Action Update: Looking into 2021

350 Madison's accomplishments in 2020, where we're looking to go in 2021, and how you can support Water Protectors in Minnesota.

Looking forward to 2021: 350 Madison accomplishments and goals

This has been a year of both challenge and accomplishment for 350 Madison. Please click on the tiles below to learn what our four campaign teams have achieved, and what they expect to accomplish in 2021.

Tar Sands

Our Tar Sands team mobilizes to stop new oil pipelines from being built in Wisconsin and to get existing pipelines decommissioned and removed. We work with landowners, environmentalists, tribes, and anyone who shares our goals. We oppose the use of eminent domain for private gain and laws that criminalize peaceful protest.

Community Climate Solutions

Achieving ambitious climate goals requires that all of us use a climate lens in making decisions—both big and small—about how we live in our communities. To make a difference on climate issues, we must think globally and act locally. Our Community Climate Solutions team provides many ways to engage on climate issues here at home.

Divest & Defund

Our Divest & Defund team is working to STOP ‘the money pipeline,’ the supply of loans, investments and insurance policies that the fossil fuel industry desperately needs in order to do its dirty business. Our primary target is JP Morgan Chase, the world’s largest funder of climate chaos.

Climate Justice
350 Madison stands in solidarity with people the world over who are working for justice, equity, and preservation of a livable planet. Climate and racial justice are top priorities as we raise awareness among our leaders and members about systemic racism and the actions we can take to fight racism in the climate movement and our personal lives.

The continued success of our campaigns depends on you, our supporters. Our End of Year Fundraiser is currently underway, with the goal of raising $30,000 to address the increasing threat of climate change. We have an extraordinary opportunity this year, with all donations up to $10,000 being matched by local climate activists.

Donate to 350 Madison

Pipeline news: A tale of two governors

Michigan and Minnesota both face ambitious “replacement” projects by the Canadian oil pipeline company Enbridge, and their governors are reacting very differently. On Nov. 15, MI Attorney General Dana Nessel filed a new complaint in Ingham County Court, seeking confirmation that MI Gov. Gretchen Whitmer had the power to revoke and terminate Enbridge’s easement to keep the twin pipes of Line 5 on the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac. Gov. Whitmer took this action and told Enbridge to shut down the flow of oil through the Straits by May 12, 2021.

On Dec. 9, the Michigan Public Service Commission remanded Enbridge’s Line 5 application for a permit to construct the tunnel back to the Administrative Law Judge for a
rehearing, stating that the State of Michigan’s revocation of the easement represented a significant change of facts in the case. Gov. Whitmer has set a great example for other leaders in states threatened by Enbridge.

Meanwhile in Minnesota, Gov. Tim Walz threw his support behind Enbridge’s proposal to create a “Line 3 Replacement” that is opposed by tribes, property rights advocates, environmental groups, and landowners and communities who fear spills and ruptures.

Non-profit groups Honor the Earth and Friends of the Headwaters have each filed suits to #StopLine3, as well as motions to stop construction (which started within days of the Nov. 30 decision). If the motions to stay are denied, construction will continue. Meanwhile, non-violent resistance to the pipeline has started, with people doing tree-sits and locking themselves into construction equipment, causing delays.

The question is, what path will Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers take? Will he, like Gov. Walz, side with a Canadian corporation that sees us as “pump-through” country, or will he side with Gov. Whitmer and with the people of Wisconsin, who reject being saddled with all the risks of a toxic product whose era is ending?

Learn more about Line 3
Learn more about Line 5

Climate Change Task Force Releases Report
On Dec. 9, the Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change released its 100-page Report on how best to tackle the climate crisis in Wisconsin. Prior to releasing its report, the Task Force held a series of public listening sessions that attracted over 1,000 participants from across the state and garnered 500 written comments. 350 Madison submitted a letter to the Task Force, and many of our members attended the virtual hearings and submitted written comments.

The report details 55 strategies across nine sectors, and identifies which of three policy pathways are applicable to each strategy (i.e., Executive or Agency Action, State Budget and Legislature). Sectors include: Climate Justice & Equity, Energy, Transportation, Agriculture, Resilient Systems, Clean Economy, Education, Food Systems and Forestry. In a victory for activists, Tier 2 strategies incorporate several that 350 Madison had promoted: #47 Avoid all new fossil fuel infrastructure, #48 “State divestment of fossil fuel stocks and other interests,” and #49 “Allow third party renewable financing (solar/energy generation).” Tier 2 strategies were among those that did not receive consensus support from Task Force members including, notably, utility industry representatives.

Maria Redmond, Director of the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, is slated to speak at 350 Madison’s February 1st Monthly Meeting. She will provide a summary of the report and address how groups like 350 Madison can take action to ensure the plan is implemented. We hope you’ll join us!

**Tar Sands Team: Standing with**
those who are standing up to Enbridge

The joint Tar Sands Team of 350 Madison and Sierra Club’s WI chapter is working in solidarity with everyone in the Midwest who is opposing Enbridge, and we need your help! Here are various ways you can get involved.

Help #StopLine3!

Friends of the Headwaters (FOH) is a small, all-volunteer non-profit that has three separate proceedings going in MN courts, all designed to stop construction or undo permit approvals for Line 3. We need to help this small but mighty group to do the kind of excellent legal work with expert witnesses that can defeat Enbridge. Their goal is to raise $100,000 and they have a $10,000 matching fund. Please click here to help them help us (If Line 3 goes through, sooner or later Enbridge will want to build Line 66 through Wisconsin).

Support Water Protectors in Minnesota

Legal proceedings, public pressure on Enbridge and its enablers, and non-violent direct action are the tools left to us, now that Gov. Walz has turned his back on Line 3 opponents. More and more people are going north to put their bodies on the line, to slow Enbridge’s desperate attempt to finish boring under all the water crossings before their permits are overturned.

Mira Grinsfelder, one of our members, was arrested on Nov. 18 after she and another Water Protector locked themselves onto a construction crane, stopping work for a whole day. Now she wants to collect material aid for those in the 5 camps along the Line 3 route. Here’s how you can help these brave and dedicated people who are living in the woods
in a Minnesota winter in the midst of a deadly pandemic.

- Visit [Water Protector Welcome Center](#) to learn if you can help by visiting a construction site, and possibly doing non-violent direct action to slow down the destruction of the forest.
- Visit [Water Protector Supply Needs](#) and see if you have or could buy any of the items on their Wish List. Email us at [TarSandsTeam@gmail.com](mailto:TarSandsTeam@gmail.com) and we'll let you know if we still have space for your donation in the two cars that will travel north in early January.

**To help organize an ever-growing movement to stop oil pipelines in Wisconsin, you can:**

- Join us Jan. 14 for a webinar on Enbridge pipelines in Wisconsin ([Email](mailto:) us if you are not on the Tar Sands Team google group but wish to be).
- Create some art for our Line 5 art project ([Email](mailto:) us for details if interested).
- Sign up to help organize a huge public outpouring to protect our waters when the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources releases a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Line 5 reroute, “in early 2021.”
- Write to Gov. Tony Evers asking him to oppose a DNR permit for the Line 5 reroute.

Thank you for all that you have done and will do! Please tell your friends and family about how they can help.
CCST 2020 accomplishments set stage for 2021

The Community Climate Solutions Team has grown from a hopeful handful wanting to ensure local communities meet their ambitious climate commitments to more than 100 members spread among six active Community Working Groups, multiple project groups, and an action participation list.

2020 highlights

- The Madison Plan Commission voted to forward the new Electric Vehicle Readiness ordinance to the general council after the Madison Group mobilized volunteers to contact alders and plan commission members in support of it.
- The Board of Supervisors approval of the Dane County Climate Action Plan after Dane County Group members mobilized people to contact county supervisors to urge approval.
• The Fitchburg Common Council restoration of funding for municipal electric vehicle procurement after Fitchburg Group volunteers lobbied in support of this budget item.

• Middleton Sustainability committee members praise of the Green House Gas & Energy sustainability plan re-write prepared by a folks from the Middleton Group

• Increased campus voter turnout after the UW-Madison group’s creative Get Out The Vote work.

In 2021, CCST looks forward to even more growth. They expect to continue expanding their already significant local impact by engaging more citizens to express their deep support for meaningful climate action.

For example, the Madison Community Working Group just launched a Transportation project group to support the city’s transportation policy. The Madison Community Working Group’s Plan Commission Climate Corps and Benchmarking projects will build consensus on how to improve the energy efficiency of Madison’s built environment, and are filling a gap left by the state’s inaction on modernizing building codes and infrastructure.

Additionally, the UW-Madison Working Group is working on campus to hold the Board at UW accountable to their stated climate goals. Among other projects, they are supporting student and faculty demands that their institution divest from fossil fuel industries.

Also, the Dane County Community Working Group is busy meeting with county supervisors about the county’s recently-released Climate
Action Plan. This group is also establishing project groups, including one focusing on the county’s sustainable agriculture goals.

Of course they will also activate their Action Participation List, to gather public support for the surrounding community’s sustainability initiatives.

If you want to join the CCST, the Action Participation List or any of our Community Working Groups in Madison, Middleton, Fitchburg, Monona, Dane County, or UW-Madison, please visit https://350madison.org/community-climate-solutions/ or email CCST co-lead Susan Millar.

Former CCST co-lead appointed Director of Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change

The 350 Madison Community Climate Solutions Team wants to acknowledge and celebrate Kathy Kuntz’s recent appointment as the Director of the Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change. In her new role, she's leading the effort to implement the Dane County Climate Action Plan. Along with Kermit Hovey and Susan Millar, she played a key role in launching CCST in late 2019 but had to step away from that work in 2020 as she was invited to join the OECC staff. Prior to this, she led Wisconsin’s Focus on Energy program and then Cool Choices.

We look forward to continuing working with Kathy in this position to support her and our communities efforts to address the climate crisis in Dane County.