

## Clean Energy Leadership

What does leadership look like on energy? In the case of the City of Madison, the community has spoken and Madison has committed to moving our city operations to 100% renewable energy. Dane County Executive Joe Parisi has also stated the same intentions for Dane County. That means ending fossil fuel use. It won't be accomplished overnight, but focusing on the big picture, having clearly stated goals, and a dedicated work plan, shows leadership. At a time when state, and now federal leadership, is woefully lacking, it's good we can count on local leadership to pick up the mantle of transitioning off fossil fuels to clean energy.

### The Portland example

The City of Portland is showing real leadership too. They passed a resolution acknowledging that climate change is real and having major impacts, and that we have a responsibility to address it in a real, measureable and substantive manner. Their leaders recognized that this challenge is also an opportunity, not only to move to clean, renewable energy, but to address inequities in our system that impact low income communities and those of color. They resolved to move the entire community, not just city operations, to 100% renewable electricity by 2035, and for the entire city to be on 100% renewable energy by 2050. They will also purchase renewable energy credits to offset any minimal fossil fuel uses that may remain.

*continued on page 2*



## Chair's Column

*Dave Blouin*

Four Lakes Group members and leaders have had a busy spring this year. A big thank you to everyone who helped organize and participate in the Madison Climate March on April 22 to call attention to the need to get our local utility Beyond Coal. We followed up the great effort with a busload of Sierra Club and 350 Madison activists who participated in the April 29 People's Climate March in Washington, D.C.

We were treated to a great presentation in March on Utah wild lands and the Bears Ears National Monument from Sierra Club and Southern Utah Wilderness activist Clayton Daughenbaugh. Bears Ears is one of the monuments targeted by the Trump administration for "review" and the Sierra Club will be fighting any attempts to reduce protections for these important public lands.

Your Four Lakes Group made a significant contribution to help pay for additional research into groundwater contamination issues at the closed Flambeau mine near

*Continued on page 5*

## In This Issue

<i>Clean Energy Leadership</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Chair's Column</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Enbridge Line 66</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Summer Outings/Programs</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Climate March for all</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Dirty Lawn Mowers!</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Dane County Parks Input</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Madison Clean Energy</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>City Leaders Energy Forum</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Bus to MREA Energy Fair</i>	<i>8</i>

Portland is committed to work with all sectors of the community and energy use to meet these goals, and ensure that equity issues are addressed in deriving solutions. The city will partner with their utilities, not only on renewable energy to supply needs, but on energy efficiency to reduce energy demand. Portland is further urging the state of Oregon to adopt the same goals and to institute stronger building energy codes and allow more flexible uses of buildings.

### City leadership here and elsewhere

Portland is just one example of a city moving to 100% clean energy. Along with Madison and Portland, nearly 25 other cities have made commitments to move to 100% renewables. In fact, some cities have already achieved that goal such as Burlington, VT, Greensburg, KS, and Georgetown, TX. They developed plans with specific goals and timelines and worked cooperatively with all players to set and accomplish these goals.

As in Portland, the transition to clean energy is an opportunity to address cultural and systemic inequities in our communities. Madison and Dane County have major disparities in communities of color with regards to income, education, jobs, health care, and services provided. The fixed fee increases in utility bills by MGE and several other Wisconsin utilities that were approved in 2014 further added to burdens on many low-income residents, elderly and apartment dwellers. In addition, these mandatory fees reduced incentives for energy efficiency and solar. Madison must also address these issues if we are to be a leader not just on clean energy, but on energy justice.

This is all the more reason the entire community, including governments, utilities, commerce and industry, and citizens must get on board and address the various energy sectors and issues. This includes creating strong, measureable goals that will set benchmarks to achieve. The Dane County Climate Action council will provide another forum to hopefully bring parties together and create truly forward-looking solutions.

### Where you come in

With your help and support, the Sierra Club will continue to strongly advocate for Madison, Dane County and MGE to be true leaders on clean energy and energy justice. We've heard what our community is demanding, and our Beyond Coal team is committed to getting us off coal, ensuring fair and affordable energy rates into the future, creating a vibrant clean energy economy that everyone will benefit from, and helping secure a sustainable future.

You can be a part of ensuring your community will be a clean energy leader. To volunteer for or talk about our Beyond Coal efforts, contact Devin Martin at [devin.martin@sierraclub.org](mailto:devin.martin@sierraclub.org), or Don Ferber at [d\\_ferber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_ferber@sbcglobal.net) for any other energy interests, and be part of the solution.

## Enbridge line 66: To be or not to be?

You could say the future of Enbridge's tar sands pipeline 66 is as clear as, well, tar sands. Will it be built or won't it? Enbridge's public story keeps changing, although they have told investors their intent is to build a twin pipeline to the current line 61.

What should you believe? First Enbridge said they would build another pipeline, and now say there are no plans. But they did obtain eminent domain to take private lands from landowners to widen the pipeline corridor, and they've been contacting landowners about the right-of-way. So the eminent domain would be for what? Enbridge states that they haven't applied for any permits to build another pipeline in Wisconsin, but at the same time, they are trying to increase pipeline capacity that brings tar sands to Wisconsin. So they'd ship millions of barrels in and none out? You do the math.

Needless to say, the takings issue has ruffled the feathers of many landowners concerned about their property, as well as others concerned about public safety, protection of the environment, and the threat of climate change. A landowner group, *Eighty Feet is Enough* (referring to the current corridor width), has organized to protect their lands and their rights, and to push back on Enbridge. They've already raised funds to put up two large billboards along I-39 between Stevens Point and Wausau and on the Madison beltline when exiting I-90.

In addition, they organized a Property Rights Day at the Capitol on May 4 to talk with legislators along the pipeline about their concerns. Legislators heard in no uncertain terms how these rural landowners felt about Enbridge and the potential for having their lands taken and families put at additional risk.

Our battle has also been bolstered with hearing we will be receiving funding from the Bold Alliance that has been fighting pipelines in Nebraska, Iowa and other states. This will provide us with the ability to fund additional efforts and support landowner organizing along the current Line 61 here in Wisconsin.

Whatever Enbridge's plans, we'll be here defending our lands and waters, our families, our rights, and our heritage.

## Summer 2017 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 sunscreen, 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 with concerns about weather or if you wish to cancel. Check the Four Lakes Group web site or Facebook page for updates or added events.

### Leader Contact Info

Austin Albert, live2ski54@yahoo.com or 608-228-5407  
Dave Blouin, 608-233-8455 or burroak15@gmail.com  
Don Ferber, d\_ferber@sbcglobal.net or 608-217-2959  
Kathy Mulbrandon, kmulbrandon@gmail.com or 608-215-9706

### Saturday, July 1st, 9 am - Bike the Capital City State Trail

Join us for a casual bike ride on the Capital City State Trail. This is a loop ride of about 18 miles on a paved bike path. We'll leave from Dawley Conservancy Park at 9 am. Make sure you bring a helmet, water and snack. A State Trail pass is required to ride the portion of the Capitol City State Trail south of the Beltline. Dawley Conservancy Park (aka Dunn's Marsh) is located at 3051 Seminole Hwy about 1/2 mile north of McKee Rd/Hwy PD. There is a parking lot, restrooms, and bike pump at this location. RSVP to Austin Albert.

### Tuesday, July 18 – Fine food and fun tunes – Sala Thai and Olbrich Gardens

5:30 pm – Enjoy great cuisine at Sala Thai, one of Madison's finest Thai restaurants, 36 S Fair Oaks Ave, just south of Milwaukee St.

6:45 pm – Gather at the Olbrich Gardens lobby and we find a spot on the lawn to listen to one of Madison's iconic groups, Peter and Lou Berryman. Bring a chair or blanket and a drink or snack to share. RSVP to Don Ferber so we'll know to expect you.

### Tuesday, August 1 – Madison Mallards outing

Join us for another social outing at the Madison Mallards (the most popular team in the Northwoods League) with fellow Sierrans at the Duck Pond at Warner Park for an evening of food and fun. To sign up, contact Dave Blouin.

### Saturday, August 26 - 9:30am - Bike Ride on the Military Ridge Trail

Come on out for a scenic 26-mile bike ride on the Military Ridge Trail. We will start in Verona and ride to Mt Horeb on one of Wisconsin's fine rail to trail conversions. Bring water and a snack and/or money for rest break in Mt Horeb where we will fuel up before heading back to Verona. You'll need a trail pass which can be purchased at various locations along the way. Meet at 9:30am at the Verona Park & Ride adjacent to the Military Ridge Trail. From Madison, take Hwy 18/151 to Verona exit 81, and turn left at the stoplight to the parking lot on Hwy PB. Contact Kathy Mulbrandon to RSVP.

## Special Programs

### Tuesday, June 20, 7 pm – Dane County Parks planning and feedback session Madison Public Library, 201 W Mifflin St

Do you value our wonderful county parks, open spaces, and trails? What feedback would you like to offer? What would you like to see added – or removed? Dane County Parks is undergoing their 5 year planning process, and we're having a special listening session where you can learn and provide your input. For more information, contact Liz Wessel at lizard59sc@yahoo.com. (See page 6)

### From the Ashes

June 22, 6 – 9 pm

Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa St

Coal, once king, is now being reduced to its own burnt byproduct. How do we rise from the ashes of our former electricity source and the jobs many communities relied on, to find new life as we get off of coal? This National Geographic film addresses the coal industry and local economies as we deal with climate change and the health impacts of coal. How will renewable energy help communities transition off coal and provide good local clean energy jobs and create a just and sustainable future for all?

This showing by the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign will help highlight efforts to move beyond coal to clean energy here. Social time will start at 6 pm with refreshments and snacks, followed by the film showing at 6:30, with a question and discussion period afterwards to talk about our energy future in Madison. Please join us to learn more about our energy transition and how you can be part of effective solutions here as well as elsewhere.



## A Climate March for All

Climate affects us all. While a diverse range of people came to the Madison Climate March on April 22, they were all united by common concerns about climate, jobs and justice. (See March photos.) They recognized what happens with the climate not only affects everyone's future, but current social, political, health and economic matters. The range of speakers reflected these concerns: a MGE shareholder, a farmer, a labor activist and several people speaking on justice and disparities. The message was clear, we not only need energy that is clean, but energy that is just, with equity and good jobs.

It was fitting then that over 3000 people marched from the state capitol where state leaders continue to tie us to dirty fossil fuels, to Madison Gas and Electric's headquarters and former coal burning Blount St power plant. (MGE now burns all their coal elsewhere.) In addition, our state leaders and MGE continue to trail on forward-looking energy policies, and implemented fixed customer fees that burden low income and low energy use customers. Once a leader on clean energy, our state and utilities have fallen far behind the leaders, not only on percent of renewables, but the good, local jobs that many other states benefit from.

We know one march won't do it and much work lies ahead. But just as much of the planning and support for the march was provided by dozens of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, you can join with them as we take the next steps to help protect our climate, create jobs and justice in our community, and create a momentum that MGE and state leaders will have to listen to. To find out when and where our volunteers meetings are, and how you can contribute, contact Devin Martin at [devin.martin@sierraclub.org](mailto:devin.martin@sierraclub.org).



## Replace that dirty lawn mower!

Did you know that many two cycle engine outdoor power tools pollute more than cars? One analysis showed that 1 hour of using an old gas lawnmower spewed emissions equivalent to driving your car for 4 hours or more. And you don't stand behind your car when you're driving it!

Anymore, it's not just lawnmowers, but leaf blowers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, rototillers and chain saws that are part of the problem. While there have been some improvements, those gas powered outdoor tools are inherently polluting. Fortunately, electrics are coming on strong. While best powered by renewable energy, even when that power comes from fossil fuels, electric motors are much more efficient and reduce pollution.

San Diego, which is not only making strong commitments to clean energy overall, decided to also do something about polluting lawn tools. They implemented a program where residents can exchange their old polluting lawnmower and walk away with a battery powered mower for \$100. (Such a deal!) They recently added chain saws and hedge and string trimmers to the list of tools you can exchange. Needless to say, the program is very popular and they haven't been able to keep up with the demand.

What about it Madison? Could we do that here? Batteries have come a long way. It would be a great way to involve neighborhoods as well as possibly local stores and manufacturers to incentivize electric power tools. (There are now commercial battery-powered riding mowers and other equipment that now save San Diego and other communities taxpayer dollars.) It's a way our community can take responsibility for our own emissions at home.

Plus think how much more popular you'll be with your neighbors with your new quieter battery powered mower!



Ladysmith. The mine has been held up by mining proponents as an example of a successfully closed metallic sulfide mine that would allow a repeal of Wisconsin's "Prove It First" mining law, also known as the Mining Moratorium Law. Preliminary results by geochemist and hydrogeologist Dr. Robert Moran show ongoing groundwater contamination from buried mine wastes at the mine. Sen. Tiffany stated he wishes to introduce a repeal bill but has not done so to date.

We're planning a casual social outing at the Madison Mallards game on August 1. This event will serve as our annual summer event. Watch for more details via email, Facebook or the website later this summer.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find informative columns on several of the important conservation issues we're working on including opposition to tar sands pipelines and our Beyond Coal campaign. Contact Don Ferber if you're interested in more information or wish to volunteer. While traditional outings are a bit slower during summer, our Outings Chair, Kathy Mulbrandon is always looking for new ideas for great outings and people who may have an interest in leading them as well. But we do have a variety of events occurring, so please like us on Facebook and watch our web site for updates and additions, or other opportunities.

**Four Lakes Group Leadership** These are frustrating times for many. Joining with the Four Lakes Group is an opportunity to learn more and become empowered on issues you care about, share your passions and ideas with others, and engage in creating responses and finding solutions to issues. Or you can find others with whom to explore and enjoy the planet in the tradition of our founder, John Muir. Ours is a large umbrella, and you are welcome under it.

For those who wish to take a more advanced role in the Sierra Club, we also have an executive committee (board) that helps direct local activities and policies consistent with state and national Sierra Club policies. We are all volunteers in the Four Lakes Group and it's an opportunity to understand more of what the Club does and what issues we're dealing with here, while helping us set directions, be of service to our members, and contribute in an important way beyond just paying membership dues (which of course are very much appreciated!).

One of our goals is to become more diverse in many ways – geography, age, income, and race – as well as interests and skills. Please contact me at 608-233-8455 or burroak15@gmail.com if you are interested or wish

to learn more about the Sierra Club's efforts on equity, inclusion and justice.

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, treasurer, conservation and much more. You don't need to be on the Executive Committee to take advantage of these trainings, but it is an added opportunity to have more say in the workings and directions of our Group.

Another way to help support these important issues is to make a special gift to the Four Lakes Group. Donations directly to the Four Lakes Group aren't tax deductible, but we rely on such funds to support our work on the issues above which highlight the importance of your help. We simply can't accomplish this work without your help. Please make checks out to the "Four Lakes Group Sierra Club". If you prefer a tax deduction for your donation, please make it out to the "Sierra Club Foundation". Either way, we appreciate your support! Checks can be mailed to: Sierra Club, C/O Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Terrace, Madison, WI 53711.

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

### Four Lakes Group Sierra Club Contacts

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/four-lakes>

Like us on Facebook

**Dave Blouin\***, Chair, Political Chair, (608) 233-8455, burroak15@gmail.com

**Don Ferber\***, Conservation, Outreach, and RAH, (608) 222-9376, d\_ferber@sbcglobal.net

**Beverly Speer\***, (608) 241-8979, bjs4LG@gmail.com

**Erik Pettersen\***, (608) 515-4426, erik.pettersen14@gmail.com

**Liz Wessel\***, Treasurer, (608) 238-9934, liza59sc@yahoo.com

**Claire Gervais**, Healthy Lawn Team, (608) 233-8455, cmgerva@gmail.com

**Ron Haeger**, Inner City Outings, (608) 444-0612, rhaeger@gmail.com

**Kathy Mulbrandon**, Outings Chair, (608) 215-9706 kmulb@charter.net

\*Executive Committee members

# Dane County Parks, Open Space and our Quality of Life: Your opportunity to provide input

Liz Wessel

**Tuesday, June 20 – 7 – 8:30 pm**

**Madison Public Library, 201 W Mifflin St., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor community room**

On a recent Sunday, after house cleaning and a few chores, my husband, Bill, and I took off in the car with a few more errands to run and the intention of not returning to the house without having taken a walk somewhere in Dane County. As our errands moved us to Middleton, we immediately thought of the short drive out to Indian Lake County Park.

Indian Lake Park has wonderful trails for hiking and cross-country skiing and includes a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The old park shelter is used for a variety of events including family gatherings and special occasions. We enjoyed seeing a bride and groom celebrate their first dance together! The lake is used for paddling and fishing (as we've done!), and I also managed to get some close up pictures of a Sandhill crane along the lake's edge.

And we found on our recent visit that plans were in the works for changes. Construction at the park to be completed by this July will replace the building with more modern bathrooms, a new shelter, picnic area and playground.

That leads to your opportunity for feedback: What changes would you like to see at our county parks and open spaces? Dane County is looking for your input.

Indian Lake, like many county parks, lies outside the urban core where most of us live and work. Should we be making these places more accessible? What facilities and infrastructure does each park need or would be better without?

The public lands of Dane County encompass much more than traditional recreational parks. Parks are one of 5 separate land designations in the Dane Co park system which includes:

- Natural resource areas - areas set aside for their natural resource value and, or a greenbelt corridor. These areas identified through a public process have little or no developed infrastructure. Uses include hunting, fishing, foraging, wildlife observing and other activities.
- Forests - lands where timber is sustainably managed. Compatible uses such as passive recreation can also occur.
- Recreational parks - areas set aside for active and passive recreation uses that require some developed infrastructure to serve those recreation needs. These lands accommodate all types of trails, sports, camping, dog exercise areas etc.
- Historic/cultural sites - areas set aside to preserve features significant to the heritage of the area.
- Wildlife areas – areas specifically set aside to foster different types of wildlife and provide additional hunting opportunities. These areas are for the most part undeveloped and are also suitable for passive recreation uses.

Right now, the Dane County Parks and Open Space Commission and staff are taking stock of what you and I think about the park lands, how we use them, and the future we envision. You have several opportunities to learn more, provide direction for the future of the parks, and support that future.

- 1) For more information on the park lands, go to the Dane County Parks website - <https://parks-lwrld.countyofdane.com/>;
- 2) To participate in a survey on the parks future, go to <https://parks-lwrld.countyofdane.com/Information/Planning-Development>
- 3) Join an informational and input meeting hosted by the Four Lakes Group on **June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, Room 302, Madison Central Library, 201 W Mifflin St, Madison**. Contact Liz Wessel, 608.238.9934 or [lizard59sc@yahoo.com](mailto:lizard59sc@yahoo.com) for more information.
- 4) Join the Four Lakes Group in supporting these amazing park lands and their future by making a contribution to the Dane Co Parks Endowment Fund. Learn more about the Fund and how to donate at <https://parks-lwrld.countyofdane.com/GetInvolved/Endowment-Fund>.

Finally, in addition to weighing in on this planning process, I invite you to contact Liz Wessel, 608.238.9934 or [lizard59sc@yahoo.com](mailto:lizard59sc@yahoo.com) if you are interested in working with other Sierrans on parks and open space issues.

Parks are for everyone! Keep them public.



## Madison's March to 100% Renewable Energy

Madison isn't waiting on the federal or state governments to wake up and address climate change. Nor are we standing idly by waiting on our local utility, Madison Gas & Electric, to likewise respond to what our community wants, get off coal, and become a leader on renewable energy.

On March 21, the Madison City Council voted to fund a study that would move Madison city operations to 100% renewable energy, and became the 25<sup>th</sup> city in the United States to make such a declaration. The resolution authorizes up to \$250,000 to study the best means for Madison to achieve that goal. This goal is in addition to the 2011 Madison Sustainability Plan's goal for a community wide 50% reduction in energy use by 2030. The hard work is still ahead as to how to achieve the 100% goal and by when, but this is an important first step.

Clearly, the Sierra Club Wisconsin's Beyond Coal Campaign efforts led to this outcome. But we also wouldn't be there without our partners at RePower Madison, CRANES (Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability), Clean Wisconsin, Renew Wisconsin, 350 Madison, and MGE Shareholders for Clean Energy, reflecting the widespread community support behind this effort.

Clean electricity is available for power and transportation, the two most significant energy sectors, but MGE has refused to commit to getting off coal, opposed a shareholder resolution to study electrification of transportation, and has done little to support significant energy reductions.

Transportation is a significant challenge with the costs for our bus system. For replacing buses (as cars), there is a built in lag since vehicles can last at least a decade or two before they are replaced.

Significant next steps are to monitor Madison's progress, especially the study's recommendations, keep up pressure to move to all renewables, and hold our elected officials and MGE accountable. To help keep us marching forward, contact Don Ferber at [d\\_ferber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_ferber@sbcglobal.net) to learn more about opportunities to get involved.

## Successful City Leaders Clean Energy Forum



Sustainability Leaders from Madison, Middleton, Monona and Fitchburg gathered on March 14 for a forum on clean energy. Each city had different perspectives to offer and were taking somewhat different paths, but perhaps even more exciting was to hear how they were each learning from each other and shared ideas. This is good news to build on as Dane County sets up a County Climate Action Council which will help the entire county develop climate action directions.



About 50 audience members listened and then asked questions and challenged the leaders to do more. It was even live posted! This was one Four Lakes event to engage the community and ramp up further interest in clean energy. As the article to the left indicates, we're making progress. Join our team to help us do even more!



FourLakesGroup Sierra Club  
754 Williamson St  
Madison, WI 53703

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/four-lakes>



Non-Profit Organization  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MADISON WI  
PERMIT #1002

### 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 one. Otherwise, members receive an email letting you know when the newsletter is available to download.

Please consider sending your email address to [d\\_ferber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_ferber@sbcglobal.net) if we don't have it to save paper and the cost of mailing. Plus we can also send you our Enews to keep you better informed.

## Free bus to the MREA Energy Fair! And volunteer opportunities!

If you are reading this, you probably care about energy, and have been taking steps to reduce your carbon footprint. But, as you well know, there's always more to discover. Well, what better place to learn than at the Midwest Renewable Energy Associations Energy Fair, an annual event held in Custer, WI just east of Stevens Point. And there is so much more to learn about than just energy, and so much to do! But you also realize that driving up there would increase your carbon footprint. What to do? Hmmm.

Have we got the solution for you! Once again, the Four Lakes Group is sponsoring a free motor coach bus on Saturday, June 17 that starts in Middleton and makes several stops in Madison before whisking you up to the Energy Fair while you relax and talk with like-minded folks about whatever you want. We'll even provide some snacks and refreshments! All you have to do is go to <http://signup.com/go/wLJVrH> to sign up for your spot on the bus.

Once at the Energy Fair, you'll have the entire day to attend talks and workshops, see exhibits, try out various devices, and enjoy some good food and refreshments. The bus will then bring you back that evening while you share stories from the Fair and enjoy more refreshments. More information on the Fair is at <https://www.theenergyfair.org>.

Want an even better deal. You can also get into the Energy Fair for free if you volunteer at our Sierra Club booth for a few hours. That will provide you the opportunity to engage with Fair goers and talk to them about the Sierra Club and all the good things we do. To help out, contact Liz Wessel at [lizard59sc@yahoo.com](mailto:lizard59sc@yahoo.com).

