

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023, ISSUE 41



FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

School is out, the pool is open, and summer is upon us! This is truly the time of year when Wisconsin is showing off; every day more flowers are blooming and the vegetables in my garden are noticeably taller. These days I find myself alternating between reveling in the sunshine and worrying about drought. Where I live (Madison), we haven't seen rain in weeks; the local growers are getting antsy and the lakes are pungent with blue-green algae blooms already.

For the first time since last fall, we have every seat filled on the Leadership Team. Our model of shared leadership is a strength of the Wisconsin Climate Table; it would not be possible to accomplish what we do without a diverse set of voices and expertise guiding the work.

Contact me: susan@1kfriends.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM
MEMBERS

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

NEWS FROM KEVIEA GUIDEN

UPDATES & EVENTS FROM
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

JOB POSTINGS

CURRENT LEADERSHIP TEAM:

*LIZZIE CONDON, WISCONSIN
ACADEMY OF ARTS, LETTERS &
SCIENCES

TONY WILKIN GIBART, MIDWEST
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES

*ROBIN LISOWSKI, SLIPSTREAM

MONTRE MOORE, WI NAACP

CHUCK TENNESSEN, DRIFTLESS
AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

*DENOTES NEWLY ELECTED
MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP
TEAM



Leadership Team

Thank you to everyone who voted in the Leadership Team election. Please join me in welcoming two new members and one returning member to the LT:

Lizzie Condon (Wisconsin Academy of Arts, Letters, & Sciences) will serve the remainder of a 2-year term ending in November 2024.

Robin Lisowski (SlipStream) will serve a 2-year term ending in May 2025.

Welcome back to **Montre Moore** (Wisconsin NAACP), who just completed a partial term in May 2023 and will remain in his seat for another 1-year term ending in May 2024.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CLEAN ENERGY PLAN

Progress Report



Prepared by the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy

May 2023



CAMPAIGN UPDATES



Community Commitments

Co-chairs: Susan Gaeddert & Stephanie Robinson

The **Tool Kit for Equity in Climate Action Planning** is live! <https://wisconsinclimatetable.org/equity-in-climate-action-planning-tool-kit/>

The **Tool Kit** is the culmination of more than a year's worth of work from members of the Community Commitments Campaign, and we are thrilled to have the online version up and running. Give it a look and let us know what you think. CCC co-chairs Susan Gaeddert and Stephanie Robinson have been invited to present the Tool Kit at the Climate Justice and Community Resilience Summit (<https://www.wisconsinacademy.org/evenings/climate-justice-community-resilience-summit>) in Madison later this month.

The next meeting for the Community Commitments Campaign is Thursday, June 15 at 1pm. We will be discussing next steps for the tool kit and future plans for CCC. If you would like to be included on the calendar invite, email Stephanie Robinson stephanie.robinson@350wisconsin.org.

Clean Energy Plan Campaign

Co-chairs: Montre Moore & Ted Kraig

Just last month, the Office of Sustainable and Clean Energy (OSCE) released a **Progress Report for the Clean Energy Plan**, which can be found here: <https://osce.wi.gov/Documents/Clean%20Energy%20Plan%202023%20Progress%20Report.pdf>

The CEP Campaign will be reviewing the progress report and discussing soon. If you would like to be added to the email list for the CEP campaign, email Ted Kraig at kraigt@weac.org.

Check out the WCT website! <https://wisconsinclimatetable.org>

RENEW WISCONSIN

MGE & Alliant Plan to Make It More Expensive To Go Solar

Net metering allows solar panel owners to offset their electricity costs by exporting excess electricity to the grid. When the solar panels produce more electricity than is consumed on-site, the surplus flows out and serves neighboring customers, which the utility resells at full retail rates. Net metering allows the solar-generating customer to receive retail credits for surplus solar, which comes in the form of a reduction in their electricity bill. This helps lower energy expenses and provides a predictable financial incentive for investing in rooftop solar, making solar a viable investment for low to moderate-income households. Net metering is the single most powerful policy tool to accelerate rooftop solar according to a 2021 study. A strong statewide net metering policy could help us build up to 2.5 gigawatts of rooftop solar in the Badger State.

Despite the positive impact of net metering on clean energy in Wisconsin, Alliant and MGE are proposing to replace net metering with a new system that will make it more expensive to go solar.

Overhauling net metering will likely depress demand for rooftop solar, leading to layoffs for local clean energy workers, additional hardships for customers and local governments in meeting their clean energy goals, and price increases that would make solar more expensive and inaccessible for those who could benefit most.

The MGE and Alliant proposals would hurt working Wisconsinites by making going solar more expensive and payback timelines unpredictable. Learn how you can help protect solar in Wisconsin at www.renewwisconsin.org.



Image: a cabin with solar panels on the roof. Photo credit: Heather Allen

.....

*Net metering is the
single most
powerful policy
tool to accelerate
rooftop solar
according to a 2021
study.*

.....

Check out the WCT website! <https://wisconsinclimatetable.org>

WAUKESHA COUNTY GREEN TEAM



Upcoming Webinars

June 7 at noon
June 13 at 6:30pm

Municipal Guide to Sustainable Planning



Join the **Waukesha County Green Team** for a tour of The Municipal Guide to Sustainable Planning, a new tool to assist municipalities and community groups to measurably move forward with sustainability that is economically advantageous, increases community resilience, and is beneficial to residents and business. The Guide is a free publicly available tool that can be accessed through the Waukesha County Green Team website. <https://www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org/municipal-guide>

The Municipal Guide to Sustainable Planning offers best practices and access to tools to determine cost benefit across a range of topics including buildings, natural resource and green space conservation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, waste and materials management, municipal and stormwater, roadways and public mobility and more.

The tour is an informational session over Zoom. It is offered on two dates - June 7 at noon or June 13 at 6:30pm.

Register Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-of-the-municipal-guide-to-sustainable-planning-tickets-641459260917>

1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN WEBINAR SERIES

Want to learn more about community science and local sustainability? Join us for our **June webinar!** Guest speakers from the City of Sun Prairie and the Gratton Pollinator Lab at UW Madison will share about the No Mow May 2023 project, how it fits into Sun Prairie's sustainability goals, and an exciting app that anyone can use to contribute to pollinator data in Wisconsin.

Link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/yapxumu4>



Check out the WCT website! <https://wisconsinclimatetable.org>

DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

Tell **YOUR**
Penny-Smart & Earth-Wise Story
 Help nudge your school towards a Clean Energy Future

Students across the globe are helping to drive the clean energy and energy efficiency revolution. You can help your own school district to get involved.

This contest is sponsored by Iowa County Clean Local Energy Alliance – Now (CLEA-N), a project of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy and The Dodgeville Chronicle

In teams of 1-4 students create a compelling personal "story" through a presentation / display / demonstration or project to inspire your school district to develop a Clean Energy Transition Team.

Ask the following teacher for additional details and resources:

Clean Energy Transition Teams

are staff members, students and community advocates who:

- ✓ Find smart ways to reduce energy use and save school district dollars.
- ✓ Provide authentic learning opportunities for students in real-world issues.
- ✓ Help create a cleaner, more prosperous future for everyone.



CASH Awards

The top 3 entries in your school will win cash awards of:

- First Prize \$250
- Second Prize \$150
- Third Prize \$100

BONUS Awards - Awards will double (\$500, \$300 & \$200) if your school district actually creates a Clean Energy Transition Team.

And your district will receive a \$300 award to help launch the new team!

The First Prize winners in each of the 5 Iowa County High Schools will have their entries published in the *Dodgeville Chronicle*

Dozens of high school students in southwest Wisconsin jumped on the chance to learn how green practices at their school can also save some “green” for their school districts. These students entered the Penny-Smart & Earth-Wise Story contest sponsored by Iowa County Clean, Local Energy Alliance – Now! (CLEA-N), a project of **Driftless Area Land Conservancy**.

Students submitted entries promoting a “pet project” that would lower energy costs and fit well in their own school. Entries included composting, green roofs, solar and rain barrels to name just a few. CLEA-N awarded cash prizes for the projects judged to be among the best from each school.

The ultimate goal of this contest is to rally some of that youthful energy and enthusiasm to nudge school districts to increase their buildings’ energy efficiencies and to consider the benefits of adding solar. And we’re getting some results! Dodgeville and Mineral Point students are hosting “Penny-Wise Power Picnics” in their respective communities this summer to kick-start further work toward becoming Penny-Smart & Earth-Wise.

HEALTHY CLIMATE WISCONSIN

In a historic move, the **EPA is now asking for public feedback** on three important proposals: 1) carbon pollution safeguards on power plant emissions, 2) pollution safeguards on heavy-duty truck emissions, and 3) pollution safeguards on cars and light truck emissions. There is strong corporate opposition to these safeguards, so we must make our VOICES HEARD! The first comment period closes on June 16. So visit <https://www.wiclimatehealth.org/epa> to take action and help improve our public health and climate!



The 32nd annual Energy Fair is June 23-25 in Custer, WI! <https://www.theenergyfair.org>

The **Sierra Club** is sending a Van Galder motor coach bus to and from the MREA Energy Fair in Custer, WI on Saturday, June 24 as a means to promote mass transit and offer people a comfortable, low cost, low carbon way to get to the Energy Fair. The bus is open to anyone who wants to take it. The route starts in Middleton at 7 am and makes several stops in Madison before going to the Fair. It will return that evening getting back to Middleton before 10 pm. There is a \$5 fee.

Sign up for the bus here:
<https://tinyurl.com/murkxazv>

Check out the WCT website! <https://wisconsinclimatetable.org>

NOW HIRING

**350 WISCONSIN:
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**



350 Wisconsin is looking to hire an individual with excellent oral and written communication skills, a high level of attention to detail, and strong organizational abilities to join our fundraising and development team.

<https://jobs.smartrecruiters.com/350Wisconsin/743999907112625-development-manager>

**1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN:
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ANALYST**

1000 Friends of Wisconsin is hiring a Transportation Policy Analyst to plan and manage the organization's transportation program. For a full description visit the link below. Contact: Deb Nemeth dnemeth@1kfriends.org



**1000 FRIENDS
OF WISCONSIN**

<https://1kfriends.org/were-hiring-a-transportation-policy-analyst/>

**CALL FOR
SUBMISSIONS!**

Items for the July WCT newsletter should be submitted by Friday, June 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

"This morning the green fists of the peonies are getting ready to break my heart as the sun rises..."

-Mary Oliver, "Peonies"



Check out the WCT website! <https://wisconsinclimatetable.org>