota's economy." However, unless "North Dakota's economy" very quickly becomes divorced from the exploitation of fossil fuels, it is impossible for environmental sustainability to positively impact that economy. The deleterious effects of ND's current fossil-fuel industry are no longer tolerable ("sustainable") for either our state or our planet. This assertion is amply demonstrated by the unthinkable amount of climate-crisis-caused suffering, dying, devastation and destruction caused by just the last 2 "climate" disasters in the U.S., namely Hurricanes Helene and Milton. North Dakota cannot continue its "fossil fuel business" as usual!

	Right now, the pertinent question is this: Is the true purpose of the so-called ND Dept. of Environmental Quality and its "Climate Initiative Plan" to help halt fossil-fuel-driven global warming, or is it to provide a fig leaf for ND's profit-driven oil, coal and gas industries?
14.	I really wish our state would stop suing the EPA and picking fights with other states that are trying to be good environmental stewards. I also wish local government could have more ability to enforce more strict environmental regulations (maybe they do and just don't know it or don't care?).
15.	I have environmental asthma and I want to be able to breathe better without an inhaler
16.	I want my children and grandchildren to have a healthy environment in which to live with a diverse natural environment. I am on board with environmental protection. Destroying the biomes in our state for short term fiscal gains are not what I want. (Oil drilling etc) Doing so when the \$ actually goes to out of state investors is wrong. I know I'm in the minority in this state about this. But it doesn't change the environmental impacts that will be seen in future generations if we don't do something now.
17.	Climate change is real, regardless of politics
18.	It is unclear what is meant by "Better comfort in your home."
19.	I am answering as a concerned senior citizen.
20.	Thank you the NDDEQ for conducting this important work!
21.	Please do o start what you cannot finish.
22.	lets make this a place to live.... not work to death. Work life balance in the community. Easy to do in all parts of ND, rural and urban. Don't make rural areas meet urban needs and lets make urban areas more walking and biking friendly. We may have a lot of space but that does not mean we have to use it all up on housing lots. Energy is pretty cheap out here, lets give more options and make the providers more agreeable to solar and wind at a residential scale, not "buy into our private farm." Public transit needs to be more direct and more convenient statewide. Shuttles to towns with transit stations that provide services.
23.	Be sure not to allow Mega dairy farms in the Red River Valley. That would be a catastrophic disaster for the water quality in that area
24.	ND energy producers and providers are very good stewards of the environment while providing reliable and affordable energy.
25.	In the UK they just shut off their last coal-fired power plant. Here in ND we are fighting to keep ours open, even courting and adding wasteful loads such as Bitcoin mining facilities. We should be mapping a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and working aggressively to build a reliable way to generate, store and distribute electricity that is not based on burning fossil fuels.

26.	Climate change is real. The increased frequency of floods, droughts, hurricanes, and record temperatures confirms that. North Dakota could do much better in at least attempting to protect our most precious resource and home.
27.	We need to reduce pollution, the air quality has been terrible.
28.	North Dakota does not need to push a climate change agenda. We are the poster child for climate change. We had glacial lake that receded and left the Red River Valley. Rhinos roamed on lake shores where Dickinson now sits. All of the eons of continuous, natural climate change created the wealth of resources, both in energy an rich farm land that North Dakota enjoys. We have plentiful clean air and geological formations that assure we will always have clean water from our aquifers. North Dakota a climate change poster child and is blessed to be so.
29.	The environment is very important for all of us.
30.	Meaningful carbon reduction is impossible if the automobile is the dominant mode. Currently, people do not have realistic options to get around their own community unless they have a car or know someone who does. Significantly reducing VMT is a necessity.
31.	Some of these questions are all very subjective.... Who doesn't want clean whatever?? Who is FOR pollution??? It's HOW you get there that maters. ie if we kill all the people, pollution from humans will decrease. Problem solved and we've saved the planet!! And what is "public health"? Should we force fat people to diet? Think of the savings!!!! Seriously, obese people cost multiples more than people of healthy weight. That's not up to us, but I'd generally like people to be healthy if they CHOOSE to be.
32.	Need better regulations on wind farms. They are nothing beautiful to look at.
33.	Make ND green again.
34.	If you could tell Canada to please stop sending their wildfire smoke here that would be nice.
35.	I accept that we will probably not be able to eliminate coal and oil as major energy sources, but I feel we need to expand more into other energy sources soon.
36.	You should be doing more to reduce CO2 production on all affects of private and public life.
37.	Please consider the impact of three pollutants not currently being talked about very much: Microplastics (in water sources), herbicide and pesticide residue and the unintended impact to wild life (including bugs), the impact to our water sources, the impact to our soil health, the impact to our food, and the potential mental and physical impact to humans.
38.	Reduced carbon emissions: very important More wind and solar: very important, even though it may not meet all our needs Understanding how nuclear waste might be disposed of if we go that route: very important Less reliance on fossil fuels: very important

39.	Also need to have clean water.
40.	Addressing global warming is paramount to the future. Stop burning carbon now.
41.	We need to take steps towards remediating the causes of climate change. People in denial of its effects must not be seeing the fires, floods, and hurricanes that are only getting more and more severe.
42.	Probably the most important thing North Dakota can do, since the environment is already clean and very sustainable, is to increase drilling operations and produce as much oil as possible. North Dakota energy is extremely clean and should be emphasized.
43.	Please don't stick your heads in the sand when it comes to the possibility of climate change. We see when water and land is polluted, it is hard to see in the air unless it's Canadian wild fires.
44.	Our state needs to be doing more to combat climate change and having more accessibility to our state for all the ND residents.
45.	Have the oil industry pay for the environmental and humanistic costs of reckless oil development.
46.	Do not create burdensome regulations.
47.	All of these things are important for a vibrant, thriving, and climate-ready North Dakota. The main question is how will ND get there? With EERC sending funding to UND for a coal study this year and large natural gas plants being proposed to handle incoming data centers and cryptomining operations, it feels like North Dakota is trying to walk two paths. I and many North Dakotans want clean, renewable energy that will help lower our electric bills, robust net metering policies that allow solar and wind to flourish in our communities, and systems that benefit our local producers and keep giant CAFO's from pushing out our local farmers and ranchers. We also need to protect ND by keeping foreign entities from buying large swaths of prime ND farmland. Building and construction is another sector that ND has fallen woefully behind in, unfortunately. We need to start utilizing USGBC and LEED-certified building methods to help our communities withstand the worst effects of climate change and implement local circular economies where materials are reused as much as possible. The first step could be to start a public messaging campaign and actively share with North Dakotans what programs are available through the IRA, combat mis and dis-information about these programs, and update building codes and regulations to be more stringent and hold contractors to higher standards that prioritize cleaner building practices.
48.	All items are incredibly important. I would love to see ND come closer to the Solid Waste regulations that MN has in place and work on diverting more from landfills (composting is an example)
49.	I think access and security for climate-centered, sustainability, conservation-based jobs is critical. Increasing things like access to green space and clean energy will ensure this is able to happen.
50.	Clean air and water, improve recycling, reduce solid waste.
51.	Less flaring in ND

52.	We need battery storage to maximize the use of renewable energy. We need to stop taking our water and soil for granted.
53.	Climate initiatives should always make economic sense. Over the years, technology in the US has dramatically reduced carbon emissions. It is the global emissions that have risen. That is lost in the domestic emissions discussion. Domestic policy should be driven by the market, not government mandates.
54.	Would love programs for switching to solar energy to heat our home
55.	Would like to see ND implement a ban on plastic bags like other states.
56.	You need to demonstrate your plans and regulations actually lead to the above "benefits". Ie their great advantages but we don't believe you.
57.	I think you aren't asking the big, important questions about climate change and sustainability. If there isn't a way to manage the ever-warming trajectory, it won't really make any difference if people think increased access to composting is important.
58.	I believe we need to take the stigma away around "climate change" - it's not political, it's reality and science. Seeing state agencies and state leaders use the term collectively would go a long way in public perception. Recycling plastics is practically impossible, so I would rather not see that as a focus rather than initiatives to reduce food waste, harvest rainwater, and green energy.
59.	Re: air quality, why doesn't ND get AQ alerts like MN? And why is there a huge gap in the state with no AQ monitors at all? We can't do much about Canadian wildfire smoke, but we could at least warn people when it's really bad. Also, I said that reducing energy bills is not important because we're going to have to pay for improvements eventually. We have to stop being so stingy and kicking the can down the road to our kids and grandkids. It's time to buck up and start fixing past mistakes. The fossil fuel industry is being artificially propped up by the government and we need to let it fizzle out while we focus on building green infrastructure that's not centered on gas cars and coal plants. The fact that coal plants are even still a thing is absurd. I'm just grateful you're trying to do something to make ND a more sustainable state. Thank you!
60.	The State of North Dakota is failing its residents when it comes to climate change. We are not decarbonizing enough with the majority of our state's electricity still coming from coal. We need to close more coal power plants and natural gas plants and replace them with wind, solar, and battery storage facilities.
61.	We really have things good in this area. If we would stop the smoke from the fires north of the border from coming over the border things would be perfect.
62.	The state should take bold steps to keep our environment clean. Any change means activities/behaviors will have to change. It won't be without some pain. I'm willing to do my part.
63.	Would like air quality alerts issued by appropriate state agency, as other states do to notify individuals with respiratory issues
64.	These are from a retired couple's viewpoint

65.	Need to get the legislatures on board since they are the ones that deny climate change and the damage being done to the environment, their pure interests only lie with the gas and oil industry.
66.	We live with the best water in the country and the cleanest air in the world.
67.	Better agriculture health and water quality should be the highest.
68.	Keep the winter months in mind when thinking about "walking and biking paths".
69.	ND Air Quality in general is very good, if only we could eliminate the air we receive from Canadian fires!
70.	Improved environmental attributes, especially in the energy space, cannot come at the cost of lower reliability and higher costs. Cost-effective, affordable, reliable, and always-on energy drives industry, growth, and advancement and needs to be prioritized.
71.	Please do not discount the role of prairies in soil health, water quality, and as a carbon sink. PCAP #5 seems to introduce the goal of spreading trees throughout the state. Most of ND was prairie, and yet there's little access to native remnant prairies and not much pride in those habitats, especially on the eastern side of the state. I find that NDGF thankfully addresses this ironic "prairie pothole" slogan from the perspective of hunting habitat, so I would like to see that expand towards this plan. Rather than hopping on the "just plant a tree and the climate change will be solved!" train, I would love to see ND take the approach of emphasizing how the native grassland habitats are ND's localized way of taking action. Slightly separately but in the same vein, I do appreciate that #3 will encourage implementation of cover crops.
72.	Climate change is real and anthropogenic. We as a state believe in science and climatology the scientific study of climate (including a changing climate). As such, greenhouse gas emission reduction policies should be in place as much as feasibly possible. Furthermore, an all-of-the-above approach is the best approach for North Dakota given the rural nature of our state's communities. We are fortunate based on location and the hard work from those that came before me to have good quality air, water, and soil. However, these should not be allowed to deteriorate should we focus on other areas needing improvement.
73.	I believe that access to public health is very important, especially for mental health.
74.	The only baseload power supply I fully trust is coal. I am an electric grid operator. Without coal, we will have constantly increasing energy bills and eventually rolling blackouts. Protect our coal powered generation plants.
75.	Do not pass any laws that infringe on the rights of North Dakotans to use their land and resources as they see fit. We don't want "green" energy initiatives in North Dakota, as they are a major source of government waste and exclusively based upon dubious science. In fact, if you want something to do, you should work to remove the environmental blight that is the "wind farm," which results in the deaths of migratory birds and insects and serves as a constant eyesore. Bring Nuclear energy to North Dakota.

	<p>Call upon Canada to better maintain their forests so that we aren't constantly hit with smoke from wildfires. It seems that is the biggest "air quality" issue we have. Canada appears to rely on trade from ND quite a bit, so it seems that maybe we can lean on them to take the management of forest systems seriously. This isn't a climate change issue, it is a malfeasance issue brought upon by lack of investing in proper forest management and overregulation defeating common sense fire prevention measures.</p> <p>Don't pass laws that force cities to be "walkable." It's North Dakota. Let cities decide how to organize themselves. We don't want bureaucrats "greening" ND, as that always leads to restrictive and burdensome regulations that ultimately do nothing to "prevent greenhouse gas emissions."</p> <p>Leave North Dakota alone.</p>
76.	Our environmental quality is perfectly fine as it is.
77.	If you are planning on make this a "green state". DONT. There is nothing beautiful about large solar farms or wind mills. They are also unstable. Everybody wants them until the maintenance issues start. How many solar panels are going to work in 100 inch snow falls? Wind mills only produce electric when winds are at certain speeds.
78.	North Dakota already has many of the above benefits.
79.	Drill baby, DRILL!! Build a new refinery
80.	The reliability of power in ND is needed when we have a variance of 140 degrees between winter and summer. The regulations are moving in an unrealistic direction. Thank you for your time!
81.	Will we have third-party checks on the cleanliness and environmental impacts of our energy production?
82.	Use common sense in the approach, don't turn this into another bureaucratic nightmare....I have grandchildren who are 'scared' every time they hear/see 'expert' screaming about climate change on TV.....do NOT use this as an excuse to waste more tax payer dollars (both state & federal) use COMMON SENSE!
83.	There used to be a time in which alternative energy users in residential areas could sell back extra energy produced to the commercial grid. What happened to that program? Wouldn't it give folks freedom to choose their energy source yet also take some pressure of the commercial grid?
84.	I feel that people don't affect the climate nearly as much as we are told. I don't feel there is enough actual data to say humans are changing the climate. The world has went through many different climate changes throughout existence (billions of years old), and people have actual data from only hundreds of years. Stop worrying about climate. Make things cheaper and live life more freely. People aren't going to change the natural climate. The carbon emissions from Mt. St. Helens was

	more than the total emissions people had ever created up to that point, and that was just one event. Quit trying to mess with nature.
85.	Our county is one of the top counties in the state with a high poverty rate. It is difficult to budget every year with such a low tax base, and not having funds readily available to make improvements to critical infrastructure. Also, we don't have a landfill to bring garbage, junk, etc. so most farmers ranchers have their own private burn pit. I believe the closest approved landfill is 75+ miles away located in Surrey?
86.	Everything on this list is important, but it feels like we shouldn't have to compromise our health for reduced energy bills. I'm frustrated at how few rebates etc are available in ND compared to MN, because I feel like we're leaving federal dollars on the table
87.	we need safer routes to schools, protected bicycle lanes, public transport (including distance rail service), AND increased rebates and incentives for reducing energy use & investing in alternatives like solar for our homes & businesses
88.	I think it's very important we keep the open space and clean air we have in our beautiful state.
89.	I hope we are also thinking forward to the future-when North Dakota may have more people migrating here due to climate. I hope we are planning for more folks than we have, when considering all of our choices.
90.	I want jobs that don't involve actively sabotaging air quality
91.	You will have no one to collect taxes from if the cost of living doesn't change or wages don't change to keep up, just communities of homeless, hopeless people scrambling for services.
92.	We need to focus on what kind of ND we leave to our children and grandchildren, not just remaining focused on promoting the profits from the oil sector for our own immediate fiscal gain.
93.	There needs to be a ban on chemtrailing which is reducing our air quality
94.	Resiliency is missing from this plan. Climate change has affected the frequency, severity and duration of natural disasters and we need to plan, create a resilient state (or more resilient state): reconsider the blizzards, floods, ice storms, heat waves, of the past and change to meet the future.
95.	'Neutral' is not mid-way between important and slightly important. If I'm neutral towards something, then its not important to me. Also, very little on this list falls into the category of environmental sustainability. Also, the framing confuses things. Many things could be important on their own but not at all important as a benefit to be pursued with a North Dakota sustainability plan.
96.	I am 100% against the Green New Deal.
97.	Value the land its importance to our future and generations to come.
98.	I love living in a rural area but understand we must grow to be competitive
99.	I love living in rural ND

100.	improved water quality as far as drinking water. I think fluoride should be removed and ND should strive to be above minimum standards for chemicals. I think the air quality in ND is amazing and there is good opportunities for green space.
101.	<p>North Dakota is heavily reliant on the fossil fuel industry, which is a major consumer of water (millions of gallons for fracking wells and millions for coal-fired power generation steam and cooling). Transitioning to renewables and distributed energy resources saves hundreds of millions of gallons of freshwater, which is often overlooked when quantifying the effects of our energy choices in ND.</p> <p>Another aspect often underlooked in ND is the economic benefit that can be gained by local communities if sustainable power generation sources are distributed and right-sized. Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) strengthen the grid, offer resiliency, environmental benefits, and can help utilities during peak energy demand periods when they need help most. If the state incentivizes communities, municipalities, businesses and residences to invest in DERs (as opposed to large out-of-state-owned 500MW solar or wind farms), we can keep more money in our communities and not send our energy out-of-state, draining local economies each time we pay our energy bills.</p> <p>As a coop state, one would think that local coops would want their member owners to own energy resources. That is the dream that could help empower local communities and make coops truly cooperative, instead of simply corporate-extraction-minded entities that send our money out-of-state. We could have a DER policy in our state that puts locally-owned energy first! That would be a game changer- and truly the ND Way. It's like Governor Burgum's Main Street Initiative, getting sustainable power generation on each town's main street.</p>
102.	Climate change & this green new deal is the 2 biggest farces' ever. We are going to bankrupt this country all while countries like China & India keep spewing pollutants unchecked. Who is the dummies here
103.	<p>Newspapers report that ND is utilizing funds to sue the Federal Government against having to enforce the implementation of the latest GHG emissions guidelines. Many citizens of ND would rather see ND utilize the funds spent on these lawsuits to research, develop, implement and be a leader in advancing GHG emissions reduction and/or capture within our Nation. ND seems to be suing with the anticipation of ultimately losing the lawsuits, forcing the federal government to ultimately step in to implement/enforce regulations (or close the fossil fuel industries) within our State - all the while proudly claiming ND's autonomy as a State to regulate their own industry based on "Science and the Law". From a science educated citizen's point of view, this action seems heavy on fear of change, cost of change, and greed and, yes, low on ethics and concern for public health and sustainability.</p> <p>Think outside the box of fossil fuel heavy states who refute government oversight: protecting the</p>

environment also protects our fossil fuel industry. For example: In July 2024, Marathon Oil reached a \$241.5 million settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Justice for violating the Clean Air Act at its oil and gas facilities on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in ND. The company was accused of emitting thousands of tons of harmful pollutants, including volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and methane, which significantly impact local communities and contribute to climate change.

Marathon agreed to pay \$64.5 million in civil penalties, the largest ever under the Clean Air Act for stationary source violations. Additionally, they committed to invest \$177 million in extensive measures to reduce emissions. Perhaps if ND had supported and enforced more advanced protections earlier, Marathon Oil wouldn't have had to pay such a hefty fine? Do these types of settlements within our oil industry affect the average citizen's prices at the pump? And if ND is basing decisions on 'Science and the Law', consider how 'Science' discovered that Marathon Oil emissions caused harm to downstream residents. The 'Law' found Marathon Oil liable and implemented the hefty settlement.

Let's get off the merry-go-round of politics and lawsuits, pride and/or greed, and actually DO SOMETHING positive toward protecting our citizens and natural resources with our tax-payer monies. We all rely on the fossil-fuel industry in some form or fashion. Let's make ND's the cleanest in the Nation and celebrate the advancement of renewable forms of energy to supplement and preserve the finite supply of fossil fuels available. When did ND become so greedy and self-serving? Ah yes, with the latest oil boom. We miss the days of 'North Dakota nice'.

104. Please consider incorporating the climate change analysis found in the North Dakota Enhanced Mitigation Plan, https://www.des.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/reports-plans/2024-29_EnhancedMitigation_MAOP.pdf. Integration of state plans is important and helps us at NDDDES meet an enhanced federal requirement to ensure we are using each other's planning initiatives to inform our plans. Enhanced status brings more money to our state for mitigation and climate adaptation projects!

105. An expansion on the lead service line replacement program to cover the total cost of removing lead pipes to private homes.

106. Increasing the useability and availability of public transportation in ND cities (and connecting cities) would be an excellent initiative. Innovative projects here with advanced technology would be excellent.

107. I think in ND we often take our air, water and soil quality for granted. But it seems the health of those is largely a result of a small population. As industry continues to grow we need to be proactive in protecting the air, water, and soil that sustains us.

108. Composting and recycling that's FREE to all community members and surrounding townships.

109.	Continued effort on reducing the carbon fossil fuels (reduction in large amounts of carbon dioxide) - carbon capture.
110.	Assist with providing residents of ND with energy incentive programs (ex. provide rebates for installing energy-efficient equipment, such as furnaces, water heaters, programmable thermostats, and LED light bulbs). Provide free trees to ND residents in urban areas to plant. Increase penalties to oil companies that cause salt water, brine, and oil spills. Penalize oil companies that cause wild fires from flaring.
111.	Remove the high level of minerals, metals and fluoride in water, and stop the chemtrails. RFK Jr has made this a priority and ND should follow to make citizens healthier.
112.	I would like to see more programs that incentivize things like rain gardens, pollinator grasses, less use of sprinklers and fertilizers within our towns and cities. There are more sustainable ways to do all of these things if there is an outreach and focus to do so. It would also be nice to have bike lanes on major roadways, as well as lights indicating cross walks.
113.	I'm concerned about the carbon "footprints" ND leaves with its greenhouse gases from the oil fields. What are we doing as a state to help decrease or minimize our output? I'm hoping ND can lead the nation and set the example in doing all that we are capable of doing for the astrosphere yet still create and use our energy resources.
114.	We need to be good stewards of what we already have. Trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is NOT a priority. Try getting Canada to control their wildfires so we can breathe during summer.
115.	Recycling opportunities available for all type of households. Concerned about the new plant opening in Beulah. It will totally pollute the environment around it especially the potential water pollution.
116.	To be clear, I think our air and water quality are good. I just want them to remain priorities. J do think the bismarck area really lacks green space though.
117.	Recycling is a scam - environmentalism theatre, invented by the oil industry as a green marketing tool. The oil industry makes more than \$650 billion a year from plastic. They don't want consumers feeling guilty about it. In reality: - Only 5% of plastics are being recycled. The rest is buried (85%) or burned (10%), usually after being shipped to poor countries. - Plastic also degrades each time it is reused, so it can't be reused more than once or twice.

	<p>- Recycling loads with "contamination" (like a pizza box or the wrong kinds of plastics) are sent straight to the landfill.</p> <p>- The labels "biodegradable" or "compostable" are also marketing scams. It just means they break down marginally faster, and usually into microplastics, which are worse, and get into our water supply.</p>
118.	Find better ways for green space and not force it upon people or take away private property
119.	Ultimately, people having MORE freedom to access nature is the most important.
120.	I think improving air and water quality are the most important items. I'm appalled that there is no simple way of making our river water drinkable on a smaller scale, due to the agricultural runoff.
121.	How will you achieve my answers in #1? I answered what I feel is important but its also important to me to know how these goals will be met? Shouldn't I be asked that question later?
122.	I think owners of land should be able to make their own decisions in their areas.
123.	I like North Dakota the way it is. I don't want it to change.
124.	The climate is changing. ND needs to address this issue as best we can and do what we can in our state to mitigate the negative impacts of this change.
125.	It would be fantastic to integrate these efforts into the 2024-2029 Enhanced Mitigation Plan mitigation strategy and continued participation in future planning efforts with North Dakota Department of Emergency Services. Please reach out if interested, hopebrighton@nd.gov
126.	I don't think the public knows how often there are oil spills and "produced water" spills. Stop calling it produced water - it's a toxic brine and should be called that.
127.	I feel that most of the above questions are currently being addressed at the State and local government level. Regarding the reduced energy bills, it appears the utility providers constantly go to the Public Service Commission asking for rate increases when ND has the luxury of being energy abundant regarding propane/natural gas. Then these same providers publish/report their corporate earnings which doesn't justify the perpetual rate increases. Especially for senior citizens on fixed incomes.
128.	Do nothing to increase cost. I need to control expenses.
129.	North Dakota DEQ is a complete joke and a huge waste of taxpayer dollars. If the entire DEQ division would retire and actually focus their time into implementing some of their strategies through the private sector, that might actually make an impact. A carbon neutral goal by 2030?! Please, just stop. The only thing to come from the DEQ is a lot of talk, a few useless reports, and some LED street lights. Please, for the sake of the ND tax payers, just hand in your resignation form and head to the private sector to actually make a difference.
130.	Keep up with the great work you do. Follow the science.

131.	Overall, I'm happy with ND's environmental health and quality. Recognizing there is little ND can do about this, my biggest concerns are about the wildfire smoke that has become more prevalent the last few years.
132.	ND seems to me to be pretty clean!
133.	I think DEQ needs to set policies that are future thinking. I worry about the world we will leave our kids. A lot has happened in the last 100 years with how we move, live and use the earth. Again, we need to be thoughtful and invest in what is best long term.
134.	look into wildfire smoke reduction. helping homeowners with radon reduction. tree/shrub planting for wind protection to help with snow drifting.
135.	More resources for smaller communities for all of the above, especially in western ND.
136.	How these issues relate and contribute to the overall health and wellness of our population, especially our children, is important to me.
137.	I am hoping for the train from Minneapolis to Bismarck becomes reality sooner than later. The cost of flying to Minneapolis is disgusting. This will make it easier for people to commute to and from this area and help older people who do not want to fly could use the train instead. I see so many reasons to have the train for air quality and get more vehicles off the road. Public transportation is lacking in ND.
138.	I am very in favor increased efficiency for household and commercial appliances; however, these changes should only be implemented by incentives or rebates. Mandates and taxes on less efficient appliances hurt those who need new appliances the most. Essentially my opinion consists of any shift from any current practices or standards should never be a mandate unless voted on by the citizenry. Incentives can be used to help, but no one should ever be penalized. Thank You!
139.	Programs to encourage/educate about conserving resources such as water and energy. Incentives for North Dakotans to recycle.
140.	There are SO MANY non believers in Climate Change out there! Whatever you can do to assist in fighting the battle of the mis information regarding this is a WIN. Its real, and there is more MISINFORMATION than REAL information out there I feel. Or the fact that they, with the misinformation are always louder than those with the facts. Please be louder with FACTS.
141.	Anything that promotes natural living and organic is important to me. Also, more options and less regulations is important to me.
142.	This survey is written in a very "leading" manner and doesn't actually request help from the respondent. The questions in a survey should not "suggest" how the respondent should answer. The questions should ask the respondent to rate their level of satisfaction with a "condition", or should ask the respondent to prioritize different tasks. When the survey asks if the respondent wants "more" or "improved" something, the survey is pushing the respondent to say that "something needs to change". It doesn't offer the option for the respondent to say "no action is

	needed...I am satisfied with status quo". In today's current culture, this survey feels as if it is pushing an agenda, and i don't entirely agree with that agenda.
143.	Silly survey. Who wouldn't want clean water, clean air, jobs, more comfort, lower energy bills, etc. You designed your questions with an outcome in mind. This is how you spend taxpayer dollars??
144.	North Dakota is trending the wrong way relative to environmental protection. Large out-of-state corporations have undue influence on state decisions, and the citizens are left to live with spoiled ecosystems.
145.	water quality, soil health and grassland restoration is critical to the ND landscape along with partnering our oil industry to these practices
146.	I would like reliable energy as a benefit because without it we may not be able to some of the other benefits above
147.	Enforcement of Regulations and limited negotiations with regulated community
148.	Reduced energy bills, yes, but not trying to force wind/solar. These have been proven time and time again to not be efficient (companies can't survive without Government subsidies) and definitely not reliable. Look into small nuclear facilities instead or quit selling power to states that don't like the way it is provided to them. Let those states such as Minnesota utilize solar and wind and keep the power in ND and lower the damn cost. Data centers and such are another big problem.
149.	I think we have good air quality when we are not dealing with wildfires. I'm not quite sure what is meant by "Better comfort in your home". Everyone would like sustainable, reduced energy bills and I do not see going all electric being sustainable or good for the environment. I would appreciate if we were allowed to live more of a homesteading-type lifestyle, which could improve public health, soil, and water quality. The public transportation has always been an issue where I live, especially for those with different abilities that may need adaptive equipment to navigate town. I would like to have more descriptors for how some of these would be improved. EX. walking and biking paths, as we have many, but it would be nice to have something connecting small towns in close proximity to large towns to make it safer to travel between the two.
150.	Sustainability efforts that include accessibility for disabled persons is extremely important.
151.	Thanks for providing opportunity for this public survey. I have concerns about the value of the survey when compared to the 'unique economic landscape' of North Dakota. The necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gases seems to be completely at odds with North Dakota's energy industry and associated politics. Climate change is very real, and I hope North Dakota takes meaningful steps to solve the problem.
152.	Tired of hearing about coal and oil here. Renewable, sustainable energy is the future and we dwell too much on these things that should be more regulated and used less.
153.	Push for solar across the state.

154.	Push Theodore Roosevelt National Park to take better care of the wild horses, better treatment if roundup is necessary, and quit trying to get rid of them through devious means. They now plan to get rid of them through sterilization which will wipe out the population, it will just take a bit more time than trucking them all to slaughter right away. They are one of the main reasons anyone wants to come to the park!.
155.	Global warming is fake news. We need more coal fired plants, wind and solar will not work.
156.	Climate change is happening and risk management is very important-thank you for your leadership!
157.	In addition to reduced energy bills, we are in desperate need for reliable energy sources as well. Let this serve as a reminder that our thermal energy sources are reliable energy sources. This is particularly important in the freezing winter months.
158.	<p>more good paying jobs are needed in our county to offer opportunities to current and former graduates to stay in the county. This means also housing for these individuals.</p> <p>It is hard to find trades (Plumbing, electric, and construction) people locally, to do work have to depend on business from large communities to do the work, which often they don't want to do travel to the county.</p> <p>Need lower day care cost as part of this.</p> <p>When fires are going on in nearby states or in state the air quality is poor. How care resources be managed in the region to try and prevent fires. Recently 2 fires in ND were caused by flaring, how do we reduce flaring to prevent this from impacting communities and the state?</p>
159.	Projects cost more in rural areas and there are less matching resources available but this prevents economic and community growth.
160.	ND has some of the best soil, air and water quality in the world, really no improvement needed.
161.	why does the government feel it is necessary to spend money on things people can and should do for themselves? aren't sidewalks good enough for taking a walk?
162.	Co2 is not the issue and all we are doing is driving up the cost of energy food and living with our feeble attempts to control a naturally occurring green house gas aka plant food. The sun and water vapor drive the climate. We are in an interstadial glacial period. Enjoy it while it lasts. Just remember you are the carbon they want to eliminate with their energy policies.
163.	Thank you for asking. Please continue to take climate change seriously. I want my children and grandchildren to continue to enjoy living here. And maybe pay some attention to reducing the use of coal for electricity
164.	I would like reliable power. The fact that it's 2024 and my electricity has been shut off because the grid was out of power says something about the PSC is allowing unreliable power to take over the grid In ND

165.	If the wildfires didn't exist our air quality would be fantastic, its only when the smoke rolls in from the neighboring states does our air quality suffer.
166.	ND should promote more sustainable choices in energy. Tons of wind here. Plenty of sun. Where does our energy from Garrison Dam get sent? Seems we are forced to use oil and gas for everything. Wasn't there a time when we had incentives to use solar/wind within our own homes?
167.	Reliable energy is just as important as affordable energy. Coal is an important part of the mix.
168.	More recycling drop off areas for glass paper and plastic. If you can't afford to pay for recycling you can still participate in this. Its too expensive to have another bin to pay for for recycling.
169.	Global warming is a hoax.
170.	I would love it if there were some form of AFFORDABLE residential solar and/or wind generation. ND has multiple power generation companies that could, and should, partner with their customers to establish residential solar and wind generation.
171.	We continue to use outdated construction practices, materials, appliances, and equipment that are not sustainable. There are more sustainable building materials and also more energy efficient appliances. This is not to say that we need to remove Natural Gas and go electric. I am an advocate of natural gas. However, I do not see builders improving their construction practices unless some regulations come.
172.	We already enjoy some of the cleanest air and water in ND, we need to be good stewards in maintaining these standards, not wasting money on trying to improve on something that is unobtainable.
173.	Would like to see some wildlife corridors around this area.
174.	I think ND is doing a great job with sustainability already.
175.	We need reliable energy. 100% renewables is not the answer.
176.	Acknowledgement that climate change is real, and needs to be seriously addressed.
177.	Need more renewable energy such as solar, wind.
178.	Flaring all around SW ND is done in such great volumes if there is high humidity the horizon glows orange. West and Northwest of Dickinson there are flares that have been going for multiple years and they are not small. The ones northwest of Killdeer are visible from dozens of miles away due to their size. Mineral rights owners and the state should not be subsidizing oil/gas industries lack of capturing natural gas by allowing them to burn it indefinitely on so many wells. Other industries aren't allowed to extract billions of BTUs worth of energy, destroy it, and not pay royalties or taxes. The state's numbers of 156.4 million cubic feet of flared natural gas per day with a cubic foot of natural gas costing around \$0.015 to the consumer on average, means \$2,346,000 of natural gas destroyed daily at the consumer cost level without any tax paid. The lack of emission control checks is also an issue with diesels billowing smoke regularly without any repercussions for violating emissions laws.

Both of these contribute to public health concerns and have been address in some studies that the oil and gas industries dismiss and the state has been silent on. These should be considered/studied and acted on if they are in fact impacting the health of ND residents in the SW and NW parts of ND.

Soil health should also be focused on since ND farm subsidies are paid out regardless of the soil health of the land. Programs should be requiring improving carbon content in soil to reduce the impacts of both draughts and floods by having resilient, deep, quality soil that can hold much more water during high moisture times and then have that moisture to access during dry times. The farmers and ranchers practicing quality land management see the benefits personally, but those still tilling, using herbicides/fungicides/fertilizers, leaving soil open (lacking cover crops) are degrading the soil and still being funded by government programs. This negatively impacts those who are farming and ranching sustainably. Then add in the health impacts of the fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides and mental stress with failed crops we as residents and the state of ND are funding these companies causing the issues. The cancer rates and suicide rates of farmers and farm families is much higher than average due to chemical exposure. Plus the runoff of these products into local waterways is also a concern. The state should be looking at these health issues and going after companies causing them instead of sponsoring events with these companies. (multiple state agencies, not just DEQ in this)

Lastly, of note, Stark county banned wind turbines by passing five individual ordinances that make it impossible for turbine development. DEQ could be involved in assisting counties with disinformation brought forward by malicious individuals and entities only working for their own personal/corporate gain at the expense of the residents and government of ND.

To conclude the state could benefit from taxing waste, which encourages not wasting raw materials, preventing localized entities from passing ordinances that prevent clean energy development through education, protecting waterways, encouraging/requiring quality soil practices to be eligible for any state funds, all of which reduce healthcare costs that also negatively impact the state.

179. Ban all chemtrails. Remove fluoride from public water. Encourage farmers to use eliminate pesticides.

180. Produced water spills are bad.

Methane flaring in North Dakota can be seen from space and is hurting the planet!

I miss the outdoor recreation opportunities that I had in other states! Biking, hiking, trees, shady creeks, river tubing. Swimming beaches. Sitting next to a muddy Reservoir full of noisy boats and jet skis just doesn't do it for me. Canada's parks are nicer.

	<p>Why don't we have more indigenous art and parks like the one at the Peace Garden? That park is cool!</p> <p>The only thing people seem do outside around here is kill animals. Sad.</p>
181.	Thank you for doing this survey! I look forward to seeing the projects that result. :)
182.	These questions are little tricky to answer because I think they are all very important. I also note that none of the questions deal with or mention climate change or reducing Co2 emissions.
183.	It's hard to talk about sustainability and reducing green-house-gas emissions in a state in which the political majority is very obviously against taking these issues seriously and we see our legislators siding with those that claim conspiracy theories about GHG science. ND political majority seems to demonize states that lead initiatives in sustainability and favor states that are anti-government regulation and pro-oil and gas because those producers bring lots of revenue to the states. It's unfortunate. Ideally, ND leaders would step up and encourage sustainability to its ag, oil, coal, manufacturing, and transportation industries. Good luck. Plant those trees!
184.	I personally am willing to pay higher taxes in order to fund some of these goals
185.	Voluntary simplicity has dropped off the radar when it comes to resource consumption. I'll advance that the corporate drive is to demand "growth" without reductions in energy or resource consumption. We cannot ask the rest of the developing world to do so without doing so ourselves. Because of our reluctance to consume less resources, there is a drive to depopulate rural lands globally to promote species reductions. There are good alternatives to this scenario.
186.	Small town (1,000) living. Things can go under the radar because of size and locality.
187.	There needs to be work done on the potential health impacts of the by products of the energy industry. Particularly the proximity of working oil wells to residential dwellings. Flaring and carcinogenic outputs from flares are a concern
188.	Access to outdoor recreation is a high priority, especially trails!
189.	I think soil quality is one of the most important things climate action can focus on. Especially in Western ND.
190.	We need to address global warming. There is a place for all types of energy. Solar, wind, oil natural gas. We need infrastructure to move wind and solar energy.
191.	Innovations to carbon-based energy providing for power grid stability and utility / energy affordability must be priority and top of mind. Pushing back on federal mandates and seeking / developing innovative solutions should be priority for all North Dakota plans and policies.