

Climate Change & Our Environment

The Badger Bounceback Live Session on Climate Change & Our Environment will cover topics such as investing in stewardship and making public lands more accessible, addressing lead poisoning prevention, keeping our water clean, addressing climate change and the climate crisis, and protecting our state's natural resources.

This document provides a quick overview on how this agenda plans to address these topics.

Ensuring Access to Clean Water

Governor Evers' Badger Bounceback agenda makes significant investments in farmer-led efforts to improve water quality and, for the first time in nearly a decade in our state, advances key administrative rules to address water contaminants like PFAS and nitrates. The governor calls for over **\$2 million** for statewide monitoring and testing for PFAS, invests **\$20 million** in a municipal grant program for the testing and remediation of PFAS by local units of government, and provides **\$1 million** for the collection and disposal of firefighting foam that contains PFAS. Contamination from lead service lines affects an estimated 170,000 households in the state. As communities have worked to reduce the impact of lead water mains, the governor's budget provides **\$40 million** for the replacement of lead service lines.

Conserving Our Natural Resources

The Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program has a demonstrated history of improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities, protecting critical habitat and environmental health, improving water quality, and building flood resilience, as well as supporting state and local economic development. The Badger Bounceback agenda builds on this success by reauthorizing the Stewardship program for 10 years with **\$70 million** in annual bonding authority, along with other critical investments in conservation and forestry. The budget also calls for investments in supporting the forestry efforts, in addressing chronic wasting disease, and expanding opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Investing in Green Jobs

The governor's 2021-2023 budget makes investments in clean energy and workforce development that will move Wisconsin toward being a cleaner, healthier, and more economically robust state. Included in the budget is **\$500,000** annually under the Wisconsin Fast Forward framework, which will enable training for green jobs across the state, and **\$4 million** in funding for the creation of a renewable and clean energy research grant administered by the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy.

\$40 MILLION

**FOR THE REPLACEMENT
OF LEAD SERVICE LINES**

Promoting Energy Efficiency

Governor Evers' Badger Bounceback agenda also doubles the required utility contribution for the Focus on Energy program from 1.2% to 2.4% of annual operating revenues, generating an additional **\$100 million** in annual funding for the program, and reserves a portion of the additional Focus on Energy funds for the Public Service Commission to develop a low-income customer track to offer enhanced incentives for eligible customers.

The governor's budget also provides **\$10 million** in each year for grants to school districts to conduct energy efficiency school building projects and creates a sales and use tax exemption for property used primarily to store or facilitate the storage of energy produced by a solar, wind or biogas renewable energy system. Finally, the budget directs the Public Service Commission to establish an Innovative Technologies Pilot Program, which would set a voluntary goal for utilities to collectively spend **\$100 million** over five years on a pilot for a range of innovative technologies, including storage and microgrids.

to prevent catastrophic flooding, support farmers when their crops are damaged, as well as an innovative first-of-its-kind program to help Wisconsinites purchase flood insurance. The Badger Bounceback agenda also provides **\$5 million** for the creation of a Great Lakes Erosion Control loan program to assist municipalities and owners of homes located on the shore of Lake Michigan or Lake Superior where the structural integrity of municipal buildings or homes threatened by shoreline erosion.

\$20 MILLION

FOR REMEDIATION OF PFAS

Preventing & Preparing for Flooding

Stronger flood prevention and mitigation efforts are needed for our state—for every dollar invested in preventing flooding, the state will recoup seven dollars in avoided costs. The Badger Bounceback agenda calls for investing over **\$30 million** in programs that help build resilient roads and infrastructure, restore wetlands

Securing Environmental Justice & Building Resilience

The governor's budget includes proposals to address inequities and make communities more resilient. Through the creation of the Office of Environmental Justice, state agencies will facilitate collaboration with communities of color, environmental justice advocates, Native nations and low-income populations to design climate policies that reduce emissions and pollutants within those communities. The governor's budget would also provide \$1.8 million for grants to communities for staff to support climate change resilience efforts and create a Chief Resilience Officer to help communities develop their own risk assessment and resilience plans.



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The Badger Bounceback Live Sessions series provides Governor Evers with opportunities to hear directly from Wisconsinites on the topics within the Governor's budget that impact them and their communities. Topics covered in these sessions include pressing issues facing Wisconsin families, including affordable healthcare, bolstering our state's economy, improving education for all Wisconsin students, and more. Wisconsinites can also share their questions about the Governor's budget on social media by posting using the “#BadgerBounceback” hashtag.

#BADGERBOUNCEBACK