

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024, ISSUE 55



IMAGE: SNOWY TRAIL THROUGH A PRAIRIE

FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Dear Wisconsin Climate Table:

This is the last newsletter of year, if you can believe it. Thank you for making 2024 one of our best years as a table!

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season as we close out 2024.

Cheers,
Susan
susan@1kfriends.org

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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

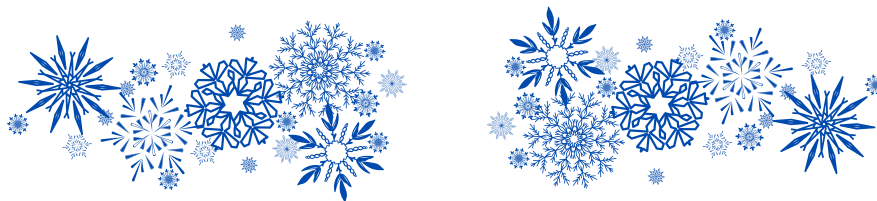
END-OF-YEAR REVIEW

I recently bumped into someone who asked, “What’s the climate table even doing these days?” To be frank, the remark was meant as a dig. I did take a bit of offense (I’m not made of stone after all), but I got over it right quick because the implication that we’re not really doing anything just isn’t true. I know that anyone who has participated in Climate Table work over the last year (this person clearly has not) is unlikely to ask that question.

As Coordinator, I am constantly trying to organize projects and participation at a level that is appropriate to our budget and member capacity. Given the limits of both, I think it’s remarkable what we have accomplished in 2024. We funded two projects, the PSC Engagement Tool Kit from 350 Wisconsin and the Rural Electric Coop Scorecard Initiative from Green Neighbor Challenge, that are already creating impact statewide. We are supporting on-the-ground energy burden organizing in Milwaukee. We are publishing stories of climate change and energy burden impacts.

And we are showing up. As a Table, we met in person twice and were able to connect and learn from each other. Our members organize summits and work in community and collaborate on projects and speak out at events. We are engaging with OSCE through the WiCAN (Wisconsin Climate Action Navigators) network and attending sector-specific stakeholder engagement sessions to develop the state’s first Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. That’s not nothin’.

That said, there is no sugarcoating that 2025 is going to be a challenging year. I think the most important thing we can do is show up for each other and keep working together.



VOTE IN THE LEADERSHIP TEAM ELECTION!



Deadline: 2pm Friday, December 13, 2024

Link to ballot: <https://forms.gle/XTBftgNwGjZWvZFN9>

WCT Leadership Team, 2-year term ending November 2026:

Abby Corso - [Elevate](#)

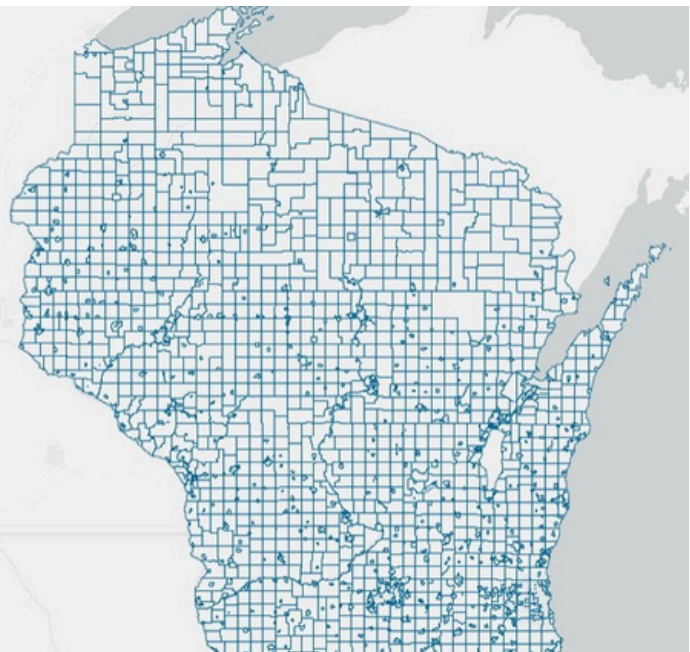
Candidate statement:

Hi- my name is Abby Corso and I am the chief strategy officer at Elevate Energy and a Wisconsin resident. I am passionate about ensuring access to clean energy in affordable housing to reduce energy burden and improve the health and comfort of homes. I hope to bring this knowledge and passion to the Wisconsin Climate Table leadership team as I believe the WCT serves an important role in Wisconsin's climate movement through educational initiatives and network building.

Under Climate Table rules, only one vote per full table member organization is allowed. 75% of table members must vote to have a valid election. Individual votes will be kept anonymous.

Questions? Email the WCT Coordinator at 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.



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

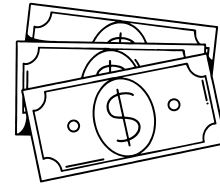
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANTMAKING PROGRAM

The Great Lakes [Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#) will distribute \$40 million in grants. This three-year program will serve communities in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and 36 federally recognized tribal nations. Nonprofit organizations, local and tribal governments, and institutions of higher education that work in the Great Lakes region are all welcome to apply for funding.

Grants will support projects that focus on issues including, but not limited to:

- Environmental health
- Air, soil, and water quality
- Healthy homes
- Access to healthy food
- Stormwater and green infrastructure
- Emergency preparedness
- Disaster resilience
- Environmental job training



Applications will be accepted through November 2026, and grants will be approved on a rolling basis. Applications submitted by January 31, 2025 will be considered in the first review batch.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

This program marks a major public investment in local communities through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Grants in the Great Lakes region will be distributed by a partnership between the Minneapolis Foundation, Midwest Environmental Justice Network (MWEJN), NDN Collective, and RE-AMP Network.

UPCOMING THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANT WEBINARS

*What is the Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program?

Tuesday, December 10 at 12pm Central/ 1pm Eastern

[REGISTER](#)

Developing an Application Budget

Tuesday, December 17 Time TBD

Creating a Quality Assurance Project Plan

Wednesday, December 18 Time 10AM

Questions? Contact Dr. Ryan Alaniz, Director of Rural and Remote Outreach:

ryan@reamp.org

PARTNERS FOR PLACES

The [Partners for Places](#) matching grant program supports equitable sustainability projects and helps build partnerships between local government leaders, frontline community groups and place-based funders in the U.S. and Canada. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2025. [Click here to learn more and apply.](#)

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

[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.



RENEW seeks an experienced and motivated individual to join our team of energy professionals. As the Staff Attorney, you will support RENEW Wisconsin's policy strategy development and implementation. You will be responsible for representing our organization before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, conducting legal and legislative research, and collaborating with our stakeholders and other partners. This position provides a unique opportunity to influence policy decisions, engage with stakeholders, and drive impactful change in the renewable energy sector in Wisconsin.

[Learn more about the position here.](#)

Auch kleine Dinge können uns entzücken,
auch kleine Dinge können teuer sein.
Bedenkt, wie gern wir uns mit Perlen schmücken;
sie werden schwer bezahlt und sind nur klein.
Bedenkt, wie klein ist die Oliven frucht,
und wird um ihre Güte doch gesucht.
Denkt an die Rose nur, wie klein sie ist,
und duftet doch so lieblich, wie ihr wisst.

Even little things can delight us,
even little things can be precious.
Consider how we love to bedeck ourselves with pearls;
they are costly and are only small.
Consider how small is the olive fruit,
and yet it is sought for its fineness.
Think only of the rose, how small it is,
and yet how lovely it smells, as you know.

- Anon. Italian, translated to German by Paul Heyse



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Items for the next WCT newsletter should be submitted by *January 3, 2025*.

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](#) for submissions. If you have questions, email susan@1kfriends.org