

July 2023 Climate Newsletter

Art Collective Music Group, Changes to MGE and WPL, Return of the Puppet Man, Kiss the Ground Documentary, 350 Wisconsin at the MREA Fair, Taste of Madison, Pizza for the Planet



Photo Credit: Marilee Sushoreba

Music, Art, and a Celebration of the Great Lakes to Protect the Water and #StopLine5

On June 9, 350 Wisconsin's Art Collective debuted its brand-new music group featuring the amazing Amanda Lauricella! Activists gathered in the Wisconsin Capitol Rotunda to call for President Biden and Governor Evers to shut down tar sands pipeline Line 5 immediately, and to cancel its proposed reroute.

Our event was one of almost 70 other events as part of the international End the Era of Fossil Fuels week of actions, hosted by People vs Fossil Fuels and led by the 350 Network Council. Around the US and in a few international locations, groups called for governments to cancel key frontline fossil fuel projects (such as the Mountain Valley Pipeline in Appalachia) and reminded President Biden that we expect bold, swift action for climate justice.

Check out the video of our beautiful, emotional action featuring singers, body percussionists, and art from frontline communities by clicking the button below!

Watch the Video on Facebook



Affordable Power and Accessible Solar Energy for All? Not if MGE and Alliant/WPL have their Way!

Major utility companies, Madison Gas & Electric (MGE) and Wisconsin Power & Light (WPL, part of Alliant Energy), have proposed changes to the way that customers with solar panels can sell excess energy back to the grid (a process known as net metering). For many users, the ability to sell energy back to the utilities is a key part of making solar panels affordable and accessible; without net metering, it can take several years longer for the solar panels to provide a net savings. In addition to changes to net metering, MGE and WPL are proposing rate hikes for all users.

These changes will impact all customers in MGE and WPL's service areas, but low- to middle-income households, small businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations will be impacted the most. Low-income households, particularly in BIPOC communities, already face a [higher energy burden](#) (i.e., they spend larger portions of their income on energy) compared to middle- to high-income households, making the proposed rate hikes a critical matter of climate justice. The changes to net metering policy will make it much more financially difficult to install solar panels on homes, small businesses, public facilities, and church or nonprofit buildings. Changes will also continue MGE and WPL's reliance on fossil fuels (and the

erratic price fluctuations associated with these products).

350 Wisconsin is officially taking a stand against these proposed changes. We are official intervenors in both MGE and WPL's cases with Wisconsin's Public Service Commission (PSC), which gives us the ability to submit testimony and have a seat at the table to work with MGE, WPL, and the PSC to find a solution that supports the just transition to renewable energy and protects the rights of all Wisconsin communities. Want more information? Join us on July 10 for [our monthly meeting](#), when Michael Vickerman of RENEW Wisconsin will discuss what these changes mean for all of us.



Return of the Puppet Man: Stop Greenwashing with the Art Collective

This year, on Earth Day, the patrons of the Dane County Farmers' Market were surprised by a creative skit and dance performance, highlighting the deceptive greenwashing that Chase Bank (and other big fossil fuel funders) use in wooing their customers. Missed it? Well, we're doing it again! 10am on Saturday, July 15 will be the opening action, and we would appreciate your help. We're looking for a couple of people to play parts in the skit - no dancing required! Interested? Have questions? Contact Dianne Brakarsh at movingfromwithin@gmail.com.

Is playing a support role more your style? We also need help with bannerling. Please use the link below to register with the Divest and Defund team if you're able to help.

We appreciate your support!

Register



***Kiss the Ground* Documentary Showing**

Regenerative agriculture's potential to revitalize soil, water, communities and the climate by reducing CO2 emissions was put on display to an audience of more than 40 at a June 17 free community screening of the documentary film "Kiss the Ground." This was sponsored by our Agriculture Policy and Practices Team at the Madison Public Library's Pinney Branch.

This powerfully hopeful film tells the stories of farmers, researchers and activists who are working to develop this "new old approach" to farming that produces food in a way that not only is gentle on the planet but also can repair the harm that's already been done. The movie is streaming on Netflix.

After the showing, 350 Wisconsin member Steve Glass led a rich and wide-ranging discussion touching on how regenerative agriculture: is being practiced and is expanding locally; can be both profitable for farmers and beneficial to consumers; and can reduce carbon emissions and fight climate change. Our Agriculture Policy and Practices Team has been organizing a series of farm visits to showcase innovative farmers practicing regenerative agriculture. Those interested in joining a future tour can contact Mike Friend at mjfriend0316@gmail.com.



Pictured: Sara and Susan talking with an MREA Energy Fair attendee

350 Wisconsin at the MREA Energy Fair

From June 23-25, members of 350 Wisconsin attended the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) Energy Fair in Custer, Wisconsin (just east of Stevens Point). For the first time, 350 Wisconsin had its own exhibition table! We had some amazing conversations, connections with other environmental organizations, and volunteer interest across the Midwest. And we were blown away by the keynote by Amy Goodman (Journalist, Democracy Now). Thank you to everyone who attended and helped staff our table, and congratulations to those who gave presentations at various Energy Fair workshops!

- Thank you to our volunteer tablers, Maddie Loeffler, Susan Millar, Liz Hachten, Hayley Tymeson, Kermit Hovey, Carol Phelps, and Sara Kenyon!
- Special thanks to Maddie Loeffler, who organized all of us who attended, helped prepare and set up our display table on the 22nd, and worked at this table much of the time on the 23rd and 24th.
- And a big congratulations to Liz and Don, who presented a workshop on Energy Equity, and Don and Susan, who presented a workshop titled “Life is not a Gas!” (about why and how to stop using fossil gas).

We look forward to 350 Wisconsin’s participation at upcoming MREA Energy Fairs! (FYI, Sierra Club runs a free Madison - MREA

bus to and from the fair, leaving early to and returning late from the fair on Saturday.)



VOLUNTEER WITH 350 WISCONSIN AT

TASTE OF MADISON

September 2nd

350 WISCONSIN
TOGETHER FOR THE CLIMATE

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN STAFFING A BEER STAND AT TASTE OF MADISON, WITH THE POTENTIAL TO EARN ~ \$2,000. BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP! WE'RE LOOKING FOR FOLKS THAT CAN COMMIT TO WORKING A SHIFT OF 3.5 TO 4 HOURS AT THE STAND. SIGN UP AT THE LINK!

LOCATION: At the corner of East Main and King Street

MORE INFORMATION AND SIGN UP: tinyurl.com/350WI-TOM

Get Ready for the Taste of Madison

We are once again staffing a Beer Tent at Taste of Madison on September 2nd from 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM. We have the potential to earn ~\$2000, and we need your help to make this happen! We're looking for volunteers that can commit to working a shift of 4 to 4.5 hours, serving drinks and taking payment. We also need a few people each shift to talk with attendees about 350 Wisconsin. If you'd like to participate, please complete the Sign Up Genius (button below) as soon as possible. For more information contact nikki.darga@350wisconsin.org.

Taste of Madison offers over 80 restaurants, 3 entertainment stages and 26 beverage stands drawing over 250,000 people to the Capitol Square over Labor Day weekend.

Sign Up



Pizza for the Planet... and Air Quality

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate at our annual Pizza for the Planet event on June 28th! Whether you joined us in person at Ian's Pizza Garver, picked up your dinner to go, or had your meal delivered to your home, your participation was greatly appreciated! It was wonderful to see friendly faces at Ian's, with engaging and interesting conversations all around.

While we don't have final totals yet, we had over 75 orders placed that mentioned 350 Wisconsin, which is amazing! Thank you again to everyone who joined us!

Upcoming Meetings

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

Climate Justice: July 17, 7:00–8:30 pm | Contact: Marian Fredal marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org

Community Climate Solutions: July 20, 5-6 pm | Contact: Susan Millar Susan.Millar@350wisconsin.org, Rachel Robillard RachelEBRobillard@gmail.com, or Maddie Loeffler maddie.loeffler@350wisconsin.org (For a complete schedule of various team meetings of CCST, click [here](#).)

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

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

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

State Policy: July 19, 4-5 pm | Contact: Janet Niewold janet.niewold@gmail.com

Tar Sands: TBD | Contact: Alex Goetsch goetschalex3@gmail.com

Monthly Meeting: July 10, 7-8 pm | Contact: Julia Isaacs Julia.Isaacs@350wisconsin.org; Kelly Kearns Kelly.Kearns@350wisconsin.org

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VOLUNTEER

350 Wisconsin

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