



WISCONSIN Sierran

NEWS OF THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

I-94'S IMPACTS ON MY NEIGHBORHOOD

I live in perhaps one of the quirkiest neighborhoods in Milwaukee. Piggsville, depending on who you ask, may be spelled with two g's and named after George Pigg, or it may be spelled with one g and named after an old pig farm. Go to our neighborhood bar, the Valley Inn, and see pictures of people canoeing down the street on the days it used to flood due to being beside the Menomonee River. In fact, the flooding made the neighborhood almost too much trouble for the city. The neighborhood had to organize to build protection from flooding and to save itself from demolition and we now have a beautiful little park by the river: Valley Park.

Our southern border is I-94. West of us is the Menomonee River. North of us is the MillerCoors plant. This means our streets are almost all dead ends. It's a quiet little corner that many in the city don't know about. I meet residents all the time who say they chose to live here to shelter their family from the struggles many Milwaukeeans face due to deindustrialization, redlining, white flight and other systemic barriers. Also, near and dear to my heart is that it's one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Milwaukee, a city infamous for its segregation. In the 2010 census, our neighborhood demographics were 36% Black, 34% white, 16% Latino and 11% Asian. At its best, our neighborhood is a peaceful, joyful place where kids and families across racial identities and the



Neighborhood families taking a group photo after an afternoon of volunteering through Friends of Valley Park.

socioeconomic spectrum share our park for a game of kickball and grab pizza from the Valley Inn.

I also teach high school US history. Unsurprisingly, the theme of racial discrimination is prevalent in my subject. One of the most infamous examples of systemic racism is the interstate highway system. I-94 and I-43 notoriously demolished anchor Black businesses in Milwaukee. Even in the past, we knew highways destroyed the fabric of neighborhoods. Highway

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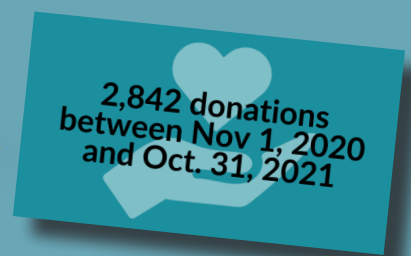
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

COAL IS DONE BUT GAS IS NOT THE ANSWER

On November 2, WEC Energy Group, Wisconsin's largest utility, announced that it will transition to coal-free electricity generation by 2035. The company did not, however, describe specific plans for either the Elm Road or Weston coal fired power plants. This announcement is great news because the era of coal is over, and it's past time utility companies make swift and bold plans to transition off fossil fuels as soon as possible.

But don't break out the champagne glasses yet. WEC plans on pivoting to and expanding its natural gas infrastructure. And there's really not much "natural" about gas. Despite what utilities might say, gas is not a clean fuel source. In some power plants, methane is released when gas is burned. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. It is 80 times as powerful as carbon dioxide, according to scientific findings released in August by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

That's why our Wisconsin Chapter is fighting to halt new gas infrastructure from being built across the state. Our Chapter Director Elizabeth Ward says it best: "Doubling down on gas that

is fracked and piped across hundreds of miles from other states is not the innovative industry shift some people think it is. Upstream emissions from so-called 'natural' gas are shown to be just as problematic for our climate as coal. Swapping one for the other is short sighted."

Together, our Chapter volunteers and staff are working tirelessly to stop new gas projects in different areas of Wisconsin, including:

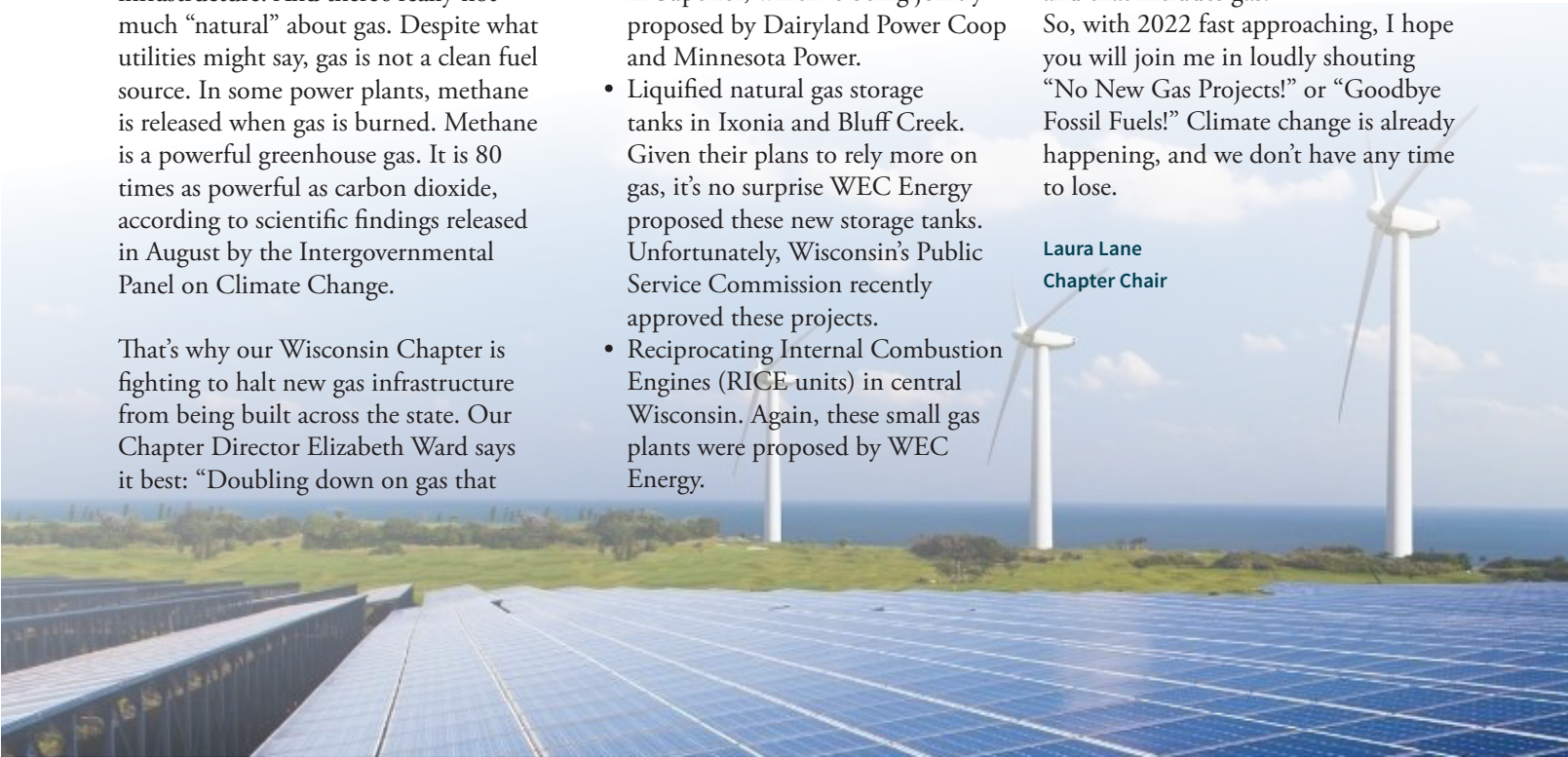
- The Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC), a \$700 million gas plant in Superior, which is being jointly proposed by Dairyland Power Coop and Minnesota Power.
- Liquefied natural gas storage tanks in Ixonia and Bluff Creek. Given their plans to rely more on gas, it's no surprise WEC Energy proposed these new storage tanks. Unfortunately, Wisconsin's Public Service Commission recently approved these projects.
- Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE units) in central Wisconsin. Again, these small gas plants were proposed by WEC Energy.

Renewable energy, not gas, is the answer. Simply put, renewable energy is better for our people, our planet and our pocketbooks. Our Beyond Coal team is spreading the word about the benefits of clean energy across Wisconsin.

For example, the team is producing a group of videos that refutes long held misconceptions people have about renewable energy. Focusing on battery storage and energy efficiency is also an important part of transitioning to a one hundred percent clean energy future. It's not enough to get off coal. We must get off fossil-fuel based power altogether, and that includes gas.

So, with 2022 fast approaching, I hope you will join me in loudly shouting "No New Gas Projects!" or "Goodbye Fossil Fuels!" Climate change is already happening, and we don't have any time to lose.

Laura Lane
Chapter Chair



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175, just west of my neighborhood, stops abruptly after only a couple exits, having been stopped by the then-middle class and white residents of the area.

Thanks in part to this destruction of north side anchor businesses, segments of the north side are scarred by abandoned lots and a lack of local businesses or necessary amenities like grocery stores. Many northside residents have no choice but to buy a car that may be out of their price range just to buy food. My own neighborhood is a food desert. Besides our wonderful tavern, our only food source in walking distance is a Hometown Gas Station.

In this context, expansion of I-94 is both an insult to lessons learned from the past and a direct attack on my neighborhood. A proposed new on-ramp from I-94 to the truncated Highway 175 could affect the lighting and setting of our Valley Park, reducing the number of families who view it as a safe place for their kids to play. The additional fumes and sound pollution from moving the highway closer to our neighborhood could

exacerbate the health disparities that working class, non-white communities face in Wisconsin. Most insultingly, our neighborhood gas station has expressed interest in expansion to provide real food options to the neighborhood. Instead, it may face shuttered doors as the expansion would demolish it, an urgent care center, and a Black owned bar on N. 35th St.

What would actually help my neighborhood and northside residents generally would be improved public transportation infrastructure and investing in necessities like grocery stores. Worsening conditions for our residents so wealthy suburbanites can shave 30 seconds off their commute is continuing the decades of policy insults Milwaukee has had to endure, despite it being the economic engine and cultural hub of the state. I hope the whole state can learn from the past and support neighborhoods like mine by stopping the I-94 expansion.

Leland Pan, Milwaukee resident

REDISTRICTING – POWER TO THE PEOPLE

As a grassroots organization, the Sierra Club listens to its members – just as in a democracy legislators are supposed to listen to their constituents. Yet 2011’s gerrymandered Republican redistricting resulted in legislators beholden to partisan interests, not their constituents. With voting districts being redrawn this year, Wisconsin voters have overwhelmingly made clear they want fair maps where voters pick their representatives, not the other way around.

Elections matter, which is why the Sierra Club endorses electoral candidates – but with gerrymandered maps, district boundaries often matter more than individual elections. Our state has many major environmental problems people want resolved, but aren’t being dealt with as a result. Let your legislators know you want fair maps by contacting their offices, writing letters to the editor, posting on social media and personal conversations. Wisconsin’s environmental future may depend on it.

Don Ferber
Volunteer and Fair Maps Coalition Member

PIPELINES

Efforts to shut down tar sands pipelines in Wisconsin are ongoing and residents statewide stand firmly in opposition to new fossil fuel infrastructure, including Line 5. Indigenous residents of the Bad River Reservation continue to assert their rights, despite being ignored by Enbridge, as they seek to protect the nearly 200 waterways threatened by Line 5’s continued operation in northern Wisconsin. In Michigan, Governor Whitmer stands resolute in her legal battle against Enbridge after having ordered the company to cease operation of Line 5 due to concerns about the section of the line that runs under the Straits of Mackinac. The legal battle in Michigan is ongoing as Gov. Whitmer refuses to give in to Enbridge, who claims it will operate until a court orders the shutdown. After breaching a major groundwater aquifer in Minnesota while performing work on Line 3, Enbridge has faced tremendous backlash from residents who want the pipeline shut down entirely. Tar sands pipelines are a direct threat to our climate, and we will continue to oppose dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure, such as these pipelines, until we have ensured the safety of our climate and its inhabitants.

JOIN IN ON DECREASING PAPER WASTE!

After the prior newsletter’s call for members to switch to receiving the newsletter via email instead of print, more than 60 members opted to make that change! If you would like to transition away from snail mail and want to receive the Wisconsin Sierran via email, send your name, city and email address to Cassie at cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

We are a volunteer-led and driven organization, and like the rest of the world we had to scramble and figure out how to keep engaging and working with one another when our offices and in-person meetings shut down to keep our communities safe during COVID-19. We also had to grapple with how to support one another, how to keep each other and ourselves safe, how to maintain our connections, how to continue our work and organize to stop the worst of the climate crisis. Many of us, both staff and volunteers, enjoy what we do in part for the in-person connection, the friendships and the sense of community we have from going out together in person to marches, hikes, farmers markets, meetings, events and much, much more.

The sudden transition to an entirely virtual volunteering environment was a challenge we never expected. On top of that, we are still in the midst of a global pandemic, experienced the racial justice protests together, and weathered a stressful election not quite like any other. Over the past year and a half, we've learned a lot about virtual community-building, supporting each other from a distance, and discovering opportunities we never would have otherwise. And that has opened doors and created opportunities we would have never explored.

Our teams started meeting over Google Meet or Zoom, helping our volunteers set up virtual meetings, and realized we needed to think much more critically about how we wanted to ensure a safe and functional meeting space. Our teams became more accessible to everyone across the state of Wisconsin (and the country), and travel time concerns and snow became a thing to look out the window at during virtual meetings.

In the past, in-person meetings and events meant we weren't as accessible, especially to volunteers around the state (and the country) who may have wanted to get involved but couldn't drive several hours for a meeting. Our skills with video meetings and virtual gatherings were not as adequate or engaging as they are now, and many of our meetings' remote options were joining over a video-less conference call. There have been barriers from internet access across the state, but we have seen broadband increasing, and the innovation and perseverance portrayed by our volunteers in the face of virtual volunteering is in one word: inspiring.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO JOIN US!

Whether you're looking to join a team, meet new people, or advocate for an issue you're passionate about, there is a place for you at the Wisconsin Chapter. Our local groups head our local grassroots action in many areas across the state, and are starting to

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WHAT'S NEW WITH THE LANDS TEAM

Current Lands Team campaigns prioritize preserving public lands at Kohler-Andrae State Park and promoting access to the outdoors.

Efforts continue to halt Kohler Co.'s proposed golf course along Lake Michigan. The proposed course threatens the rare wetlands ecosystem at Kohler-Andrae State Park, so Sierra Club's goal is to convince Kohler to scrap the project. Friends of the Black River Forest are also pursuing a legal challenge.

In October, the team hosted over 200 people for a virtual discussion with Emily Ford, the first known Black woman to thru-hike the Ice Age Trail. The team hosted a second fall geocaching event in Kenosha, Milwaukee and Madison. First started in 2020 as a safe alternative to trick-or-treating, caches include prizes, petitions to sign and postcards for the Kohler campaign. The Lands Team continues to lobby for free State Park passes for Wisconsin fourth graders through the Every Kid Outdoors program.

Abby Mapes, Lands Team Volunteer

CLEANING UP OUR WATER

While we continue to advocate to stop nitrate pollution and to replace lead pipes, we saw a lot of action on PFAS this fall. The Department of Natural Resources is in the process of developing new rules to regulate PFAS in Wisconsin, and the public is a part of this work. Last October through December, the DNR asked for input on three draft rules on PFAS in firefighting foam, PFAS in surface water and PFAS in drinking water. These forever chemicals are a major health concern and are prevalent across Wisconsin, forcing some communities to rely on bottled water for drinking and the government to set regulations that keep Wisconsinites safe. If you'd like to be notified of actions you can take to prevent PFAS contamination, email jadine.sonoda@sierraclub.org.

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host outings again. Our support teams allow you to bring your expertise to specific project areas, like writing, and your skills to teams like our phone banking & texting groups. Our conservation issue teams are for those passionate about specific issues, like our transportation systems and access. Everyone who wants to contribute and get hands-on learning about grassroots activism and how we create change, gets to create that change themselves.

Wisconsin is facing another busy year, and if you've been looking to do something to make a difference, we have roles for every time commitment, background and interest. Maybe you made a resolution to start volunteering again, or getting involved for the first time. We hope you'll join us!

Regardless of whether we go back to in-person events, remain virtual or something in between, Sierra Club will always remain a place that fosters connection and shared passions for nature, our communities, and each other.

OUR CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

CONSERVATION ISSUE TEAM

- Stopping the Tar Sands Pipelines
- Advocating for Clean & Equitable Public Transportation
- Protecting Clean Water
- Public Lands Access & Protection
- Protecting WI's Wildlife
- Moving Beyond Coal

DIGITAL SUPPORT TEAMS

- Phone Banking
- Texting
- Amplify on social media
- Writing & Research
- Photography & Videography
- Digital Communications
- Data Entry

JOIN A LOCAL GROUP, ATTEND A VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER NIGHT

- There are local groups all over the state!
- Attend a virtual volunteer night on the second Wednesday of every month from 6:30 - 8:00 pm CST

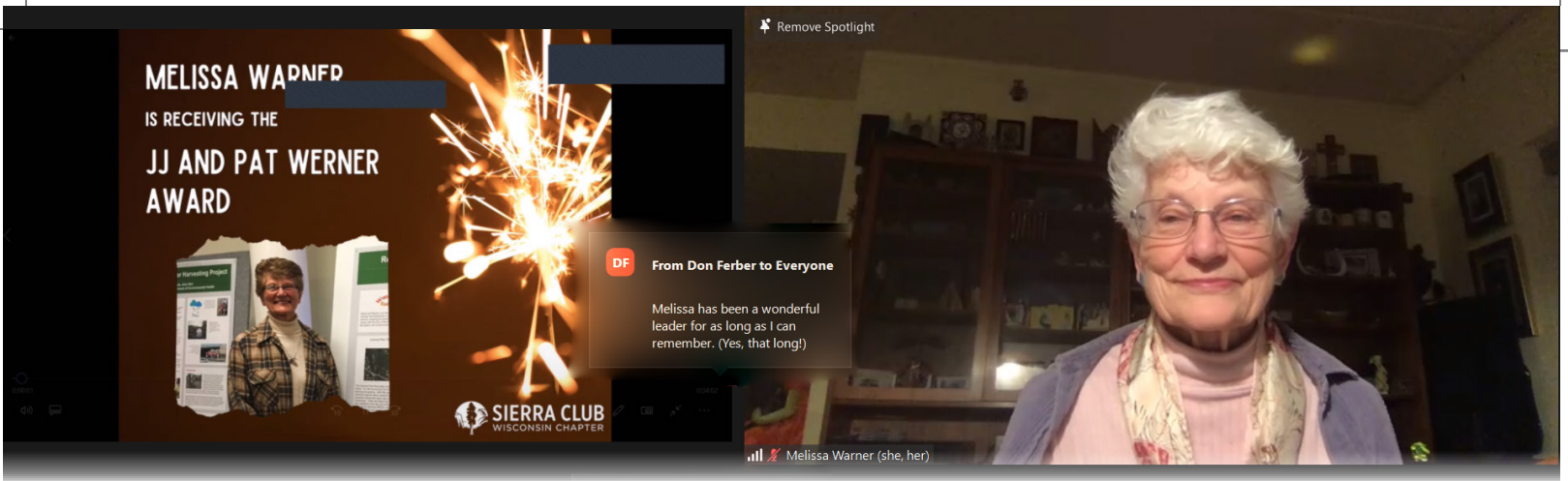
To learn more about volunteering, and to get started, visit our website at sierraclub.org/wisconsin, or email our volunteer coordinator, Katie, at kathryn.hogan@sierraclub.org.

Katie Hogan, Volunteer Coordinator



PROTECTING WISCONSIN'S GRAY WOLVES

In November the Wildlife Team, led by members Amy Mueller and Caitlin Moeller, held a successful Wolf Awareness week with daily activities like quizzes about wolves, Facebook Lives, and coloring page activities. It was fun and informative, but the best part was the great news we got at the end of the week! Judge Jacob Frost announced that he would be issuing an injunction on the wolf hunt, meaning the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can not move forward with the hunt that would begin on November 6. He said the DNR must complete the Wolf Management Plan and follow a few other steps before they are allowed to move forward. The Plan isn't set to be out until the Spring of next year. That means, assuming Frost's decision isn't overturned on appeal, we won't see another wolf hunt without a science-based plan. Sierra Club has a seat on the Committee creating the plan and will continue to push for science, Tribal consent and public input to be at the core of the planning.



CHAPTER AWARDS CELEBRATION 2021

Once again, Sierra Club Wisconsin has recognized outstanding volunteers and community leaders for their work on behalf of the environment. In November, we acknowledged the amazing efforts and accomplishments of new activists and lifetime achievements. We also expressed our gratitude to our volunteer teams, leaders, and groups during our 2021 Volunteer Appreciation week.

This year's award winners are:

MEGHAN PIERCE - NEW ACTIVIST AWARD. Meghan has shown unwavering dedication to the Beyond Coal to Clean Energy Team. She attends nearly every meeting and is always willing to volunteer her time, from testifying for clean energy at public hearings to facilitating team meetings and helping with webinars.

ERIK PETERSEN - WILDFLOWER AWARD. Erik's dedication across issues exemplifies the spirit of Sierra Club. He continually inspires us through his generosity and willingness to pitch in wherever and whenever he can, and has made an impact on all corners of Sierra Club's work - from serving on Four Lakes Group Executive Committee to being the co-treasurer and participating in several issue teams.

KAREN SAMELSON AND DAVID THOMAS - WILDFLOWER AWARD. Karen and David are a force within the Great Waters Group, in the Milwaukee area. Karen has been on the cutting edge of the use of social media and other communication tools, while David has been the local outings leader. David and Karen are also both involved with Nearby Nature, which serves to build resilient, just, and healthy communities in Milwaukee.

VICTORIA GILLET - MERIT AWARD. Victoria is an active member and leader of the Beyond Coal to Clean Energy team and her efforts helped push local utilities to announce the retirement of the Columbia Coal plant last year. Victoria has helped build coalition partners, is proactive with new ideas, and readily shares her expertise with others.

JODI HABUSH SINYKIN - MERIT AWARD. Jodi represents the Sierra Club on both the Wisconsin Wolf Harvest Committee and the newly created Wolf Management Plan Committee, in addition to helping with team projects. This has been an

exceedingly difficult year to continue this fight, and yet, Jodi has been resilient, impactful, and an inspiration to all.

MASARU OKA - LD ROCKWELL AWARD. Masaru's contributions to our state budget committee and transportation team have been exceptional. This past year, he took on difficult tasks including conducting research, summarizing the budget, and identifying areas of opportunity. He also worked with other volunteers unfamiliar with the budget process to help them create plans and get engaged.

MARY FAYDASH OF FRIENDS OF THE BLACK RIVER FOREST - GOOD CITIZEN AWARD. Mary has been working relentlessly to protect the rare ecosystem adjacent to Kohler Andrae State Park from a golf course proposed by Kohler Company. Mary started this group in 2014 and has led the cause valiantly since then.

DANE COUNTY PARKS - TORCHBEARER AWARD. The Dane County Parks system cares for over 17,000 acres of public lands, including 26 parks, 20 wildlife areas and 14 natural resource areas, which serve many. In their work, Dane County Parks aims to provide an inclusive parks system for all residents.

MELISSA WARNER - JJ & PAT WERNER AWARD. As the Chair of Sierra Club's Southeast Gateway Group for six years, Melissa helped the Group tackle a variety of conservation issues, create a vision for the environment in the region, and keep the Group strong with monthly programs, work days, and outings. Melissa has been a leader in keeping Racine clean by hosting local outings.

Zane Franke, volunteer

COAL, GAS, AND CLEAN ENERGY: WISCONSIN'S CHANGING ELECTRIC SECTOR

The Sierra Club has campaigned for years to close Wisconsin's coal plants, and as of early November we are one step closer to a coal-free Wisconsin. WEC Energy Group announced that they will be going coal-free by 2035.

Prior to this announcement, there were four coal plants in Wisconsin without a retirement date. In line with their statement, two of those plants, WEC's Elm Road and Weston plants, will now transition off of coal by 2035. The Elm Road Generating Station, Wisconsin's largest power plant, produced 7.27 metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2020. The Weston Generating Plant produced 4.06 metric tons of carbon dioxide in the same year. The closure of these two plants is a great victory for our health and climate.

While it is exciting that we are moving away from coal, the battle is not over. WEC intends to replace coal with gas which, just like coal, destroys our planet. Shifting from one fossil fuel to another does not solve the problem, and the creation of gas plants locks in carbon emissions for years to come. We cannot afford gas, and it is disappointing that WEC thinks we can.

We know that natural gas is not the "clean" alternative to coal that it is advertised to be. Burning gas releases a large amount of methane: a compound that has 80 times the warming power of CO₂. President Biden has already called to reduce methane production by 30 percent by 2030. If we are to meet this goal, we cannot do so by continuing to construct new gas plants that will burn for years to come.

Despite calls to cut down on fossil fuels, energy companies continue to turn to gas as their "clean" alternative to coal. We are still waiting for decisions regarding Dairyland's proposed gas plant, NTEC, which they have been trying to get approved

since 2019. NTEC's 2020 approval by the Public Service Commission is being called into question due to lack of environmental consideration and questions of bias. Former commissioner Mike Huebsch had undisclosed communication with Dairyland executives at the time, and applied to be their CEO shortly after leaving the commission.

In addition to NTEC, there are several other gas-based proposals in Wisconsin, including RICE units, proposed by WEC for the Weston area and proposed by Manitowoc's municipal utility. RICE units, or reciprocating internal combustion engines, are small gas plants meant to provide energy during peak times. What's often left out by utilities is that storage and renewable energy are an excellent, cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative.

Coal plants closing is exciting, but replacing those plants with gas is not. What we should be replacing coal with is renewable and clean energy. Others agree (including utilities like Alliant!), and there have been an exciting number of new renewable energy projects proposed and implemented.

As of the writing of this newsletter, there are more than 20 operational solar farms in Wisconsin, most of which have a solar capacity in the range of one to five megawatts. For context, the annual electricity needs of 190 Wisconsin homes can be offset by a single one megawatt solar farm.

In addition to the 20 operational solar farms, there are currently six in varying states of approval and planning. The largest of these six plants is the Badger Hollow Solar Farm, a 300 megawatt farm in Iowa County that is currently under construction.

Governor Evers' goal of 100% carbon free energy by 2050 can be a reality if we continue to say no to fossil fuels and yes to renewable and clean energy. If we put in the work, we can make that a reality even sooner.

If you would like to learn more about the work of our Beyond Coal team, email jadine.sonoda@sierraclub.org.

Madison Buening
Organizing Intern & Irene Zhang, Volunteer



2021

Year in Review

JANUARY

Virtual Volunteer Fair We held a Virtual Volunteer Fair to help potential volunteers learn more about what the Sierra Club does in Wisconsin and how they can volunteer. Dozens of new volunteers got involved in response to the Fair.

Teams prepare for a jam-packed year All six of our teams joined together for a Virtual Kick-off, where they learned what tools are offered to them and began building robust plans for winning victories in 2021.

FEBRUARY

Columbia Coal plant announced for retirement We saw our five-year campaign culminate in Alliant Energy announcing their commitment to retire the Columbia Coal plant, becoming a coal-free utility.

Governor Evers introduces a great budget After months of campaigning, Governor Evers proposed a budget that prioritized climate action, equity, and lands protection. It was one of the strongest budgets we've seen.

MARCH

Exceeded our goal in the Big Share For this year's Big Share, we exceeded our fundraising goal and featured our 'story' about why we do the work we do.

Introducing the Wisconsin Chapter Starting in March, the Chapter officially changed our name to the 'Wisconsin Chapter'. Though it's a new name, we demonstrated our continued dedication to protecting Wisconsin's air, water, and land.

APRIL

Energy Burden Report Release The ground-breaking report showed that Latinx and Black neighborhoods have an energy burden more than double white neighborhoods in Milwaukee (Energy burden=% of income needed to pay utility bills).

Victories at the Conservation Congress Voters demonstrated public opposition to the Line 5 pipeline via the Conservation Congress in which residents in 51 of 72 counties voted to oppose the pipeline.

I-94 will receive comprehensive process Successfully advocated for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to commit to a robust process, including environmental impact analysis and public input, before expanding the I-94 highway

MAY

Aquila withdraws Back 40 proposal Following a ruling in January, Aquila announced they had withdrawn their application for a critical permit required to build the Back 40 mine.

Right to Harm screening Hosted a virtual showing and discussion of Right to Harm and uplifted voices of those impacted by factory farm pollution

JUNE

Stop new fossil gas storage Launched a campaign to stop We Energies' proposal to build a gas storage facility that would cost customers over \$450 million

Locally Grown, Nationally Known Virtual House Party Our annual house party was another success, featuring Potter's Crackers and excellent, locally grown recipes. Together, we raised over \$12,000!

PFAS protection The CLEAR Act was introduced and is considered one of the most comprehensive pieces of legislation in the nation in tackling PFAS pollution.

JULY

Gas plant conflict emerges

After it was discovered that former PSC Commissioner Mike Huebsch was having inappropriate ex parte conversations with Dairyland Power Coop, we asked the Court to overturn the approval of the NTEC gas plant in Superior, in addition to our arguments about the lack of consideration of environmental impacts of the plant.

Every kid deserves access to our state parks

Bipartisan Every Kid Outdoors legislation, which would allow fourth graders to use the national pass to get into state parks for free, moved forward with a hearing and Sierra Club members attended to support the bill.

AUGUST

Biden Administration shouldn't be funding gas plants

We opposed Dairyland's application for a subsidized loan from the USDA to cover the cost to build the dirty gas plant in Superior.

City of Milwaukee tackling energy burden and climate crisis

The Finance Committee of the Milwaukee Common Council supported using \$5 million to fund an on-bill financing proposal that reduces energy burden, climate emissions, and utility debt.

Protecting Lake Superior

We supported a local organization, Lake Superior is Not for Sale, in opposing an application to bottle and sell water from Lake Superior and the proposal was unanimously denied by Bayfield County.

SEPTEMBER

Launched environmental justice series

We launched a series of presentations to show the connection between our work and justice issues.

Fix at Six report release

We released an alternative to the I-94 expansion that creates a collaborative, equitable, sustainable and community-based vision for the East-West corridor, including transit, biking and walking infrastructure, and highway repairs.

Wisconsin volunteers receive National awards

THREE Chapter leaders won well-deserved awards from the National Sierra Club, including Treasurer Scott Blankman, legal Chair Dennis Grzezinski, and rockstar Don Ferber.

OCTOBER

Organized to stop the 'Riot Bill'

We organized to stop a bill that could result in jail time or hefty fines for peaceful protestors. We worked with partners to put together a sign-on letter with over 35 organizations opposing the bill.

Wolf Awareness Week

The Wildlife Team hosted an exciting Wolf Awareness Week, filled with different activities like social media sharing, coloring pages, actions, and more. We got the best news of the week when a Dane County Circuit Court Judge announced on Friday that he would be issuing an injunction on the wolf hunt.

NOVEMBER

2021 Chapter Awards

We celebrated our excellent leaders from around the state that work tirelessly to protect Wisconsin's air, water, and public lands.

Celebrating you! We celebrated you and everyone else who spends their time writing to decision-makers, participating on a committee, making phone calls, and everything else you all do to advocate for a better state.

DECEMBER

No new fossil fuel

infrastructure Sierra Club members advocated against WEC Energy Group's proposal to build new, small gas plants (known as RICE units) in the central part of the state.

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

HONOR THE EARTH: A BEACON OF INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP IN THE TIME OF THE SEVENTH FIRE

Amid the current culture of climate cynicism and loss of faith, flames of hope still burn. Indigenous-led resistance movements and groups, of which Honor the Earth are one example, continue to challenge the inevitability of environmental catastrophe through direct action, artistic expression and media visibility.

Honor the Earth was founded in 1993 by Ojibwe economist and environmentalist Winona LaDuke, in collaboration with musicians Amy Ray and Emily Saliers. The organization has shown its commitment to restoring sustainable Earth-human relationships and Native sovereignty through its instrumental role in the ongoing fight against the construction of Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline. Their unique role as one of the leading organizations providing financial and organizing support to Indigenous environmental justice initiatives positions them as one of Line 3's most potent opponents, both in court and on the ground. Honor the Earth has not only spread the word of the pipeline's disastrous nature through benefit concerts, listening sessions and in-person demonstrations, but has also consistently challenged the pipeline's activities. They have criticized route permits, the certificate of need issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the environmental impact statement that claimed Line 3 did not pose a significant environmental threat. Through the Minnesota Court of Appeals and other legal remedies, Honor the Earth has fought Line 3 at every possible crossroads.

Though construction of Line 3 was completed in the fall of 2021 and the pipeline is already pumping oil, an immense amount of credit must be given to Honor the Earth and Indigenous activists for the delays, changes and concessions they forced upon Enbridge, ultimately holding up the pipeline's construction for several years. Without their innovation, intervention and sacrifice, Line 3's environmental impact would already be worse. They have also brought countless people into the movement for tribal sovereignty and against tar sands pipelines.

When examining the destruction the fossil fuel industry has wrought on people and landscapes over the past century, it is easy to give in to despair. Megalithic oil and gas corporations such as Canada's Enbridge seem untouchable as their pollutive path is paved by sympathetic politicians. Anishinaabe prophecy warns of the consequences of pollution and resource extraction, long ago predicting a time of the Seventh Fire. This is an epoch in which we must decide whether we will cease our degradation of the earth and turn to a path of green, or whether we will drive the world to utter annihilation. It falls to us now to decide which of the prophecy's paths we will follow. Honor the Earth and other Native-led organizations have led the way forward, and in our work for climate justice it's crucial that we listen, take guidance, support and follow their lead.

Learn more about Honor the Earth at <https://www.honorearth.org/>

Grace Johnson, Organizing Project Aide



Paul DeMain, Chair of Honor the Earth

CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

Elections for the Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter Executive Committee ended on November 12, and the votes have been counted without incident. Congratulations to the following Executive Committee members:

NANDITA CHITTAJALLU

Active in the Sierra Club since her high school days in Indiana, Nandita is passionate about public lands and wildlife protection. Her professional experience includes serving in the role of project manager, which provides her with the necessary skills to build relationships with multiple stakeholders and bring the Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club into the bigger conversations happening within the state. An avid hiker, Nandita hopes to engage in the protection of Wisconsin's public lands for our future generations. In addition, she intends to reach out to Wisconsinites of all ages and ethnicities to engage more people in our chapter.

JAMES DAVIES

Currently the secretary of the Chapter's Executive Committee, James will now continue to serve in his role for an additional three years. In addition to his work with the Sierra Club, James is also an attorney and advocate for transportation equity. His involvement in a nonprofit in the Milwaukee area allows James to engage the community and build broad coalitions to bring multiple perspectives and experiences to the table. James is particularly interested in the chapter's efforts to move beyond coal and towards clean energy so that collectively we may mitigate the present climate crisis.

MICHAEL REHANI

Michael began serving as a member-at-large of the Executive Committee this year and will now continue in a three-year term. He also has experience working with Midwest Environmental Advocates and shows an immense interest in political issues pertaining to environmental protection. Michael is interested in water quality issues and seeks to move toward clean energy in our state. He brings to the Executive Committee a desire to engage chapter members to ensure we are meeting everyone's needs. Michael is pursuing his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

GREEN REVIEW

THE MILWAUKEE RIVER GREENWAY:

A WEALTH OF NATURE IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

By Eddee Daniel with a foreword by John Gurda, River Revitalization Foundation, 2021, 230 pages.

The history of a city is often told as a tale of development, for that is the nature of a metropolitan area. The Milwaukee River Greenway, 879 acres of natural river valley, presents the saving, rewilding and celebrating of a Milwaukee treasure. The greenway welcomes travelers

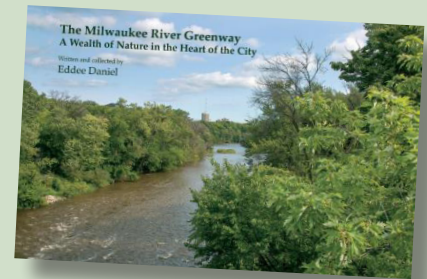
by canoe, kayak, foot and bike, to diverse and even rare ecosystems that host flora and fauna because ecosystems are intact. Photographs of wood duck, jewelweed, cardinal flower, flicker, groundhog, mussel, toad, Baltimore Oriole, frog, snake, autumn foliage on the river, spring flowers, summer pollinator, winter hikers and more celebrate the valley and entice the reader. Essays from Indigenous people, RiverKeepers, environmental activists, nature lovers and more explore their relationship with the river valley.

Daniel, photographer and writer, offers his own words and photographs, buoyed by the Milwaukee stewards who work for nature, to explore the history and place of the Milwaukee River Greenway. Every generation must have its working stewards to protect and preserve. John Gurda claims that love saved the environmental corridor: "Love of the land and our right relation to it is the same spirit that animated such legendary Wisconsinites as John Muir, Aldo Leopold...". That same spirit dwells in each writer and photographer featured. Essays, articles and photographs from greenway warriors are not simply collected, they are organized to create a story: a love story.

The contents are presented in four parts: find the history of the greenway, tour the parks, explore the trails and appreciate the people and organizations who preserve and restore this natural resource. The contributors demonstrate relationships that enrich the lives of those who do the work of stewardship and those who enjoy a respite from the synthetic.

The renowned Central Park in New York encompasses 840 acres and is known around the world. The Milwaukee River Greenway is more extensive and more biologically diverse, yet many Wisconsinites don't even know it exists. This book seeks to remedy that incongruence. Find the book at Bookbaby.com (look for the discount code on the book page). Even more importantly, find the greenway and take the family. The writers and photographers have illustrated the rich life that follows such endeavors.

Amy Lou Jenkins is the author of *Friends and Every Natural Fact*. Contact her at amyloujenkins.com to forward books for review consideration.



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Your generous contributions-above and beyond your membership dues-provided crucial support for our local grassroots campaigns to protect Wisconsin's water, land and wildlife.

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4817 Letters to Decision-Makers

180 work hours at volunteer nights

Stoltz & J Idzikowski, Paul Stoltz, Debra Stone, Diane Stone, Doug Stone, Vivian Stone, J & B Stone-Wilms, Mary Strachota, Lynette Strangstad, Elaine Strassburg, Annette Stratman-Durrer, James Stratte, Doug & Sue Straus, P Streiff & L Stuessy, Diane Strohmenger, Jerry Strom, Ritchey Stroud, Marylyn & Stewart Stroup, L Stubbe, Todd Stucke, Charlotte Stuhr, Libby Stupak, N Sugden & R Newbery, Kenneth & Terre Sullivan, Peg Sullivan, Douglas Summers, Linda Sumwalt, Michael Surendonk, Millard Susman, Bonnie Svoboda, Geoffrey R Swain, Dr & Mrs John D Swanson, Kathie Swanson, Mary C Swanson, Rolf R Swanson, Rolf Swanson, Richard Sweet, Jeffrey Sweetland & Margaret Murphy, William Swift, Jeffrey Swiggum, Marilyn Swiontek, Gail & Thomas Syverud, Douglas Szper

T, U & V

Jessica Taapken Klabbough, Marylou Taff, Dr George & Margaret Tanner, Gerald Tate, Linda Tate, Jo Ann Taube, Edward X Taylor, Rayla Temin, Charles & Karen Tennesen, James & Debra Tenorio, Caryl & Bob Terrell, M A Terres, Lowell Tesky, J Tessmann & T Weiland, Mr & Mrs Steve Cantley, Tim Tharp, Jackie Thiry, Edward & Myrtle Thom, Colleen A Thomas, D Thomas & D Steigerwald, William H Thomas, Virginia & Donald Thompson, Mary Graziano & Eric Thompson, Gary Thompson, Marcia M Thompson, Stephen Thompson, Terrence & Nancy Thompson, Sheila Thomson, Thomas Thoresen, Tom & Kim Thoresen, James H Thorp III, Nancy Tikalsky, Gina Timm, Jacquelyn & Lawrence Titus, Douglas Todd, Kathleen Tolbert, T Tollefson & B Meixner, Marjie Tomter, David Topp, Carol & Willard Phelps Memorial Fund, Jean Toutenhoofd, Henry Trautwein, Caryn Treiber, Jean & Arden Trine,

Jack Tritt, Patti Trochil, Michael Trokan & Rita Tenrio, Roberta & George Tucker, Bruce Tulloch, Sandra Tully, Vydunas Tumas, John & Susan Twigg, Ellen M Twing, James N Tylicki, Kathleen Ulman, Jean Urbach, Paul Van Berkel, Donna Van Bogaert, John Van Dalen, John Van Deuren, Gail Van Haren, Mary Van Horne, Cheryl Van Lear, C Van Maren & G Nygaard, Phyllis Vancleef, David Vandermeuse, James & Constance VanPatten, Pamela Vassh, Norman Veik, Debra Verhagen & Bruce Halmo, Patricio Viernes, Michael Vivoda, Paul Voelker, Sue Vogt, L. Venice Von Dorn, Jenny Vorpagel

W, X, Y & Z

Frederick B Wade, George Wagner, Linda & Carl Wagner, Michael D Wagner, Matthew Walch, Cheryl Walden, Carrol Waldenberger, Bradley Walker, Bruce Walker, Marilyn Wall & Jim Jelinek, Donald Waller, Jerry Waller, Janet Walsh & M Vandenbrook, Marvin Wanders, Alan Wandling, Elizabeth Ward, Cherry Wardrip, Jay & Melissa Warner, Catherine Washabaugh, Aaron Washick, K Waters & J Szopinski, Gary Waterworth, Carol Watkins, Norman & Mabel Watkins, Tom Watkins, Alfred Lustig & Janice Watson, Paul & Donna Watson, Susan Watt, Barbara Weade & Michael Goc, Samuel Webb Smith, David J Weber, John Weber, Shirley Weese Young, Mary Wegner, Rosemary & David Wehnes, Joanne Weinstein, Jackie Weiss, Karen Weiss, Doloris Welbes, Mary Jo Wellenstein, C Wells & D Loeffler, Gloria Welniak, Bruce E Wendt, Randy Wendt, Robert Wenger, Richard R Wentzel, J Hofrichter & W Wenzel, Genevieve Wenzel, Bill & Gwen Werner, Mary Werner, Shahla Werner/Andy Weidert, Warren R Werner, S & J Wery, John Wesolek, Liz & Bill Wessel, Angela West Blank, Barbara Westhofen, Mike Wettstein, Jr,

Calvin Wetzel, Florence Wetzel, Racine Dominican Mission, M H Whatley & M Worcester, Eric & Vicki Wheeler, Sandy Wheeler, Elizabeth Whelan, Mark & Ursula Whelan, Whin Whinfrey, Mr & Mrs Sammis B White, Rebecca White Body, Gloria Whitewater, Bryan Whiting, E Whitman & H Niblock, Lyn & Lyman Wible, Don Wichert, Sandra Wickman, Joanne Wiesen, M Vickerman & P Wiesen, Cary Wiesner, Theresa & Bruce Wiggins, Connie Williams, Jan Williamsen, Nancy Willing, Judi & Damien Wilson, Deborah Wilson, Robert & Elsie Wilson, John & Joan Wilson, Karen Wilson, Lorna Wilson, Pat & Bobbie Wilson, Susan Winecki, Dave Winkler, Bridget Wirtz, Wisconsin Counties Association, D B Wolf & P D Becerra, Eleanor Wolf, Melinda Wolf, Barbara & Ron Wolfe, Thomas & Cynthia Wolfe, Bonnie Wolff, Barbara K Wolter, Levi & Janet Wood, Henry Woodard, Mary Woodburn, Karen Woodbury, John & Barbara Woodrudge, Charlotte Woolf, Pamela Wronski, Theodore Wuerslin, Theodore & Andrea Wuerslin, Les & Carol Yaeger, Laurie Yahr & Rich Kahl, Joan Yeatman, John A Young, Linda Young, Joseph & Stephanie Yurek, James & Susan Zach, Ann Marie & James Zagzebski, Katherine Zajac, David Zalewski, Janet Zanck, Christine Zapf & Steve Schutz, Rhonda Zart, Phyllis Zatlín, Shirley Zehms, Kristen Zehner, Dr & Mrs Thomas Zehren, Dr R Zelent & C Ordemann, James Zerwick, Laurence & Lynn Zibell, Roger & Carol Ziff, Eric Zillgitt, Theresa Zimmerman, Wendlyn Zinda, James Zinky, Joanne & Jim Zipperer, Gary Zumach, Ellen Zweibel, Joan & Jerry Zwicky

MEMORIALS were received in memory of Carol Brooks, Fran Copernall Stauss, Robert J Whitney

These donations were made from November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021. Thanks also go out to our many contributors who prefer to remain anonymous. We try to acknowledge every donor; if your name is not listed, please know that we greatly appreciate your support.

Support the Wisconsin Chapter

When you make a donation to the Wisconsin Chapter you allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

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- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- other



SIERRA CLUB

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

754 Williamson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Our newsletter is printed on recycled paper

CALENDAR

Volume 60 / Number 1 JANUARY - MARCH 2022

JANUARY 4

Sierra Club Book Club

7:00 p.m.

Email cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org to attend.

JANUARY 6

Environmental Justice in Sierra Club: Panel Discussion with Sierra Club Leaders

6:00 p.m.

Online, sierraclub.org/wisconsin

JANUARY 11 AND 13

Campaign Team Kickoffs

Email cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org for more information.

JANUARY 12, FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 9, APRIL 13, MAY 11

Virtual Volunteer Nights, every 2nd Wednesday

6:30 p.m.

Registration required to receive the zoom call link.

sierraclub.org/wisconsin

FEBRUARY 3

2022 Virtual Volunteer Fair

6:30 p.m.

To register and to find your perfect volunteering fit, visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin

FEBRUARY 4

Transit Equity Day

To find a local event near you,

visit labor4sustainability.org/transit-equity-2022

MARCH 1

The Big Share

An online day of giving. thebigshare.org

MARCH 1

Sierra Club Book Club

7:00 p.m.

Email cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org to attend.

APRIL 5

Spring Elections

myvote.wi.gov

APRIL 13

Monthly Virtual Volunteer Night

6:30 p.m.

CORRECTION FOR OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

In the Green Review of *The Birdman of Koshkonong*, we incorrectly attributed the publication. This book was published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press.



OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION

The Sierra Club - Fox Valley Group, the Coalition to Save the Menominee River, Menikānehkem and Sierra Club Wisconsin all came together to put on an event on Indigenous & Community Resistance to Mining in Wisconsin this fall! It was great to learn more about an issue that so many are passionate about. You can watch a recording at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8AmwaERfQlmEg7uYrE-wyA>

