

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE

2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025, ISSUE 56



IMAGE: ICY CREEK IN A SNOWY PARK

FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Welcome to 2025! As I am writing this message on Monday, a major winter storm is pummeling many of our neighbors to the south without so much as a whiff of a snowflake in Wisconsin. Last winter was so mild that a number of businesses in the northern part of the state faced serious hardship because their main customer base of snowmobilers and cross-country skiers had no snow. It was bad enough that many businesses qualified for emergency federal funding to keep from closing completely. Our expectation of “normal” winter weather has been turned on its head.

Here’s my existential question: have we fully accepted this as the new normal? *Should we?* As someone who just discovered the magic of XC skiing 3 years ago, I’m not ready to retire my skis just yet. Onward we go.

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TO BE OF USE

CURRENT LEADERSHIP TEAM:

ANDREW BUTTS, GREEN
NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE

ABBY CORSO, ELEVATE

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 Leadership Team** is comprised of five individuals, each representing a full member organization of the Table. They are elected by Climate Table members and assist the Coordinator with operations, such as planning meetings, approving new member organizations, and keeping everyone informed about climate work across the state.

Leadership Team elections occur every six months, and each member serves either a 1-year or 2-year term. The next election will be this April. If you are interested in running or have questions, please contact the Coordinator at susan@1kfriends.org



Andrew Butts (he/him), Green Neighbor Challenge

“As a lifelong asthmatic who grew up downwind of the Pleasant Prairie coal plant, I got involved in climate work because I realized the catastrophe wasn't far off in the future, but has been sited in our communities and with us all along.”



Abby Corso (she/her), Elevate

“I work on climate change issues to ensure a healthy and livable natural and built environment for my children.”



Robin Lisowski (she/her), Slipstream Inc.

“I work on climate issues as pursuit of an agreeable social contract whereby resources are managed for now and the future my kids will inherit.”



Abby Novinska-Lois (she/her), Healthy Climate Wisconsin

Healthy Climate Wisconsin: We believe all Wisconsinites deserve clean water, clean air, a safe climate, and a chance to thrive.



Joanna Salinas (she/her), Waukesha County Green Team

Joanna has been passionate about environmental issues since childhood. She specializes in engaging and mobilizing residents and organizations in environmental and sustainability initiatives and is passionate about meeting people where they are at and tackling sustainability at the local level to initiate systemic change.

UPDATE FROM KEVIEA GUIDEN: HOLIDAY PARTY!



Kevia Guiden has been the Project Coordinator for the Community Commitments Campaign since 2022. She lives and works in Milwaukee's northside neighborhoods, where she organizes volunteers, raises awareness about climate change and energy efficiency opportunities, and collects [stories of energy burden and climate change impacts](#). Kevia has been working with a core group of volunteers who are grassroots leaders in the community. In mid-December, she organized a party to celebrate the work they have done together and presented each with a cash card gift as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

The team leaders have volunteered by knocking doors, collecting petitions, passing out flyers, attending meetings, tabling at events, speaking at PSC hearings, rallying, public speaking during press conferences, and getting others involved. Even when things get a little rough, these amazing people show up intentionally. This is what's needed throughout the year. Without their resilience and dedication to bring change in our communities, voices wouldn't be heard. Our climate is changing right before our eyes and we need to continue to educate one another so we combat this together. Outreach is critical. I'm extremely happy to be able to be in a position to help support the work that we're all so passionate about. Thanks!

-Kevia Guiden



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.

FAITH IN PLACE

Wisconsin Advocacy Day on March 11, 2025



Join us for **Wisconsin Advocacy Day** on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT at First United Methodist Church in Madison, WI. Hosted by **Faith in Place Action Fund**, this event will unite advocates from across the state to meet with legislators and champion critical issues that shape our shared future.

This year's advocacy priorities include:

Transitioning to 100% Renewable Energy:

Supporting policies that foster sustainability and equity.

Protecting Water Resources:

Addressing nitrate contamination and ensuring clean water for all.

Advancing Environmental Justice:

Fighting for marginalized communities and opposing unchecked pollution.

Don't miss this chance to make your voice heard, connect with others passionate about climate justice, and help shape Wisconsin's future. Whether you're a seasoned advocate or new to this work, your participation matters! Register today to secure your spot:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/k28UVRKhEU-oSHwB028Mnw2>

For questions or more information, contact Alexander Malchow, Wisconsin Policy Coordinator, at alexander@faithinplace.org. Together, we can inspire change and build a brighter, more just Wisconsin!

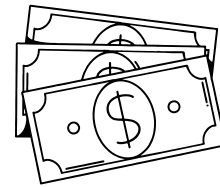
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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.](#)

WTC VIRTUAL WATER COOLER



We're trying something kind of new in 2025, a **WCT Virtual "Water Cooler"**! Every few weeks, the Coordinator will set up a Zoom meeting open to anyone from the Table who wants to show up and shoot the breeze.

Whether you need to vent, talk through a conundrum, or just get to know others in the Climate Table, you are welcome to join! There will be no agenda or action steps, just an open space for people to gather informally and get to know each other.

The first **WTC Virtual Water Cooler** is Thursday, January 23 at 11:30am. Check the email list for a Zoom link, or email the Coordinator if you want to be added to the calendar hold: susan@1kfriends.org

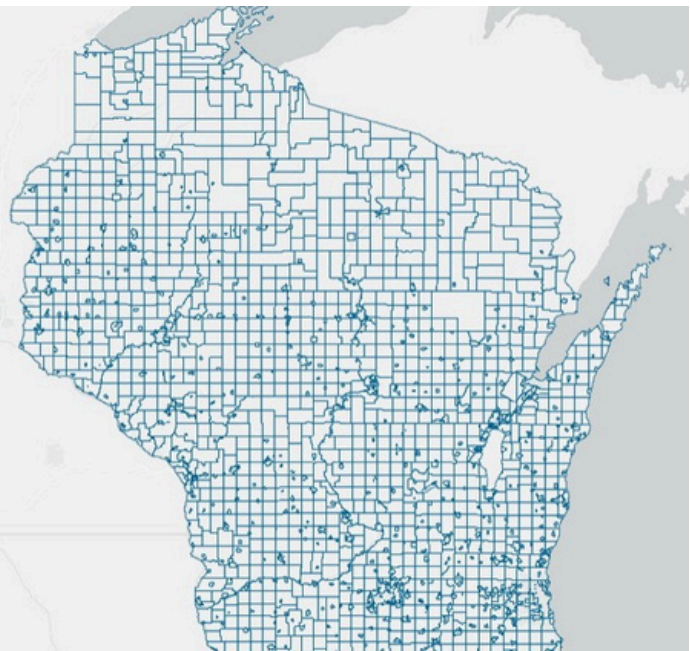
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Items for the next WCT newsletter should be submitted by February 7, 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

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>

TO BE OF USE

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

- Marge Piercy

