

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024, ISSUE 54



IMAGE: CRANES MIGRATING IN THE FALL

FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Election Day is November 5. If you are not registered to vote at your current address, you can register IN PERSON the day of the election! For more information about voting in Wisconsin, including how to register, how to find your polling place, what's on the ballot, and more, visit the [My Vote Wisconsin](#) website.

The Wisconsin Climate Table is a nonpartisan entity. We do not endorse any candidates or ballot questions.

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CURRENT LEADERSHIP TEAM:

ANDREW BUTTS, GREEN NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE

ROBIN LISOWSKI, SLIPSTREAM

ABBY NOVINSKA-LOIS, HEALTHY CLIMATE WISCONSIN

JOANNA SALINAS, WAUKESHA COUNTY GREEN TEAM

CONTACT THE COORDINATOR:
SUSAN@1KFRIENDS.ORG

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE FALL MEETING



Image: group gathering in the main indoor space

Our **fall meeting** took place at [Nature at the Confluence](#) in South Beloit, IL. Illinois?! Yes, that's right, we met in Illinois. (To be fair, you could see Wisconsin out the window.)

Why Beloit? As WCT Coordinator, I am committed to making sure the Climate Table represents the whole state of Wisconsin, so I try to find locations for in-person meetings in different cities that are still easily accessible by our membership. Beloit is one of the most racially and economically diverse cities in Wisconsin, but it is often overlooked because of its small size (the population is approximately 35,000) and proximity to Illinois. Additionally, I felt it was important to bring attention to environmental justice issues in Beloit.

We spent most of the day learning about projects and initiatives by Climate Table members and discussing different strategies for moving forward on climate action in Wisconsin. Most attendees took advantage of sunny, mild weather and made use of the beautiful outdoor facilities at the Center for their small group discussions.

Katelynn Samuelsen from the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy provided an

update on the state's first Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Funded by a \$3 million grant, the CCAP will include metrics and goals in a number of sectors and is due to the EPA at the end of 2025. Many Climate Table members are participating in stakeholder meetings and other engagement activities.

One of the day's highlights was the lunchtime speaker panel. **Betsy Brewer** (emeritus Beloit College, League of Women Voters), **Cristina Carvajal** (Wisconsin Ecolatinos), **Dr. Brittany Keyes** (Healthy Climate Wisconsin), and **Julie Uram** (Executive Director of Nature at the Confluence) shared about their work advocating for clean air and other sustainability initiatives in the Beloit area.



Image: Cristina Carvajal speaks to the group

In the midst of our collective anxiety about the upcoming election and ongoing climate crisis, it was both uplifting and rejuvenating to spend time together on the beautiful grounds of Nature at the Confluence.

Climate Table members can view slides, notes, and photos from the day's meeting [here](#).

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

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE WCT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The leadership team is seeking nominations for a 2-year position ending November 2026.

Nominations close Monday, November 18, with the election held immediately after.

If you want to nominate yourself or someone else, email susan@1kfriends.org directly.

Leadership team FAQs!

A graphic featuring a yellow speech bubble with the word "NOMINATIONS" in black capital letters. The speech bubble is surrounded by several small black triangles pointing outwards, and a black megaphone icon is positioned at the bottom right of the speech bubble.

NOMINATIONS

What is the role of the Leadership Team?

The LT supports the Coordinator in running Table operations like planning meetings, keeping track of the budget, communicating with membership, and helping write grants to keep the Table funded.

Who is eligible to be on the Leadership Team?

Any full member organization in good standing! In fact, every full member organization is expected to serve one term.

But I'm so busy. What time commitment is required from Leadership Team members?

We get it. Everyone is busy! The good news is, the LT meets once or twice per month on Zoom as needed for an hour or less at a time. Only on very rare occasions does the Coordinator request any more from the LT.

Will I be compensated for my time?

Yes. We include LT stipends in the operating budget. Each member organization receives \$500 for every 6 months of service.

I'm not sure I know enough about the Climate Table to be in a leadership position.

Actually, that's a good reason to run! One of our current LT members just joined the Climate Table recently, and they've found it to be a great way to get to know other members and understand the work we're doing together.

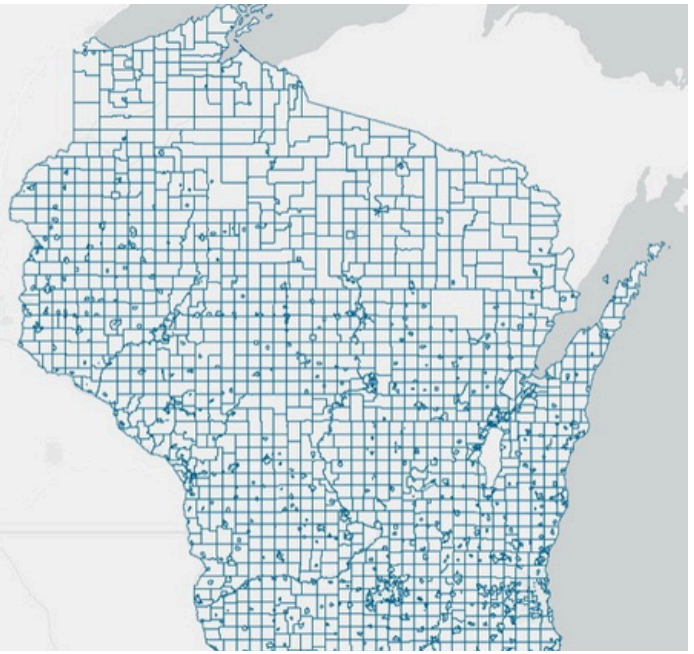
Can I nominate myself?

Yes! Self-nominations are welcome and very common.

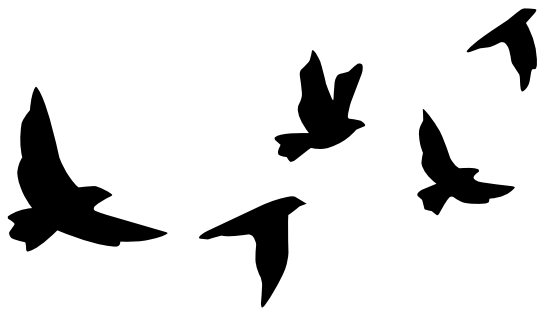
OK, you've convinced me. How do I get my name on the ballot?

Send an email to Susan Gaeddert, the WCT Coordinator: susan@1kfriends.org. She can also answer any other questions you have.

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.



WCT MEMBER UPDATES



*Solar panels shining
Electricity costs declining
Birds singing
A new era is beginning*

STUDENT POETS ARE SOLAR MESSENGERS
DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

-Easton White

Beyond the customary land conservation work most land trusts limit themselves to, **Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC)** continues to directly promote energy efficiency and small scale solar. DALC's Clean Local Energy Alliance – Now! (CLEA-N) project has used a variety of approaches to assist area school districts in exploring ways to lower their energy costs and carbon footprints. The latest initiative was the Shine-On Solar Energy Slam contest. The goal of this poetry contest was to both educate and inspire students and the wider community about the benefits “rooftop” solar can bring to the district. Students in the Dodgeville middle and high schools submitted over one hundred-eighty (180) poems! First, second and third place award winners received cash awards of \$75, \$50 and \$25 respectively. The area newspaper, *The Dodgeville Chronicle*, dedicated a full page to laud the project by publishing the winning poems and photos of their authors. The energy and creativity of the upcoming generations is an inspiration for us all to rededicate ourselves to protecting our precious world.

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

WISCONSIN ACADEMY: CLIMATE FAST FORWARD 2024



November 14-15, 2024 in Rothschild

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.

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.

1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Join us for a free webinar!
Wednesday, December 4 from 12-1pm

Author of [Killed by a Traffic Engineer](#) and professor of civil engineering and urban planning at UC Denver, **Dr. Wes Marshall** pulls back the glittering green curtain to reveal that the wizards of traffic engineering are not wizards at all, but just men (and they are still mostly men) who rely on bad science and sketchy data to design the streets and roads we all use.

[Register here for the Zoom call.](#)



[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 takes so little to make me
happy:
An hour of planting
cucumbers squash tomatoes
is an hour filled with gold.*

*We have all lost much of what
we thought was safely tucked
away:
To a dragon called stock market
called Wall Street
called the economy
called despair & wrong choices
around the globe.*

*Still, to be rich in this way:
Plentiful seeds of
cucumber & squash
lettuce & peas
to plant;
warm sun on my cheek,
is to miss
the anxiety of loss--
its icy silver claw--
almost entirely.*

- "RICH" by Alice Walker

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

*Items for the next WCT
newsletter should be submitted
by December 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*



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