

## October 2023 Climate Newsletter

*Art Collective in Full Swing, Let's Get Together, Giving Tuesday, Protecting Affordable Energy in WI, Solar Tours, Jay Brower, Electric School Buses for MMSD, "Solving the Climate Crisis" Course*



### Art Collective in Full Swing!

The Art Collective has been operating at full tilt, taking advantage of the late summer/early fall weather! We've made art for a number of initiatives, including hosting Art Builds with frontline communities at the annual Mackinac Bridge Walk. Here in Madison, we participated in the Willy Street Fair, End of Fossil Fuels event, and the Walking on Sunshine Rally for Renewable Energy. We always welcome new folks who'd like to join us in these endeavors!

At the Willy Street Fair, we used some rather unconventional street theater and audience engagement tactics. We brought the Chariot of the Great Turning to the Willy Street Parade, which served as the grand finale following our non-human and human "Stayin' Alive" dancers. **Big thanks**

**to all who showed up to support this effort!** Many of you carried signs or banners, and the messaging you provided is essential to these actions.

What's coming up? We've been invited to support the indigenous and frontline communities in northern Wisconsin at the annual Applefest in Bayfield, the weekend of Oct 7 and 8. A few Art Collective members are going - contact [Russ Bennett](#) if you'd like to join!

We're also tossing around the idea of creating a Halloween-themed event for the Oct 28 downtown Farmers' Market. Details are still being sorted, but if you love Halloween and want to jump in the pool now as a potential participant, let us know! Russ Bennett, [bennett.russ@gmail.com](mailto:bennett.russ@gmail.com) and/or Dianne Brakarsh, [movingfromwithin@gmail.com](mailto:movingfromwithin@gmail.com).



## Let's Get Together at Olbrich Biergarten - New Date!

Join 350 Wisconsin on October 14th for a fun, casual gathering to build solidarity with fellow climate activists and community members. 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!

This event was previously scheduled for September but was postponed due to weather.

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

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 14, 4:00PM - 7:00PM (*rain date October 15*)

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

Registration not required, but appreciated

[Register](#)



## Save the Date: Giving Tuesday

On November 28th, people all around the globe are coming together to tap into the power of human connection and change our world. Following Black Friday and Cyber Monday is the kickoff of the charitable season, and #GivingTuesday is an opportunity to make a difference in our community.

350 Wisconsin is proud to once again participate in #GivingTuesday. We have some great plans in the works, so stay tuned! In the meantime, here is how you can get ready to give:

1. **Mark your calendar.** Plan to join us at Garver Feed Mill on November 28th for a community celebration!
2. **Donate** an art/craft item or gift card for our auction -- click [here!](#)
3. **Give.** On November 28th, go to [350wisconsin.org](https://350wisconsin.org) and donate. You can also support our organization in other important ways, by contributing your time or joining one of our campaign teams.
4. **Spread the word.** Encourage your friends and family to join you in creating real impact by sharing what our mission means to you and why you support 350 Wisconsin.

Let's rally together to strengthen our community and protect our beautiful planet!

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## Protecting Affordable Energy in Wisconsin: UPDATE!

[Madison Gas & Electric](#) (MGE) and [Wisconsin Power & Light](#) (WPL) have proposed rate increases for electricity and natural gas, as well as changes to the rules governing sales of excess energy back to the grid by rooftop solar users (i.e., net metering).

Since our last update, WPL has modified its Power Partnership proposal to preserve net metering for another two years, among other improvements. These changes are the result of pressure brought by intervenors (including 350 Wisconsin), our allies, and members of the public – a total of 1,247 comments/testimony in both cases to date!

Although WPL's current proposal is more favorable for distributed solar adoption, we strongly believe that the limited market penetration of 0.3% in our state does not warrant changes to net metering at this time. Rather than utility-by-utility decisions, a comprehensive, collaborative process is needed to arrive at a consistent statewide policy to address the future of net metering in Wisconsin.

Further, WPL's proposed rate hikes remain a threat. WPL proposes to increase electric rates by 8.4% in 2024 and a further 5.4% in 2025, while gas rates would be subject to a single increase of 6.3% in 2024. This will further exacerbate existing energy burdens experienced by WPL customers. To learn more about energy burden, watch [the recording of our panel discussion](#) "Energy for All: Climate Justice and Energy Burden in Wisconsin."

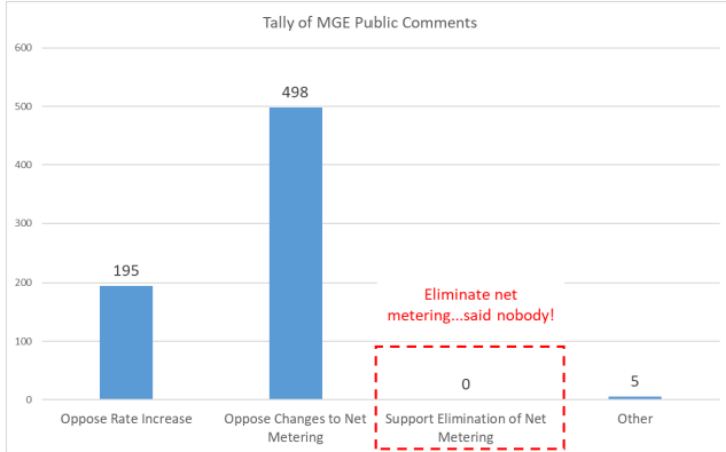


Chart from the public comment of Mike Barnett

There's still time to make your voice heard before the October 4th deadline! Find more information and instructions [here](#) and submit a comment below:

Submit a Comment

350 Wisconsin is grateful to be well-represented as an intervenor by the Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA). We can expect the PSC rulings on both the MGE and WPL cases before the end of the year.

For more information, contact Emily at [emily.park@350wisconsin.org](mailto:emily.park@350wisconsin.org).



Couillard Solar Foundation Solar Pavilion

## Interested in a Solar Tour?

The 2023 ASES National Solar Tour is happening Oct 6th-8th. For more tour information about a tour site near you, visit the tour map here:

Events - ASES National Solar Tour

The Couillard Solar Foundation also has a self guided tour available here:

Deerfield Solar Tour Site Map -  
Couillard Solar Foundation



Photo courtesy of Jay Brower

## **Congratulations to Jay Brower, CCST Member and New Dane County Supervisor!**

We are delighted that Jay Brower, a member of CCST's Energy Equity Working Group and also the Community Advocates for Climate Resilience group (which focuses on the UW-Madison's West Campus District Plan), is a new Dane County Supervisor! He was appointed to fill the vacant Supervisor role for Dane County's District 13. This district encompasses much of the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus and the surrounding area and has a very large student population. Jay's commitment to reducing economic inequality in Wisconsin is evident from the fact that he left a faculty position out east to take a position here as a labor organizer with SEIU (Service Employees International Union) Wisconsin.



## **Electric School Buses - Application Submitted for Madison Metropolitan School District**

Since August, our Community Climate Solutions Team's Madison Community Working Group has been working with a Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) sustainability group to obtain the district's first set of electric school buses! Electric school buses reduce air pollution, noise, carbon emissions, school district operating costs, and harm to students' health. After a period of research and investigation, CCST helped First Student,

MMSD's new school bus provider, apply for electric school buses through the US Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus program, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act. This MMSD 350 Wisconsin team has much more work ahead to ensure that MMSD reaches its goal of a 100% electric school bus fleet. Stay tuned!



Photo courtesy of madisoncollege.edu

## Solving the Climate Crisis - Six Week Course at Madison College

Are you interested in learning about how to empower your community to take action on the climate crisis? Join 350 Wisconsin member, local Madison teacher, and climate activist Carol Phelps for "Solving the Climate Crisis" at Madison College starting on October 11!

The class will be held at the Madison College Goodman South Campus and will run for six weeks, meeting Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Learn more and register by clicking the buttons below.

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

### 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:** October 9, 7-8 pm | Contact: Marian Fredal [marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org](mailto:marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org)

**Community Climate Solutions:** October 19, 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:** October 16, 7:00-8:30 pm | Contact: Emily Park [Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org)

**Divest & Defund:** October 23, 7-8:30 pm | Contact [divest.defund@350wisconsin.org](mailto:divest.defund@350wisconsin.org)

**Fundraising:** October 18, 7-8 pm | Contact: Kristen Clark, our new Development Manager, at [kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org](mailto:kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org)

**State Policy:** October 18, 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:** October 2, 7-8 pm | Contact: Julia Isaacs [Julia.Isaacs@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Julia.Isaacs@350wisconsin.org); Kelly Kearns [Kelly.Kearns@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Kelly.Kearns@350wisconsin.org)

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

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**350 Wisconsin**

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