

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2024, ISSUE 51



IMAGE: WILDFLOWERS IN A PRAIRIE AT SUNSET

FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Earlier today I saw a post on social media that read, “Now that we’re 10 years into 2024, how are you doing?” It was apt. We are experiencing political whiplash and news that changes by the minute.

Not only that, but I am knee deep in writing the annual grant that funds Climate Table operations and preparing for the next round of WI CAN meetings at the end of July and early August in Stevens Point. Many Climate Table members will be attending and pitching ideas for project funding, as well as offering expertise to shape Wisconsin’s first statewide Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

Somehow, in the midst of all this, it’s reassuring that the sun continues to rise and set every single day. Remembering that keeps things in perspective, doesn’t it?

IN THIS ISSUE:

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

MEMBER NEWS

JOB POSTINGS & OTHER
OPPORTUNITIES

CURRENT LEADERSHIP TEAM:

ANDREW BUTTS, GREEN
NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE

LIZZIE CONDON, WISCONSIN
ACADEMY OF ARTS, LETTERS &
SCIENCES

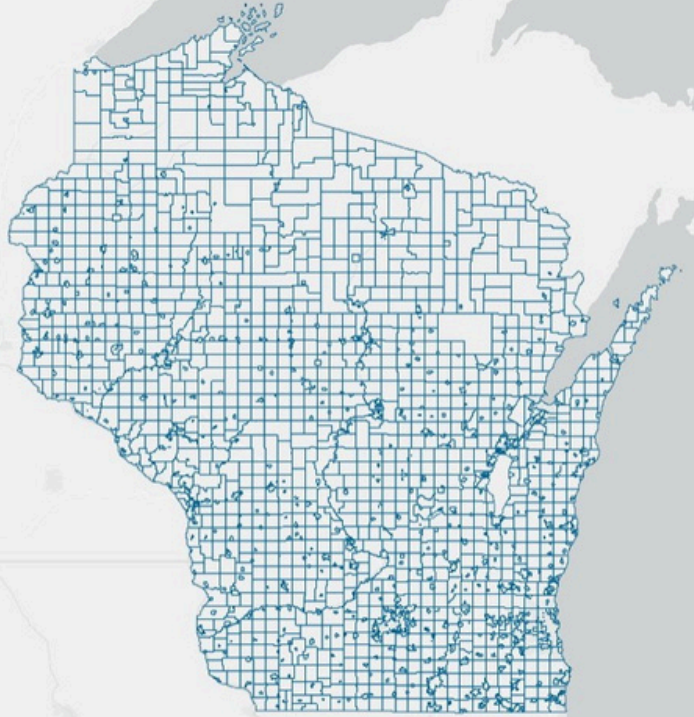
ROBIN LISOWSKI, SLIPSTREAM

ABBY NOVINSKA-LOIS, HEALTHY
CLIMATE WISCONSIN

JOANNA SALINAS, WAUKESHA
COUNTY GREEN TEAM

CONTACT THE COORDINATOR:
SUSAN@1KFRIENDS.ORG

The Wisconsin Climate Table is a network of more than 30 diverse member organizations from across Wisconsin working together for equitable solutions to the climate crisis. We share the common goal to equitably eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in Wisconsin by the year 2050.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS!

Two new member organizations have joined the Wisconsin Climate Table this summer!

The [American Lung Association](#) works nationwide to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. In Wisconsin, they are strengthening connections on the ground to oppose highway expansions and other projects to reduce air pollution. **Molly Collins** is the Advocacy Director for Wisconsin.

[Vernon County Energy District](#) (VCED) envisions all of Vernon County as an area of locally owned renewable energy production retaining energy dollars in Vernon County, by promoting the wise and efficient use of energy and encouraging the transition to locally owned and operated renewable energy sources. They offer energy coaching, energy home audits, energy monitor installations, and educational events. **Alan Buss** is the director of VCED.



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

WCT MEMBER UPDATES



Sierra Club WI, Healthy Climate WI, and others are hosting a **March for Democracy** at the Wisconsin State Capitol on August 6 from 4-6pm. [RSVP on Eventbrite here.](#) [View the event on Facebook here.](#) [Sign up as a sponsor here.](#)

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY Get-Out-The-Vote Campaign

Tens of thousands of Wisconsinites care about the environment but haven't always voted in recent elections. The Wisconsin Climate Voter Campaign aims to get more of them to the polls this year. The campaign, conducted by volunteers from Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), is reaching out to 30,000 would-be environmental voters via hand-written postcards and phone calls before the August 13 primary and the November 5 general election. The message: Your vote is needed. In keeping with CCL's nonpartisan stance, the campaign avoids telling people who to vote for.



More than 70 CCL volunteers from across the state participated in a March work party with breakout sessions on such topics as "courageous voter conversations," outreach to faith and student voters, and encouraging voter turnout through social and print media. The nationwide Environmental Voter Project identified the Wisconsinites who have known interests in environmental concerns but do not vote regularly. "We'll have an impact on people who are worried about democracy, the election, and the environment," says Wisconsin's CCL campaign coordinator Madeleine Para.

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

Driftless Area Land Conservancy's CLEA-N project has been working with Iowa County school district students to advocate for clean energy initiatives in their districts. With help from the **Midwest Renewable Energy Association's** Solar on Schools (SOS) project, two Iowa County schools now have a real shot at taking concrete steps toward a cleaner future.

This spring SOS sought out school districts that were actively looking for energy-savings opportunities. MPHS and DHS have environmental clubs doing just that. This prompted the SOS director to include their schools along with eight other schools in a grant application to the Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation.

WOEI funded the grant! All ten schools will now have comprehensive, professional energy assessments performed on their facilities. Using that data, the assessment team will coach the school staff and students on how to implement the most cost-effective ways to lower their energy use and to create a "Net Zero Pathway Plan."



"We are proud of our Earth-Wise Club students who have been actively supporting efforts toward greater energy efficiencies. Their advocacy was instrumental in getting MPHS included in this grant."

-Aaron Dunn, Mineral Point School Board President

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

HEALTHY CLIMATE WISCONSIN



Join us rain or shine for an unforgettable celebration at the [Concert for Clean Air!](#) This special event brings together health professionals, community advocates, and music lovers to celebrate the incredible work being done to ensure clean air for all Wisconsin communities.

Live Music: Enjoy fantastic music sets from the talented Novel Folly and Lone Canary. Their melodies are sure to lift your spirits and get your feet moving!

Inspiring Stories: During set breaks, hear powerful stories from health professionals who are at the forefront of the fight for clean air.

Delicious Food: Savor a tasty treat from a food truck, restaurants connected to the venue, or bring a picnic.

Interactive Booths: Explore informative and engaging booths, meet advocates, and learn about how to get involved.

Entry: Free! Donations are encouraged to support our clean air initiatives.

Weather: No need to worry about rain—we've got you covered! The event will go on rain or shine with a large tent available for shelter.

US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

[USGBC Building Transformation Forum: Ecological Conservation & Restoration](#)

August 14, 2024 | Wauwatosa, WI

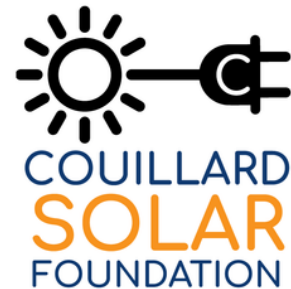
**USGBC Building
Transformation
Forum**

Ecological conservation and restoration are crucial in shaping sustainable buildings and communities. In LEED v5, these factors account for 25% of the rating points. This forum will explore the dual LEED and SITES certification strategy at Innovation One. Join us for tours and to learn how this work highlights the interconnectedness of ecological systems and human-built environments, minimizing harm while promoting restoration and biodiversity conservation.

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

COUILLARD SOLAR FOUNDATION

Break out the snacks and the overnight bag for a fun event celebrating EVs and Wisconsin. The **Couillard Solar Foundation** has partnered with the **Wisconsin EV Association** on their first annual WI EV Road Trip. This event goes from Friday, August 9 at 8am to Saturday, August 10. Open to EVs of all sorts (sorry, no hybrids on this trip), you'll travel around the state, starting in Madison and traveling around the Southeast side of Wisconsin to Wausau on the first leg of the trip, and then visiting the Western half of the state on the second day, finishing up with a celebratory reception at the CSF offices in Deerfield.



Visit <https://www.wisconsinroadtrip.org/> to learn more and register for this cool event. Funds raised from this road trip experience go to support the work of the WI EV Association, whose mission is to increase visibility and awareness about EVs in Wisconsin, including scholarships for EV technology training, grants to help with the installation of EV chargers and future events/car shows featuring EVs. Even if you aren't able to participate in the Road Trip, you're welcome to come to the finish line reception at the Couillard Solar Foundation offices, to learn more about this organization and what's currently being done to make it easier to use EVs in Wisconsin. For more information about this and other CSF Solar Series, go to www.CouillardSolarFoundation.org/csf-solar-series or contact us at info@CouillardSolarFoundation.org.

WISCONSIN ACADEMY



Registration is open for [Climate Fast Forward!](#) This is the only statewide climate change action conference in Wisconsin that covers a wide range of climate change impacts and solutions. Building on the successful 2019 and 2022 conferences, the [Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters](#) and presenting sponsor, [American Family Insurance Institute for Corporate and Social Impact](#) will host the third Climate Fast Forward conference in 2024.

Now a two-day conference, attendees will be able to attend skills-based workshops, participate in collaborative spaces, and hear from engaging plenary speakers.

Held in Rothschild, Wisconsin, **Climate Fast Forward 2024** will bring together changemakers, including seasoned professionals, new voices, and diverse audiences representative of the Wisconsin people who are and will continue to be most impacted by the effects of climate change. [Learn more about the conference by viewing the agenda and purchase a ticket at this link.](#)

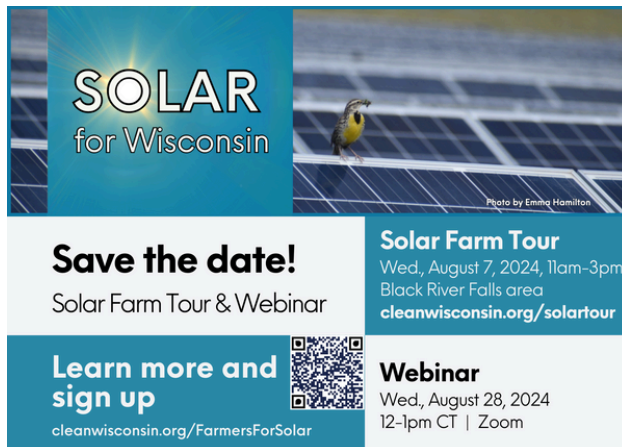
During this two-day conference attendees will be able to: attend skills-based workshops, participate in collaborative spaces, hear from engaging plenary speakers, engage with interactive art displays.

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

CLEAN WISCONSIN

Farmers for Solar Tour

Please join us on Wednesday, August 7th from 11am-3pm for an up-close tour of two Wisconsin solar projects in Black River Falls. Farmers, rural landowners, and others interested in learning more about solar will have the rare chance to visit established solar projects, observe how solar panels are integrated into the landscape with pollinator habitat and sheep grazing, and learn about solar from fellow Wisconsinites. The tour includes a free lunch and bus between the two sites (15-minute ride). Registrants will receive the exact address and schedule prior to the event. Please contact Catie DeMets at catie@rtcinfo.org or Chelsea Chandler at cchandler@cleanwisconsin.org with any questions about the tour. [Register here.](#)



SOLAR
for Wisconsin

Photo by Emma Hamilton

Save the date!
Solar Farm Tour & Webinar

Solar Farm Tour
Wed, August 7, 2024, 11am-3pm
Black River Falls area
cleanwisconsin.org/solartour

Learn more and sign up
cleanwisconsin.org/FarmersForSolar

Webinar
Wed, August 28, 2024
12-1pm CT | Zoom

Farmers for Solar Webinar

Please join us for a virtual webinar on Wednesday, August 28 from 12-1pm to learn more about how to support solar energy in Wisconsin! This informational session will review how to submit a public comment on a proposed solar project through the Public Service Commission website, tips for writing a compelling op-ed in your local paper, what the data shows about sharing information on social media, and more. [Register here.](#)

MILWAUKEE WATER COMMONS



10th Annual
Beachfront Celebration of
Milwaukee's Waters

**SOMOS'AGUA
WE'RE
WATER
MNI.WICONI**

Drumming & Dancing
with Ko-thi & Panadanza
Art Activities
Interactive
Displays

FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY

McKinley Beach
Sunday, August 11th
5-9 pm

Plan to be on the sand.
Bring a chair, a picnic or
visit one of the local park
vendors and join us!

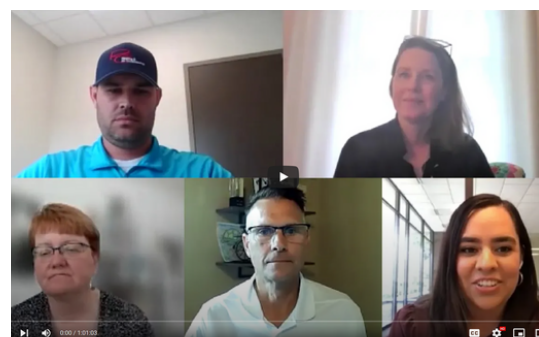
Milwaukee
Water Commons
milwaukeewatercommons.org

Photos: Joe Brusky

ELEVATE

Did you miss the heatpump webinar? Watch the replay to learn about heat pump adoption in Wisconsin, the latest residential heat pump technology, and how to reach and engage #contractors and promote #sustainable energy in Wisconsin communities.

[Watch here!](#)



WCT MEMBER UPDATES

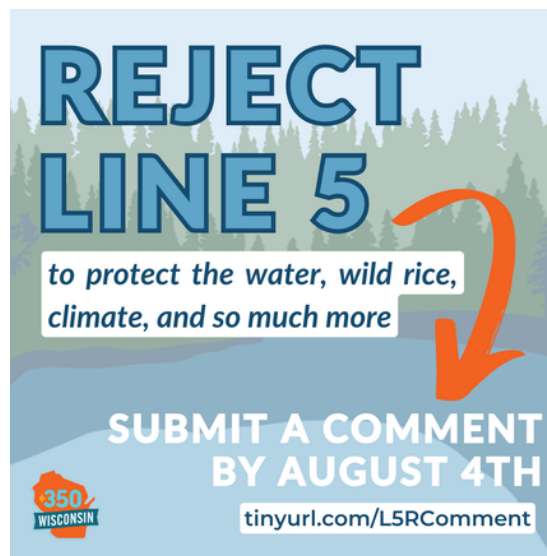
LINE 5 UPDATES FROM SIERRA CLUB & 350 WISCONSIN



President Biden's Army Corps of Engineers is taking public input on their environmental review of Enbridge's proposed Line 5 reroute – and it needs some major adjustments. Please send a comment to the corps asking for a full review and recommending permit denial and encourage your members to do the same! [Use our sample comment to take action in two minutes.](#)

You can learn more and create your own through our [toolkit](#). The toolkit provides background information, suggested talking points, social media posts, sign ups for materials and more. The deadline is August 4th.

Right now, we have a significant opportunity to make our voices heard in the fight against Line 5 as the U.S. Army Corps takes public input through August 4th. This dangerous pipeline continues to be a significant threat in northern Wisconsin, as Enbridge, the multibillion-dollar Canadian corporation that owns the line, refuses to stop its illegal operation, and instead, tries to expand it. For them, this keeps the profits flowing. For the rest of us, it puts irreplaceable ecosystems and life-sustaining water at risk of a wholly devastating oil spill.



The bottom line is that this reroute project is not a solution. Investing in this risky pipeline will prolong our fossil fuel reliance decades into the future, exacerbating the climate crisis and putting us even further behind, and the 23 million gallons of crude oil and gas it carries every day will continue to threaten the entire region. The future of the Great Lakes, and everything that depends on them, is at stake. Will you join us in sending the Corps a personal message telling them to reject the permit for the Line 5 expansion?

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

WISCONSIN GREEN MUSLIMS

Huda Alkaff and Wisconsin Green Muslims were mentioned in a 7/2/24 Midwest Energy News article [Counting Trucks, demanding change](#).

Reducing heavy-duty truck emissions has long been a focus for the Clean Air for the Long Haul, a national coalition of environmental justice groups including the Wisconsin Green Muslims, South Bronx Unite, the Green Door Initiative in Detroit, WE-ACT for Environmental Justice, and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.

New Resources

New video!

The [We live here, we breathe here](#) new video featuring South Bronx Unite (NY), Green Door Initiative (MI), and Wisconsin Green Muslims (WI) is live!

Air Pollution Storymap ([click here](#))

Wisconsin Green Muslims has organized several in-person and virtual events for community members to talk with state and local officials about truck emissions to help advocate for electrification and pollution mitigation.

“Learning from each other, that’s our power.”

-Huda Alkaff

EXCLUSIVE

A NEW NATIONAL CLEAN AIR STORY MAP!

Keeping tabs on air pollution in your neighborhoods is the first step to **understanding how poor air quality impacts communities of color**. Learn about some of the most important air quality issues across the country in our **NEW interactive story map**.

DARE TO BREATHE OUR RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR MEXICO

CAMPAIGN BY CLEAN AIR FOR THE LONG HAUL

WCT MEMBER UPDATES



NOW HIRING

[Clean Wisconsin is hiring!](#) Do you have a passion for renewable energy and building community support for new, large-scale solar and wind projects? We're looking for someone to engage with rural communities to understand their concerns and share reliable information about the benefits of these types of projects. If that sounds like you, consider applying for our new Rural Energy Campaign Manager position! Submit a cover letter and resume to hiring@cleanwisconsin.org by August 15 for best consideration.

[1000 Friends is hiring!](#) Long-time staff member and current Executive Director, Deb Nemeth, will step down from her position at the end of this year. Our next Executive Director (ED) will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for 1000 Friends of Wisconsin's programs and execution of its mission.

"It has been an honor for me to collaborate with so many amazing organizations and government electeds and employees."

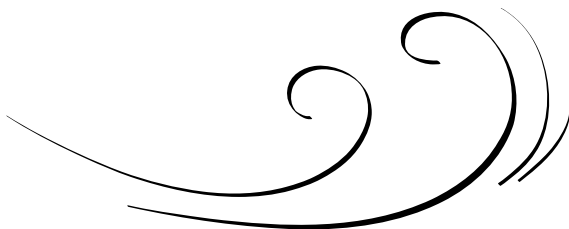


Image: Lighthouse in off the shore of Lake Michigan in Kenosha, WI

*Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang
trembling,
the wind is passing
through.*

*Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow
down their heads,
The wind is passing by.*

-Christina Rossetti (1893)



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

*Items for the next WCT
newsletter should be submitted
by **September 6, 2024.***

*Submit 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.*

*Use [this form](#) or email all
information to:
susan@1kfriends.org*

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