

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024, ISSUE 52



IMAGE: MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN LA CROSSE, WI

FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Fall is upon us! Is that familiar chill in the air just the weather? Or is it the election looming?

In all seriousness, the 2024 election is causing a lot of anxiety. Climate change is affecting all of us. Everyone should be involved in finding solutions to this crisis, no matter their political leanings, but of course that is not the case. Even when there's good news, like unprecedented federal funding to address climate change, it can take a long time to get that money to communities who need it most.

And so, we continue the work.

I have a lot of news to share in this issue, so buckle in. RE-AMP announced the awardees for the State Collaboration Grants. The projects funded through the CEP campaign are ready to share. We have a couple of full table meetings coming up. Read on to learn more!

IN THIS ISSUE:

GRANT UPDATE

WI CAN

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

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE AWARDED GRANT FROM RE-AMP

The Wisconsin Climate Table has been awarded a State Collaboration Grant from the [RE-AMP network](#) in the amount of \$55,000 to fund operations over the next year. This is the full amount we requested! This grant supports the Coordinator, Project Coordinator, leadership stipends, campaigns, and in-person meetings. State Collaboration Grants are competitive. Thanks to the hard work of our members, especially those in leadership roles, our proposal was one of the strongest in the mix.

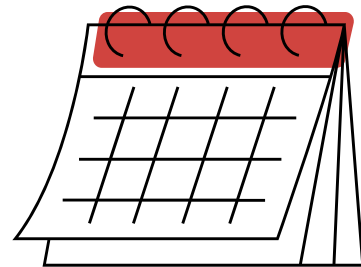


MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 | 9AM

This meeting will be held on Zoom.
It will be short and informational.

[Click here to register.](#)



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | ALL DAY

We will convene at [Nature at the Confluence](#) in South Beloit to share with each other, form a strategy for the year ahead, and hear about clean air initiatives in southern Wisconsin. Travel support is available. More details will be shared soon.



Image: Rock River in downtown Beloit

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

CEP CAMPAIGN GRANT PROJECTS

Early this year, the CEP Campaign awarded small grants to fund projects intended to boost statewide engagement around clean energy in Wisconsin. The projects from Green Neighbor Challenge and 350 Wisconsin are described below.



Green Neighbor Challenge: RECSI

Thanks to the \$9000 grant provided by WCT's Clean Energy Plan grant earlier this year, the [Rural Electric Coop Scorecarding Initiative \(RECSI\)](#) has officially published interactive cooperative scorecards. RECSI is a collaboration between North Dakota Native Vote, Dakota Resource Council, Prairie Rivers Network, Citizens Utility Board IL, and Green Neighbor Challenge. The scorecard currently covers WI, IL, ND, but our aim is to recruit organizations to help score coops across the entire Midwest. To learn more about the scorecard, or discuss ways you might leverage it in your work, feel free to reach out to Andrew Butts
(Andrew@GreenNeighborChallenge.org)

350 WISCONSIN: PSC TOOL KIT

350 Wisconsin created a tool kit to reduce barriers to participation at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) and facilitate achievement of Wisconsin's climate and clean energy goals. PSC decisions in the coming year will have implications for the state's progress on renewable energy, energy efficiency, curtailing the use of fossil fuels, and ensuring energy affordability for utility customers.

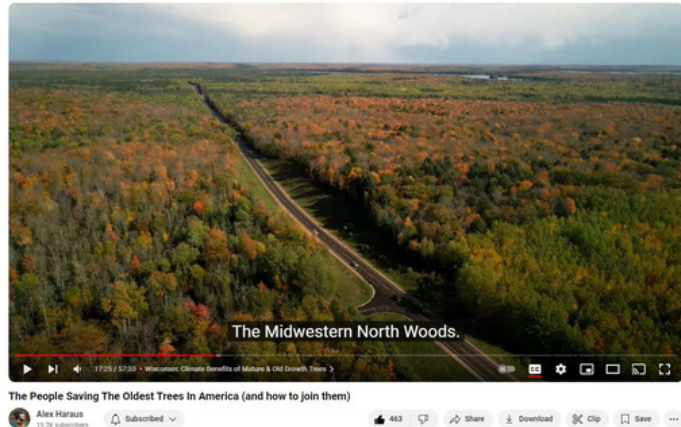
Currently, barriers to participating in PSC regulatory activities are high. Information is difficult to access, understand, and follow, timelines and comment periods are tight, and processes favor utilities and subject matter experts. A broad range of social and environmental justice organizations will find the materials useful and will share them with their constituents, to help dramatically increase public engagement across the state.

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

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER

In support of the drive to protect mature and old-growth forests, a **new documentary video** highlights logging in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest of Wisconsin's Northwoods. The Wisconsin portion begins around 17:00 and Wisconsin appears at various points in the video thereafter. This is focused on the Sunfish timber sale, where we documented logging of mature and old growth trees.



[Crown Jewels video: The People Saving The Oldest Trees In America \(and how to join them\).](#)

Please [sign the petition](#) in support of a strong National Old-Growth Forest Plan Amendment (NOGA)! Once you sign the petition, you can expand your thoughts and submit your own personalized letter to the U.S. Forest Service [you can do so on their website here.](#)

STATE SMART TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE: WEBINAR



ONLINE WEBINAR

State Support for Intercity Buses

Wednesday, September 25
12 PM CT | 1 PM ET

Dr. Joseph Schwieterman
The Chaddick Institute and DePaul University

Ben Gellman
Bustang Program Manager, Colorado Department of Transportation

The COVID-19 pandemic and changes in the business environment have led to a decline in intercity bus service in recent years. But with ridership projected to rebound and soon surpass pre-pandemic levels, state DOTs can play a role in expanding intercity bus service, a more environmentally friendly mode of transportation than solo vehicle travel that can provide enhanced mobility and connection between rural and urban areas.

Join us for this webinar with The Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development, which produces an annual report on the state of the intercity bus industry, and Colorado DOT, which manages the expanding Bustang system and Mobility Hub program, to learn about opportunities for state DOTs to become more involved in providing intercity and rural mobility in their states.

[Click here to register.](#)

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

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

FAITH IN PLACE

Join us for "Fall into Hope: Voter Fest 2024," an inspiring and interactive community gathering focused on mobilizing voices for a better democracy.

As part of our broader "Voter Empowerment Month" initiative, this event aims to promote voter registration, education, and engagement within our communities, mainly through faith-based outreach.

[Link to registration here.](#)



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.

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

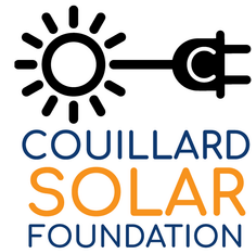
WCT MEMBER UPDATES

COUILLARD SOLAR FOUNDATION

[Coulliard Solar Foundation's 2024 Solar Series](#)

Emergency Preparedness and Taking Control of Your Energy Needs
- Tuesday, October 22, 3:30-5pm, MREA, Stevens Point, WI

Learn about the steps Portage County has taken to prepare for local emergencies, how solar resilience can help with recovery, and discuss what it takes to create an energy district in your county.



1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN IS HIRING



[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.

350 WISCONSIN

The public comment period is now open for the We Energies rate case, and we have until October 7th to make our voices heard! We need the PSC to reject We Energies' request, and take it a step further by reducing the amount they can profit from customer rates, and act quickly to implement and improve low-income assistance programs.

Ratepayers throughout We Energies' service territory – especially in Milwaukee – have been struggling with unaffordable energy bills for years. Keviea Guiden, Project Coordinator with the Wisconsin Climate Table and Energy Burden Organizer, has worked tirelessly to advocate for her community and [share their energy burden stories](#).

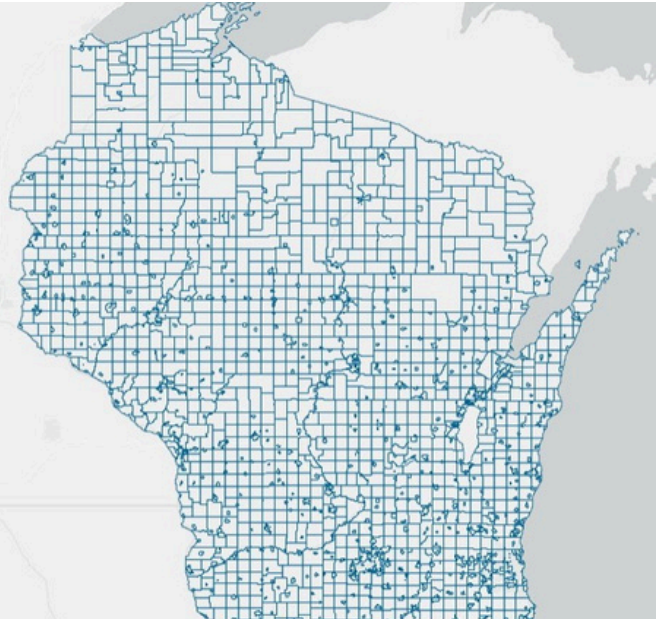
Submit a public comment to the PSC by the deadline on October 7th to demand the PSC hold We Energies accountable!

[Submit your comment](#)

[Check out 350 Wisconsin's blog post](#)

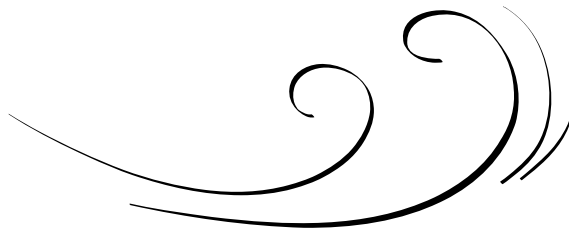
Check out the WCT website! <https://wisconsinclimatetable.org>

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.



Listen to the **MUSTN'TS**, child,
Listen to the **DON'TS**
Listen to the **SHOULDN'TS**
The **IMPOSSIBLES**, the **WON'TS**
Listen to the **NEVER HAVES**
Then listen close to me--
Anything can happen, child,
ANYTHING can be.

-Shel Silverstein



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Items for the next WCT newsletter should be submitted by **October 4, 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>