

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2023, ISSUE 42



FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

"How can it be the end of July already?!" is a common refrain I hear these days, and I find myself asking the same question. While summer is a time for many people to slow down and relax, it feels like my work is just revving up.

Leadership Team members, Campaign co-chairs, and I have been hard at work putting together our application for the state collaboration grant from RE-AMP. (Thank you to everyone who filled out the membership survey! That feedback helps us inform the work ahead.) This grant funds all table operations, and without it, our work would be next to impossible. As we put together the narrative, I'm really impressed with what we've all managed to accomplish in the past year. If all goes well and our funding continues, we will build on the work. Great things lie ahead.

IN THIS ISSUE:

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

UPDATE FROM KEVIEA GUIDEN,
CCC PROJECT COORDINATOR

UPDATES & EVENTS FROM
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS &
OTHERS

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

CONTACT THE COORDINATOR:
SUSAN@1KFRIENDS.ORG



Project Coordinator Update

CCC Project Coordinator **Keveia Guiden** was recently quoted in a WPR story about the Public Service Commission looking into low-income assistance programs.

The PSC held listening sessions in Green Bay and Milwaukee in response to rate increases by We Energies.

Keveia spoke in support of PIPP - Percentage of Income Payment Program: "The Percentage of Income Payment Program is a program that leaves nobody behind. I believe PIPP has morals, it has respect and, most importantly, I think it gives families room to thrive."

[Read the full story here.](#)

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Community Commitments

Co-chair: Susan Gaeddert



The **Community Commitments Campaign** is looking for a new co-chair! Stephanie Robinson has shown incredible leadership over the past several years, but as she transitions into the co-director role at 350 Wisconsin, it is time for her to hand over CCC co-chair responsibilities to someone new. Over the next year, the Community Commitments Campaign plans to build out the Tool Kit for Equity & Justice in Climate Action Planning to include more materials for advocates, continue working with Keveia Guiden to make grassroots connections in Southeast Wisconsin, and collaborate with Keveia and others to collect stories of energy burden and climate impacts from around the state. We will also continue to connect with local governments to build capacity around climate action planning.

If you are interested in joining Susan Gaeddert as CCC co-chair, send an email to susan@1kfriends.org

Clean Energy Plan Campaign

Co-chairs: Montre Moore & Ted Kraig

The Clean Energy Plan Campaign is continuing to follow progress of the CEP. Co-chairs have begun a document to track initiatives as they are rolled out. They are also working on a meeting with officials from WisDOT to learn more about their plans for building EV charging stations.

If you would like to be included on the CEP Campaign email list, contact Ted Kraig: kraigt@weac.org.

Folks are furious – folks are being put in binds. When your income is only \$900 to \$1,500 a month, \$100 makes a difference, versus somebody who's making \$6,000 to \$10,000 a month."

-Keveia Guiden

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

RENEW WISCONSIN

Net Metering Update

Two proposals at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin will make investing in rooftop solar harder and more expensive by making significant changes to “net metering.” [Net metering is a utility billing policy that enables customers who generate electricity from their own solar systems to receive a bill credit for any energy they export to the grid.](#) According to Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), “traditional net energy metering (NEM) is fundamentally a bill credit that represents the full retail value of distributed electricity delivered to the distribution system and has been a critical policy for valuing and enabling distributed generation.” This arrangement encourages residential and business customers to invest in solar power, reducing carbon emissions and providing substantial economic benefits to their neighbors and communities.

Wisconsin Power and Light (Alliant) proposes a drastic overhaul to net metering with a complicated set of charges and credits that are subject to change. Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) proposes to eliminate net metering altogether.

[Join RENEW Wisconsin for a webinar on Wednesday, August 16th](#), to learn more about how you can help defend net metering in Wisconsin.



A group of people gather by tiny houses with solar panels. Photo by Heather Allen.

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*Net metering...has
been a critical
policy for valuing
and enabling
distributed
generation."*

*-Solar Energy
Industries
Association (SEIA)*

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MILWAUKEE WATER COMMONS

9th Annual We Are Water Celebration

WHEN: Sunday, August 13th, 6 - 9 pm

WHERE: South Shore Park Beach,
2900 South Shore Drive, Milwaukee,
WI 53207

WHO: Free and open to people of all ages.

Milwaukee Water Commons is hosting the 9th annual We Are Water Celebration. Join us at South Shore Park Beach for an evening of art activities, music, and community in celebration of our unique place on the Great Lakes. At dusk, together we'll create an illuminated art installation on the beach. Don't miss this unique event!

Visit our website for more information:

www.milwaukeewatercommons.org/we-are-water

9TH ANNUAL SOMOSAGUA • MNIWICONI WE ARE WATER

FREE & FAMILY FRIENDLY

A CULTURAL CELEBRATION OF MILWAUKEE'S WATERS

6 - 9 PM SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH

SOUTH SHORE PARK BEACH
2900 S. SHORE DRIVE, MILWAUKEE, WI

It's time to celebrate the gift of water! Join us for free family friendly art activities, drumming, a program to thank the water, followed by a participatory illuminated installation on the beach.

Learn about work being done to restore our waters, keep our waterways and drinking water safe and healthy, and how to stay safe on the beach!

We take care of the water; the water takes care of us!

- We encourage biking or walking to this event.
- Parking available along Shore Drive or in neighborhoods near the park.
- Accessible parking available near the pavilion.
- Plan to walk in and sit on sand. Please bring a blanket or chair.
- Restrooms located in the Park Pavilion and near the fish cleaning station.
- Beverages and food available at the South Shore Terrace Beer Garden.
- Bring an unbreakable, refillable water bottle.

Milwaukee Water Commons
milwaukeewatercommons.org

Voices

WATERWAY RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS
Noise permit by:
City of Milwaukee
Department of
Neighborhood Services
414-286-3260

WISCONSIN GREEN MUSLIMS



Here is a statement by environmental justice organizations on the **National Symposium on Climate Justice and Carbon Management** held at the Wingspread Center in Racine, Wisconsin, June 2023, hosted by GreenLatinos, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Institute for Carbon Removal Law and Policy at American University's School of International Service, and the New York Community Trust.

Huda Alkaff, Founder and Director, **Wisconsin Green Muslims**, was among the attendees and signatories on this statement. "We came as diverse groups representing environmental justice organizations to engage in productive dialogue on the climate and environmental justice implications, questions, and concerns related to carbon management strategies currently being funded and promoted by the federal government and industries."

[Read the entire statement here.](#)

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

1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

1000 Friends of Wisconsin is excited to announce that the [Community Transportation Academy](#) is coming to Stevens Point in Fall 2023! The Academy is a FREE 10-week course open to anyone who wants to learn about local transportation planning so they can be a more effective advocate for transportation networks that truly work for everyone.



APPLY TODAY!



1kfriends.org

SOLAR EVENTS AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) \$7 billion [Solar for All grant competition](#) is now open for applications! The competition will fund projects that increase access to residential solar energy for households in low-income and disadvantaged communities, helping to cut home energy bills and provide families with resilient and secure power.

To compete in this competition, all applicants are required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) by the following deadlines:

- July 31, 2023, for states, DC, and PR;
 - August 14, 2023, for territories, municipalities, and eligible nonprofit recipients; or
 - August 28, 2023, for Tribal governments and Intertribal Consortia.
- Applications are due on September 26, 2023!

The **Couillard Solar Foundation** will be co-hosting a 'Sustain All Around Dane County' event with **Sustain Dane** in Deerfield WI on Aug 24th.

Guests will hear from a number of stakeholders in Deerfield regarding solar and sustainability efforts, including Village Administration about Village solar projects, Deerfield School Administrators talking about Deerfield Solar on School, and Deerfield residents and small businesses and their projects. The theme of the event is 'Energizing Small Communities'.

Details

Date: Aug 24th

Time: 6:30-8pm

Location: Solar Pergola behind 10 Liberty St's Commercial Unit, Deerfield WI 53531

Rain location: the Community Center (next door to Solar Pergola)

Hosts: Couillard Solar Foundation and Sustain Dane

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



From the Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC):

In response to the national movement to protect mature and old-growth forests, the Biden administration opened an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to invite suggestions on how the US Forest Service should respond.

The national campaign sought to submit 500,000 comments in support of a permanent rule protecting mature and old-growth forests from logging on USFS and BLM lands. **This is very important in Wisconsin where the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest continues to log mature stands in defiance of President Biden's conservation policies.**

The comment period closed on July 20, 2023, with over half a million people from every age group and corner of the country calling for a lasting, durable rule that would protect mature and old-growth trees and forests from logging as a cornerstone of U.S. climate policy.

While the comment period is closed, there are still ways you can help. Visit the website to learn more: <https://www.climate-forests.org/take-action>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Items for the September WCT newsletter should be submitted by end of day **Friday, September 8.**

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

*"If you were a bird, and
lived on high,
You'd lean on the wind
when the wind came by
You'd say to the wind
when it took you away:
'That's where I wanted
to go today!'"*



- A.A. Milne

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