

April 2023 Climate Newsletter

350 Wisconsin's Annual Meeting, Don't Forget to Vote, Earth Day Celebration, Building Energy Savings Program, Return of the Riot Bill, Climate-Smart Regenerative Agriculture, Action for Climate-Safe Pensions, Labor Day Weekend

DONATE

VOLUNTEER



Photo Credit: Marilee Sushoreba

Vote in 350 Wisconsin's Annual Meeting (June 5)

Mark your calendar for the 350 Wisconsin Annual Meeting on June 5 at 7PM (at the same time as our regular Monthly Meeting).

The Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to update on important happenings at 350 Wisconsin:

- Teams will describe their accomplishments in the last year and their priorities going forward.

- There will be a presentation of 350 Wisconsin's new DEIJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice) plan
- Forthcoming staff changes will be announced.

There will also be elections to the Board and Coordinating Council. In order to vote:

- You must have donated at least \$5 between June 1, 2022 and April 21, 2023. You can [donate here](#).
- Or you must have attended at least 3 Monthly Meetings.
 - Email contact@350wisconsin.org if you would like to be added to the voting list based on Monthly Meeting attendance. Please indicate which monthly meetings you attended.

An email with instructions for joining the meeting by Zoom will be sent out prior to the meeting.



Don't Forget to Vote!

April 4th is election day! If you haven't voted yet, you still have plenty of time. To see what's on the ballot and find your polling location, click the button below.

Let's vote for climate solutions, environmental justice, reproductive rights, and fair districting maps!

[What's on my Ballot?](#)



March 24th to Earth Day

The first Friday in the series on East Campus Mall was a huge success! The theme of this March 24th gathering was ROOTS. Check out our picture gallery by clicking the button below!

The March 31 was canceled out of caution for severe weather, so next week will have two themes:

We had lots of students make the commitment to help heal this wounded world by adding a personal flag to the Art Collective project THE GREAT TURNING of the WHEEL OF LIFE.

1) FOOD: We will be hearing from students in the Food Recovery Network, Healthy Food For All, the Food Justice Collective, and Slow Food. We will also be eating and giving away lots of free food. There will be live music from fiddler Daithi Wolfe and some fellow musicians.

2) WATER: We will be hearing from several students, professors, and professionals. A member of the Ho-Chunk Nation will be talking about Line 5. There will also be microscopes available for people to look at all the life in pond water. Family friendly!

The other Friday themes are SHELTER/HOME (April 14) and FUTURE (April 21).

Please come anytime between 4 pm and 5:30 pm to the East Campus Mall. Public parking underground in the adjacent building, off Lake St.

For Earth Day itself, we are preparing something special at 10 AM at the usual 350 Wisconsin corner of the Square at North Hamilton. Please join us - we would love to see your friendly faces! Then at noon, the students will gather at Library Mall for a march up State St to the Capitol. We estimate arriving at the Capitol around 1pm, if you prefer to just meet us there.

The Art Collective is making something truly memorable for this march up State Street. We hope to see you soon at one of these celebratory events!

[View the Gallery](#)



Building Energy Savings: New Madison Ordinance

Superb work by Jessica Price, City of Madison's Sustainability and Resilience Manager, and *scores of comments from members and supporters of our Community Climate Solutions Team* and other local climate advocates helped convince *every* Madison alder to vote for the Building Energy Savings Program (BESP) on March 7! Of note, the attempt to pass a similar ordinance in 2014 was blocked by members of the business community, who argued that building energy efficiency action should be voluntary. "Voluntary" didn't work. Passing the BESP is important because commercial buildings currently account for 30% of Madison's carbon pollution, and this new ordinance will reduce these emissions! The BESP requires owners of large nonresidential commercial buildings to annually track their energy use through "energy benchmarking" and to tune-up their building's energy systems every four years. Benchmarking and tune-ups have proven track records of saving businesses energy and money on their bills. And from a climate perspective, the BESP is expected to cut carbon pollution by more than 91,000 tons per year. That's the same impact as taking 18,000 cars off the road.

US Protest Law Tracker

The US Protest Law Tracker follows state and federal legislation introduced since January 2017 that restricts the right to peaceful assembly. For more information, visit our [Analysis of US Anti-Protest Bills](#) page.

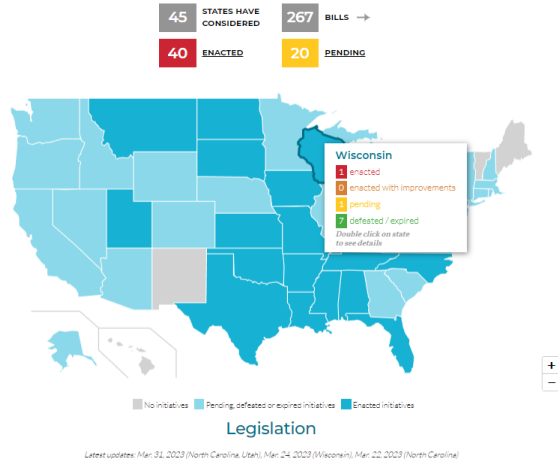


Photo Credit: International Center for Non-Profit Law

The Riot Bill is Back - Contact Governor Evers Today!

The dangerous "Riot Bill" that Gov. Evers vetoed last year has been reintroduced by State Sen. Van Wanggaard, and it needs to be vetoed again!

Currently, Wisconsin law broadly defines an "unlawful assembly" as a group of three or more people who cause a "disturbance of public order" and make it "reasonable to believe" the group will damage property or people; the definition specifically includes a group of three or more who assemble to block a street or building entrance. Under the new bill, an "unlawful assembly" becomes a "riot" when at least one person:

- commits an "act of violence" that creates a "clear and present danger" of property damage or injury, or
- threatens to commit such an act and has the ability to do so; or
- commits an "act of violence" that "substantially obstructs" some governmental function.

As such, a large street protest where a single participant threatens to push somebody could be deemed a "riot," with no actual violence or property damage being committed by anyone.

Heard enough? *Take action right now.* **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.

Learn More



Climate-smart Regenerative Agriculture

Shout out to Mike McCabe, a member of 350 Wisconsin's Agriculture Policy and Practices team, for spreading the word about climate-smart regenerative agriculture! Mike recently published a newsletter on Substack (a social media site for writers) in which he talks about his upbringing on a small dairy farm, the impact of agriculture on climate, and how agriculture can be a force for good. He gives specific mention to Ryan Erisman, a local farmer that we recently connected with multiple media interviews to stand as a real-life example of how agriculture can be good for the Earth. He also amplifies 350 Wisconsin, and the work we do to equitably draw down greenhouse gas emissions. It is an inspiring, informative, and accessible piece, and it's well worth a read – and a share! You can see the full article by clicking the button below.

[Read the Article](#)



Photo Credit: Stephen Glass

Action for Climate-Safe Pensions

Check out our photos from 350 Wisconsin's action on March 28, 2023 to protest Wisconsin Investment Board's (SWIB's) holdings in fossil fuels!

Earlier in March, Climate Safe Pensions sent a message to SWIB leaders telling them they wanted to meet with them and present the signed petitions. To paraphrase their response: We're too busy, and state law doesn't require us to allow public comments.

So, we joined Climate Safe Pensions on March 28 with the petitions in hand to remind SWIB of their fiduciary responsibility to assess and act on climate-related financial risks!



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer leads the annual Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Walk on Sept. 6, 2021 (Photo provided by Michigan Executive Office of the Governor via Mlive.com)

Labor Day Weekend at the Straits of Mackinac

Do you dream of a lakeside vacation, with people of like mind, enjoying the weather, delicious Indigenous food, paddling, music, and an art build? It's happening Labor Day Weekend at the Straits of Mackinac, and we're invited!

Here's a brief list of the main events.

- Friday Sept. 1st - Feast hosted by the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians + a Light Brigade display near the Mackinac Bridge
- Saturday Sept. 2nd - *Pipe Out Paddle Out* event (8 am -12), *Water Is Life Festival* (12-9pm)
- Sunday Sept. 3rd - food, rest, networking, art build or other community project
- Monday, Sept. 4th - Annual Labor Day Bridge Walk, which draws 20,000+. The Michigan Governor & Lt Gov usually start the walk from the north side at 7am sharp, after the runners finish.

This year we hope to have a large contingent drawing attention to the danger posed by Enbridge Line 5. More information will be available at

<https://www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/events>

when details are worked out. But finding a place to stay is advisable now, as hotels and campgrounds are filling up.

Upcoming Meetings

Art Collective: TBD | Contact: Russ Bennett bennett.russ@gmail.com; Dianne Brakarsh movingfromwithin@gmail.com

Climate Justice: April 10, 7:00–8:30 pm | Contact: Marian Fredal marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org

Community Climate Solutions: April 20, 5-6 pm | Contact: Susan Millar Susan.Millar@350wisconsin.org (For a complete schedule of various team meetings of CCST, click [here](#).)

Communication Action: April 17, 7:00-8:30 pm | Contact Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org

Divest & Defund: April 24, 7-8:30 pm | Contact divest.defund@350wisconsin.org

Fundraising: April 19, 7-8 pm | Contact Stephanie.Robinson@350wisconsin.org

State Policy: April 19, 5:30-7:00 pm | Contact Gail Nordheim gail.nordheim@350wisconsin.org

Tar Sands: April 3, 5:30–6:30 pm | Contact Phyllis Hasbrouck Phyllis.Hasbrouck@350wisconsin.org

Monthly Meeting: April 3, 7-8 pm | Contact Julia Isaacs Julia.Isaacs@350wisconsin.org; Kelly Kearns Kelly.Kearns@350wisconsin.org

Register for the April 3rd
Monthly Meeting

350 Wisconsin

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