

February Action Update

#BuildBackBetter Demonstration, Riot Bill, Book Club Discussion of Electrify, #StopLine5 Public Comments, Green Your Routine, Strategies for a Madison Clean Energy Fund, Wisconsin's Building Codes, Southdale Community Garden, Our Donors



#BuildBackBetter Demonstration

On January 27, late afternoon, climate activists braved the cold to gather outside [Senator Tammy Baldwin](#)'s Madison office, calling on her to push the [#BuildBackBetterAct](#) past the finish line. Did you miss the action? You can still help! Give Sen. Baldwin the support she needs to be a more vocal champion of the act's climate, clean energy, and environmental justice provisions. Call her to voice your support: (202) 224-5653.

Thanks to [Jeremy Gragert](#) of the [National Wildlife Federation](#) for connecting with us!

**Riot Bill Endangers Us All--Tell
Gov. Evers to Veto It!**



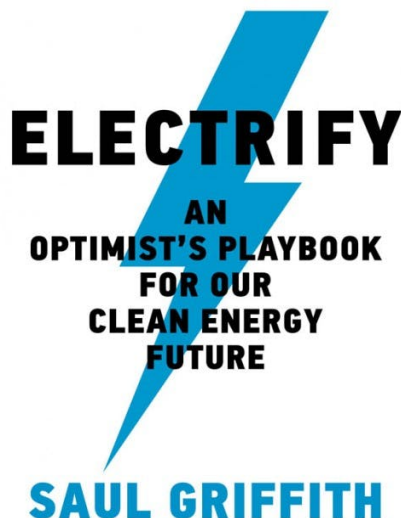
Does this look like a riot to you?

"The Riot Bill" passed both houses of the Wisconsin Legislature on Jan. 25, along party lines. This dangerous bill would create new misdemeanors and felonies that would gravely affect the work and people of 350 Madison and every other group that protests peacefully. For example, if you attended a demonstration where our Art Collective danced in the street (blocking traffic for 2 minutes) and then somebody (maybe unknown to us) threatened to push somebody else, you would be in a "riot"! And then you could be arrested, convicted, and spend 9 months in jail and pay a \$10,000 fine. (To learn more about this bill, [read our email](#) from Jan. 22.)

Now we need to flood Gov. Evers' office with calls, emails or letters, urging him to veto it. We cannot be complacent – we must show him that we expect him to protect our democracy. Contact Gov. Evers by phone at 608-266-1212, by email at eversinfo@wisconsin.gov, or by mail at P.O. Box 7863, Madison, WI, 53707.

"Required reading for an economy-wide green transition in the USA."

MARIANA MAZZUCATO, AUTHOR OF *MISSION ECONOMY*



Book Club: *Electrify* by Saul Griffith

Join CCST for a book club discussion of [Electrify: An Optimist's Playbook For Our Clean Energy Future](#) by Saul Griffith on **Thursday, February 17 from 5-6 pm!**

Electrify provides both a realistic and feasible plan to fight climate change while also creating new jobs and building a healthier world. Griffith describes what it would take to electrify our existing infrastructure, and how this process can create an estimated 25 million jobs. CCST is so excited about this book that we are

devoting our entire monthly meeting to the topic! Sign up for our Zoom meeting [here](#).

Don't have time to read the book but still want to join the discussion? Listen to *The Climate Pod* talk about the book or read a synopsis on the *Rewiring America* website below.

The Climate Pod: Electrify Episode

Rewiring America: Electrify Synopsis



Your Input is Needed! #StopLine5

Good news! If you've already written a comment to the WI DNR (Department of Natural Resources), calling on them to deny permits to Enbridge for their Line 5 expansion, you now have a second way to participate.

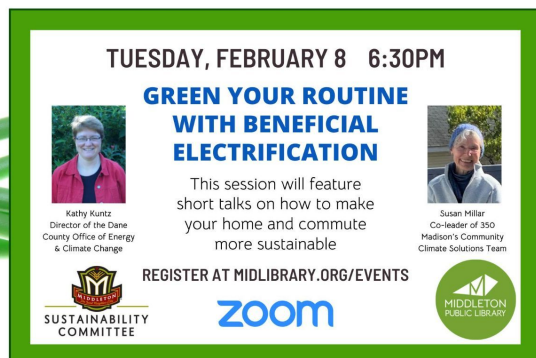
The Federal Army Corps of Engineers decided not to grant Enbridge a "general permit" for their Line 5 expansion. Instead, they will evaluate the proposal for an "individual permit," and they are asking the public for "scoping suggestions," with a deadline of March 7. If you would like to submit a comment, [click here](#) and see our sample comment and talking points, which you can mix with your own knowledge and values. *The more comments are submitted, the higher profile Line 5 will have with the Biden Administration.*

If you have not yet told the DNR what you think about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), here's how.

1. [Register for the virtual DNR hearing](#) on Wed., Feb. 2, from 4 to 10 p.m. CT. It's OK if you can't be there the whole time.
2. When registering, click on the "Testimony" box, and plan on speaking for 3 min.
3. Submit your comment to the DNR before March 4. [Click here for help](#) in crafting and sending it. For a fact sheet on the DEIS from the Red Cliff Tribe, [click here](#).

If you can be a part of a phone bank to spread the word, contact phyllis.hasbrouck@350Madison.org.

SUSTAINABLE U



Green Your Routine With Beneficial Electrification

Want to save money, improve your health, and help address the climate crisis? Green Your Routine With Beneficial Electrification offers ways to help do all of this. Learn the whats, hows, and whys of beneficial electrification at this webinar featuring Kathy Kuntz and Susan Millar, facilitated by Kermit Hovey, **6:30-7:30pm 2/8/22**.

Kathy Kuntz, Director of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change and a former CCST colead, will provide an overview of how & why to "Green Your Routine With Beneficial Electrification."

Susan Millar, Community Climate Solutions (CCST) colead, will provide a personal case study, discussing the steps she took to make her house "all electric."

Kermit Hovey CCST Co-Lead and Vice Chair of the Middleton Sustainability Committee will

facilitate.

The event is cosponsored by the Middleton Public Library and the Middleton Sustainability Committee, essential details and registration provided by clicking the button below!

[Event Details and Registration](#)



Image Credit: Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF)

Potential Financial Strategies for a Madison Version of the Portland Clean Energy Fund

On January 10, the Community Climate Solutions Team released a report detailing some strategies for creating a "Madison Version" of the Portland Clean Energy Fund. The Portland Clean Energy Fund serves to reduce carbon emissions while assisting low-income families by financing clean energy community projects. Madison's sustainability officials aspire to create a similar program, which, in Portland, raised over \$100M since its creation in 2018. Unfortunately, in Wisconsin, levying municipal taxes to fund such a program is illegal. CCST drafted this report for both elected officials and citizens to show that there are other ways to create a similar program through grants, crowdfunding, and public-private partnerships. Please take a moment to read the document (and forward it to others) by clicking the button below.

[Read the Report](#)



Our House is on Fire: Advocate for Updated Building Codes

Buildings are responsible for 40% of carbon dioxide emissions in our country. 350 Madison's Green Building Initiative focuses on incentivizing builders to use cost-effective, energy efficiency measures to dial down emissions. In addition to promoting use of incentives to mitigate CO² in our built environment, we must advocate for Wisconsin to update its current outdated building codes.

Energy codes set the minimum energy efficiency requirements for the construction of buildings. Buildings in Wisconsin are being constructed based on outdated energy codes: 2015 International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC) with amendments for commercial buildings and the 2009 IECC with amendments for residential buildings. Wisconsin law 2013 [Wisconsin Act 270](#) makes it illegal for municipalities to require developers to meet building standards that are stricter than the state's outdated building codes. This limits the ability of local communities and our state to meet our clean energy goals.

Wisconsin is in the process of updating the commercial and residential building codes. We need to let the Wisconsin's Building Code Councils and our legislature know that they should update building codes consistent with the 2021 IECC without adding weakening amendments. Public hearings on the updated codes are happening soon. We will be alerting you when and how to add your voice to support updated building codes. Stay tuned.

[Read Our Report](#)



Dane County CWG Visit to Southdale Community Garden

On Saturday January 8th, the Dane County Community Working Group (a subgroup of the Community Climate Solutions Team) visited the Southdale Community Garden and Fraust Community Garden in the Town of Madison. The visit was part of an ongoing project to visit places where sustainable and/or regenerative agriculture is happening.

The group seeks to educate members of the community about how they can support sustainable growing operations directly, and policies for which they can advocate to do the same. Community gardens provide a tangible chance to further understand, through experience and science, how to play a healing role in our ecosystem... and they are a perennial source of delicious, nourishing produce!

We would be delighted for you to join us on future visits to learn more about sustainable growing operations. The Agriculture Policy & Practices group will advertise future visits, and we look forward to meeting you. Read more about the visit on 350 Madison's blog below!

[Read the Blog Post](#)

Thank You to Our Donors!

We are so grateful to all of our 2021 donors! By supporting 350 Madison you are helping us leverage the energy and dedication of our staff and many dedicated volunteers who are working to

build the climate justice movement in Wisconsin and make our state a clean energy leader. You make our work possible!

Please see our 2021 donor list below. We try to acknowledge every donor. If your name is not listed, please know that we greatly appreciate your support.

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