

## Hoffman, Jeanne

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**From:** Rummel, Marsha  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 3:57 PM  
**To:** Steven Klafka  
**Cc:** Hoffman, Jeanne; Rhodes-Conway, Satya  
**Subject:** Re: City of Madison Sustainability Plan

I think you make excellent points. Thanks~

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 13, 2011, at 11:26 AM, Steven Klafka <[sklafka@wingraengineering.com](mailto:sklafka@wingraengineering.com)> wrote:

Marsha,

I agree we probably don't currently have the authority to charge a municipal income tax at this time. But it would be great first step to at least acknowledge in the sustainability plan that there needs to be a more sustainable form of taxation which has all users of the city pay for its maintenance. This may include a municipal income tax. At least discussing the need for a more sustainable form of taxation in the sustainability plan would provide a stepping stone for the city to ask state reps to consider the changes needed to change the laws. I ask (former) Rep Joe Parisi about a change in laws and he said that before he would make a proposal at the state level, the city needs to ask him for the authority. I also asked Mayor C, but he couldn't see the problem.

Regarding noise abatement, airports around the county have received FAA approval for many noise control strategies the county airport has not implemented. The problem is not the feds, it is the management of the county airport. The Twin Cities airport pays \$14,000 per house for home noise insulation like replacing old storms/screens with modern windows if you live within the 70 decibel level. (I think much of the eastside is within the 70 decibel noise levels, but we don't know because the county airport's noise plan is 15 years old.) The Santa Barbara airport asked the feds to adopt an airflight curfew. Though it was rejected, the SB airport adopted a voluntary curfew. Both the home insulation program and flight curfew has been raised with county airport management at noise abatement meetings and by my NA, but airport staff simply rejected them.

Steve

Rummel, Marsha wrote:  
Steve-

We don't have the authority to create a municipal income tax under Wisconsin law.

I will follow up with Joe Parisi about the airport. From my conversations over time with Supervisor Hendrick, he is skeptical that the county can change anything because the feds /FAA has oversight over flight patterns but I think an independent group could help generate attention and educate people.

Thanks for all you do-

Marsha

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**From:** Steven Klafka [[sklafka@wingraengineering.com](mailto:sklafka@wingraengineering.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:34 AM

**To:** Rummel, Marsha  
**Cc:** Hoffman, Jeanne; Rhodes-Conway, Satya  
**Subject:** City of Madison Sustainability Plan

Marsha,

Thanks for the response.

Regarding airport noise, I've written Joe Parisi and asked that he set up an independent commission to update the airport's 15-year old noise control plan. The airport is like an unregulated industrial polluter. If there are to be improvements, there needs to be independent oversight of the airport. Today, I just received another email from someone who attended an airport noise meeting and the meeting minutes don't include any of her comments or reflect she was actually there.

As far as taxing options, the states of Michigan and Ohio allow a municipal income tax. The city of Columbus, Ohio pays for all of its city services with an income tax on both residents and non-residents. This is a good option for cities like Madison with so much untaxed county, state and university property. A municipal income tax would make Wisconsin cities like Madison and Milwaukee more sustainable because everyone using the city would contribute to its upkeep and improvements. Wouldn't it be great if every big public event in Madison became generated a windfall in city income, rather than just consuming city resources? If overall taxes for city residents were lower, it would make the city a more attractive place to live. Adopting a municipal income tax may take state approval, not likely nowadays, but a good long-term goal to begin discussing in the sustainability plan.

Both the airport and taxes issues could be combined if we established a city toll at the county airport.

Steve

Rummel, Marsha wrote:  
Steve-

Thanks for your comments. I'm sharing them with Alder Rhodes-Conway, one of the Alders on the Sustainability Committee for ideas about how to incorporate short-medium-long term goals around reducing air and noise pollution. Eg goal of reducing decibel level to 45 and timeline to incorporate new standards. As far as other taxing options, the city could initiate a wheel tax but that's about the extent of our options from what I understand and because of the state uniformity clause it would have to be a flat tax. I also have a call in to County Exec Elect Parisi about the airport with a request for help.

Marsha

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**From:** Steven Klafka [[sklafka@wingraengineering.com](mailto:sklafka@wingraengineering.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 4:53 PM  
**To:** Hoffman, Jeanne  
**Cc:** Rummel, Marsha  
**Subject:** City of Madison Sustainability Plan

Jeanne Hoffman,

After reviewing the draft sustainability plan, it appears that none of my comments on the blueprint were incorporated into the plan. These included specific examples related to the

experience in neighborhood and how the city can make it more sustainable. For your information, I have attached a copy of my November 1st comments. If the plan is still draft, perhaps these comments can still be addressed for the final.

Specific issues I addressed included:

- identifying and cleaning up specific areas in the city which do not comply with air quality standards;
- addressing noise pollution, a significant problem for eastside residents as well as anyone living near major roads;
- identifying the county airport as an unsustainable part of the city with respect to land use, noise and energy consumption;
- identifying a new form of taxation so non-residents contribute to maintaining the city; and,
- addressing the growing number of non-resident commuters that now hold the majority of city jobs.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan.

Steve Klafka

[SASYNA-Discussions] Public Hearings on City of Madison Sustainability Plan.eml

Subject:

[SASYNA-Discussions] Public Hearings on City of Madison Sustainability Plan

From:

"Rummel, Marsha" <[district6@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district6@cityofmadison.com)>

Date:

Sun, 10 Apr 2011 21:17:13 -0500

To:

"[marqNA@yahoogroups.com](mailto:marqNA@yahoogroups.com)" <[marqNA@yahoogroups.com](mailto:marqNA@yahoogroups.com)>, "[SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com)" <[SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SASYNA-Discussions@yahoogroups.com)>, "[firstsettlementneighborhood@yahoogroups.com](mailto:firstsettlementneighborhood@yahoogroups.com)" <[firstsettlementneighborhood@yahoogroups.com](mailto:firstsettlementneighborhood@yahoogroups.com)>, "[capitolneighborhoods@yahoogroups.com](mailto:capitolneighborhoods@yahoogroups.com)" <[capitolneighborhoods@yahoogroups.com](mailto:capitolneighborhoods@yahoogroups.com)>

The City of Madison's Sustainable Design and Energy Committee has issues a DRAFT Sustainability Plan entitled "Madison Sustainability Plan: Fostering Environmental, Economic and Social Resilience" The draft plan is now out for public comment.

The plan can be viewed here:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability/>

There is also a survey here:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability/community/index.cfm>

so people can provide input and indicate where their interest lies in helping to make Madison more sustainable.

There will be two Public Hearings on the draft plan:

April 11 at 5:30pm

April 13 at 5:30pm

Both meetings are in Room 300 of the Madison Municipal Building.

We hope to see you at one of these public hearings.

Please forward this email to others who may be interested.

Thank you.

Jeanne Hoffman

Facilities and Sustainability Manager

Engineering Division

210 MLK, Jr. Blvd. CCB Room 115

Madison, WI 53703-3342

608/266-4091 - direct

608/264-9275 - fax

608/516-0776 - cell

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Steven Klafka, P.E., BCEE  
Environmental Engineer  
Wingra Engineering, S.C.  
303 South Paterson Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 255-5030