

WISCONSIN CLIMATE TABLE



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025, ISSUE 60



IMAGE: SPRING EPHEMERALS EMERGING

FROM THE WCT COORDINATOR

SUSAN GAEDDERT, 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Last week I attended a meeting hosted by RE-AMP on the topic of finding hope in times of oppression. To be honest, I did not have the hour to spare on another meeting, but it felt important to me. We heard from a retired Lutheran pastor who spent some of his training years in East and West Germany in the early 1980s. He spoke about his experiences working with and learning from survivors of Germany's Third Reich. The path was not always clear and never easy.

The last few months I have spent a lot of time trying to keep up with the chaos cascading from Washington - no small feat - and recalibrating my position in this time. I'm thinking about the ways history is rhyming and repeating on itself vs. what is unique about the United States at this juncture, what power I have, and where my energy is best focused.

The Climate Table is facing similar questions. We will meet this Friday, May 9 at Olbrich Gardens in Madison and spend the day grappling with the question, "*How do we meet this moment?*" I look forward to joining many of you there.

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MEMBER NEWS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

*ROBIN AND ABBY N-L ARE
WRAPPING UP THEIR TERMS IN
MAY. THANK YOU FOR SERVING
ON THE LEADERSHIP TEAM!*

CONTACT THE COORDINATOR:
SUSAN@1KFRIENDS.ORG

ENERGY BURDEN IN SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN: APRIL 15 RALLY TO PROTEST UTILITY CUTOFFS

Keviea Guiden led a rally at We Energies to protest utility shutoffs on April 15, the end of the winter moratorium on disconnection. She was joined by dozens of community members as well as Milwaukee common councilmember Alex Brower and State Senator Chris Larson.

You can read media coverage of the protest at [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) and [CBS 58](#).



Above: protesters gather outside We Energies.

Left: Keviea Guiden speaks at a podium.



We're in Wisconsin. Who knows what the weather may be today or tomorrow? It could be hot, it could be cold," she said. "Folks are struggling to pay for rent, utility bills, food, so with everything being increased, it's just not a good look.

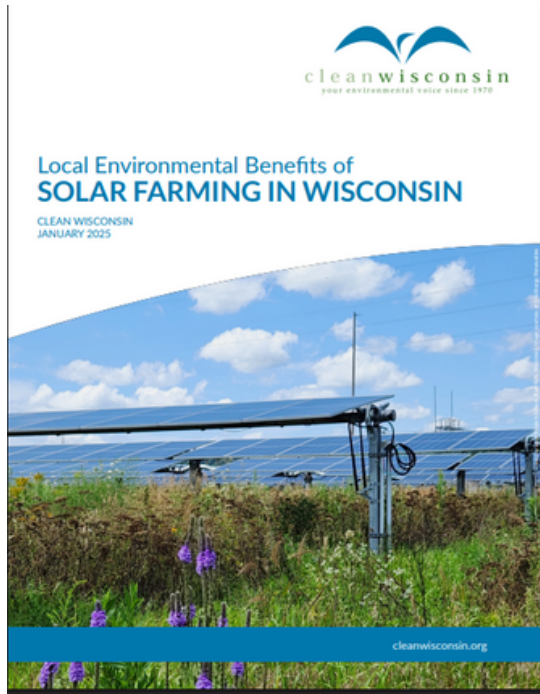
Keviea Guiden on CBS 58

It totally breaks down the dynamics of any household and any family, and brings stress and depression, as well. Folks are already burdened," she said. "We want to just make sure that we are shedding light and saying that we need to end shutoffs.

Keviea Guiden on WPR

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

CLEAN WISCONSIN



[St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Milwaukee just went solar!](#) As part of their mission to be faithful stewards of the Earth, the church is leading by example in their community. Read the full case study to see how they used funding from the Inflation Reduction Act to turn their values into action.

Clean Wisconsin has released a new report, "[Local Environmental Benefits of Solar Farming in Wisconsin](#)." The analysis shows how large-scale solar projects can improve soil health on conventionally-farmed land, provide habitat for native pollinators and improve water quality by reducing sediment and chemical fertilizer runoff into nearby waterways. According to the analysis:

- Solar farms that replace conventional row crops like corn and soybeans reduce sediment and phosphorus pollution runoff into nearby lakes, rivers and streams by 75-95%.
- When deep-rooted, perennial vegetation is planted among the panels, solar farms can increase soil carbon sequestration by 65% and improve overall soil health.
- Planting perennial vegetation among the panels also improves wildlife habitat compared to existing cropland, including a 300% improvement in habitat quality for pollinators, which are in steep decline.

Health benefits of solar were also considered as part of the analysis, demonstrating that replacing electricity generated from coal and gas burning power plants with solar energy results in public health benefits of 5-10 cents per kWh in Wisconsin. This savings exceeds the cost of generating solar electricity (3-4 cents per kWh). [The full report is available here.](#)

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

Building towards Zero: Decarbonizing the Built Environment in Wisconsin

June 12, 8:15-11:30 am | Milwaukee



Decarbonization isn't just a building issue — it's a business, community, and market opportunity. On June 12 in Milwaukee, join business leaders, building operators, manufacturers, and sustainability professionals for a timely conversation on why proactive investments in low-carbon strategies are essential for long-term resilience and competitive advantage. [Registration closes June 5 — secure your spot today.](#)

CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY HONORS BOB LINDMEIER

The Madison chapter of [Citizens' Climate Lobby \(CCL\)](#) honored one of southern Wisconsin's best-known television personalities on Earth Day for educating the public about climate change. **Bob Lindmeier**, longtime chief meteorologist at WKOW (Channel 27), accepted CCL's [Climate Coverage Champion Award at the station's studios on April 22.](#)



Lindmeier began linking weather events to global warming in his broadcasts about a decade ago and urged his counterparts across the country to do the same. To that end, he organized the first-ever climate change summit for Wisconsin weathercasters. Off the air, he started speaking about climate change at schools, churches, and civic clubs and at larger events like the annual Garden Expo and Canoeopia paddlesports expo in Madison. To date, he has given more than 200 public presentations on climate change. Lindmeier, who retired in December after 45 years in the broadcast industry, told a Madison writer that love for his children and grandchildren is what motivated him to speak out.

When I'm on my deathbed, I want to be able to look them in the eye and say I did everything possible to leave them a livable world.

Bob Lindmeier

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

WISCONSIN GREEN MUSLIMS



Islam offers powerful guidance for environmental stewardship – and **Huda Alkaff** has spent 20 years bringing those teachings to life. As Founder of **Wisconsin Green Muslims**, Huda blends faith, ecology, and community action to advance water equity and climate justice. She shares how Islamic teachings inspire a sustainable lifestyle – from spiritual water practices during Ramadan to practical solutions like distributing water filters in frontline communities. Huda also discusses expanding Green Muslims into Michigan, her model of monthly action themes, and advocacy around lead contamination and PFAS.



Through a systems-thinking lens and deep sense of interconnectedness, Huda offers a compelling vision for spiritually grounded, community led environmental leadership. This episode is part of the Color of Water series, a collaboration with the Water Hub. [Watch on YouTube here.](#)



Faith in Action: Communities of Faith at the Forefront of Climate Justice In this episode of 22 Mins With..., **Huda Alkaff**, Founder and Director of **Wisconsin Green Muslims**, and **Rev. Dr. Dave Bookless**, Head of Theology at **A Rocha International**, come together to explore how faith can be a powerful driver of climate action.

Huda shares the inspiring story behind **Faith and Solar**, a groundbreaking initiative bringing solar power to mosques and faith-based institutions and fostering environmental stewardship in Muslim and interfaith communities. Rev. Bookless offers insights on how Christian teachings support ecological justice – and how churches can champion clean energy policies and lead on equity in the transition. Together, they illuminate the shared values across faith traditions that call for care of the Earth, and the real-world strategies that are mobilizing religious communities around the globe.

More information on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).

WCT MEMBER UPDATES

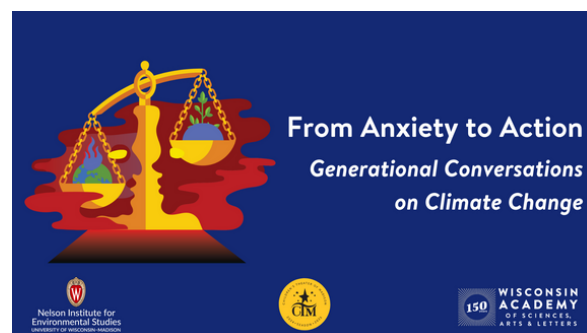
COUILLARD SOLAR FOUNDATION

The **Couillard Solar Foundation** will host a handful of groups from across the state on Saturday, May 31, 2025 for [Solstock](#).



This inspiring, community-powered fundraising event brings together voices from across Wisconsin to share real stories of how solar energy is changing lives—and to raise critical funds to support the Foundation's mission of expanding access to clean, renewable energy. These groups and others interested in sustainability and cost-saving, locally-controlled infrastructure will come together at the foundation's annual Solstock festival. Representatives of these groups will present their communities' projects and their expected impact and ask for attendees' support for valuable prizes.

WISCONSIN ACADEMY



Join the **Wisconsin Academy** on May 10, 2025, for a powerful panel discussion following the 2:30 PM matinee of [The Trials at the MyArts Building in Madison, WI](#). The play explores the emotional and psychological impacts of climate change, and this panel will dive deeper into these themes, providing an opportunity for voices from different generations to explore how each group is experiencing and responding to the climate crisis. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

Date: May 10, 2025

Location: MyArts Building, Madison, WI

Time: Following the 2:30 PM matinee of The Trials (Panel 30-45 minutes)



May, and among the miles of leafing,
blossoms storm out of the darkness --
windflowers and moccasin flowers. The bees
dive into them and I too, to gather
their spiritual honey. Mute and meek, yet theirs
is the deepest certainty that this existence too --
this sense of well-being, the flourishing
of the physical body - rides
near the hub of the miracle that everything
is a part of, is as good
as a poem or a prayer, can also make
luminous any dark place on earth.



— Mary Oliver



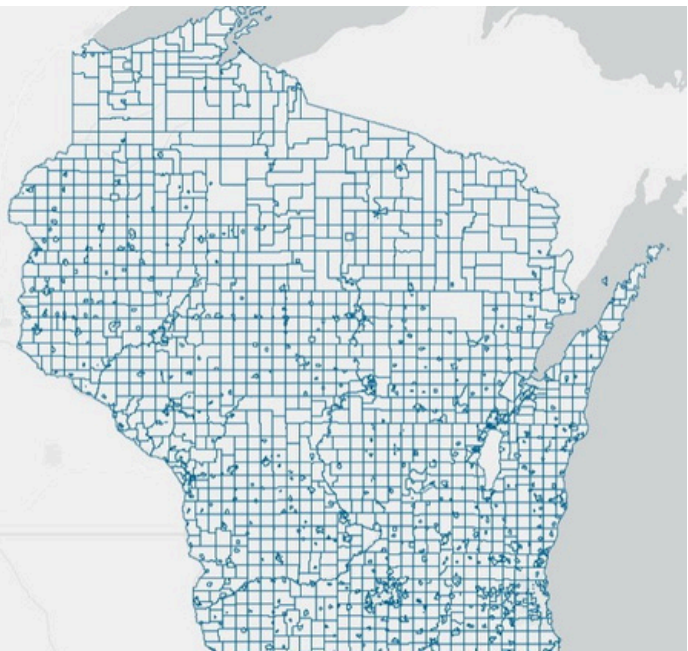
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Items for the next WCT
newsletter should be submitted
by **June 9, 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>