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## January 2024 Climate Newsletter

*Happy New Year, Witnessing Climate Action at COP28, Militarism and Climate Change Webinar, Home Energy Rebate Programs, Climate Action Campaign Update, Tell the USACE No Shortcuts on Line 5, Caroling for the Climate, The Fight Against PFAS in Dane County Continues, Mayor Praises Madison's Sustainability Accomplishments, Bring It On: Geothermal Energy*



### Happy New Year!

As we bid farewell to 2023, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who supported 350 Wisconsin throughout the year. Your unwavering commitment and dedication have truly made our grassroots activism possible, and we are immensely thankful for your contribution to our organization.

### Here's a special shout-out to:

1. **Our Donors:** Your support has been the driving force behind our movement, empowering us to make a meaningful impact on the issues we care deeply about.
2. **Our Team Leaders and Board Members:** Your leadership and advocacy have been instrumental in championing our efforts and guiding us toward success.
3. **Our Volunteers:** Your hard work and dedication to advancing our goals have not gone unnoticed. You are the backbone of our organization, and we appreciate your invaluable contributions.
4. **Our Members:** Your commitment to taking action for climate justice is inspiring. Together, we are making a difference.

While we're immensely proud of all we've achieved together, we must address a pressing matter. *Unfortunately, we've fallen short of our end-of-year fundraising goal.* However, it's not too late to have a lasting impact on climate justice. **Your donation today** can make a significant difference. Every grassroots donation from our community is needed and valued.



Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. With your continued support, we aim to:

**Continue the Fight Against Line 5, Fossil Fuel Infrastructure, and Fossil Fuel Financing:** Our commitment to challenging these threats remains steadfast.

**Champion Sustainable Solutions for Every Community:** Together, we can work towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

**Register Voters and Get-Out-The-Vote:** Protecting our democracy and securing our future are paramount. We'll be actively involved in voter registration and turnout efforts across the state.

**Build Our Capacity to Address Climate Change:** The existential threat posed by climate change requires a collective effort. We are committed to expanding our capacity to address this global challenge.

As we embark on this new year, let's stand united in our mission for a better, more sustainable world. Your continued support is crucial, and we look forward to accomplishing great things together in 2024.

If you haven't had a chance to contribute to our end-of-year fundraising campaign, please consider [making a gift today](#). Your support makes a real difference.

Wishing you a fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,

Kristen Clark  
Development Manager  
350 Wisconsin Team

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## Witnessing Global Climate Action at COP28

Please join us on Monday January 8, 2023, to hear a firsthand perspective on the COP28 UN climate summit. Learn what happens at these global climate summits beyond what's captured by mainstream media. Our speaker, Heather Phelps, recently journeyed to Dubai to witness the global negotiations. She will share her experience as a climate observer with an NGO, reminding world leaders that the eyes of the world are on them and we need them to make the right choices. She will tell us what happens beyond the high-level talks, focusing on the work of committed people and organizations building global networks around issues such as global youth activism, clean energy, and faith perspectives on climate. Register in advance for the online meeting below.

[Register](#)

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## Divest from Militarism, Invest in Life!

A conversation about war and climate change

Wednesday, Jan. 10th

9am PT / 11am CT / 12pm ET / 5pm GMT

Register: <https://bit.ly/militarism-climate>

Join us for a critical conversation  
moderated by Dharna Noor featuring:

- Dr. Neta Crawford, Costs of War Project
- Ramón Mejía, About Face & Grassroots Global Justice (GGJ) Alliance
- Ashley LaMont, Honor the Earth
- Zaki Mamdoo, 350.org



## Militarism and Climate Change Webinar

Join 350 US for a conversation on January 10 at noon ET to learn about the connections between militarism and the climate crisis. Our incredible guest speakers Dr. Neta Crawford (Costs of War Project), Ramón Mejía (About Face & Grassroots Global Justice Alliance), Ashley LaMont (Honor the Earth), Zaki Mamdoo (350.org), and moderator Dharna Noor will explain why we as climate justice activists must fight for a world without war.

Register



## Focus on Energy (FOE) Seeks Feedback on IRA-funded Home Energy Rebate Programs

Focus on Energy is administering Wisconsin's IRA-funded rebate programs that will fund energy efficiency and electrification of residential buildings across Wisconsin. FOE staff seek input from us because the U.S. Department of Energy allows states to modify the program guidelines to fit the needs of Wisconsin's residents and businesses.

Click the first button below to join one of these virtual or in-person community engagement sessions, scheduled from late January through February in cities across the state. The [in-person session in Madison](#) is Tuesday, January 30, from 6-8pm at the Village on Park. Each session will include an overview of the Home Energy Rebate Programs and a question-and-answer session, designed to ensure that programs are easy to understand and participate in. Feedback also can be submitted through their online survey (second button below).

Join a Session

Take the Survey

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## Climate Action Campaign Update

We're excited to announce that 350 Wisconsin has been funded by the [Climate Action Campaign](#) (CAC) and starting in January we will be joining the Wisconsin Table!

CAC is a vibrant coalition of a dozen major national environment, environmental justice, and public health groups, working together to drive ambitious, durable federal action based on science, to address the climate crisis. Other members from WI include Healthy Climate Wisconsin, Faith in Place, and the WI chapter of National Wildlife Federation. Britnie Remer, our Fossil Fuel Organizer, will be the primary organizer for this campaign, with support from Co-Executive Director, Emily Park.

In addition to alignment with the goals of the CAC's ["Solutions for Pollution" campaign](#), there are multiple places where the work will intersect with that which 350 Wisconsin is already doing. We also anticipate that this will further support our nonpartisan GOTV work in 2024.

Later this month, Britnie and Emily will be attending the CAC on-boarding in Washington, DC to learn more about CAC's strategies and plans, meet other participants, and join in a few lobby meetings with members of Congress or other senior staff members.



## Tell the USACE: Don't Take Shortcuts on Line 5!

As far as national treasures go, the Great Lakes rank near the very top - there's no question that these pristine freshwater lakes are a pillar in the survival of not just our region, but our planet. Every year, access to clean, fresh water diminishes due to drought, lack of rain, pollution, and more. So why would anyone ever gamble with 84% of North America's surface freshwater?

Enbridge, a Canadian multinational oil company with [a long track record of highly destructive environmental disasters](#), and operator of the deteriorating 70-year-old Line 5 pipeline, is doing just that.

As they continue to run a dangerous, outdated tar sands oil pipeline, the company is seeking permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to [reroute 41 miles of pipeline around the Bad River Band Reservation](#), where it has been operating illegally for over a decade, threatening tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.

It's more clear now than ever - if we want the planet to continue to be livable, we have to stop our reliance on fossil fuels. [This expansion is not a solution and it's far past time to #ShutDownLine5.](#)



[Tell the USACE to stop allowing Enbridge to gamble with the Great Lakes](#), and to conduct the most thorough environmental review possible.

Sign the Petition



## Caroling for the Climate

The unseasonably warm weather this December inspired 350 Wisconsin members to insert some climate messaging into traditional carols. Over 30 carolers gathered at the Hilldale mall on Sunday 12/17, in an event co-organized by the Divest and Defund team and the Art Collective. After a short rehearsal in a parking garage, we made three stops, sharing a series of pop-up concerts. While we sang, a few handed out cards inviting passersby to join 350 Wisconsin and take action to defund climate change. Spirits were high throughout the event, among both singers and passers-by. One approached us between stops to tell us how wonderful we had been. In our fresh take on Let it Snow, the final stanza went:

Together let's find the wisdom  
To save the eco-system  
Wisconsin's our home and so:  
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

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**NO PFAS IN DANE COUNTY!**

## The Fight Against PFAS in Dane County Continues

Thank you to everyone who submitted a comment to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in December! We're happy to announce that on

December 21, the Board voted to postpone action on a Joint Use Agreement (JUA) for the National Guard's use of Truax Field at the Dane County Airport. Under the terms of this JUA, the National Guard would not have to pay for the cleanup of any past or future PFAS contamination caused by its actions.

But the fight isn't over! The Board has simply voted to delay taking action, which buys us time to pressure Dane County to come up with a better contract - one that protects the health, environment, and economy of the people of Dane County. Additionally, 11 of the 37 Dane County Supervisors voted against us, despite overwhelming testimony from their constituents and despite clear evidence of deception from the staff of the Dane County Airport.

Be on the lookout for more ways to take action to protect the rights of Dane County! 350 Wisconsin will continue to be involved with our coalition partners to ensure that our water and our health are top priorities for our elected officials.

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## Madison Mayor Celebrates City's Sustainability Accomplishments

350 Wisconsin celebrates when elected leaders help us achieve one of our key goals: bring to public attention to city-based efforts to reduce the threat of climate change. Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway did this in her [guest editorial, published on December 29 in the Capitol Times](#). In her editorial, the Mayor presented 14 types of climate action that the city accomplished during 2023. 350 Wisconsin's Madison Working Group (of the Community Climate Solutions Team) played a pivotal role in helping ensure the first achievement noted by the Mayor - the unanimous approval of the Building Energy Savings Program ordinance. Our Madison Working Group already is working to help Madison achieve several more of this city's climate goals during 2024.



## Bring It On: Geothermal Energy

RENEW Wisconsin's Francisco Sayu not only knows a lot about geothermal energy but also how to convey this knowledge to the climate-concerned public. In his recently published article, [Geothermal Energy in Wisconsin – What it is, How It Works,](#)

[and How to Utilize its Benefits](#), he explains that there are Big G, and Little g versions of the term “geothermal energy.”

- The “Big G” version refers to a process for generating electricity from a “renewable energy” source - high-temperature water in deep Earth reservoirs. These are common in the western part of the USA and elsewhere in the world, but not here because Wisconsin does not have these kinds of reservoirs.
- The “Little g” version refers to an “energy efficiency” strategy that maximizes the efficiency of an electric appliance called a heat pump. Little g heat pumps are the new wave of managing (heating or cooling) inside air temperature in Wisconsin.

Sayu then explains that heat pumps are far more efficient than furnaces (which *generate* heat) because heat pumps merely *move* heat, either between the inside and outside of a building, or between the inside of a building and the even temperature of shallow geothermal wells. As for how efficient? He explains that electric heat pumps that interact with shallow geothermal wells (ground source heat pumps) have an “efficiency of 300%, whereas the most efficient gas furnaces on the market are only 98% efficient.” That is, these systems are 3 times more efficient than the best

furnaces. Heat pumps that interact with outside air (air source heat pumps) instead of geothermal wells have slightly less high ratings of 250%.

He concludes by stating that, "The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides [substantial incentives](#) for geothermal heat pumps and solar, and Wisconsin's Focus on Energy® Program also incentivizes equipment that reduces energy consumption in new and existing buildings."

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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:** January 22, 7-8 pm | Contact: Marian Fredal [marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org](mailto:marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org)

**Community Climate Solutions:** January 18, 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:** January 15, 7:00-8:30 pm | Contact: Emily Park [Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org](mailto:Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org)

**Divest & Defund:** January 22, 7-8:30 pm | Contact [divest.defund@350wisconsin.org](mailto:divest.defund@350wisconsin.org)

**Fundraising:** January 17, 7-8 pm | Contact: Kristen Clark, our new Development Manager, at [kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org](mailto:kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org)

**State Policy:** January 17, 4-5 pm | Contact: Janet Niewold [janet.niewold@gmail.com](mailto:janet.niewold@gmail.com)

**Tar Sands:** February 5, 5:30- 6:30 pm | Contact: Alex Goetsch [goetschalex3@gmail.com](mailto:goetschalex3@gmail.com)

**Monthly Meeting:** January 8, 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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