



## Citizens' Climate Lobby Madison Area

# Monthly Newsletter

October 16, 2022

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Greetings Madison CCL and friends,

*It's go time. Exercise your political power. Here's how: Vote! Over 1 million Wisconsinites sat out the 2020 presidential election, when Biden won Wisconsin by 20,000 votes. Nearly 2 million took a pass on the 2018 election in which Tony Evers defeated Scott Walker by a whopping 30,000 votes.*

*The future of climate policy in this state is being determined by scarcely 1% of us.*

*So vote. Today. Learn how at <https://myvote.wi.gov>. Help anyone who you think might not be comfortable with it. Tell them you can order absentee ballots right now. Madison residents can register, get ballots, and vote at their local library.*

*You or they don't know who to vote for? A few minutes at the nonpartisan site <https://www.vote411.org/wisconsin> will help. Check it out so you can help others.*

*-Get into the site, scroll to Personalized Voting Info and click Get Started.*

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*-At Vote 411 Voting Guide, select Go to My Races. Select the races, then the candidates. Read or watch. Easy.*

*Brag about voting. Just kidding. But do bring it up with three people who know you, people you suspect may be less interested in governance. Here's how I do it:*

*"I'm glad I voted and got that out of the way. I celebrated by unplugging my home phone! Did you vote already? No? When do you plan to do that? Did you know you can just vote at the library starting October 25? . . ."*

*Why? Someone you know isn't motivated to vote, and they are not telling you. People who talk about their plan to vote tend to follow through. And if they do – you just doubled your political power!*

*Also, talk with potential non-voters and win fabulous prizes! Join our November 12 chapter meeting, tell us about your outreach and conversations around voting and get swag. Best stories get really special swag.*

*– Bruce Jamison*

## Environmental Voter Project

**By Bruce Jamison**

As of this writing, 41 chapter members and 9 of their nonmember friends pledged to write and pay postage on 2,465 cards to environmentalists who are less than regular voters. Xanthe Saalmann marshaled help from 15 members of the Dane County Youth Environmental Committee and they alone did 300 cards during their monthly meeting.

Holly and I are astounded by your energy. Thanks to all of you for pitching in on this and so many other activities. Special thanks go to new member Ben Eisenstein for his help with the logistics.

Here is a little background about this effort for those who are just tuning in. The speaker for the CCL national call in August was Nathaniel Stinnett, director of the Environmental Voter Project. The EVP employs rigorous statistical data methods and research to find voters who seem by their associations to be empathic to

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environmental causes yet, despite being eligible, did not vote in the off presidential general election in 2018 but did vote in the 2020 presidential election.

Such folks are not as rare as you might think – the list runs to more than 8 million across 17 states. EVP does not operate in Wisconsin, but our Great Lakes Regional leaders Elizabeth Dell and John Sabin managed to get funding to create lists based on the same methods for Wisconsin and Ohio.

We pledged to do 600 cards in August, and you all ate those up so quickly that we told our regional office to give us 3000 names for the October push. And we're going to get there, thanks to all of you.

This mattered. With the advent of doorbell cameras fewer people than ever are opening doors to canvassers, and fewer still answer their home phones. How many handwritten letters or notes do you get in the mail? The cards will be noticed, and it won't take much to get someone who voted 2 years ago to do so again.

**Bonus Action!** Jump on a phone bank to other critical states with the [Environmental Voter Project](#). You'll simply be asking environmentalists to vote for candidates they support.



Bruce Jamison sends postcards to environmental voters.

## Our Monthly Meeting: Earth Day, Election Edition

By Holly Jorgenson

Our October meeting for a Get Out the Vote postcards event worked! Most of the 30 chapter members who attended left the room with many of their 30+ cards ready for mailing. Introductions of ourselves, the roles we play and something we love about nature gave a better picture of what we do as a chapter and nationally. It was satisfying to do something concrete to encourage voters and to get to know each other at the same time.

Several themes came through:

- The chapter has a strong base with a variety of roles, both visible and behind the scenes.

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- If you want to contribute to moving climate policy forward, there are competent people willing and ready to help you.
  - It's a congenial and respectful group.
  - There's a great group of newer people whose contributions are more and more evident. Welcome!



**Madison CCLers write postcards to environmental voters at the October meeting.**

## CCL-Madison Social Media

**By Neha Thalpur**

As the world has been turning to more and more online sources for its dose of daily news, Xanthe Saalmann and I decided to take over CCL-Madison's Instagram account and show everyone what CCL-Madison has accomplished and planned for the near future.

We take turns posting content every week that includes but is not limited to weekly climate affirmations, weekly climate tips/facts, chapter meeting and special speaker updates, monthly events, chapter initiatives and projects, etc.

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Recently, posts have highlighted the passing of the Inflation Reduction Act, electric buses in Milwaukee county and Racine, the Environmental Voter Project, the CHIPS and Science Act, the Good Neighbor Gathering tabling, and many more topics.

In addition, we prepare weekly climate quizzes that are posted to CCL-Madison's Instagram stories. The idea behind the quizzes is to encourage viewers to gain interest in the questions, explore the answers, and in the process, feel a sense of accountability to protect the climate.

With the onset of the November elections, we will be posting about the candidates' environmental policies to help voters make informed choices for Wisconsin.

Some of the best parts of posting chapter content on Instagram include learning about spectacular climate innovations and "the ability to interact with other CCL chapters and youth action teams across the world to take meaningful action."

Are you interested in joining CCL-Madison's Instagram team? Contact:

Neha Thalpur  
nehathalpur2312@gmail.com  
608-960-5128

Check out [CCL-Madison's Instagram account!](#)

## How much does a healthy planet mean to you?

**By Holly Jorgenson**

We have an ongoing chance for you to invest in our efforts! We're almost halfway to our goal of \$3,200 for next year's chapter budget. Here's an idea. My neighbor said he's appreciative of our efforts but doesn't plan to join us. He did say, "But if you need money, let me know." So I did and he's contributing. Is there anyone you know who could contribute \$25 or more as a way to get behind your volunteering? Send them this link: [Donations \(madisonccl.info\)](#). Or click it yourself!

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## Outreach to Dairy Industry

**By Bruce Beck**

CCL-Madison hosted an exhibit table at the 2022 World Dairy Expo, a four-day dairy trade show, October 4-7, at the Alliant Energy Center. The Expo was attended by 60,000 people who play a role in the dairy industry.

Chapter volunteers engaged Expo attendees in thoughtful conversation about climate solutions. Participants included Barbara Feeney, Bruce Jamison, Ben Korte, Steve Lewis, JoAnn Riecke, Kate Schachter, Dick Smith, Wendy Weber, Bruce Beck, and Mary Beck.

Our exhibit featured some scientific measurements and projections regarding the climate situation, including the estimated impact of the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 on annual U.S. greenhouse gas emissions during the next several years.

Our exhibit also explained how the Inflation Reduction Act appropriated \$20 billion to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide financial compensation to farmers who voluntarily implement agricultural practices that reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions, in projects approved by the NRCS. We invited dairy farmers to participate in this initiative when possible.

The success of the climate provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act depends, at least partially, on the voluntary decisions of citizens to participate in the programs and incentives offered by the act.



**Wendy Weber and JoAnn Riecke table at the World Dairy Expo.**

## Bob Lindmeier does it again

**By Wendy Weber**

CCL-Madison member and meteorologist Bob Lindmeier gave his Solving the Climate Crisis presentation on October 7 to 40 appreciative members of Church Women United, representing a variety of socially active faith groups. Bob's updated presentation includes information about the effects on Wisconsin of the Inflation Reduction Act.

There was great interest in the topic with plenty of questions. Thanks to Barb Feeney for tabling, and a special thanks to Bob Lindmeier for presenting!



**Bob Lindmeier explains how to solve the climate crisis to members of Church Women United.**

## Upcoming Event

Wisconsin Creation Care Ambassadors and Citizens' Climate Lobby-Madison's faith team are hosting a free, virtual event on Thursday, November 3, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Called Faiths Connect For Climate Action!, it's part of its quarterly programming to support people of faith in climate work.

At this event, Kathy Kuntz of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change will present on the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act. The IRA can serve to help individuals and faith communities get funds for climate action. A Q&A will follow, with breakout groups to meet, network, and share ideas and actions.

We encourage you to invite other interested people of faith and faith team members to join us.

Register at <https://forms.gle/r2CTo4KvzejcaE139> and a Zoom link will be shared a few days before the event. Email Heather Phelps at [phelpshe@gmail.com](mailto:phelpshe@gmail.com) with any questions.