



## January Action Update

*End of the Year Fundraiser, Climate Bills in the WI Legislature, Line 5 DEIS Published, Climate Safe Pensions for WI, Koshkonong Solar Energy Center*



Image Credit: <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/happy-new-year-new-year-s-day-6897538/>

### Happy New Year!

Many thanks to everyone who supported 350 Madison in 2021 –

- Our dedicated team leaders and board members for championing our efforts.
- Our volunteers and staff for working to advance our goals.
- Our donors for powering our movement!

This year, we set an ambitious year-end fundraising goal because we know that meeting the challenge of the climate crisis at the speed and scale required takes ambition. In 2022, with your support, we will strengthen our alliances, forge new partnerships, welcome new volunteers, and build our capacity to address the existential threat posed by climate change.

# \$37,370.27 of \$40,000.00



If you haven't yet donated, there's still time to support 350 Madison's vital campaigns!

Donate



## Legislative Update: Climate Bills in the Wisconsin Legislature

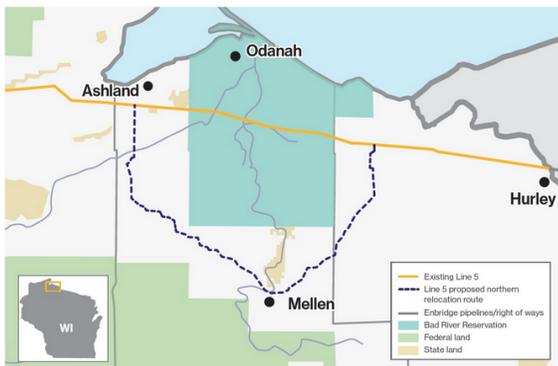
Hopes for significant climate legislation during this legislative session were dashed in early 2021, when majority Republicans stripped all climate-related provisions from Governor Evers' proposed budget. However, there are currently some important climate and renewable energy-related bills working their way through the legislature.

Republican-authored bills to make solar energy and EV charging stations more accessible are described in the [RENEW 2021 ENERGY ISSUE UPDATE](#). The 350 Madison State Policy Group is pushing for committee chairs to schedule hearings on these important bills. We are particularly supportive of the [Community Solar](#) and Third Party Financing bills. We are also supporting a bill that modernizes Wisconsin's EV charging rules, with an amendment that would allow EV charging stations to be solar powered (removing a requirement that they be connected to utility power).

Senate and Assembly Democrats recently introduced a comprehensive "[Forward on Climate](#)" package of 22 climate-related bills, many of which reflect recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change. The State Policy Group will be helping to publicize these bills.

We encourage you to contact your state legislators in support of these bills. To find your legislators and their email addresses, [click here](#).

The State Policy Group needs your help! To learn more, contact [Gail.Nordheim@350madison.org](mailto:Gail.Nordheim@350madison.org).



This Enbridge map shows their proposed route for the Line 5 expansion.

## Line 5 DEIS Published--It needs a Big Response!

Our Tar Sands Team is working with allies to respond forcefully to the [Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(DEIS\)](#) for Enbridge's proposed Line 5 expansion. Released on Dec. 16 by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), this 369-page document is woefully inadequate. We have until March 4 to submit comments pointing out how it fails to document and analyze potential or sure dangers such as promoting climate change, contaminating Copper Falls State Park and the Kakagon Sloughs (where the Bad River Band harvests wild rice), endangering the tourism and recreational industries, and more. **Please save the date of Feb. 2, the DNR's virtual hearing, which you can attend and where you can testify for 3 minutes.**

**So many ways to learn and help!**

Please go to our [Targeted Action Page](#) and create and submit your comment. Don't know

much? That's OK. We have a sample comment, plus talking points that you can mix with your own personal reasons for opposing Line 5. Here are more ways to participate:

[Sign up for a webinar - "Line 5 Basics and How to Testify"](#) Thursday, Jan. 27, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

[Click here to volunteer](#) for tasks to help us #RejectLine5!

[Like the facebook page](#) where you can boost our infographics.

Visit [facebook.com/buildingunitywi](https://www.facebook.com/buildingunitywi) for films, discussions and more about Enbridge oil pipelines.



Image Credit: <https://pixy.org/5746739/>

## Join the "Climate Safe Pensions for Wisconsin" Coalition

The State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) invests pension funds for over 650,000 current and retired public employees who are part of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). SWIB invests in multiple fossil fuel companies, including Enbridge.

350 Madison is helping to launch the **Climate Safe Pensions for Wisconsin Coalition**, a group of WRS members who will pressure SWIB to divest from its fossil fuel holdings. The Coalition will be launching its campaign soon, with an initial goal of a statewide network of 500 current or retired public employees supporting the effort. **To join the coalition, complete this [Google Form](#).**

**Why should SWIB divest?**

- Fossil fuel investments are increasingly risky. Continued investment in fossil fuels violates SWIB's fiduciary responsibility to invest prudently for its annuitants.
- Fossil fuel investments are risking our water, the health of our planet, and the future of our children and grandchildren.
- We don't want our pension dollars to be invested in Enbridge.
- Other state pension funds like New York and Maine are successfully divesting from fossil fuels.

This will be a powerful coalition with members from all parts of the state. **Please share this article with others so that the coalition can grow! For more information contact [wiclimate safepensions@gmail.com](mailto:wiclimate safepensions@gmail.com), and check out the [Climate Safe Pensions for Wisconsin on Facebook](#).**



Image Credit: Creative Commons / Sebastian Ganso

## **Koshkonong Solar Energy Center: We Need Your Comments!**

**The Koshkonong Solar Energy Center is now on the Public Service Commission's docket.**

Some benefits of the project include:

- Providing enough clean energy for about 60,000 average homes (or about 1/4 of the homes in Dane County).
- Meeting 1/4 of Dane County's solar installation goal from their Climate Action Plan.

- Avoiding 15-20 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions over the project life.
- Providing benefits to soil, water, insects, and birds from a thoughtful ground cover strategy amongst the solar panels.
- Providing local economic benefits totaling \$200 million over the project's life in the form of local tax revenue, landowner lease payments and local salaries.

To make a comment in support of the project, click the button below!

Submit a Comment

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