



February 2025 Climate Newsletter

Where Do We Go From Here, 350 WI Volunteer Opportunities, Volunteer to Elect Climate Champions, Writing Effective Solar/Wind Testimony, Energy Equity Updates, Bad River at Nicolet College, Our 2024 Donors

Get Involved

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Where Do We Go From Here?

The Art Collective needed to take time to process the November election results. We were devastated, the wind out of our creative sails. If the science is correct, in the next four years we have to make huge strides to save the planet; if not, it all becomes an even more impossible ‘lift.’ We took time to grieve, to be angry, be depressed...*but not to stay there.*

As a blanket of meanness descends on our country, *we can still be kind.* To each other and to everyone, human and non-human alike. We can ‘be there’ for each other.

We know what we believe - that another world is possible. We know that art, music dance, humor, play and community will not only help us get through the coming years, but will serve as a living example for others, who may look at the mean-spirited world, then at the world in which we are living. Hopefully they will want to join us, and strengthen our movement.

So it’s not where do we go from here, it’s **how**. The answer is together, with love.

Finally, we want to mention a powerful exhibit currently appearing at MMoCA, called “Broken Spectre,” here through Feb. 16.

[Watch "Broken Spectre" Promo Video](#)



Volunteer Leadership Opportunities at 350 WI

This is a crucial time to take action to protect our climate, and 350 Wisconsin needs passionate leaders to help drive our work forward. We are currently seeking volunteers for the following opportunities:

- **Community Climate Solutions Team (CCST) and State Policy Co-Leadership Positions:**
 - Lead and support local and state level climate initiatives in conjunction with other team leaders.
 - Work with communities to implement sustainable solutions.
 - Collaborate with like-minded advocates to push for meaningful change.
- **350 Wisconsin Board of Directors Positions:**
 - Help shape the strategic direction of our organization.

- Provide oversight and guidance to advance our mission.
- Bring your expertise and passion to the fight for climate justice.

Now is the perfect time to get involved and make a tangible impact. Your leadership can help create a more just and sustainable future!

Interested? Reach out to Nikki Darga, our Director of Volunteer Engagement nikki.darga@350wisconsin.org to learn more and join us in this critical work!



Volunteer to Elect Climate Champions

On April 1st, Wisconsin voters will head to the polls in a highly competitive State Supreme Court Election between Judges Susan Crawford and Brad Schimel. This election will decide control of the State Supreme Court, a powerful decision maker on key issues like environmental justice, redistricting, unions, and reproductive freedom.

In addition to the Supreme Court, there will be additional local elections that impact how the climate crisis will be addressed on a community level.

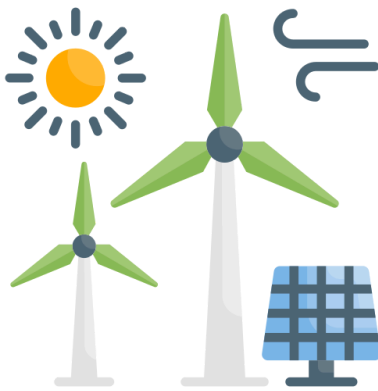
We need people to get involved in these upcoming elections! Join 350 Wisconsin Action for any of the following volunteer events.

- **Door Knocking w/ Deep Canvassing in Madison Area**
Saturday, February 15th | 12-3 PM | [Sign up here](#) |
- **Election Briefing & Deep Canvassing Training (Virtual)**
Thursday, February 13th | 5:30 - 6:30 PM | [Sign up here](#) |
- Join our **Weekly Virtual Tuesday Phone Banks!**
Next event: Tuesday, February 18th | 5 - 6 PM | [Sign up here](#) |

- **Paid Relational Organizing W/ Empower Program** will continue this election cycle. More information to come

If you would like to make calls or knock doors outside of scheduled events, have questions about our work, or have ideas you want to explore, please email: mark.putman@350wisconsin.org.

We would love to have you join us for this pivotal election. It is more important now than ever to continue being engaged!



Writing Effective Solar/Wind Project Testimony for the WI PSC

Writing our own public testimony can be a challenge, but don't worry - we have some tips to make it easier!

- **Begin with a clear statement of support for the project (identify the project number and name) and your name, address, and any relevant affiliations.** If you have relevant professional skills and/or if you have scientific references that support your position, mention them.
- **Highlight the project's key benefits:** zero-emission electricity generation, solar/wind capacity, battery storage, estimated local economic benefits measured in jobs, ongoing revenues to the government bodies involved, lease payments to owners for land involved, and the benefits to Wisconsin ratepayers over its lifetime. Address how the project will boost the areas economy through tax revenue and landowner lease payments.
- **Emphasize how the project aligns with Wisconsin's clean energy goals and will provide reliable, affordable electricity.** Wisconsin's goal is to have all electricity consumed in the state come from carbon-free sources by 2050.
- **Share a personal story about why you support renewable energy development, if applicable.** Do not ramble or use strong language. The Commission staff already knows about the existential threat to your

grandchildren and mankind; no need to go there. They need to be persuaded how your testimony should be reported to the commissioners. Remember, your written testimony will become part of the public record.

- If you are overall in support of the project but have specific concerns, be sure to **clearly state that you are in support of the project, AND you would like for the commission to be mindful of your concern** (i.e. endangered species, safe and complete removal at project end, accommodation of agriculture etc.) to consider those specific effects while still approving the project.
- **Keep your testimony concise**, ideally under 600 words, and use clear, simple language and avoid jargon or technical terms. Conclude with a strong call for the Commission to approve the project.

Resources

350 WISCONSIN

LOW-INCOME ENERGY BURDEN

MADISON, WI
Energy affordability is a challenge for everyone in this area of supply disruptions, inflationary pressures, and extreme weather events. That is a special problem for low-income households who may spend 9% or more of their income on energy bills. Such high "energy burden" impacts housing affordability, as well as the health and well-being of families. And it is a climate justice issue as well since energy programs and policies designed to assist lower income renters and homeowners, their energy burden is likely to increase substantially in the coming years as climate change accelerates. A full transition to a 100% clean power source would include the most economically vulnerable.

DEFINITIONS

Energy Burden: The percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs.

AMI - Area Median Income: Midpoint of household income in a region.

Low Income: Households with less than 80% AMI (80% AMI).

Extremely Low Income: Households with less than 30% AMI (30% AMI).

KEY FINDINGS

- Overall, the average energy burden for households in Madison is 2% - lower than the state average of 3%.
- In Madison, the average energy burden for low-income households (80% AMI) is 2% 10% higher than the city's overall average.
- On average, extremely low-income households (30% AMI) in Madison experience an affordability high energy burden of 9%, compared to 1% for the wealthiest households (120%+ AMI).
- On average, the lowest income households' annual utility bills are only about \$66 a month less than those paid by high income households. People living in smaller dwellings, fixed charges make up a higher proportion of low income customers' bills and their homes tend to be less energy efficient.

Average Annual Energy Costs by Income Level

Area Median Income	Low Income	AMI	High Income	120%+ AMI
\$10,000	\$100	\$20,000	\$300	\$500
\$20,000	\$200	\$40,000	\$600	\$1,000
\$30,000	\$300	\$60,000	\$900	\$1,500
\$40,000	\$400	\$80,000	\$1,200	\$2,000
\$50,000	\$500	\$100,000	\$1,500	\$2,500

Average Energy Burden by Income Level

Area Median Income	Low Income	AMI	High Income	120%+ AMI
\$10,000	9%	2%	1%	1%
\$20,000	2%	2%	1%	1%
\$30,000	2%	2%	1%	1%
\$40,000	2%	2%	1%	1%
\$50,000	2%	2%	1%	1%

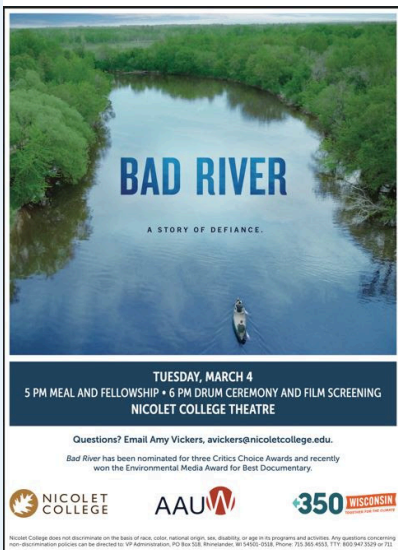
Energy Equity Updates

Advocacy at the PSCW: 350 Wisconsin is an intervening party in two current proceedings at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW). The PSCW commissioners ordered these investigation dockets to investigate alternative programs to address customer affordability and energy burden among the customers in the service territories of Madison Gas and Electric ([Docket #3270-UI-101](#)) and Wisconsin Power and Light (Alliant Energy) ([Docket #6680-UI-100](#)). Guided by PSCW staff, the utilities and intervening parties in these investigations are working collaboratively to identify new or modified programs that can be proposed by the utilities in their upcoming 2025 rate cases with the goal of reducing energy costs and alleviating energy insecurity among their low-income customers. (Other intervening parties include Blacks for Political and Social Action of Dane County and the Citizens Utility Board.)

As an intervenor, 350 WI is advocating for approaches that will include both on-bill financial assistance for struggling families and longer-term strategies to address some of the root causes of high energy burdens such as

energy inefficient housing and lack of access to low/no carbon technologies. Although these dockets are unlikely to include a formal public participation process, we are also working to ensure that the parties to these deliberations hear from organizations that are directly connected to the frontline communities most affected by high energy costs.

Final updated Low-Income Energy Burden reports now available: Over the past three years, the Energy Equity Working Group of CCST has issued a series of low-income energy burden reports for five communities in south-central Wisconsin: Madison, Middleton, Fitchburg, Janesville and Beloit. These reports have been important tools for raising public awareness about the problem of energy insecurity in our communities and why achieving energy and utility justice are key goals for the climate justice movement. In 2024, Energy Equity interns Taelyn Butler and Owen Weisse revised these reports using the most recently available data from the Department of Energy's Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) tool and these updated reports are now available on the 350 WI website's [CCST Reports](#) page. Sadly, we do not anticipate issuing any further updates as the LEAD tool has been removed from public access by the Trump regime.



See *Bad River* at Nicolet College

Presented by: Nicolet College Tribal Students and Alumni Club along with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and 350 Wisconsin.

Experience this engaging and critically acclaimed film highlighting local tribal members and their powerful story. *Bad River* is a new documentary film which chronicles the Wisconsin-based Bad River Band and its ongoing fight for sovereignty. A story unfolds in a groundbreaking way through a series of shocking revelations, devastating losses, and a powerful legacy of defiance and resilience which includes a David vs. Goliath battle to save Lake Superior, the largest freshwater resource in America. An aging pipeline is threatening the Bad River

Band reservation in Northern Wisconsin. This film has been nominated for three Critics Choice Awards and recently won the Environmental Media Award for Best Documentary.

Tuesday, March 4th

5 pm | Meal and Fellowship

6 pm | Drum Ceremony // Film Screening & Panel Discussion

Nicolet College Theatre, Rhinelander, WI

Admission: \$8 Includes meal, screening, and panel.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Thank You to Our Donors!

We are so grateful to all of our 2024 donors! By supporting 350 Wisconsin, you are helping us leverage the energy and dedication of our staff and many dedicated volunteers working to build the climate justice movement in Wisconsin and make our state a clean energy leader. Your support enables us to not only drive bold climate solutions but also push back against attacks on climate action that threaten our communities and future. You make our work possible!

Please see our 2024 donor list below. We try to acknowledge every donor. If your name is not listed, please know that we greatly appreciate your support.

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The Sunrise Project
Tides Foundation
Wisconsin Climate Action
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Wisconsin Climate Table
Wisconsin Conservation
Voters
Wisconsin Network for
Peace & Justice

Upcoming Meetings

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

Climate Justice: February 10, 7-8 pm | Contact: Marian Fredal marian.fredal@350wisconsin.org

Community Climate Solutions: February 20, 5-6 pm | Contact: 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: February 18, 7:00-8:00 pm | Contact: Emily Park Emily.Park@350wisconsin.org

Fundraising: February 19, 7-8 pm | Contact: Kristen Clark, kristen.clark@350wisconsin.org

Regenerative Land Relations Team: February 11, 6:30-7:30 pm | Contact: Kathleen Fitzgibbon, kathleen.fitzgibbon@350wisconsin.org

State Policy: February 19, 4-5 pm | Contact: Janet Niewold janet.niewold@gmail.com

Tar Sands: February 10, 5:30- 6:30 pm | Contact: Britnie Remer britnie.remer@350wisconsin.org

Monthly Meeting: March 3, 7-8 pm | Contact: Christina Koch koch.christinal@gmail.com;
Kelly Kearns Kelly.Kearns@350wisconsin.org

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

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350 Wisconsin
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