

# WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2024, ISSUE 49

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*BLUEBELLS EMERGING IN THE WOODS  
PHOTO BY SUSAN GAEDDERT*

## FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Earlier this week I had a conversation with Melissa Gavin from RE-AMP, a midpoint check-in for the state collaboration grant. The \$55,000 we were awarded from RE-AMP in 2023 funds *all* Climate Table operations for an *entire year*. It's not a lot of money, and yet it's remarkable what we've been able to accomplish with creative use of shared resources and collective knowledge. Of course the work is ongoing, but we have a lot to be proud of.

We are gearing up for our [annual meeting](#) on Friday, May 3 at the Slipstream Inc. HQ in Madison! This is open to all full and allied member organizations in the Climate Table. Multiple representatives are welcome. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attend, and some funding is available for stipends. [RSVP here.](#)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

RSVP NOW FOR THE FULL TABLE MEETING IN MADISON ON FRIDAY, MAY 3

MEMBER NEWS

JOB POSTINGS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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### CURRENT LEADERSHIP TEAM:

ANDREW BUTTS, GREEN NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE

LIZZIE CONDON, WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF ARTS, LETTERS & SCIENCES

ROBIN LISOWSKI, SLIPSTREAM

WE HAVE OPENINGS ON THE LEADERSHIP TEAM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING, CONTACT SUSAN.

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CONTACT THE COORDINATOR:  
SUSAN@1KFRIENDS.ORG

# Wisconsin Climate Table Annual Meeting

**MAY 3, 2024 | 10-3**

**SLIPSTREAM HQ  
431 CATALYST WAY  
MADISON WI 53719**

AGENDA:

WCT Campaign Updates  
Presentation from OSCE  
Member Updates  
Table Business

*Breakfast & lunch provided  
Some funding available for stipends*

RSVP by April 19

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## Leadership Team Elections

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The **WCT Leadership Team (LT)** has two open positions beginning May 2024. Every full member of the Climate Table is eligible to serve. The LT meets 1-2x/month as needed and support the Coordinator in running table operations. Join Andrew Butts (Green Neighbor Challenge), Lizzie Condon (Wisconsin Academy), and Robin Lisowski (Slipstream). The time commitment is very managable, and LT members receive a stipend for their service. Elections will be held the week after the annual meeting on May 3.

Interested? Contact Susan [susan@1kfriends.org](mailto:susan@1kfriends.org) to get on the ballot!

## ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The **Department of Energy (DOE)** opened the \$40 million [Training for Residential Energy Contractors \(TREC\) program](#) on March 29th. The TREC program aims to “reduce the cost of training, testing, and certifying residential energy efficiency and electrification contractors.” The program awards funds for states to train small contractors and implement workforce development programs related to residential clean energy and energy efficiency. Letters of intent are due May 9, 2024, and full applications are due July 12, 2024.

On April 4th, the **EPA** also announced the recipients of [\\$20 million in clean energy financing](#) for low-income and disadvantaged communities. The funds come from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), which acts as a national green bank established by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The eight recipients will redistribute funds in the form of grants, low interest loans, or through other mechanisms. The funding announced is split into two GGRF funds:

- A \$14 billion [National Clean Investment Fund](#) to establish national clean financing institutions that deliver accessible, affordable financing for clean technology projects nationwide and adhere to Justice40 requirements.
- A \$6 billion [Clean Communities Investment Accelerator](#) to provide funding and technical assistance to community lenders specifically working in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

## WCT MEMBER UPDATES

### Wisconsin Academy

One night only - storytellers from around Wisconsin will gather to share stories about how climate change has affected their lives, how they have coped, and what they’re doing about it. Stories may range from one-time encounters with the effects of climate change, to careers dedicated to fighting for a safe and sustainable environmental future. Come celebrate Earth Day with the [Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters](#) by joining the conversation and holding space for the kind of stories that inspire people to act.

Register today at:

<https://www.wisconsinacademy.org/evenings/climate-change-story-slam>

[Climate Change Story Slam](#) is a part of [Bloom: a season of poetry](#), a series of poetry events in early 2024 connecting and celebrating literary Wisconsin.

Another event in Bloom features **United States Poet Laureate Ada Limón**. Learn more about Poetry and the Natural World and join the Academy on May 23 by registering at:

<https://www.wisconsinacademy.org/evenings/poetry-and-natural-world>



# WCT MEMBER UPDATES

## ENERGY SECRETARY GRANHOLM VISITS WISCONSIN

**Slipstream** and others attended a gathering with Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm entitled A New Industrial Revolution for Clean Energy. Secretary Granholm spent about an hour with attendees and mixed in some storytelling with an overall message about jobs and the economy more broadly. Granholm touted reduced inflation, reduced unemployment, grants from BIL, IRA, and CHIPS pulled in by Wisconsin, saying, “Policy works—who knew?” with a wink.



Secretary Granholm delivered remarks at the Discovery World Pavilion in Milwaukee March 27, after visiting with community leaders in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood. The following day Secretary Granholm met with state and local government representatives and other leaders in Madison and toured an all-electric home.



### EL DIA DE LA TIERRA BILINGUAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FAIR ENGLISH AND SPANISH

**APRIL 20  
2024**



**ELVER PARK**  
1250 MCKENNA BLVD, MADISON, WI 53719  
**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**FAMILY EVENT**

**FIND IDEAS AND RESOURCES TO REDUCE POLLUTION AND  
CARBON EMISSIONS**

**INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS**

**FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION  
SPONSORED BY URT SOLUTIONS**

**INFO AT [WWW.WISCONSINECOLATINOS.ORG](http://WWW.WISCONSINECOLATINOS.ORG)**




The fair will include participation from several organizations, including Renew Wisconsin, UW Extension, DNR Wildlife, DNR e-cycling, Ripple Effect, Saltwise, Center for Limnology, Urban Tree Alliance, Conservation Voters, Sustain Dane, Sierra Club, REAP, and the Trash Lab.

## Wisconsin Ecolatinos

Wisconsin Ecolatinos invites the community to celebrate Earth Day at the Bilingual Conservation Fair, El Dia de la Tierra, on April 20th, 2024, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Elver Park. The fair will bring together various organizations to provide information on a wide range of environmental conservation and sustainability topics. The family-friendly event will feature translation assistance into Spanish. The event will also host an electronics recycling collection point, courtesy of URT Solutions.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.wisconsinocolatinos.org](http://www.wisconsinocolatinos.org) or contact us at [info@wisconsinocolatinos.org](mailto:info@wisconsinocolatinos.org).

# WCT MEMBER UPDATES



APRIL 27 10AM WAUSAU

THE 2024 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Sponsored by Citizens' Climate Lobby NAOMI

LOCATION: BROCKMEYER PARK, 4200 STETTIN DRIVE, WAUSAU

This Earth Day we celebrate our wonderful, nurturing planet and the diversity of life it so lavishly supports. No matter our cultural background, no matter our politics, no matter our spiritual preferences we come together as a community united in our reverence for our home amidst the stars. We will plant trees, we will form a Talking Circle to express our environmental concerns and to celebrate our own amazing diversity.

*All are welcome, there is no charge.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Dan Barth  
Phone: 715-630-1949  
Email: [dmbarth57@gmail.com](mailto:dmbarth57@gmail.com)

The energy of Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson's environmental spirit burns brightly around the world each Earth Day. His vision of a world with clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and healthy, clean soil to grow our food in had been inspired by critical shorelands clogged by oil spills, cities with air darkened by smog, rivers so tainted they caught fire and burned, and farmland poisoned by pesticides. That first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, united both Democrats and Republicans, city folk and country folk, rich and poor, business and industry in a rare, common commitment to take better care of this planet we so depend on.

This year, thanks to the **Citizen's Climate Lobby**, **NAOMI** and the Parks Department, we will celebrate Earth Day in Wausau for the eighth year in a row with a tree planting ceremony and a Talking Circle at 10 on Saturday morning, April 27 in Brockmeyer Park.

Since the unity of that first Earth Day we have become a much more polarized country. For that reason we strive to make our Earth Day a celebration of inclusion with tree planting teams made up from our proud diversity. All are welcome to attend.

## Couillard Solar Foundation Events

### Solar and Managing Your Prairie Plants

Friday, April 26, 2024 4:30pm-6:30pm  
10/1 N Industrial Park Rd, Deerfield, WI 53531

Participants will learn how to prepare prairie plantings for spring and learn about pollinators in and around the solar array. You don't have to own a prairie to have prairie plants! Refreshments will focus on items that are only possible through pollinators. Bring gloves, garden clippers and a folding chair or blanket. Food and drinks available. This event is free and open to the public.

Event Website:

<https://couillardsolarfoundation.org/csf-solar-series/>



Solstock Music Festival

Date: Friday, May 31, 2024  
Time: 3:30-9pm  
Location: 10 Liberty Street, Deerfield, WI  
[www.CouillardSolarFoundation.org/csf-fundraiser-concert/](http://www.CouillardSolarFoundation.org/csf-fundraiser-concert/)

A celebration of community power, the sun's rays, music and good company. All are welcome! Bring a reusable water bottle and camping utensils. This is a zero waste event. Cash accepted for all activities, food, raffles.

# WCT MEMBER UPDATES

## US Green Building Council

Join [USGBC Wisconsin](#) April 30-May 1 in Saint Paul, Minnesota for the **2024 USGBC IMPACT Conference**. Drawing hundreds of professionals from across the Midwest, this annual event convenes sustainability and building industry leaders to transform the market and address today's most pressing climate issues. We are pleased to announce that our opening keynote on May 1 will be [Jessica Davis](#), Associate Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer at Indiana University. Davis will share her journey scaling solutions from her time leading sustainability efforts at a single campus to catapulting into the national spotlight, including March Madness, College Football Playoffs, and a university spanning seven campuses and nearly 36 million square feet. [Learn more.](#)



## USGBC Building Transformation Forum



Discover the financial and market landscape shaping the future of sustainable building. Join us as industry leaders unravel the intricacies of green finance and ESG principles. Through insightful presentations and engaging roundtable discussions, explore the impact of LEED, market trends, and the significance of green finance in Wisconsin. Whether you're a seasoned professional or new to sustainable building, this event offers valuable insights and networking opportunities to navigate the evolving world of green finance. Be part of the conversation driving positive change in the building industry. [Learn more.](#)

LEED V5

The next step for the **LEED rating systems** is public comment, open April 3–May 20, when we share the rating system drafts with the entire community of built environment stakeholders. These drafts, which include LEED for Building Design and Construction (BD+C), LEED for Interior Design and Construction (ID+C), and LEED for Operations and Maintenance (O+M), are the result of countless hours from both staff and our deeply knowledgeable LEED volunteers. Please read the drafts and share your thoughts!

# WCT MEMBER UPDATES

## Wisconsin Green Muslims

**Housing Types and Upgrade Options**  
Weatherization and electrification upgrade packages are estimated for single-family homes, small multi-unit homes (2-4 units), and large multi-unit homes (5+ units).<sup>1</sup> Upgrades span equipment updates and, depending on the household, updates to the building envelope. Upgrades depend on many variables, including housing vintage and current fuel type.

**Mobile Homes**  
There are over 60,000 mobile homes in Wisconsin, over 40% of which earn less than 200% of FPL.<sup>2</sup> Though mobile homes are an essential part of the Wisconsin residential sector, cost estimates for these homes are beyond the scope of this study.

**Total Electrification and Weatherization Costs**

Residential Housing	Total WI Population	Up to 200% FPL
Single Family Home ("Single")	\$104 billion	\$18.9 billion
Small Multi-Unit (2-4 Units) ("Small MU")	\$11.9 billion	\$4.65 billion
Large Multi-Unit (5+ Units) ("Large MU")	\$5.73 billion	\$2.45 billion
	<b>\$121.6 billion*</b>	<b>\$26.0 billion</b>

Total costs for analyzed housing types. Equipment-only upgrades and any upgrades for mobile homes are not included in these totals.

**Share of total electrification and weatherization costs by housing type**

Housing Type	Total WI Population	Up to 200% FPL
Single	86%	72.7%
Small MU	9.3%	17.9%
Large MU	4.8%	9.4%

**Recommendations**

- Costs associated with electrification and weatherization upgrades are significant and Wisconsin needs a plan to electrify residential homes to meet near fully and long-term decarbonization goals.
- Financing tools and electrification policy included in the Clean Energy Plan need to ensure adequate public funding for equitable residential electrification and weatherization or risk exacerbating existing housing and energy inequities.

1 ABC Market Guidance for Zero-carbon Aligned Residential Buildings.  
2 U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Energy.  
3 The M.I.C. Report estimated that it would cost \$75.6 Billion to upgrade all Michigan homes. Possible reasons for the increased cost in Wisconsin include more expensive weatherization costs, more homes in a cooler climate, and more expensive upgrade options in the ABC Market Guidance tool as compared to the original methods.  
Info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org WisconsinGreenMuslims.org

**Home Electrification and Weatherization in Wisconsin**

In 2022, Wisconsin published its "Clean Energy Plan", detailing pathways for the state to move to a more just, equitable energy future. One of four key strategies is the modernization of buildings and industry, including support for electrification and increased funding.<sup>1</sup> In 2023, the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC) published "Gas to Electric: Equitable Home Electrification Policy in Michigan", which estimates costs associated with residential electrification and weatherization.<sup>2</sup> With support from the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, Wisconsin Green Muslims developed this document to estimate electrification and weatherization costs for Wisconsin households.

**Weatherization and Heating Electrification**  
The residential sector accounts for 24% of total state energy consumption in Wisconsin.<sup>3</sup> Electrification refers to converting home appliances or technologies for heating water and space to those powered by electricity, as opposed to fossil fuels. Weatherization improves a home's efficiency by protecting it from weather conditions and ensuring it retains heat in the winter and cool air in the summer. Both electrification and weatherization of residential buildings are important strategies for decarbonization and reducing household utility bills.

**Equity and Justice**  
Though residential decarbonization is essential for Wisconsin to meet its broader climate goals, upgrade costs will be beyond the budget for many households. Additionally, disproportionate energy burdens already exist in the State. A Milwaukee-focused study found that the energy burden, or percent of household income dedicated to energy costs, of households in predominantly Black and Hispanic/Latinx households is nearly double that of predominantly white neighborhoods.<sup>4</sup> As an important objective of the Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan is to reduce "the disproportionate impacts of energy generation and use on low-income communities and communities of color", existing energy burdens and the impact of upgrade costs on Wisconsin households should be anticipated.<sup>5</sup>

**Methods**  
Cost estimates for the state of Wisconsin are based on the methods defined in the MEJC Report. This analysis used the Advanced Building Construction (ABC) Market Guidance for Zero-carbon Aligned Residential Buildings tool, developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, for housing counts corresponding to respective upgrade options and associated costs. Due to data availability, upgrades for mobile homes and electrification-only upgrades for all housing types are out of scope. Costs for households that earn less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) are estimated to capture a portion of the Wisconsin population who would be particularly vulnerable to increases in energy costs.

1 State of Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan.  
2 Gas to Electric: Equitable Home Electrification Policy in Michigan.  
3 Wisconsin Energy Profile.  
4 Energy Burden in Milwaukee Study Reveals Major Disparities & Links to Racialized Access.  
5 State of Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan.  
Info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org WisconsinGreenMuslims.org

With support from the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, **Wisconsin Green Muslims** developed this document to estimate electrification and weatherization costs for Wisconsin households. The [Home Electrification and Weatherization in Wisconsin 2-pager can be found here.](#)



**“**Lead exposure through drinking water is one of the most solvable health crises of our time... Water is a healer in all its forms and it is up to us to ensure no one is left behind.**”**

HUDA ALKAFF  
WISCONSIN GREEN MUSLIMS  
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR



On 3/21/24, Huda Alkaff, founder and director, **Wisconsin Green Muslims** published an op-ed "Clean water is a basic human right. Yet many of us don't have it" at the [Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service.](#)

*“My community deserves the right to have a healthy, thriving future...Water is a healer in all its forms and it is up to us to ensure no one is left behind.”*



**Clean Wisconsin** is hiring a Green Infrastructure Associate (seasonal). [Click here for more details.](#)

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*“As an enthusiastic young PhD, colonized by the arrogance of science, I had been fooling myself that I was the only teacher. The land is the real teacher. All we need as students is mindfulness. Paying attention is a form of reciprocity with the living world, receiving the gifts with open eyes and open heart... A teacher comes, they say, when you are ready. And if you ignore its presence, it will speak to you more loudly. But you have to be quiet to hear.”*

*-Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass*



## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Items for the next WCT newsletter should be submitted by **May 10, 2024**.

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)

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