March Forth to Earth Day Climate Actions

"March Forth to Earth Day" is a collaborative effort of at least 30 different organizations around the state. Events will be held each Friday starting March 4 until the Earth Day in at least 20 other cities. In Madison, there will be a gathering at UW Library Mall, 5-6 p.m. on eight consecutive Fridays, March 4 – April 22. The focus of these events in Madison will not be on speeches and chanting but, rather, the opportunity to dialogue with the passersby, mostly students, with an emphasis on learning and listening. We hope to help some young people move out of climate despair and into climate activism!

The welcoming and friendly environment of these events will usually include food and hot beverages, along with a varying combination of the following: music and dance instruction, a 6 ft diameter earth ball, a grass bicycle, earth flags, indigenous art flags, and information on environmental groups and activities on earth day.

This is a great opportunity to support the youth in this work, as well as strengthen the ties between the university and the community. Come join us!

Want more info? Click the button below to see our sign-up form.

Sign Up
Line 5: Fight Money With People Power

Good news, bad news. The good news is that all our organizing paid off on Feb. 2, when 167 people testified at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) virtual hearing on the draft Environmental Impact Statement. One hundred forty-seven (88%) of those who testified were strongly and eloquently opposed to the Line 5 expansion. You can listen to the testimony here.

The bad news is that Enbridge supporters put their money into a postcard campaign that has so far resulted in 3800 signed postcards in favor of the project, from all over the U.S. And that is many more than have submitted comments opposed. So we are upping our efforts, via social media, mailings, phone banking and more. We need your help.

1. **Submit your own comment to the DNR by March 18.**
   At tinyurl.com/TakeActionOnLine5 you will find resources to help you write a comment on how inadequate the draft EIS is. (If pressed for time, you can use our sample.)

2. **Submit a comment to the Army Corps of Engineers, which recently extended the deadline to March 22.**
   Tinyurl.com/ACOELine5Comment has all you need to tell why this project would endanger the navigable waters of the U.S.

3. **Challenge yourself to get 5, 15, 25+ of your friends to submit comments.**
   You can use these QR codes or the tiny...
urls above. Let us know when you set and achieve your goal!

4. **Contact Phyllis.Hasbrouck@350madison.org** to help with phone banking and more. We can mobilize the water protectors of Wisconsin to save the Great Lakes!

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**WI Riot Bill: An Ominous Trend**

Wisconsin is not alone in facing a future of harsh penalties for exercising our rights under the U.S. Constitution. According to [the U.S. Protest Law Tracker](https://usprotestlawtracker.com), since January 2017, 45 states have considered 245 separate bills that would restrict the right to peaceful assembly. Thirty-six bills have been enacted (including one in WI, the “Felony Trespass Bill” signed into law by Gov. Evers in Nov. 2019), and 49 are still pending, including Senate Bill 296 in Wisconsin. To learn more about this dangerous “Riot Bill,” review [this January email](https://example.com).

Will Gov. Evers do the right thing and veto this bill that the WI Legislature passed along party lines? 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.
Climate Inequality in Madison

The Community Climate Solution Team’s City of Madison Alder Liaison Project Group meets on a quarterly basis with Madison alders to identify their concerns relating to climate. During one of these meetings, an alder asked for a short piece on climate justice that could be shared on their alder blog. Kate Sandretto, who co-leads this Alder Liaison group, asked her high school-aged son to draft such a piece, which he did. Please take a minute to read the resulting short document on Climate Inequality in Madison by clicking the button below.

Read the Document

Transitioning an Old House to All-Electric

A 350 Madison member, Susan Millar, recently shared the story of how she transitioned her old house to all electric. She presented at the RENEW Annual Summit in January (video recording is here) and for the Middleton Library’s February Sustainable U program (video recording is here). As an “early adopter,” RENEW also awarded her their “Clean Energy Trailblazer of the Year.” The short version of her story? There is a fair amount for early adopters to learn. Utility bills are greatly reduced once it is done. The house is almost carbon neutral (with solar on the roof). And it takes upfront funding that must be government supported for the full transition to all electric to occur fast.
enough. To electrify your house, download the free *Electrify Everything* book. To understand the importance of electrifying everything, read Saul Griffith’s *Electrify: An Optimist’s Playbook for Our Clean Energy Future*.

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**Updated WICCI Report: A Valuable Tool for Addressing Climate Change in Wisconsin**

When engaging people to act on climate change, being able to refer to timely and relevant scientific research and data can be critical. The *new WICCI (Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts) Assessment Report*, which was released on Feb. 10, 2022, is a powerful tool for just this purpose. WICCI is a statewide collaboration between the UW-Madison Nelson Institute and the Wisconsin DNR. Their first report was released in 2011, so this new version contains significant new data, and it describes "scientific progress made towards solutions." It is an extensive report (100 pages), and it includes an excellent four-page executive summary that provides a big-picture and accessible perspective on climate change impacts to our state and solutions that need to be considered and moved on in a timely fashion.

The detailed content is broken down into a series of five chapters that focus on air, land, water, the built environment, and people. The content is full of figures (maps, graphs, etc.) that will be useful for sharing how climate change is currently impacting our state. There are also numerous links to additional Internet-based resources and an extensive series of diverse interviews that form a strong backbone
for the report. Especially appreciated are several elaborations on climate justice that relate directly to our state’s communities and peoples.

In summary, all who are active on climate change here in Wisconsin will find useful content. And, for those that are interested, it will provide an excellent and approachable Wisconsin-focused deep dive.

**Demand that DeJoy Electrify the Postal Fleet**

The Biden Administration has been committed to electrifying federal fleet vehicles since its first days in office. The White House and other federal agencies are making plans to exclusively purchase electric vehicles (EVs) by 2035.

However, the United States Postal Service (USPS), an independent agency outside of direct White House control, has rejected those plans. USPS has committed to spending over $11 billion for 165,000 new delivery vehicles, and 90% of them will be powered by fossil fuels. If USPS proceeds with building and buying these dirty vehicles as planned, they will lock in decades of increased pollution, oil dependency, and fuel and maintenance costs, costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

EPA and the White House Council on Environmental Quality are now challenging USPS’s flawed decision under the leadership of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. The Chair of the USPS Oversight Subcommittee, Virginia Congressman Gerald Connolly, has called for
DeJoy to be fired over his refusal to electrify the government’s largest fleet.

[Click here](#) to send a letter asking your Congressional representative to support Representative Connolly and demand that DeJoy reverse course immediately. It’s time for USPS to go electric.

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**Spurring Climate Action With Art**

The 350 Madison Arts Collective has been known to show up to perform mock weddings, Broadway-style dances and to perform as communities of environmentally threatened animals. Behind the fun is the serious effort to mobilize people to take action on climate change and work toward a just and clean energy future. But exactly WHY do we have an Art Collective, and how does it spur climate action?

Click the button below to see a presentation on this topic for the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Art and Letters. A special thanks to Exec. Director John Greenler for pulling this together.

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**Seeking Volunteers!**

At 350 Madison there is always more to be involved in. If you are looking for ways to further engage with us, below are some of our immediate needs. Of course, these are not the only opportunities that we have available. If you are interested in these volunteer positions or in joining one of our other campaign teams, send an email to our volunteer coordinator at nikki.darga@350madison.org.
Seeking Retired IT Professionals

We are looking for someone who is interested in helping keep our databases running smoothly. This may not be the most high profile of volunteer positions, but any way we can increase our efficiency and effectiveness impacts the important work of our campaign teams. If you have previous IT experience or database skills, that would be a plus.

The Line 5 Fight is Getting Hotter

350 Madison is mobilizing to stop this new, 41-mile pipeline segment in northern Wisconsin. With the climate crisis worsening, now is not the time to green light fossil fuel expansion! Right now, we need a few more people interested in phone banking, but there are other opportunities as well. Help design infographics to get the word out, collect comments for hearings on the pipeline and more.

Monthly Meeting Co-Planners

Our monthly meetings are a great way for members of 350 Madison to come together and learn more about various climate related topics, interact with other like minded supporters, and hear more about what our campaign teams are up to. These meetings don't come together on their own though! We have a welcoming and fun group of people who seek out guest speakers, plan the agenda, and keep things running smoothly. We are looking for someone who likes to plan and bring people together to join the monthly meeting team.

Upcoming Meetings

It's easy to get involved - just join one of our teams listed below! Reach out to any one of the contacts to request a zoom link to any of our upcoming meetings.

**Art Collective:** March 10, 7:15 pm | Contact: Russ Bennett [bennett.russ@gmail.com](mailto:bennett.russ@gmail.com); Dianne Brakarsh [movingfromwithin@gmail.com](mailto:movingfromwithin@gmail.com)

**Climate Justice:** March 14, 7:00–8:30 pm | Contact: Marian Fredal Fredal [marian.fredal@350madison.org](mailto:marian.fredal@350madison.org)

**Community Climate Solutions:** March 17, 5-6 pm | Contact: Susan Millar [Susan.Millar@350madison.org](mailto: Susan.Millar@350madison.org); Kermit Hovey, [Kermit.Hovey@350madison.org](mailto: Kermit.Hovey@350madison.org); Julia DePalma, [juliadepalma1@gmail.com](mailto:juliadepalma1@gmail.com) (For a complete schedule of various team meetings of CCST, click [here](#)).

**Communication Action:** March 21, 6:30-8:00 pm | Contact [Emily.Park@350madison.org](mailto:Emily.Park@350madison.org)
Divest & Defund: March 28, 7-8:30 pm | Contact divest.defund@350madison.org

Fundraising: March 16, 7-8 pm | Contact STEPHANIE.ROBINSON@350MADISON.ORG

Tar Sands: March 7, 5:45–6:45 pm | Contact Phyllis Hasbrouck Phyllis.Hasbrouck@350madison.org

Monthly Meeting: March 7, 7-8 pm | Contact Julia Isaacs Julia.Isaacs@350madison.org; Kelly Kearns Kelly.Kearns@350madison.org

State Policy: March 16, 4-5:30 pm | Contact Gail Nordheim gail.nordheim@350madison.org

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