

# WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023, ISSUE 38



## FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Spring is just around the corner. We are well into slush season where I live (Madison), and melting snow is making everything a muddy mess. The kids at the neighborhood school are tapping maple trees, tulip leaves are cautiously poking out of the ground, and the calls of migratory birds ring from the sky - all harbingers of warmer days to come, though their early arrival is an uneasy reminder that climate change is here.

The **Wisconsin Climate Table** is a network of 33 organizations committed to the goal of zero emissions by 2050, and we are doing everything in our collective power to address climate change in our state. While we can't ignore the structural and political challenges ahead, there are reasons to keep moving forward. There are historic opportunities for local funding to improve infrastructure and address climate change in the IJA and IRA. Governor Evers has a bold agenda in his proposed budget. We have a direct line of communication to the Wisconsin OSCE. And we continue to build relationships and make connections with frontline communities through grassroots organizing efforts in southeast Wisconsin. Finally, **we are organizing an in-person meeting and networking event for May 5 in Waukesha**. Mark your calendars; more details are coming soon!

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

WCT IN-PERSON MEETING:

WAUKESHA  
MAY 5, 2023

**MORE  
DETAILS  
TO COME!**





## PROFILE: KEVIEA GUIDEN CCC PROJECT COORDINATOR

*Keviea will present her work with on-the-ground organizing and collecting stories of energy burden during the webinar on March 15.*

My name is Keviea Guiden - CCC Project Coordinator. I started this role last Sept. 2022. I've been meeting with Grasstop/Grassroot organizations and talking to residents to see how they feel and think about rising energy burden costs and the effects it has on low income, impoverished redlined BIPOC communities. I have met with 9 different Grasstop and Grassroot organizations who could possibly partner with us in the near future and whose values align with ours. During these meetings and relational conversations, we identified common issues in SE Wisconsin neighborhoods. Social injustice, livable wages, energy burdens, clean water, climate and equity plans and fair housing. How can we collaborate and educate these communities on climate change and the impacts it has on all of our lives is my question. The only way we can bring about change is through power and there's power in numbers. I focused on high traffic areas in different zip codes here in MKE. That's how I started collecting these amazing heartfelt impactful stories. I recently experienced energy burdens, so I have a relatable story to tell as well! Residents have given me permission to share their stories and photos publicly.

*I'm a trusted voice in our BIPOC communities and I'm honored to be. We must transition our communities to clean renewable energy...Nothing has surprised me because I live in the same community."*

*-Keviea Guiden*

I started organizing in 2018 around voters' rights and elections. Once I got in the field and started connecting with the residents it was then when I knew the work I was doing was needed and wanted. I discovered that there were other issues that needed to be addressed as well. Affordable energy and clean healthy water were among many others that were equally important. These are basic needs that are essential to live a thriving life. It's the resident who constantly reminds me on a daily basis how imperative the work I do is, which keeps me energized. I'm a trusted voice in our BIPOC communities and I'm honored to be. We must transition our communities to renewable clean energy. It's the raw emotions, feelings and effects that I capture in these energy burden stories that stand out the most. When and if the Climate Table implements this strategy remember who your targeted audience is. These are folks' personal life hardship stories that they openly shared with me. Nothing has surprised me because I live in the same community. Commonality between these stories is the hurt, the pain and how hardship during the pandemic and rising inflation has affected all of us in some sort. If I could have one wish granted from WE Energies it would be to create a program which would weatherize uninsulated houses and help landlords move towards green energy by making solar panels for roofs affordable so WE Energies can stop burning coal and fossil fuel because not only are they killing the planet they're killing people!

## CAMPAIGN UPDATES

The **Clean Energy Plan (CEP) Campaign** (co-chairs: Ted Kraig, Citizen Action Wisconsin & Montre Moore, NAACP) had the pleasure of meeting with Maria Redmond from the Office of Sustainable and Clean Energy on March 1. Maria shared the Governor's priorities for clean energy and workforce development in his budget proposal, took questions from the group, and extended the invitation to participate in executive budget briefings in the coming weeks.

The **Community Commitments Campaign** (co-chairs: Stephanie Robinson, 350 Wisconsin & Susan Gaeddert) is close to launching the tool we are developing for equity in climate action planning. The tool is intended for local government planners and elected officials and includes an extensive menu of strategies for centering equity across multiple areas of municipal planning, examples of climate action plans from around the state, and links to federal funding opportunities and other resources. The tool will be available online this spring.

We are introducing the tool along with Keviea Guiden's work in the Milwaukee area at a public presentation in a **webinar** hosted by **1000 Friends of Wisconsin** on Wednesday, **March 15, 2023 from 12-1pm**. Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join-link>



**1K Friends 2023 webinar series**

**Equity in Climate Action Planning**  
March 15, 12-1pm

Susan Gaeddert, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin  
Keviea Guiden, Community Organizer  
Stephanie Robinson, 350 Wisconsin

 GODFREY KAHN  

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM WCT MEMBERS

### SLIPSTREAM IS HIRING!

**Slipstream** is searching for a Residential HVAC and Electrification Outreach Manager—please check out the PD and consider sharing with folks in your network who might be interested:

<https://www.paycomonline.net/v4/ats/web.php/jobs/ViewJobDetails?job=78393&clientkey=0807ED7413DF4FE1650B798C3BBD8D2B>



 **WISCONSIN GREEN MUSLIMS**

As we recognize World Water Day and welcome the Islamic holy month of Ramadan of daily fasting from food and water from dawn till dusk, we honor and celebrate the central role of water in our lives, both physically and spiritually.

Saturday, March 11th, 2023  
from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

In Allen Centennial Garden  
620 Babcock Ave.  
Madison, WI 53706

In the event of inclement weather this will be held in D.C. Smith Greenhouse.

Huda Alkaff, founder and director of Wisconsin Green Muslims, a grassroots environmental justice group formed in 2005, will share the Islamic environmental justice perspective.

 ALLEN CENTENNIAL GARDEN



## FAITH IN PLACE & LUTHERAN OFFICE FOR PUBLIC POLICY



Join **Faith in Place** and the **Lutheran Office for Public Policy** in Wisconsin's day of action to advocate for hunger relief, climate justice, and clean water in the Wisconsin State Budget! After our morning of preparation, we'll visit our State Senators and Representatives at the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Please see the registration link for Wisconsin's Interfaith Day of Advocacy:  
<https://secure.everyaction.com/fwl2ZgzrmkyGNChWYWbVgg2>

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

*Items for the April WCT newsletter should be submitted by **Friday, April 7 at noon.***

*Send a write-up of **no more than 200 words** plus an image and any links to share. I am also looking for seasonal photos from around Wisconsin to feature on the cover page each month.*

*Send all information to:  
[susan@1kfriends.org](mailto:susan@1kfriends.org)*

## RENEW IN THE NEWS



Milwaukee has always been an industrial town. Clean energy jobs are becoming the new face of that history. Under Gov. Evers' leadership, Wisconsin is acting on climate—and it's helping to create union careers for folks like Akinlana Abdalla. This bold climate vision has Wisconsin poised to be a national leader in manufacturing once again. GovEvers' climate vision is working—creating clean energy union jobs that are powering local economies in Wisconsin. Read more here: <https://www.renewwisconsin.org/clean-energy-works-profile-akinlana-abdalla/>

Click here to watch a video with Akinlana Abdalla visiting with Labor Secretary Walsh and Senator Baldwin: <https://tinyurl.com/2t8sae54>

## WISCONSIN ACADEMY

Join the **Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters** on March 22 from 10 - 11 am for a public briefing on the newly released Climate Fast Forward report.

In October 2022, the Wisconsin Academy hosted Climate Fast Forward. Drawing together nearly 400 Wisconsinites, attendees worked in facilitated sessions to identify climate actions that are achievable and realistic for Wisconsin. Academy staff compiled the top actions from each track, and conference leaders will discuss the next steps and areas of opportunity for Wisconsin.

You can learn more about the conference and register for the hybrid briefing at <https://www.wisconsinacademy.org/evenings/climate-fast-forward-briefing> or email Jessica James at [jjames@wisconsinacademy.org](mailto:jjames@wisconsinacademy.org) with any questions.



**CLIMATE FAST FORWARD BRIEFING**

Wednesday, March 22nd | 10:00 - 11:00 AM  
Wisconsin Studio @ The Overture Center for the Arts | Virtual Attendance Available

Register at [www.wisconsinacademy/cff/briefing](http://www.wisconsinacademy/cff/briefing)

Thank you to our grant partners! **MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION** **Sally Moad Funds Foundation**

Thanks to our briefing sponsor! **AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE**

## GREEN NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE & WAUKESHA GREEN TEAM

Learn the basics of navigating your home energy transition with the Green Neighbor Challenge and the Waukesha County Green Team on March 16, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 pm CST. In this presentation Green Neighbor will be introducing their toolkit and inviting homeowners AND renters to take action with them, via zoom!

Register for the free webinar here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/navigating-your-home-energy-transition-tickets-544974492377>



**FREE ONLINE WEBINAR**

**NAVIGATING YOUR HOME ENERGY TRANSITION**

In this presentation Green Neighbor's Founder will be introducing the organizations' toolkit and inviting residents to take action with them in a joint webinar with Waukesha County's Green Team!

The Green Neighbor Challenge is an online toolkit built to help US residents navigate the home energy transition and take green energy action. Visit [Greenneighborchallenge.org](http://Greenneighborchallenge.org) to learn more.

**DATE**  
16 Mar, 2023

**TIME**  
6:30-8:00PM CDT

Register at [bit.ly/3SBzddde](https://bit.ly/3SBzddde)

**SPEAKER**  
Andrew Butts

**WAUKESHA COUNTY GREEN TEAM**

**GREEN NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE**