

Madison Gas & Electric - Moving our Energy Future Backwards

What do you want Madison's energy future to be? Do you want one with reduced energy where we can rely on infinite sources of distributed renewable energy such as wind and solar, where we bring our CO2 down to sustainable levels, or do you want one tied to centralized power plants, a continued reliance on coal and other fossil fuels and 450 or 500 or more ppm of CO2?

The latter option is what we're being given by MGE with their rate case proposal before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC). You might ask, is this for real? Our own green community energy company putting clean energy in reverse! Unfortunately, it is, and MGE is not alone. Two other utilities in Wisconsin, WE Energies and Wisconsin Public Service, also have regressive rate cases before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission that would significantly increase the fee you pay for being connected to the grid before you use any electricity. These proposals would also negatively impact energy efficiency and solar installations and increase energy and fossil fuel use.

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Get Connected at the Fall Kick Off

Wednesday, September 17, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The Goodman Center, 149 Waubesa Street, Madison

Ever wonder what the local Sierra Club is up to? Want to learn about our programs and plug in to activism and volunteer opportunities? Then this is the event for you!

Also get a short and engaging overview of the local landscape for environmental issues, challenges and successes from our keynote speaker, Wisconsin State Representative Chris Taylor.

There will be food, fun, and a chance to interact with volunteers from all our various activities. Come hear (and share) what's happening, and how you can join in and make the difference you want to see!

Some areas you can learn about:

- Conservation & clean energy activism
- MG&E Rate Hike "RePower" Campaign
- Inner City Outings "at risk" youth program
- Event Recycling & Composting campaign
- Communication & Outreach Opportunities
- Political Education
- Water Sentinels program

This will be a fun and engaging event, open to both Sierra Club members and the public. So grab a friend and join us for a spectacular time! RSVP at www.4lakes.org or by phone at (608) 274-7870. ■



WI State Representative
Chris Taylor

Chair's Corner

The 2014 elections are upon us and every one of us has a responsibility to vote to make positive changes in our leadership. The current Governor and his lackeys in the legislature bulldozed through one of the most destructive and regressive bills in Wisconsin history when they approved Act 1, the Bad River Watershed Destruction Act that stripped environmental protections for the largest mine in state history. We must work harder than ever this year to prevent more bad legislation from moving forward. The solution is voting irresponsible elected officials from office and electing new leadership.

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The Regressive Billing Scheme

MGE's original proposal was to go from the current \$10.44/mo. connection fee to \$22 in 2015, \$48.66 in 2016 and \$68.36 in 2017 – an increase of over 650%! After discussions with the Sierra Club, Renew Wisconsin and Clean Wisconsin, and later the Citizens Utility Board, MGE backed off on its billing scheme and is now proposing a fixed fee of \$19 for 2015. Beyond that is uncertain, but MGE has shown no indication of altering their course, so future plans may be more veiled than withdrawn. But the proposals would also lower the per kilowatt hour rate you pay for the electricity you use.

The Financial Impacts

Use less, pay more; use more, pay less.

If you're a low energy user, conscientiously doing your best and have succeeded in reducing your energy use and carbon footprint, you'll be rewarded with higher utility bills. But if you are careless and waste energy, with incandescent (yikes!) lights on all the time, and have a plethora of high draw energy devices, what's your penalty? Lower energy bills! (Is that the desired incentive we wish for people to reduce their carbon impact?)

Rewarding the rich.

Studies have consistently shown a positive correlation between income and energy use. Not surprising, since those well off often have larger homes and can buy more devices that use power. People with lower incomes often reside in smaller houses or apartment with fewer consumer devices. This group often includes many minorities, split families, students and the elderly. With all the recent reports on disparities in Madison, is this really the direction we want to go?

Efficiency becomes less efficient.

Generally, the investment with the best payback for reducing energy bills (and CO2 emissions) is efficiency. But since you save less on electricity when the per kilowatt-hour rate goes down, and your return on investment drops. Lighting, one of the most common upgrades businesses do to lower their electricity bills, would become less cost effective, encouraging retaining old inefficient fixtures. In homes, replacing energy hogs like old refrigerators would likewise be less cost effective.

Darkening the future of solar.

A common solar payback arrangement with utilities is that the customer is compensated for the energy generated at the rate paid for electricity (often called net metering). So when the energy rate drops, so does the payback rate – and the return on investment. Just when solar was becoming increasingly affordable with reasonable payback times, MGE would reverse that trend and increase the payback period.

Giving you more control – while taking it away.

The major jump in connection rates proposed for 2016 and 2017 were based on providing smart meters to help you control your use, especially at peak times. These meters are characterized as tools to help you control your rates. However, if a much

larger percentage of your bill is fixed and you have no control over, how smart do you have to be to know you'll have more control over less? And if you're already smart, then you've reduced your use already. Even MGE said smart meters won't help those sensible enough to control their bills now. Just how smart is this scheme?

Commercially costly.

Base connection rates for businesses would also rise based on their business classification. Within each class, lower electricity users would pay more while the higher end users would pay less. Especially for a small, local startup business with limited office space, if they are connected independently, their costs would go up and could pose a significant burden. Similarly, for businesses who have or want to add solar such as the Willy St Coop or Union Cab, a lowered electric use rate means the payback on solar becomes less attractive. What a sunny idea!

Climate Impacts

The new green is black.

MGE bills themselves as a green energy company. Well, that's 12% true. With 25 and 45 year (almost until 2060!) contracts on coal, 88% of MGE's energy comes almost exclusively from fossil fuels, with the vast majority of that from coal. Interestingly, MGE participated in the Madison Sustainability Plan that includes goals of 25% renewable energy by 2025 and 80% CO2 emissions by 2050. MGE (along with other utilities in Wisconsin) has also opposed a higher renewable energy standard.

What's a few degrees among friends?

This country wastes a tremendous amount of energy, such as when lights being left on when not needed. What's the incentive when the savings might be a dime or a buck? With lowered electricity rates, the incentive will be even less, and will tend to increase energy use, especially among those not concerned with waste. Incentives to replace inefficient devices or perform proper maintenance will also decrease, resulting in more wasted energy. For a company with 7/8 of its energy from fossil fuels, this results in added CO2 emissions. Do we really want to contribute more to climate change?

Why MGE, why?

MGE's rationale.

To be fair, MGE is a very small investor owned utility with more overhead and less economies of scale than larger utilities, and they have administrative and capital overhead costs that are not directly tied to per unit prices of electricity, which tends to drive up rates. Climate change is creating added uncertainty regarding future energy use, and investors also want their piece of the pie – and a security future of more pie. And there are those pesky customers who save energy or install solar (very limited so far), and who in time, can cut into MGE's sales in a measurable way. Average energy use is flat or even down, although peak electricity may still be rising, which tends to lead to more overhead and higher rates for peak energy use. There are very real challenges, but what is the fix we want to provide real solutions?

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Fall 2014 Outings

For all outings, wear weather and activity appropriate clothing, and good footwear. For work outings, wear work clothes and gloves. Bring fluids to drink, and a snack or food, and sun screen, a hat, and insect repellent if needed. If carpooling, please be a little early. Please contact the leader to RSVP, if you have questions, or regarding concerns about weather and to cancel. Check the Four Lakes Group web site: www.4lakes.org, or Facebook page for updates or added events.

Leader Contact Info

Lacinda Athen, lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870

Don Ferber, d_ferber@sbcglobal.net or 608-222-9376

Kathy Mulbrandon, kmulb@charter.net

David Smith, smithdc75@yahoo.com or 608-233-1210

Cruisin' for Cuisine

Cruisin' is a rotating social dinner group open to non-members too, that visits local restaurants in the Madison area for an evening of conversation and camaraderie. **RSVP** to lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 for the dinner time.



Wednesday, September 10: Cruisin' on the Capitol Pedaler.



A special outing for a unique way to see downtown Madison on a pedal-powered, eco-friendly, pub-and-restaurant-crawling bicycle trolley. Sign up at www.4lakes.org for the 2 hour tour with 2 -3 stops along with a prepaid fee of \$30/person sent to Capitol Pedaler.

Tuesday, October 21: Cruisin to Manna Cafe.
611 N Sherman Ave. Madison

Manna Café and Bakery is a dream come true — a local, from-scratch bakery, serving homemade food for breakfast, lunch – and now dinner! Get outside your brunch state of mind, and join us for an evening of fall comfort food at its best on Madison's East side.

Tuesday, November 18: Cruisin to Cento.
122 W Mifflin St, Madison

If you haven't yet ventured there, it is time to try out Food Fight's latest entry in Madison's restaurant scene. Cento, pronounced "Chento," means 100 in Italian and is a reference to the restaurant's prominent location on the historic 100 block of State Street. The menu features house-made pastas and pizzas cooked in a wood-burning oven, along with steak, chicken, antipasti, and charcuterie.



Saturday, October 4, Streambank Restoration Outing – Sugar River

Join Dane County Parks and Trout Unlimited for an outing to restore streambank along the new Dane County Sugar River property. This area has become overgrown with honeysuckle and other invaders and is a great place to learn about invasives management. These invasives impede access for fishing and launching canoes and kayaks. Tools and training provided, and no charge for the free exercise and fresh air - unlike many 'health' clubs.

Meet at 9 am at the parking lot on Hwy 69 - 2miles south of Verona 18/151, just south of Sunset Dr. Wear work clothes and gloves and bring fluids to drink. For more information, contact Don Ferber.

Saturday, October 4, 10 am – Fall Hike Lodi Segment, Ice Age Trail

Join us for a 6-7 mile hike along the Lodi Segment of the IAT. This is a very scenic Trail section where you can learn about wetland areas and glaciated landscapes, and about the restoration of the prairie and woodland areas. This is a moderate difficulty hike.

Take Hwy 113 north of Madison 2.5 miles past the Village of Dane. Turn left on Lee Rd. for 1 mile, then north on Lodi Springfield Rd. for 0.8 miles to the parking area on the left with the kiosk. If carpooling from Madison, meet at 9 a.m. at the Hill Farm State Office Building (DOT) west parking lot on Sheboygan Ave. RSVP to David Smith.

Saturday, October 17, 10 am – Autumn Hike Table Bluff Segment, Ice Age Trail

Hike this beautiful section of the Ice Age Trail for a colorful autumn trek. This segment of the IAT is in the driftless (unglaciated) area where you can observe and learn about the marvelous restored prairies and oak woodlands, as well as driftless area topography and geologic history.

Take Hwy 14 just west of Cross Plains to Cty KP. Go north for 2.3 miles to Table Bluff Rd. Turn left for .3 miles to parking area on the left. RSVP to Kathy Mulbrandon

Sunday, December 14 – Annual Winter Bonfire Picnic Point

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for our annual celebratory Winter Bonfire to share good cheer and enjoy a crisp earlier winter evening with fellow Sierrans and other outdoor lovers. Bring beverages (warm or otherwise) and a snack to share (or even something to roast on the fire), and stories to share or holiday songs to sing, and we'll have a merry old time!

Picnic Point is off University Bay Drive just off of the Lake Mendota Lakeshore Path and free parking is available. Meet at the farthest fire pit on Picnic Point, 1 mile in. (Ground may be uneven or snowy.) Don't forget a warm hat, gloves or mittens, and boots! RSVP to Kathy Mulbrandon.

Chair's Corner

Continued from page 1

Here's who we can count on to support our goals; our endorsed candidates for 2014 begin with **Mary Burke for Governor** and include: **Mark Pocan, Rob Zerban, Ron Kind, Gwen Moore, and Kelly Westlund for Congress.** At the state level, we have endorsed more than 70 candidates across Wisconsin – including former Sierra Club state chair, **Penny Bernard Schaber** now running for state Senate. To see the full list, go to: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.asp> and to review our 2013-14 Legislative Scorecard ranking incumbents by their votes last session. The voting last session was just as starkly partisan as in the previous session and demonstrates that GOP legislators voted in virtual lockstep for the Governor's agenda.

Your help is needed to win these important races. Volunteering can be as easy as you want it to be. You can stuff envelopes, distribute literature, make calls or even host a fundraiser for a candidate. A little of your time goes a long way if we all give a little and of course, don't forget to vote on November 4.

Call for nominations - Four Lakes Group Executive Committee

The Four Lakes Group is seeking strong and effective leaders interested in furthering the goals of the Sierra Club in southern Wisconsin. We seek members having assessment, strategic, management, and organizational growth abilities as well as a proven ability to work with a diverse group of members, organizations, and communities to form partnerships, increase capacity, provide solutions, and set and achieve organizational goals.

The Executive Committee is a working board and meets monthly though much of our work is conducted via email. Committee members are expected to devote sufficient time and energy to accomplish our goals and are elected for two year terms. The Sierra Club is committed to seeking a diverse pool of candidates that is inclusive of geography, race, urban and rural interests, gender and age. All interested Club members are encouraged to apply. Please contact Dave Blouin at 608-233-8455 or bur-roak15@gmail.com if you are interested or wish to learn more.

The Sierra Club does a great job of supporting volunteer leaders by providing many kinds of free training for our activities such as outings, political work, fundraising, conservation and much more. You don't need to be on the Executive Committee to take advantage of these trainings but of course, we'd love to have more leaders to help us with the administration of the Group. A great way to learn more about what we do is to join us for the **Fall Kickoff event on Sept. 17** (see p. 1 for details). Wisconsin State Representative Chris Taylor will be joining us as keynote speaker to give an overview of the local and state landscape for environmental and women's issues. This is our annual fall gathering designed to be a fun and relaxed way to meet fellow member volunteers.

Summer Wrap-up

Four Lakes Group volunteers were busier than ever this summer with working at several festivals for the Recycling Away from Home program and organizing the very successful fundraiser at the Madison Mallards game in late July. The Mallards fundraiser was especially fun and brought out lots of new and old faces on a beautiful summer night to watch great baseball and help the Group and the state Chapter raise needed money for our programs. Big thanks to all the volunteers who helped at these fun events.

The Four Lakes Group is working on multiple conservation issues but there are two issues to highlight. Our Conservation Chair, Don Ferber has written an eloquent summary of the proposed regressive MGE rate case coming up this fall before the Public Service Commission on pages 1, 2 & 5. The other issue is our continuing fight to slow and halt disruptive climate change. We've committed significant time and resources to helping activists join in the September 21 Peoples Climate March in New York City. The Sierra Club is helping to mobilize members from across the nation to participate in this historic effort to educate and draw attention to the most pressing issue of our time.

Another way you can help support these important issues is to make a special gift to the Four Lakes Group. Donations directly to the Four Lakes Group are not tax-deductible, but the issues highlighted above demonstrate the importance of your help. We simply can't be effective without your help. Please make all checks out to the "Four Lakes Group Sierra Club". If you must have a tax deduction for your donation, please make it out to the "Sierra Club Foundation" and it will be processed accordingly. Either way, we appreciate your support! Please remember to include your name and address so we can send you a thank you and let you know your donation was received! Checks can be mailed to: Sierra Club, C/O Lacinda Athen, 4909 Sherwood Road, Madison, WI 53711.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns or to learn more. See you on the trails! ■

Four Lakes Volunteering

We offer many other opportunities for you to get involved and express your environmental passions. Contact Don Ferber at d_ferber@sbcglobal.net for more info or other interests you may have.

- * **Communications Team** – This team helps promote and publicize our events and issues we take on, and we have needs for a wide variety of skills including graphics design, writing, layout, social media, and blog and web design skills.
- * **Outreach and tabling** – We table at many events throughout the year, from winter to fall, and at many festivals and fairs.
- * **Outings Leader** – If you enjoy the great outdoors, and have activities you especially enjoy or special places you like to visit, and are willing to organize and lead outings, you have a place with us.

MGE continued from page 2

The fix is in.

MGE claims low energy users and solar customers are not paying their fair share of fixed costs, including power plants and transmission lines, and want to apportion capital costs more evenly, despite higher energy users increased demand on the system. But rather than rewarding customers who reduced their carbon footprint as the community has asked (and subsidized) them to do, MGE is rewarding those who use more energy. It's a policy that penalizes the poor and reaps riches for, well, the rich. A policy that is callous towards customers, but provides surety for shareholders. MGE said at a Madison Sustainability Committee meeting that they don't set public policy. Perhaps the question to our "community energy company" is, if they believe in it.

Wise choices.

What MGE is proposing is choice, not necessity, and in line with actions some other utility companies tied to right wing fossil fuel interests are taking. Utilities know their business models must change, and some are doing so. Others, like MGE, are choosing to hold on for dear life to the old centralized power, fossil fuel business model. Your choice is if you wish to accept a scheme that will unequally burden low and mid income customers, will penalize users who have invested their hard earned dollars in efficiency and solar, raise rates on those who have been environmentally and socially conscious in their actions, and will take away your ability to control your utility bills when you make smart energy choices.

Our utility.

Don't we want a utility company that truly is part of this community and our values? To look to the future, isn't a goal to have a utility that will provide us with the service we desire, not the sales they want? A utility that will work cooperatively with us to provide a sustainable future for our community through reduced energy use and clean energy, and we can in turn work with to ensure their sustainability? While business has risks and uncertainties, MGE's billing scheme would instead put lower income customers and clean energy investors at risk, and hasten climate change that will result in a far more uncertain future.

Take Action

1. Sign the Credo petition at <https://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/support-fair-electric-billing-rates-and-the-growth-of-renewable-energy-in-wisconsin> and tell MGE you oppose their assault on clean energy.
2. File comments with the Public Service Commission at <http://psc.wi.gov/apps40/dockets/comment.aspx>, docket number 3270-UR-120, by September 30
3. Share your comments with local elected officials, MGE executives, and board:
 - Gary Wolter, Chairman, President and CEO - gwolter@mge.com
 - Lynn Hobbie, Senior Vice President - lhobbie@mge.com
 - Scott Neitzel, Senior Vice President - sneitzel@mge.com
 - Kristine Euclide, Vice President and General Counsel - keuclide@mge.com
 - MGE Board of Directors - directors@mge.com

To further express your concern, write a letter to the editor, and share MGE's plans with friends and community groups. Ask them to also take action and inform MGE and others about the future they want. See the accompanying list for presentations in September, and watch for updates and more information at www.4lakes.org and www.repowermadison.org.

The *Real* Madison Gas & Electric



MG&E - Moving our Energy Future Backwards

Presentations on the MGE rate case

Monday, September 8, 7 pm
350 Madison monthly meeting
1704 Roberts Ct

Monday, September 15, 7 pm
RePower Madison
Downtown Madison Library
201 W Mifflin, Rm 302

Monday, September 22, noon
Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability
Downtown Madison Library
201 W Mifflin, Rm 302

Saturday, September 27, 6 pm
James Reeb Sustainability potluck
2625 E Johnson St

Watch our 4lakes.org site for more information and activities.

Food and Climate

As a fairly new member of the 4 Lakes Sierra Club, and having recently relocated to Madison, I am enjoying getting involved in club activities here and meeting wonderful new people who care about the environment. I applaud the emphasis on clean water, renewable energy, and the understanding that serious action is needed on climate change. I'm wondering though if maybe we are missing the elephant in the room. A leading contributor to climate change is animal agriculture. The Sierra Club is already on record as recognizing the problems inherent in CAFOs (contained animal feeding operations), otherwise known as factory farms. But maybe it's time to go a step further. A report by the United Nations published in 2011 and reported in the Sierra Atlantic, states that "a substantial reduction of impacts would only be possible with a substantial worldwide diet change, away from animal products." The Environmental Defense Fund says "if every American skipped one meal of chicken per week and substituted vegetables and grains...the carbon dioxide savings would be the same as taking more than half a million cars off of U.S. Roads."

The Sierra Atlantic's report quotes James Hansen of NASA, a leading climatologist, who has spoken out repeatedly and strongly about global warming. "Animal products cause more damage than producing construction materials such as sand or cement, plastic or metals. Biomass and crops for animals are as damaging as burning fossil fuel."

So what are we doing about it, as a group and as individuals? Shouldn't we be reducing our consumption of animal products and taking steps towards implementing a vegan diet? Meatless Monday is a national grass roots movement and a good first step. I hope Sierra Club members will consider looking to their own diets, and to what is served at club social gatherings, so that we raise the awareness of the organization at every level, in an effort to call attention and take action where it counts and where all change begins, with ourselves. ■

Judi Duncan, Madison

Autumn Assembly

October 10 – 12, 2014

Phantom Lake YMCA Camp, Mukwonago, WI

Do you already have those dates marked on your calendar? As a Sierran, you might want to consider doing so. That's the date of our annual statewide gathering of folks who want to explore, enjoy and protect nature – and who enjoy fun, education and good camaraderie.

The YMCA Camp near Mukwonago was founded in 1896, and sits on 72 acres of scenic woodlands, and we will have full use of the entire camp for the event, including canoes that can be used to explore Phantom Lake. Should be a great place to spend a lovely fall weekend.

While many details of the weekend remain to be filled in, one special highlight we do know is that Ron Seely, noted environmental reporter for many years at the Wisconsin State Journal who now works for the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism in Madison, will be the keynote speaker. Ron's deep commitment to and passion for the environment is reflected in his work, and he has gained many insights over the years that he will share with us.

Stay tuned for more information at <http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>, and join us for that weekend if you can. ■



Four Lakes Water Sentinels Program

The Four Lakes Sierra Club and the First Unitarian Society have joined together to create the Water Sentinel Ministry Team. The team has had a great response to the initial recruitment to find people interested in exploring the water resources of our area. Some of the ideas for activities offered by volunteer leaders include:

- **Water monitoring** – What can we learn from water monitoring and can the Water Sentinels team play a role in protecting our area waters and cleaning them up?
- **Stream quality** – Ever wonder whether streams are different in an urban and rural setting? Join us and let's find out.
- **Permaculture and water-friendly gardening and horticulture** – We will get a tour of a property being restored using land and water friendly techniques.
- **Snowshoeing** – Snowshoes provide a great way to explore our parks and lakes in winter. Look for a fun and educational outing this winter.
- **Fishing** – Fish provide an indication of the quality of lakes. We will take a fishing trip next spring/early summer.

Our goal is to offer a range of activities that will appeal to a wide variety of people. A planning group will be meeting soon to follow up on these ideas and more.

If you want to join the Water Sentinel Team, please contact Liz Wessel, 238-9934, lizwessel@gmail.com or Cindy Rose, 271-6440, crose5@att.net. ■



Recycling Away From Home: A Mixed Bag

It's been a season of ups and downs for RAH and composting in Madison. With Pelliteri now recycling #1 plastic cups, they were used at AtwoodFest and the Orton Park Festival this year, cutting down on waste going to the landfill.

While that's progress on recycling, the news on composting was not as good. While the New Belgium Clips of Faith and Willy St Coop Annual Members Party (which Sierra Club volunteers participated in) were on full composting as zero waste events, the Orton Park Festival, where full composting was initially planned, was not.

As of this writing (late August), the City of Madison's neighborhood pilot composting program is in limbo, and a digester not planned until 2017 at the earliest. Apparently, contamination (non-compostables) issues are plaguing the pilot program, and equipment to manage this is expensive. The digester may also be delayed due to budgetary issues.

These would indeed be disappointing developments. While there are issues to be resolved, this is a community ready for composting, for reducing waste, reducing costs paid to take trash to the County landfill, and generating useful products such as energy and compost.

On Madison's ideascale web site for City budget feedback, a digester and composting was the #1 topic of discussion. Please consider contacting your Madison alder and Mayor Soglin and let them know that the issue of composting in Madison should not be put on the back burner.

We could say RAH to that! ■

Helping Guide the Four Lakes Group

As a Sierra Club member, what environmental issues strike a chord with you? Are there some you think deserve more attention, some you think we're over invested in, or others that you feel we're neglecting? Would you also like more input on what issues we delve into, where we invest our resources and time, and in engaging our large member base and the public? Becoming a part of our Four Lakes Executive Committee provides you the opportunity to do all this and help guide our future directions.



Our current local leadership is a diverse group of concerned activists, but we're always looking for new people with fresh perspectives and passions willing to help the Sierra Club evolve. No special skills or experience are necessary, only a concern for the issues, a willingness to consider various viewpoints, and a commitment to devote at least several hours a month to meet and participate in building an effective organization.

Would you like to make more of a difference through the Sierra Club? Please contact Dave Blouin (see Four Lakes contacts) to inquire further. You'll feel good by contributing through an organization with a proven record of having an impact ■

Wisconsin Tar Sands Update

We wish we could say the risk of tar sands expansion had lessened. Three county boards passed resolutions requesting an environmental impact statement on Enbridge's proposed expansion of tar sands line 61. (See the Four Lakes website under 'newsletters', Winter 2014 newsletter.) But the Wisconsin DNR has not indicated they will ask for a full EIS, despite the obvious risks this pipeline poses with three major spills in the last 7 years and Enbridge's proposal to triple the flow.

One small victory is that Dane County is now requiring a conditional use permit (CUP) for Enbridge's proposed pumping station near Marshall. (A CUP requires public hearings.) Despite Enbridge's original plans to construct the pump station before the CUP was required, they have been slow to request a new permit. But public disclosure of their activities has never been Enbridge's strong point.

However, Enbridge has plans to build another pipeline through Minnesota to carry Bakken oil from the shale fields in North Dakota. Not surprisingly, Enbridge has also indicated a desire to build a connecting pipeline in the line 61 corridor to carry this fracked oil through Wisconsin.

Concerns over rail shipment of tar sands and Bakken oil (the 'bomb' trains) through our communities continue to grow as we learn more about the poor condition of tanker cars and tracks, and the lack of enforced safety standards. These are accidents waiting to happen, just like spills from pipelines. And while there has been no news on the Lake Superior port as another option to ship oil across the Great Lakes, we can expect that to return too.

Elizabeth Ward, JMC Conservation Programs Coordinator, and volunteers from the Sierra Club and other organizations have been instrumental in opposing added risks to our state. For more information, go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/About/contact.asp>.

Yes, we wish we had better news, but with your support we will continue to fight these developments. ■



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www.4lakes.org

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Newsletter Mailing

Our goal is environmentally friendly, cost effective communication with our members. Our primary modes of communication are this newsletter, the Four Lakes Enews and our web site. We mail a hard copy if we don't have your email or you request it. Others receive an email letting you know when the newsletter is available-for downloading. Please consider sending your email to d_ferber@sbcglobal.net if we don't have it to save the cost and paper of mailings. Plus, we can also send you our Enews to keep you better informed.



People's Climate March September 21st— New York City

Looking for a key leverage point on climate change? This September is it! The UN Climate Summit occurring on September 23 in New York City and the Sierra Club and many other national environmental organizations are all in for an unprecedented mobilization to let leaders from all over the world know that the time is NOW when they need to do something real about climate change.

This is THE time to go and demand a safe future for people and the planet. The Sierra Club and 350.org are working together to fill buses. If you can't attend, please consider finding someone else who can, or provide financial support for someone else to go.

Buses leave at 4 pm on Saturday, September 20 and travel overnight to arrive in NYC at around 9 am in plenty of time for the rally. The bus will then depart around 8 that evening to arrive back in Madison at around noon on the 22nd, with no overnight stay.



Thanks to subsidies from the national Sierra Club and the Four Lakes Group, costs are \$135 for Sierra Club members and \$155 for non-members. Sign up at www.4lakes.org. If you have questions or need additional financial support, please contact Marybeth at gutsugua@gmail.com.

Please help make our world safe from the ravages of climate change. ■

Four Lakes Group Sierra Club Contacts

on the web: [www. http://4lakes.org](http://4lakes.org) • Like us on Facebook

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