

PSC chairwoman says Evers' clean energy plan 'achievable and reasonable'

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Rebecca Valcq, the new chairwoman of the state Public Service Commission, says Gov. Tony Evers' goal of carbon-free electricity by 2050 is "achievable and reasonable."

"In order to get to zero carbon by 2050, it's going to require retirement of some facilities that use traditional forms of generation — like coal," Valcq told WisBusiness.com.

In many cases, she says these plants have valuable assets that could be used for other purposes. Still, she said "we're looking at some stranded costs."

"Recovery is something the commission is going to have to take a really hard look at," she said.

She acknowledged Evers' goal might be "a little accelerated" but noted utilities in the state are leading the charge on this issue. In fact, the state's two largest utility companies have already made promises to sharply reduce carbon emissions in the same timeframe.

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