

# August 2023 Climate Newsletter

*350 Wisconsin is Hiring, Utility Survey, Civil Disobedience at Chase Bank, Climate Justice Relationships are Key, A Flotilla on Lake Superior, Volunteer for Taste of Madison, Madison's Draft Sustainability Plan, Purchase of Development Rights, Farmland Preservation Report, WI Expansion of EV Charging Network*

Get Involved

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## 350 Wisconsin is Hiring!

Want to be part of a team of passionate staff and volunteers to stop fossil fuel infrastructure? Interested in facilitating a just transition to a sustainable future for all? 350 Wisconsin is hiring for a [new Fossil Fuel Organizer!](#)

When Phyllis Hasbrouck retired this past spring, she left some big shoes to fill: we're looking for someone with passion, a willingness to learn, and the desire to develop deep, transformational relationships with other activists to not only help stop Line 5, but end the funding of fossil fuel infrastructure everywhere and grow our movement.

Please share this with your friends and contacts!

Questions? Reach out to Emily at [Emily.park@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Emily.park@350wisconsin.org)!



## Fill out the Utility Survey

During our [July monthly meeting](#), we briefly discussed 350 Wisconsin's involvement as intervenors in the MGE and WPL rate cases. As part of the intervenor process, we ask that you fill out a survey about your utilities.

As a reminder, 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.

If you have already filled out the survey, thank you so much for your participation! If you have not yet filled it out, we are still looking for additional data and would love to have more respondents to our survey. Just click the button below!

Take the Survey



## Civil Disobedience at Chase Bank

On July 29, the Divest and Defund team organized a powerful, non-violent civil disobedience action at the Chase Bank branch on the Square during the Farmer's Market. Seven activists (pictured above) entered the bank, sat down, and began reading climate-related prayers and poetry (they also sang songs!). They sat to protest Chase's expanding role in funding climate chaos and even delivered a letter to the manager voicing their concerns. Meanwhile, an energetic, well-organized, creative action involving the Art Collective (and others) informed passersby outside about the civil disobedience. Social media helped amplify the message and the branch was locked up from the time activists entered until the last was escorted out (about an hour).

Additionally, the activists had a lengthy discussion with the police, including one officer whose grandfather faced police dogs and fire hoses during the civil rights protests. As is often the case in non-violent civil disobedience actions, the police said they agreed with the activists and understood why they were there, but ultimately had to do their job.

The action was a success: we disrupted business as usual and shared our witness to Chase's greedy role in the climate chaos. If you'd like to get involved in future actions, [contact our Divest and Defund team](#) and don't miss the next opportunity to call attention to Chase's dirty finances.



Photo Credit: Kristina Lucas

## In Climate Justice Work, Relationships are Key

At our October 2021 Monthly meeting, Indi Namkoong, coalition manager for 350PDX, emphasized that relationships are key for Climate Justice work and that these relationships take time to solidify. Since then, the Climate Justice team has been working to identify Madison area organizations led by Black, Indigenous, Latino, and people of color and watching for opportunities to build relationships with them. One way to do so is to attend volunteer events; some organizations periodically ask for volunteers to assist with projects and events, so last Saturday, four 350 members volunteered for the Urban Triage Kickback at Penn Park!



Our volunteers met staff and key volunteers for Urban Triage, and in some cases, got a chance to briefly talk about their work at 350 Wisconsin. Afterwards, we discussed what we learned and identified next steps, from sending Urban Triage a thank you message to inquiring about their programs. We also discussed our climate justice goals, including holding future conversations and continued contact through volunteer work.

We were pleased that we had the opportunity to connect with Urban Triage staff and we are hopeful for more contact in the future.



Kermit Hovey, 350 Wisconsin Secretary and Climate Justice Team member and Diana Hovey wait to check in the next vendor at the Urban Triage Annual Kickback event in Penn Park, Madison, WI July 22, 2023.



## A Flotilla to Defend the Sacred Lake Superior

350 Wisconsin is proud to play a pivotal behind-the-scenes role with nearly a dozen organizations in organizing August 6's [Community Water Festival: Defend the Sacred](#) in Superior, WI.

The fight to shut down Line 5 is constantly evolving (figuratively, as court decisions are released and appealed, and literally, as the Bad River banks near the pipeline erode). In support of the Bad River Band and other frontline communities, 350 Wisconsin activists will be traveling up north to (peacefully and legally) join flotilla events celebrating the sacredness of Lake Superior. This “kayaktivism” will kick off with a small event in Ashland on Saturday August 5 and will continue with a larger flotilla along the Nemadji River in Superior. We’ll end with a large family-friendly community festival!

These flotilla events are part of a longer string of actions happening throughout August and September, including the [Mackinaw Bridge Walk](#) on Labor Day and the [End Fossil Fuels](#) march in New York City in September during the UN climate talks.



VOLUNTEER WITH 350 WISCONSIN AT

# TASTE OF MADISON

BEER TENT

**September 2nd**

**350 WISCONSIN**  
RESTORING THE GREAT LAKES

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

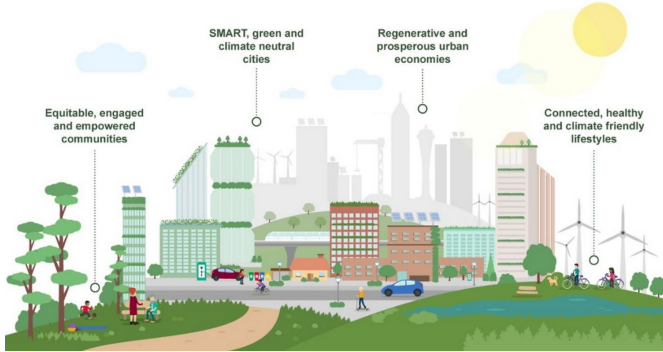
MORE INFORMATION AND SIGN UP: [tinyurl.com/350WI-TOM](http://tinyurl.com/350WI-TOM)

## Volunteer for Taste of Madison

We have been recruiting volunteers for Taste of Madison and we still need your help! We are staffing a Beer Tent on September 2nd from 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM. We have the potential to earn ~\$2000 during this event!

We're looking for volunteers that can commit to working a shift of 4 to 4.5 hours, serving drinks and taking payment. We especially need help with the second shift, from 5:30-9:30pm. 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](mailto:nikki.darga@350wisconsin.org).

Sign Up



## City of Madison Residents: Comment on Madison's Draft Sustainability Plan

Members of the City of Madison's Sustainable Madison Committee (currently co-chaired by Susan Millar and Kai Brito) spent over two years drafting a new Sustainability Plan for the City. This summer, the City's Sustainability and Resilience Manager (Jessica Price) hired a consultant organization to do much of the work needed to transform this draft into the document scheduled for approval by the Madison Common Council in January 2024. Prior to preparing this final version, the consultant team is undertaking an intensive "community engagement" process during August and most of September. So, City of Madison residents, stay tuned for this opportunity to provide comments on the draft plan!



## Learn about "Purchase of Development Rights" on Sept. 21

The Community Climate Solutions Team invites everyone in 350 Wisconsin to attend the special September 21 (5-6 PM) monthly meeting. During this meeting, Renée Lauber will describe her experience using Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) to permanently preserve open

space and agricultural land. (PDR addresses climate change because it limits urban sprawl.) Lauber has worked on local land protection in Dane County for over 25 years and is currently a land use consultant and the Executive Director of the Dane County Towns Association. Her talk will cover the technical mechanisms and details of starting, funding, and maintaining a PDR program, including the pros and cons of this method.

To attend this Zoom meeting, click the button below to join the Community Climate Change Team's mailing list, or email [RachelEBRobillard@gmail.com](mailto:RachelEBRobillard@gmail.com).

Join the Mailing List



## City of Madison's Farmland Preservation Report and Agricomunities

A City of Madison task force recently completed a superb "[Farmland Preservation Report](#)." It includes recommendations (pp. 10-11) intended to help Madison and the surrounding area preserve public and private land for urban agriculture.

The City's Sustainable Madison Committee (SMC) recently encouraged the Common Council to act on several of these recommendations. In particular, the SMC urges Madison to join cities across the US that, in the language of the Farmland Report, are fostering "agricommunities." Agricomunities provide residents with space for urban farming and



many also provide affordable housing. Importantly, those that provide both foster 350 Wisconsin's climate justice and regenerative agriculture goals.

Plans are underway now for developing the three remaining parcels of privately-owned farmland in Madison large enough to support agricomunities. Of these, [BT Farms](#) is of great interest for 350 Wisconsin: its foundational principles are equity, justice, and intergenerational wealth building, especially for Black and Indigenous communities.

Developers are planning the other two large parcels: the Voit and Raemish farm properties. Members of the Madison community are pressuring these developers to design for agricomunities rather than standard urban sprawl. For more information about these projects, contact [Susan Millar](#).



Photo Credit: Andrew Roberts

## Extensive Expansion in the Works for Wisconsin's EV Charging Network

Recently, State Policy Team members Judy Stadler and Jan Niewold attended the Electrification Coalition's EV State Policy Bootcamp to learn about Wisconsin's rapidly growing charging infrastructure. The Bootcamp convened dozens of EV policy makers, industry experts, and advocates to discuss the EV market as well as technology and state policy opportunities that are driving forward the deployment of EV charging infrastructure. It reflects on the ground: charging stations and a competitive EV market means that networks



are rapidly expanding to provide drivers with the convenience, range, and confidence they'll need to meet their transportation needs.

Currently, Wisconsin ranks 34th in EV purchases - only one out of 28 cars sold is an EV. Meanwhile, at a national level, one out of ten cars purchased is an EV. However, EV travel continues to accelerate in Wisconsin; with plans in the works to spend WI's \$78 million allocation from the *Bipartisan infrastructure Law* to build EV charging stations, there will soon be hundreds of new charging stations along the busiest traffic corridors in the state.

EV travel reduces the environmental impact of transportation while improving convenience to the state's travelers and commuters. The State Policy Team welcomes you to join our work on EV charging and other important issues. To get involved, contact Jan Niewold at [jan.niewold@350wisconsin.org](mailto:jan.niewold@350wisconsin.org).

[Read More](#)

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## Upcoming Meetings

**Art Collective:** TBD | Contact: Russ Bennett [bennett.russ@gmail.com](mailto:bennett.russ@gmail.com); Dianne Brakarsh [movingfromwithin@gmail.com](mailto:movingfromwithin@gmail.com)

**Climate Justice:** August 14, 7-8 pm | Contact: Marian Fredal [marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org](mailto:marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org)

**Community Climate Solutions:** September 21, 5-6 pm | Contact: Susan Millar [Susan.Millar@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Susan.Millar@350wisconsin.org), Rachel Robillard [RachelEBRobillard@gmail.com](mailto:RachelEBRobillard@gmail.com), or Maddie Loeffler [maddie.loeffler@350wisconsin.org](mailto:maddie.loeffler@350wisconsin.org) (For a complete schedule of various team meetings of CCST, click [here](#).)

**Communication Action:** August 121, 7:00-8:30 pm | Contact: Emily Park [Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org)

**Divest & Defund:** August 28, 7-8:30 pm | Contact [divest.defund@350wisonsin.org](mailto:divest.defund@350wisonsin.org)

**Fundraising:** August 16, 7-8 pm | Contact: Stephanie Robinson [Stephanie.Robinson@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Stephanie.Robinson@350wisconsin.org)

**State Policy:** August 16, 4-5 pm | Contact: Janet Niewold [janet.niewold@gmail.com](mailto:janet.niewold@gmail.com)

**Tar Sands:** TBD | Contact: Alex Goetsch [goetschalex3@gmail.com](mailto:goetschalex3@gmail.com)

**Monthly Meeting:** August 7, 6-8 pm (picnic/meeting) | Contact: Julia Isaacs [Julia.Isaacs@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Julia.Isaacs@350wisconsin.org); Kelly Kearns [Kelly.Kearns@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Kelly.Kearns@350wisconsin.org)

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