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## November 2023 Climate Newsletter

*Giving Tuesday, MGE Rate Case Update, City Sustainability Surveys, AppleFest, Devil Flash Mobs, UW-Madison West Campus District Plan, House Concert and Community Sharing, Farm Bill, Line 5 Toolkit, Middleton awarded LEED Gold, Dane County Sustainability Campus Planning, New Solar Projects Approved, "The Street Project" Screening*



**GARVER FEED MILL**  
November 28, 2023



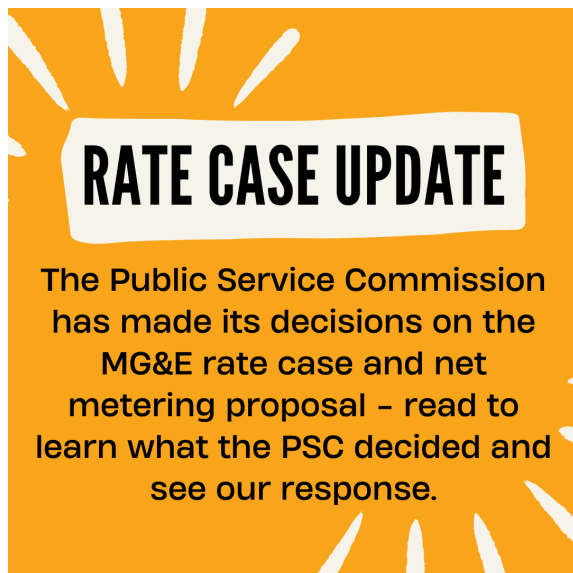
### Join Our Giving Tuesday Celebration!

Giving Tuesday is a time for people all around the globe to come together, strengthen our communities, and change our world. Our 2023 theme -- **"Together for the Climate"** -- reminds us of our collective power to create a just, healthy, and sustainable future for our planet and all living beings.

We'd love to have you join in the festivities. Check our [website](#) for more details as we get closer to the big day!

- **Celebration.** Garver Feed Mill, November 28th, 7-9pm. Attendance is free but [registration](#) is appreciated!
- **Online Auction.** Our auction will be open from November 18th - November 29th. It's not too late to contribute a craft item or gift card. Click [here](#) to enter your item donation. Click here to [register](#) in advance for the auction.
- **Giving Tuesday Ambassadors.** If you'd like to fundraise on behalf of 350 Wisconsin, provide funds for a match, or support this campaign in other ways, please contact [kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org](mailto:kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org).

Make an early [donation](#) and inspire others to give!



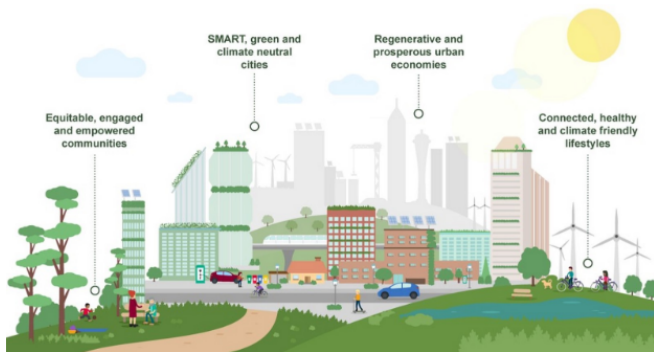
## A Win for Rooftop Solar in Wisconsin

On Friday, [the Public Service Commission \(PSC\) of Wisconsin](#) rejected Madison Gas & Electric's proposal to overhaul net metering - a huge win for the future of rooftop solar in Wisconsin! Net metering helps solar owners recoup the high upfront cost of installing rooftop solar and makes rooftop solar possible for low and middle-income homeowners.

In addition to preserving net metering, the PSC also took action to reduce MGE's authorized return on equity, which will reduce the overall rate increase for customers. While we wish the PSC had gone even further, we are pleased that the commission took some action to address inequitable energy burdens by limiting shareholder profits.

For more information on these decisions, check out our [joint press release](#) with [Midwest Environmental Advocates](#).

Stay tuned for PSC decisions on the Wisconsin Power & Light (WPL) proposal, expected later this month!



## Your Opinion Matters - Take the Online City Sustainability Surveys!

The Cities of Madison and Fitchburg are seeking input from residents on their draft sustainability plans. Find the Madison and Fitchburg surveys below:

[Madison Survey](#)

[Fitchburg Survey](#)

Both cities are taking responses at least through the middle of November, and are provided in multiple languages. The Madison survey is for its "Sustainability Update Plan" (its first plan was published in 2011), while the Fitchburg survey is for its first plan. Both cities seek input from their residents while also welcoming input from residents of neighboring communities. The two surveys are quite different in format. The Fitchburg survey can be completed in 7.5 minutes. The Madison survey (which includes links to the current draft plan) can be completed in as little as 10 minutes. **Your opinion matters** - please complete these surveys.



Image credit: Devon Cupery

## The Art Collective at AppleFest

On October 7th, five members of the Art Collective traveled north for the AppleFest parade in Bayfield, WI. This was done in conjunction with the Sierra Club/Tar Sands Team at the request of the frontline and indigenous communities fighting the Line 5 pipeline. Our entry in the parade consisted of the 6 ft diameter Earth Ball, as well as "The River," which featured some modest choreography as our portable sound system played "Take Me to the River" by the Talking Heads. We won a second place award!



## Devil Flash Mobs with the Art Collective and 350 Wisconsin Action

On October 28th, a few lowly Minions of Satan appeared at the Dane County Farmers' Market to express their delight about the fact that climate change is making the world smokier, stormier and HOTTER, thus feeling more and more like "home." They also pointed out that if certain presidential candidates were elected, those candidates would deny the severity of the climate crisis and delay addressing it. As a "preview" of what could be expected with the increasing chaos of climate destruction, six of the devils broke into a flash mob dance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller." At the conclusion of the dance, on a more serious note, the market-goers were reminded to include candidates' climate agendas when choosing for whom they vote in 2024.



## Help Ensure the Sustainability Focus of UW-Madison West Campus District Plan - Sign a Request to the UW Board of Regents

UW-Madison leaders have asked our Madison Community Working Group to help them by gathering broad community support for their plan to develop a major area of the campus in ways that significantly mitigate the threat of climate change. To that end, this group (Community Advocates for Climate Resilience in the UW-Madison West Campus District Plan) has produced a "statement of support" that UW-Madison leaders will take to the statewide UW Board of Regents. To sign, just click on the statement of support below. And if you are willing, please share this message with others in your network who you believe would welcome the opportunity to sign.

[Sign the Statement of Support](#)

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Sunni Leilani

CO CREATOR

Standing for Water Rights & Earth Rights  
Sunni Leilani's Community Stretches Across Turtle Island  
& All Of Earth Mother  
Extending to the Various Places & Lands She Calls Home  
Along With Their Indigenous Peoples

After Spending Approximately 5-6 Months In Standing Rock  
She Started a Self Funded & Self Sustained  
Ancient Love Story Journey & Tour  
Across Turtle Island & the Hawaiian Islands  
Collecting Sharing Documenting Witnessing  
& Communing With Indigenous Peoples  
All Peoples & Creatures  
Land Defenders  
Water Protectors  
Guardians Of the Mountains  
Aloha Āina Freedom Fighters  
& Our Beautiful Planet

Above Below & Beyond  
Weaving Ceremony  
& Prayer Into Her Performances

In December 2020  
She Headed to Palisade Minnesota  
from San Francisco CA  
to Join the Water Protector's  
at the Mississippi House  
& Line 3 Resistance Camp

In December 2022  
Sunni Released  
Her Fourth Album  
ANCIENT LOVE STORY  
A Double Record  
2 Collections Of Prayer Songs  
HEAVEN On EARTH & WORLD Of WATER

At Present  
Sunni Is Singing Her Prayer Songs  
In Support of Shutting Down Line 5  
& Dangerous Exploitative Practices  
In Resistance to the Ongoing Epidemic of  
Missing Murdered Indigenous  
Women Men & Children  
In Power to Co Create a More  
Just & Loving World  
For All Life All Life  
Is Sacred

## Coming Up: House Concert and Community Sharing - You're Invited!

On Wednesday, Nov 15, Sunni Leilani will be doing a house concert in Madison at 201 Bram St. An active participant at Standing Rock and Line 3, she is now active in supporting the Line 5 Water Protectors. An optional potluck will start at 6pm, with the concert starting at 7. During the second half folks will be invited to share a song, poem, or story of their own.

Let us know if you are planning on coming, or even if you are a "maybe", as seating will be limited to about 20 people. Admission is on a sliding scale, from 0 to \$10. RSVP to [bennett.russ@gmail.com](mailto:bennett.russ@gmail.com).



## Learn About the Farm Bill

Every five years, the federal government reviews and renews the Farm Bill, a sizeable omnibus piece of legislation that controls the allocation of government funds within the agricultural sector. The Farm Bill includes food benefits, commodity crops, energy, forestry, and conservation funding. The current Farm Bill expired on September 30th, and climate could be a vital part of the new bill.

The United States can shift funding away from environmentally harmful practices through bills such as the Agricultural Resilience Act of 2023, Converting Our Waste Sustainably (COWS) Act, and the Farmer's First Act. These transitions could allow the focus to shift towards allocating funds towards initiatives that turn the needle for a more sustainable future, such as

regenerative agricultural practices, funding nutritious horticulture crops over industrial commodities, low-carbon renewable energy production, and support for sustainable forestry.

By advocating for the redistribution of funds, we can prioritize the environment through conservation and regenerative practices. Keep an eye out in the coming months for more updates from 350 Wisconsin about how to advocate for a climate-forward Farm Bill!

Join our Farm Bill Webinar on Tuesday, November 7 at 7pm! [Sign up now!](#)



## The Line 5 Action Toolkit is Here !

The Line 5 Action Toolkit is a joint effort of the 350 Wisconsin & Sierra Club WI Chapter tar sands team. It was created to help Wisconsinites across the state get involved in the fight against Line 5 and to raise awareness about this critical issue through a variety of actions. Want to make a big impact with something simple? *Put up a yard sign!* Looking to do a bit more? *Distribute flyers in your community and invite a friend to help!* Whether you're short on time or can afford to challenge yourself to complete each action, your efforts help spread the word. If you have any questions about how to use the toolkit, please contact Britnie:

[britnie.remer@350wisconsin.org](mailto:britnie.remer@350wisconsin.org).

[View Toolkit](#)



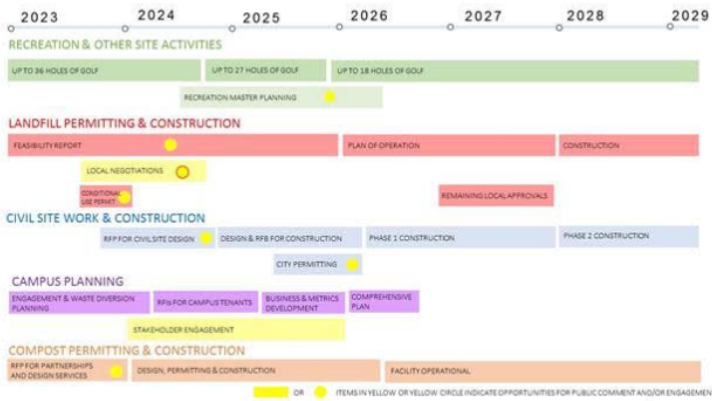
## Congratulations to Middleton, Awarded LEED Gold by USGBC

The City of Middleton is among the first 160 cities and communities globally to be certified by the [LEED for Cities & Communities](#) rating system. And it is the first Wisconsin municipality to achieve Gold Level status within the LEED point system.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), is the world's most widely-used green building rating system. Their LEED for Cities & Communities system expands on its building rating system, and is designed to help cities create, operationalize and measure strategies that improve building energy, water, waste, transportation and other systems in pursuit of a sustainable future for their residents. It helps cities demonstrate their commitment to climate resilience, and human health, equity, safety, and economic prosperity.

Middleton achieved LEED certification by implementing practical and measurable strategies for achieving high performance in social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Specifically, it demonstrated excellence in green space allocation for residents, community-wide renewable energy innovation, and multi-jurisdictional collaboration with the County and other cities on climate mitigation and resiliency projects. Their certification data also highlighted areas where Middleton could improve, including reducing water consumption, improving access to civic resources, and reducing disparities in education, income, and home ownership.





## Dane County's Sustainability Campus Planning Underway

Dane County’s Sustainability Campus planning is fully underway, as the timeline indicates. Among these plans is an organics recycling facility scheduled to accept food waste by Spring 2026. Indeed, Dane County recently released a request for proposals for partners who would permit and/or operate this facility. The Community Climate Solutions Team intends to provide information in future 350 Wisconsin newsletters about upcoming opportunities for community input on the Sustainability Campus planning process.



## New Solar Projects Recently Approved in WI

Positive comments from 350 WI members and other public supporters helped win approval of two new solar developments, the 300 megawatt (MW) Elk Creek Solar project in Dunn County and 200 MW Langdon Mills project in Columbia County.

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) must approve applications for solar projects greater than 100 MW before they can move forward to construction. As part of the approval process, the public is invited to submit input.

Since 2019, the PSCW has issued approvals for 17 solar power projects across Wisconsin, totaling

3,249 MW. With these new developments, solar energy will make up 10% of Wisconsin's electricity production, up from a pitiful 1.7%.

Additional renewable energy projects are under review, including Vista Sands Solar in Portage County, and Uplands Wind in Lafayette and Iowa Counties. Keep an eye out for emails requesting you to submit comments in support of these important projects. Your effort makes a difference.

To learn more about the State Policy Team, contact co-lead Jan Niewold at [jan.niewold@350wisconsin.org](mailto:jan.niewold@350wisconsin.org). We meet on Zoom the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 4pm.



## Report-Back from "The Street Project" Screening with Madison Bikes

Members of 350 Wisconsin's Community Climate Solutions Team joined [Madison Bikes](#) at their screening of *The Street Project* at the Marquee Theater at Union South. The screening was followed by an engaging panel Q&A, consisting of:

- Organizer Alicia Bosscher, Organizer at Ride for Your Life
- Baltazar De Anda Santana, Director of Workforce Development at the Latino Academy
- Chris McCahill, President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Congress for the New Urbanism
- Collin Mead, Wisconsin Bike Fed
- Morgan Ramaker, Downtown Madison, Inc.

350 Wisconsin's screening attendees highly recommend watching *The Street Project* to learn directly from community organizers about the causes and impacts of traffic violence, and about the movement for bike and pedestrian-safe cities. One takeaway from the panel is if you notice any places in your community that are dangerous to bicyclists and/or pedestrians, tell your alder/council member, file a complaint with the city/town/village, and/or see if there are bike/walk audit resources available to you. And if that doesn't work - [organize!](#)

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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:** November 13, 7-8 pm | Contact: Marian Fredal [marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org](mailto:marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org)

**Community Climate Solutions:** November 16, 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:** November 20, 7:00-8:30 pm | Contact: Emily Park [Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org)

**Divest & Defund:** November 27, 7-8:30 pm | Contact [divest.defund@350wisconsin.org](mailto:divest.defund@350wisconsin.org)

**Fundraising:** November 15, 7-8 pm | Contact: Kristen Clark, our new Development Manager, at [kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org](mailto:kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org)

**State Policy:** November 15, 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:** November 6, 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**

2921 Landmark Pl, Suite 215, #407, | Madison, Wisconsin 53713-4248  
608-492-1667 | [contact@350wisconsin.org](mailto:contact@350wisconsin.org)

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