

September 2023 Climate Newsletter

Stayin' Alive with the Art Collective, Protect Affordable Energy in WI, Climate-Friendly Farm Bill Campaign, Shut Down Fossil Fuel Funding, Purchase of Development Rights, Let's Get Together, Girl Scouts Taking the Lead, CACR and UW-Madison's Development Plan



Stayin' Alive With the Art Collective

Join us at the iconic Willy St Fair and Parade, September 16 and 17. 350 Wisconsin has a table at the parade (free because we're helping with the recycling!), and participating is a great opportunity to connect with a friendly, receptive crowd who is supportive of our cause. If you're interested in tabling at the fair, please sign up using the first button below (and don't worry - we will provide plenty of guidance, such as how to talk to potential new supporters!). Let's engage more people in our work!

In addition to the "regular" tabling activities of providing information, recruiting volunteers, collecting signatures, and so on, the Art Collective will be doing some street theater to draw attention to our table. We want to stand out a bit from all the others and generate some curiosity and surprise among the passersby. If you'd like to learn more about our "acting" plans (and possibly participate!), please contact Richard Jones at studioparan@gmail.com.

We will also make a “Stayin’ Alive” appearance in the Willy St Parade, Sunday, September 17, 11am. We are looking for folks to carry signs and dress up (you can wear a critter hat or dress up as any non-human or human being that wants to reverse the climate crisis and stay alive!). Dance along with us, if you choose, or motivate others to join. **We would especially love to have some plants in the crowd - people who are ostensibly just watching the parade then accept our invitation to join our group.** The second button below is a video of last year’s parade, to give you idea of the flavor of it all. If interested in joining us, please sign up using the third button below. You’re guaranteed to have a good time!

Climate work is hard, draining, sometimes even despairing. The Art Collective believes that sparking “Joyful Rebellion” is an important way to grow our movement and to recharge our batteries. What may appear silly is actually quite serious!

September 17 is, of course, also the March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City. But if you can’t make it to the East Coast, bring your positive energy for climate change action to the Willy Street parade!

Table the Fair

Last Year's Parade

Parade Sign-up



Take Action to Protect Affordable Energy in Wisconsin

By now you’ve probably heard that two of Wisconsin’s major utilities - [Madison Gas & Electric](#) (MGE) and [Wisconsin Power & Light](#) (WPL) - have proposed increases in their rates for electricity and natural gas, in addition to the rules governing sales of excess energy back to the grid by rooftop solar users (a process known as net metering).

These proposals are a threat to climate justice in Wisconsin... but we have the opportunity to take action now!

In the MGE case, you can:

- Join the [live public hearings](#) on Wednesday, **September 6** at 1pm or 6pm on Zoom or in-person in Madison.

- Check the notice of public hearing [here](#) for more information on how to join.
- Submit a written comment [here](#) through September 26.

In the WPL case, you can:

- Join the [live public hearings](#) on Wednesday, **September 13** at 1 PM or 6 PM on Zoom or in-person in Madison.
- Check the notice of public hearing [here](#) for more information on how to join.
- Submit a written comment [here](#) through October 4.

To help you craft your comments, visit [this page](#) for talking points for both the MGE and WPL cases.

Interested in joining a public rally in support of affordable solar power? **Join us at the Dane County Farmers' Market on September 23** for the debut of our Art Collective's newest dance, celebrating solar and renewable energy!

To learn more about energy equity, attend our September 11th monthly meeting featuring a panel discussion on "Energy for All: Climate Justice and Energy Burden in Wisconsin."

For more information, contact Emily at emily.park@350wisconsin.org.

Submit a Comment (MGE)

Submit a Comment (WPL)



"Rooted in a Healthy Climate": A New Farm Bill Campaign

350 Wisconsin has joined a 19-member Midwest coalition advocating for a Farm Bill that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases equity and justice for producers of food and agricultural goods, and improves the lives of people in rural communities. We're planning a number of exciting events!

Tabling at Seven Acre Dairy's "Sunday on the Lawn" event with REAP Food Group

- We're **collaborating with REAP Food Group** on initiatives to build awareness about opportunities to advance a climate-friendly Farm Bill, including the recent "Sundays on the Lawn" event at Seven Acre Dairy in Paoli.
- Our upcoming **October webinar** will bring together a diverse panel of WI experts to discuss how an improved Farm Bill could advance justice, regenerative agriculture, small farms, better nutrition, and a healthy climate.
- The Agriculture Policies & Practices (APP) work group will be holding **documentary film screenings** in October with South West Wisconsin Area Progressives (SWWAP).
- **APP farm tours** - they've already held 10 over the past two years at locations including Troy Gardens, Winterfell Farm, Odyssey Farm, Green Fire Farm, and RG Miller & Sons to educate, build connection, and increase awareness of sustainable farming practices in our state.
- **Keep an eye on our social media for actions you can take** to support an equitable, climate-focused Farm Bill.

Want to get involved? Consider joining our new Natural Climate Solutions team that will be working on regenerative agriculture, forestry and wetlands! The Natural Climate Solutions Team works to reach a broad range of Wisconsinites interested in community-led solutions through education, outreach, and collaboration. Reach out to nikki.darga@350wisconsin.org for more information!



Shut Down Funding for Fossil Fuels

In the past seven years, JP Morgan Chase has made \$4.1 billion in loans to Enbridge, which is recklessly expanding pipelines in the Midwest - including Line 5 in Wisconsin. It's past time for Chase to stop funding the expansion of tar sands pipelines and other climate-damaging projects.

Join the Divest and Defund team in nonviolent direct action (NVDA) inside local banks. Help us pressure Chase to stop funding fossil fuel projects and publicize the damage Chase is doing to the climate. We have already shut down local Chase branches three times this year. Let's shut down three more in the next three months! We need volunteers for a variety of action and support roles.

Join us on Monday, September 25 at 7 pm for a virtual kickoff meeting to learn more. Register in advance for this meeting by clicking the button below. This kickoff meeting will train you for participating in or supporting NVDA at banks in the Madison area.

(Contact divest.defund@350wisconsin.org for help organizing a group outside Madison.)

Register



Concerned About Suburban Sprawl? Learn about "Purchase of Development Rights"

If you want to know about one of the strategies being used to limit suburban sprawl, attend the Community Climate Solutions Team's meeting on September 21, 5-6pm. During this meeting, Renee Lauber, Executive Director of the Dane County Towns Association, will describe the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) strategy being used to permanently preserve open space and agricultural land. To attend this Zoom meeting, join the Community Climate Change Team's mailing list or email RachelEBRobillard@gmail.com.

Join the Mailing List



"Let's Get Together" at Olbrich Biergarten - Save the Date!

Join 350 Wisconsin for a fun, casual gathering to build solidarity with fellow climate activists and community members. Enjoy the beautiful end of summer weather and views of Lake Monona. We will be thanking our outgoing Executive Director, John Greenler, for his many contributions and welcoming our new Co-Executive Directors, Emily Park and Stephanie

Robinson! Whether you're just getting to know us or a long-time supporter, we'd love to see you!

WHAT: "Let's Get Together!" community event

WHEN: Thursday, September 21, 5:00PM - 7:30PM

WHERE: The Biergarten at Olbrich Park, Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI 53714

The first 15 registrants receive a free drink token.

Check our social media channels and website for a registration link in the coming week!



Girl Scouts Taking the Lead: How their Videos Led to the Wisconsin Carbon Leadership Forum Hub

Julia Pooler leads a troop of Girl Scouts on a mission to raise awareness about embodied carbon. Their work didn't stop there: Julia is now the executive director of the Carbon Zero Youth Initiative, which currently is scaling the Scouts' work with students across the country.

In the video below, Julia shares her experience leading this group of young visionaries. Alongside her is Findorff sustainability lead, Ben Austin, who took inspiration from the girls' advocacy to drive more embodied carbon reduction in his company's buildings.

Together, they share insights on how younger generations have encouraged building professionals to think deeper about how our buildings impact the environment—and even

inspired the launch of a Wisconsin Hub of the [Carbon Leadership Forum](#).

Watch the Video



Community Advocates for Climate Resilience (CACR) - Advocating for a Resilience-based UW-Madison West Campus District Plan

The CACR project of the Community Climate Solutions Team is working with leaders at UW-Madison and the Madison area community at large to help ensure that UW-Madison's plan to "develop" the west campus area proactively addresses the realities of climate change. To join, or just learn more about the CACR group's work, contact Winston Thompson (wethompson@wisc.edu), a UW-Madison senior and 350 Wisconsin member who is co-leading this group. (The west campus area is 127 acres bounded by Willow Creek on the east, University Hospital/ Highland Avenue on the west, Campus Drive on the south, and Lake Mendota/Far West Fields to the north.)

Upcoming Meetings

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

Climate Justice: September 18, 7-8 pm | Contact: Marian Fredal marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org

Community Climate Solutions: September 21, 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: September 18, 7:00-8:30 pm | Contact: Emily Park Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org

Divest & Defund: September 25, 7-8:30 pm | Contact divest.defund@350wisconsin.org

Fundraising: September 20, 7-8 pm | Contact: Kristen Clark, our new Development Manager, at kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org

State Policy: September 20, 4-5 pm | Contact: Janet Niewold janet.niewold@gmail.com

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

Monthly Meeting: September 11, 7-8 pm | Contact: Julia Isaacs Julia.Isaacs@350wisconsin.org; Kelly Kearns Kelly.Kearns@350wisconsin.org

Organization Calendar: <https://350wisconsin.org/meeting-event-calendar/>

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