

# HEALTHY CLIMATE WISCONSIN'S 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

## BY THE NUMBERS



**103**

times HCW or our health professional advocates received news media attention



**48**

presentations for health sector and public audiences



**509**

official comments and health testimony for agencies & policymakers



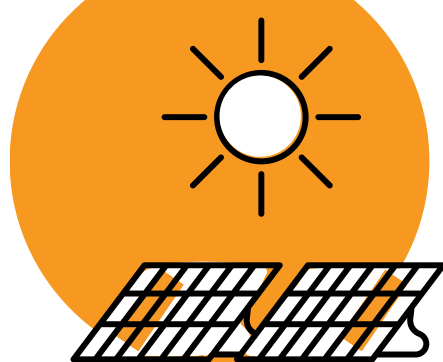
**193**

new members joined us from interdisciplinary health fields



**6**

more Wisconsin-based health systems making 2030 goals to reduce 50% of emissions



**1780 MW**

in new Wisconsin solar and battery projects HCW supported that were approved



**22**

educational meetings and events with policymakers



**2,694,000**

Wisconsinites defended from steep utility rate increases



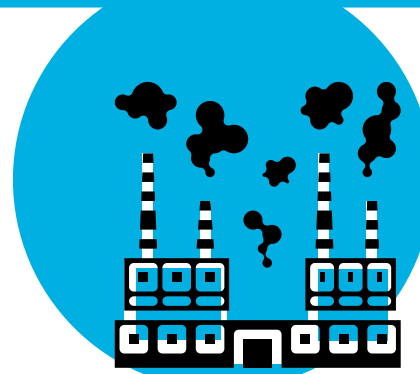
**863,769**

social media impressions on our health messaging



**378**

health workers received CE credits from our educational events



**32,690,000**

tons of greenhouse gas and toxic air pollutants prevented by 2042 through EPA rules



**6**

climate publications or peer-reviewed articles published by HCW members

# MAPPING OUR PROGRESS



Recognizing that Wisconsin's legislature was unlikely to take significant action on climate policies in 2023, we turned our attention to moving the needle within our health systems, and local and federal levels, while carefully picking which issues to engage in at the state level. This strategy connected us with new environmental justice and rural partners and welcomed an incredible year of growth for HCW. Empowering health professionals to work together to advocate for Wisconsinites' access to clean air, affordable energy, and protection from climate change addresses root causes of health disparities. On a personal note, I find this work meaningful. Preventing the suffering of my community before it occurs, through embedding public health in policy decisions and system change, gives me hope for a world where our patients have the freedom to thrive and not just survive.



Looking forward to 2024,  
Joel Charles, MD, MPH

*Joel Charles*

FATHER. RURAL FAMILY DOCTOR. HCW BOARD CHAIR.





# CLIMATE-SMART HEALTHCARE

## HCW HELPS REOPEN THE HHS CLIMATE PLEDGE

### WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

U.S. Greenhouses Gases and Toxic Air Pollution

U.S. Health Sector 8.5%

The U.S. health sector is responsible for pollution which directly accelerates the climate crisis and has profound implications for health equity- more than other health systems globally.

Data From: [Eckelman et al. \(2020\)](#); [World Health Organization \(n.d\)](#)

Global Health Sector Emissions

U.S. Health Sector 25%



#### Harm

In 2018, U.S. healthcare pollution resulted in the loss of nearly 400,000 disability-adjusted life years. This is the same magnitude of deaths from preventable medical errors.



A non-ethical cycle



#### Cost

The health sector's energy use adds \$600 million in direct health costs and over \$5 billion in indirect costs each year. Those health costs increase care needs and resulting pollution.

### WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Together we can protect our patients and produce less pollution, through:

- Reducing energy use through efficiency, weatherization, and HVAC changes
- Sourcing more local, plant-based foods for cafeterias
- Changing how we buy and use supplies, to minimize waste and travel
- Electrifying fleets and increasing transit connections and virtual visits
- Using solar and wind to power clinics and hospitals
- Shifting anesthetic gas types and more!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 9, 2023

Contact: ASH Media  
202-205-0143  
[ashmedia@hhs.gov](mailto:ashmedia@hhs.gov)

## HHS Reopens Health Sector Climate Pledge

Health sector organizations are invited to join 100+ Systems, represent over 15% of all US hospitals, climate

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that the Health Sector Climate Pledge will accept new signatories on an ongoing basis. Health sector stakeholders requested to join the initiative.

Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action (MICCA) @MiC4CA - Follow  
Thank you @HealthHumanServices! [hhs.gov/climate-change](https://hhs.gov/climate-change)... CONGRATS to @AbbyLois & @WIClimateHealth for organizing an outstanding letter requesting that the pledge be re-opened. Thanks to @HCWithoutHarm for your leadership!

let's get to work!

[hhs.gov](https://hhs.gov)  
Health Sector Pledge  
Health Sector Commitments to Emissions Reduction and Resilience

9, 2023

Lisa Patel, MD, MEdc @LisaPatelMD - Follow

Advocacy works! Thanks to a concerted effort from health professionals around the country, @HHSgov is re-opening its decarbonization pledge for health systems! If your health system hasn't signed yet, this is a wonderful way to open the conversation:



10:47 AM · Mar 9, 2023

10 19 1,309

Read more on Twitter

To begin the year, HCW drafted an [advocacy letter](#) encouraging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to reopen the Health Sector Climate Pledge. The action gained the support of over 45 medical groups and stakeholders nationwide and culminated in the re-opening of the pledge only seven days after the letter was delivered. Over 15% of U.S. hospitals have now taken the pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, achieving net zero by 2050.

HCW created materials and did outreach encouraging Wisconsin health systems to take the pledge. Currently, ten have! [See more >>](#)





# CLIMATE-SMART HEALTHCARE

## BUILDING A MOVEMENT

Led by physicians Claire Gervais, Joanne Bernstein, and Zoe Rammelkamp, our Climate-Smart Healthcare Team has launched an outreach program to encourage more health systems and clinics to lower their pollution and waste. The team connects HCW health professionals within health systems and has them talk about ways to move their organizations toward climate goals. Successful meetings have been hosted within SSM Health, Froedtert/Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), and Advocate Aurora. Networking at MCW led to the development of the Center for Sustainability, Health, and the Environment. Current system outreach is to Marshfield, ThedaCare, Group Health Cooperative, and Mercy Health.

To support health professionals in joining together and pushing for more sustainable initiatives within their health systems, the team created HCW's "[Climate-Smart Healthcare Toolkit](#)," which includes resources on how health professionals can start green teams in their organizations.

### INCLUDES:

- Conversation Starters
- Step-by-Step guide to starting green teams
- Ideas for projects
- Success stories
- Breakdown of Health sector Emissions
- Additional Resources







# CLIMATE-SMART HEALTHCARE

## SUCCESS STORIES



“ If the global health sector were a country, it would be [the fifth largest carbon emitter](#) in the world between Japan and Russia. As an ophthalmologist, I take action by showing my colleagues that climate-smart healthcare protects our patients and the public.



**Chirantan Mukhopadhyay, MD**  
**FATHER. OPHTHAMOLOGIST. HCW BOARD MEMBER.**  
[Read Chirantan's 2023 Retina Today article >>](#)

The Climate-Smart Healthcare Team also created [Climate Success Stories](#), a section on HCW's website where health professionals can read inspiring stories about how their peers are implementing sustainable practices in their own health systems and clinics, large or small. Even more stories were shared at our annual conference.

### Horizon Hospice Green Team

### Western WI Cafeteria Waste

### Wildwood Clinic Solar





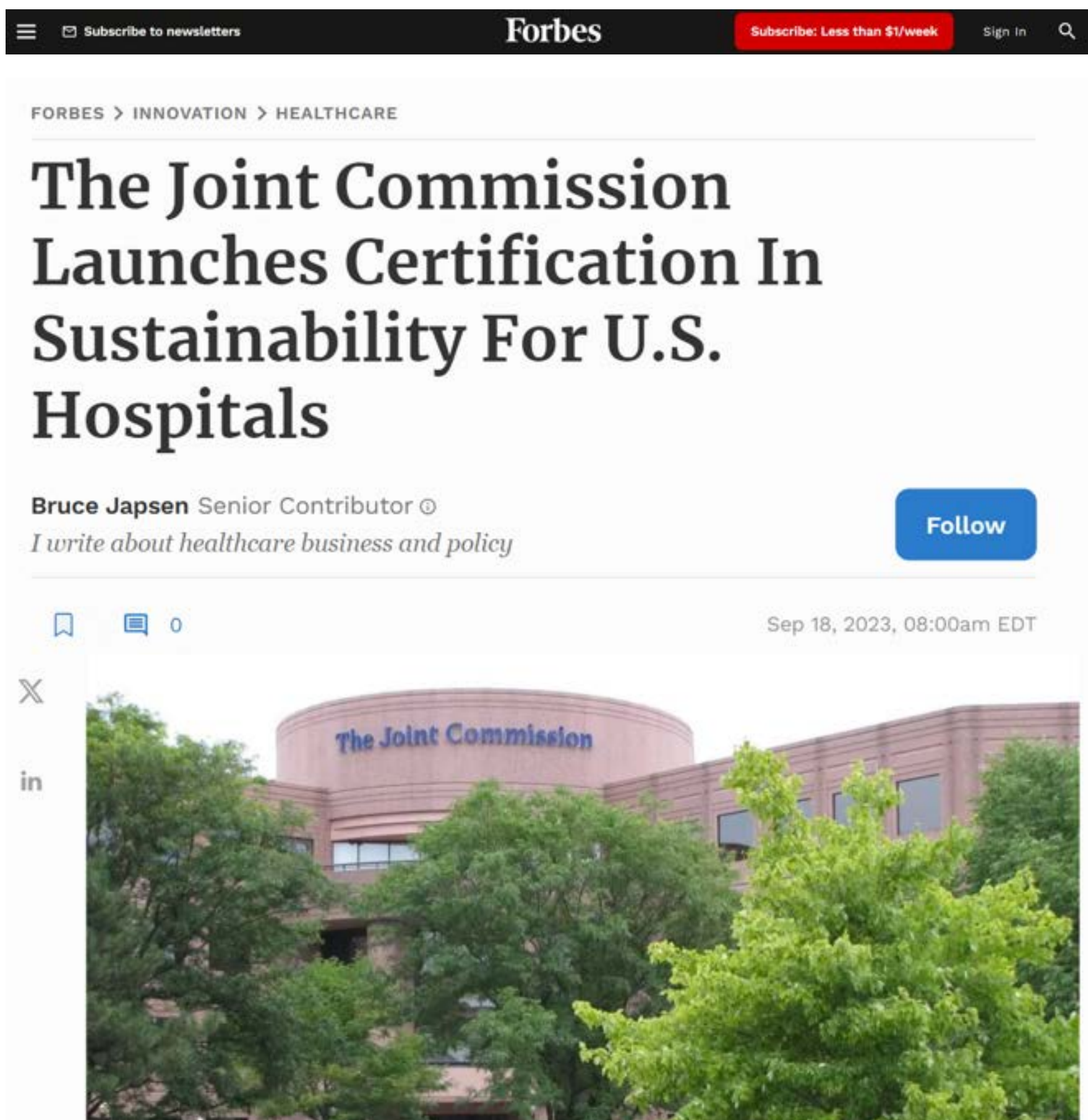
# CLIMATE-SMART HEALTHCARE

## JOINT COMMISSION SUSTAINABILITY EFFORT

HCW's rapid response efforts earlier this year brought together over [750 healthcare workers](#) from across the nation, along with [32 prominent health organizations](#) to raise support for Joint Commission sustainability efforts. This alone is a remarkable achievement that demonstrates that our movement is growing at an astonishing pace.



Then on September 18, the [Joint Commission, which credits over 22,000 healthcare organizations unveiled its Sustainable Healthcare Certification for U.S. hospitals](#). This program was launched alongside an online resource center, which will serve as a hub of guidance for hospitals to adopt new practices. This moment holds immense potential. By signaling its commitment to decarbonization, the Joint Commission is underlining the importance of climate-smart healthcare for enhancing patient safety. This is a monumental stride toward a healthier, more inclusive future for all that we can build off of for lasting change.



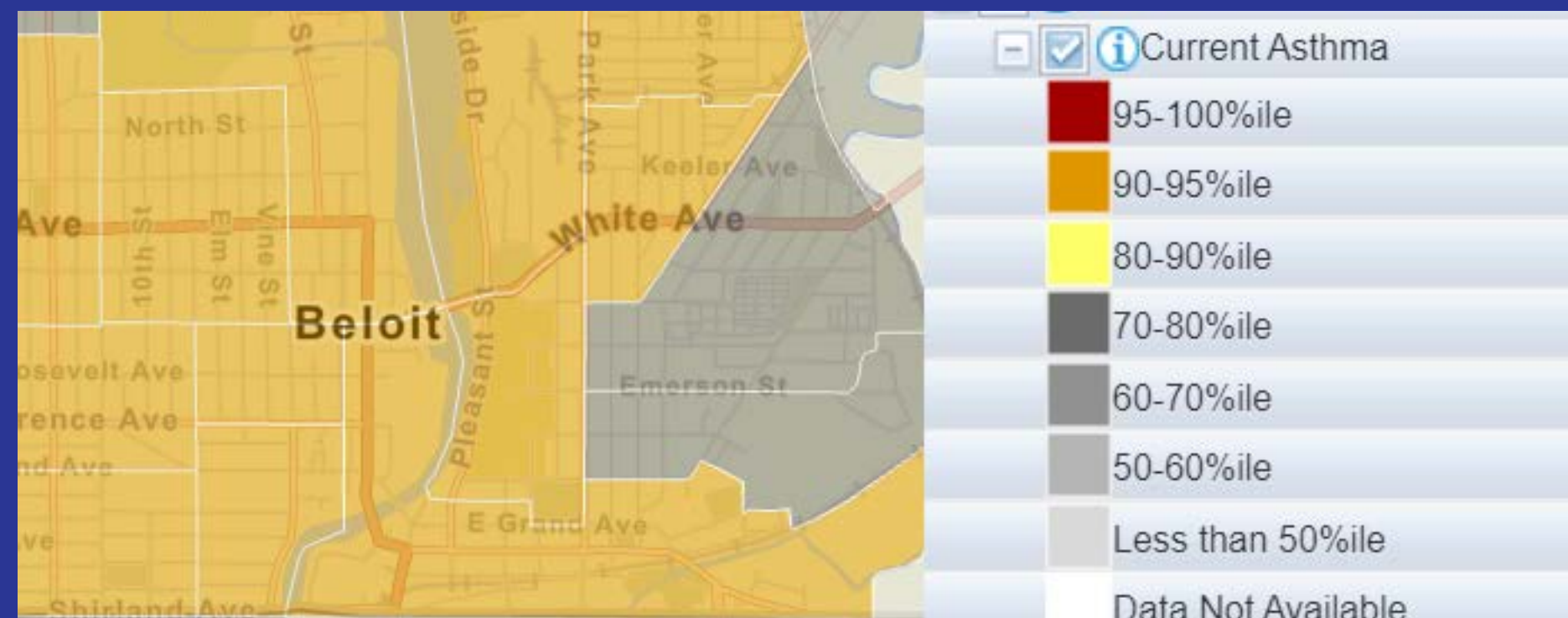
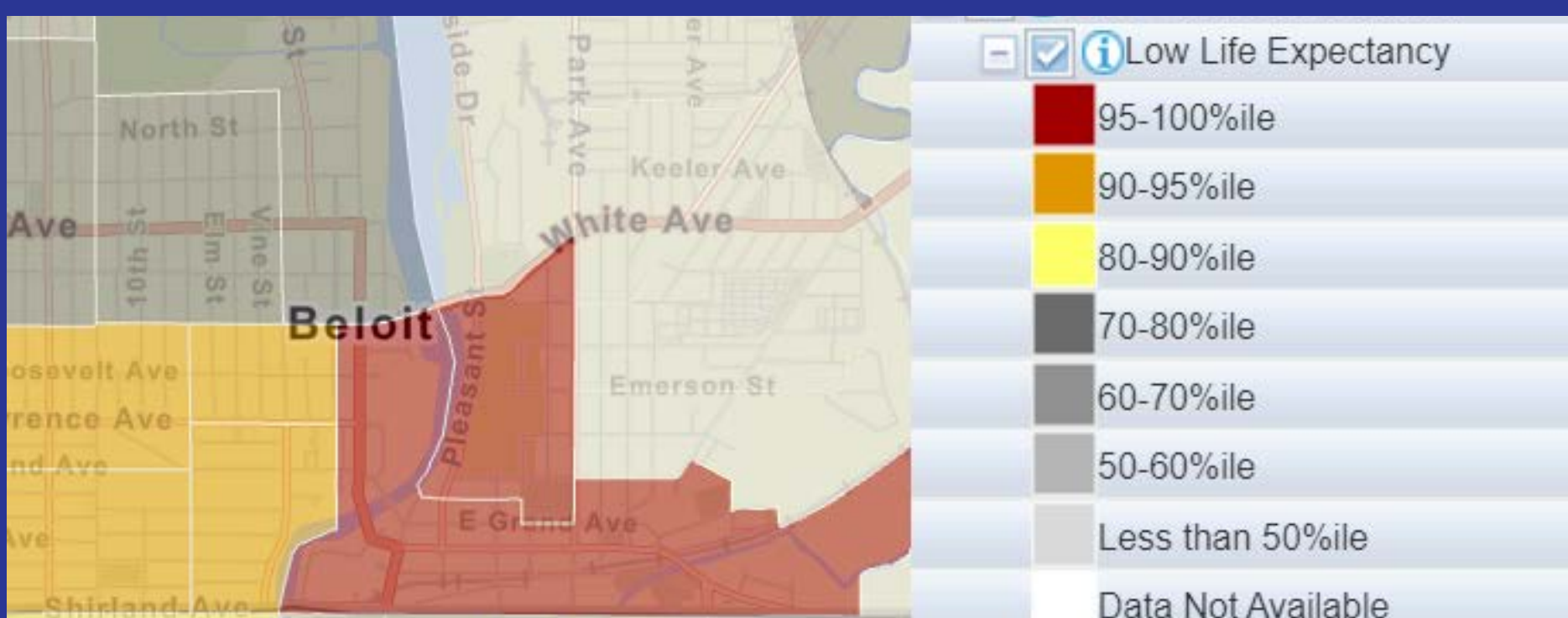
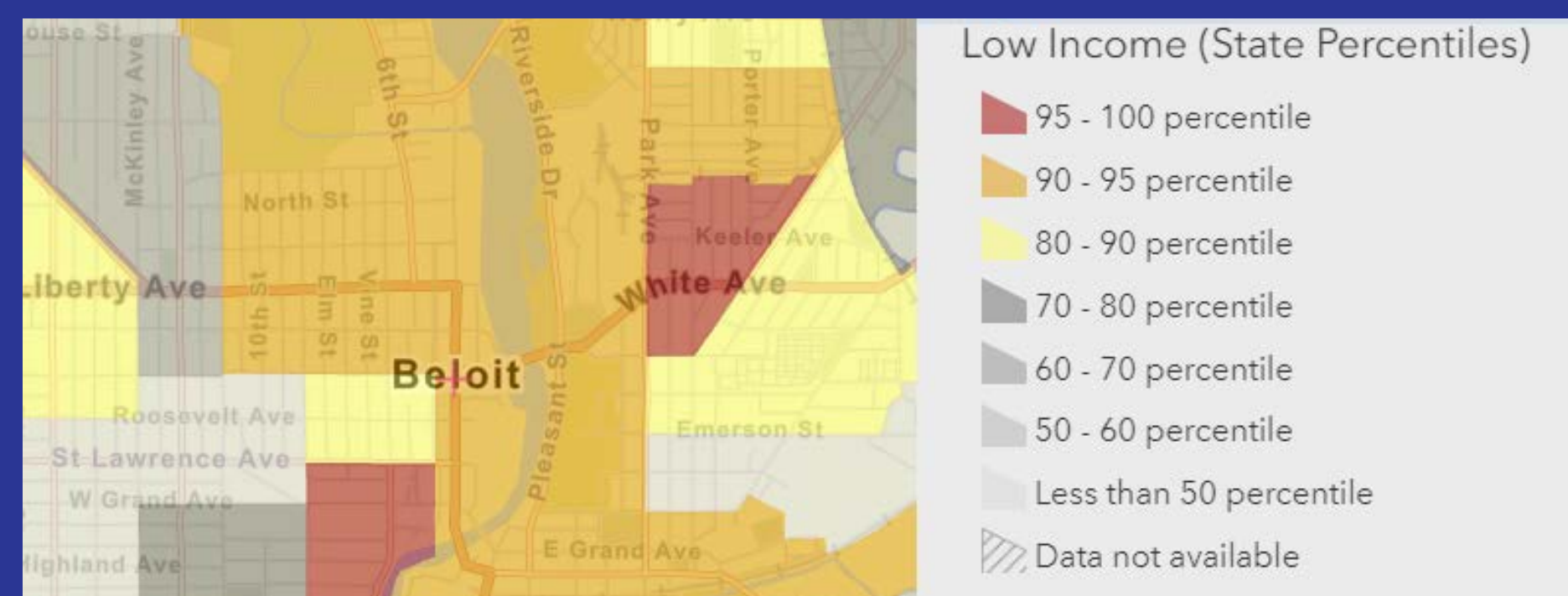
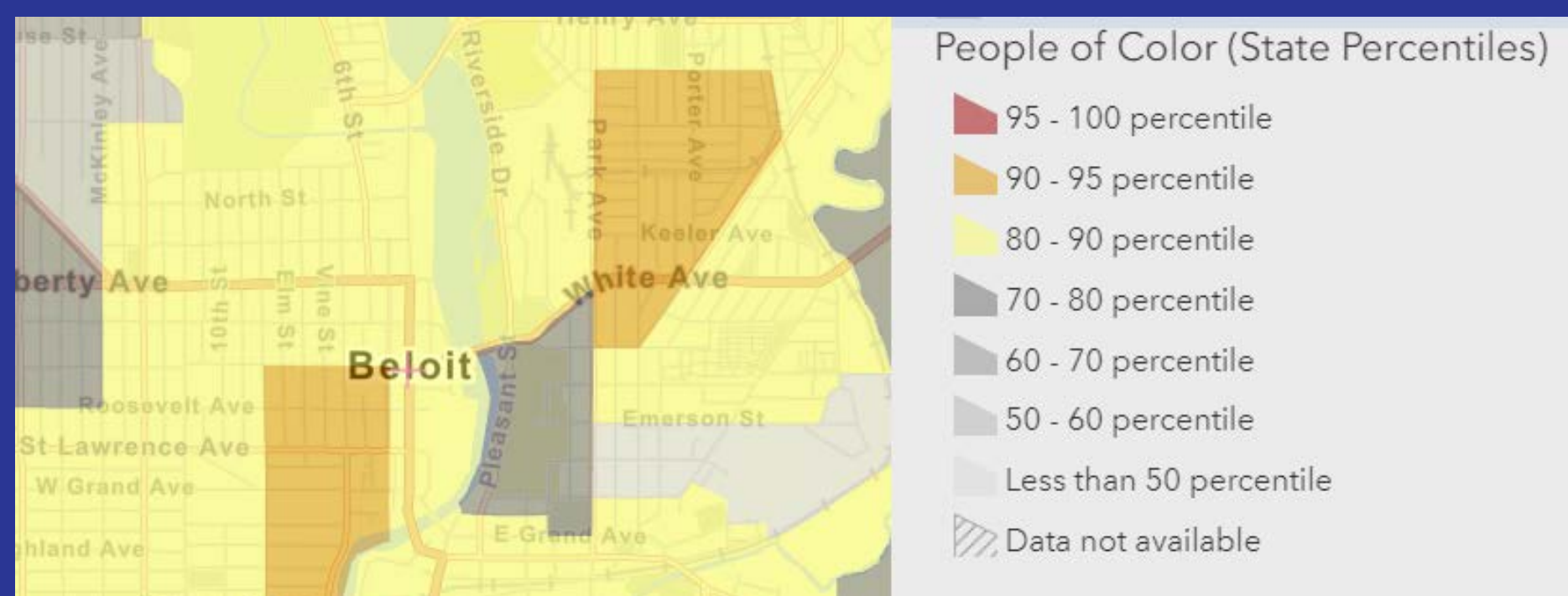




# LOCAL WINS

## BELOIT AIR MONITORING PROJECT

Beloit, which is situated southeast of Alliant Energy's recently expanded gas-fueled power plant, has an abnormally high amount of asthma hospitalizations, a low life expectancy, and is predominantly people of color and low-income, according to the [EPA's Environmental Justice Screening Tool](#). Despite these concerns, the Beloit community had no particulate air monitors to provide publicly accessible data, preventing community members from understanding the real-time air pollution sources in their area and mitigating health risks.







# LOCAL WINS

## BELOIT - INVOLVING STUDENTS & COMMUNITY

We brought together a local team that installed five PurpleAir monitors to provide transparent real-time information that can fuel future policy and decision-making.

Community members and students helped install the monitors in visible locations to empower others to see environmental justice in their lives.

### Sensor Locations:

- Beloit High School
- Family Service Center of Southern WI
- Merrill Community Center
- Turner High School
- Welty Environmental Center



Beloit High School's AP Environmental Class installed their monitor and is using the data to learn about the health impacts of climate change and scientific methods. And three UW-Eau Claire students are analyzing it for public health statistics training.







# LOCAL WINS

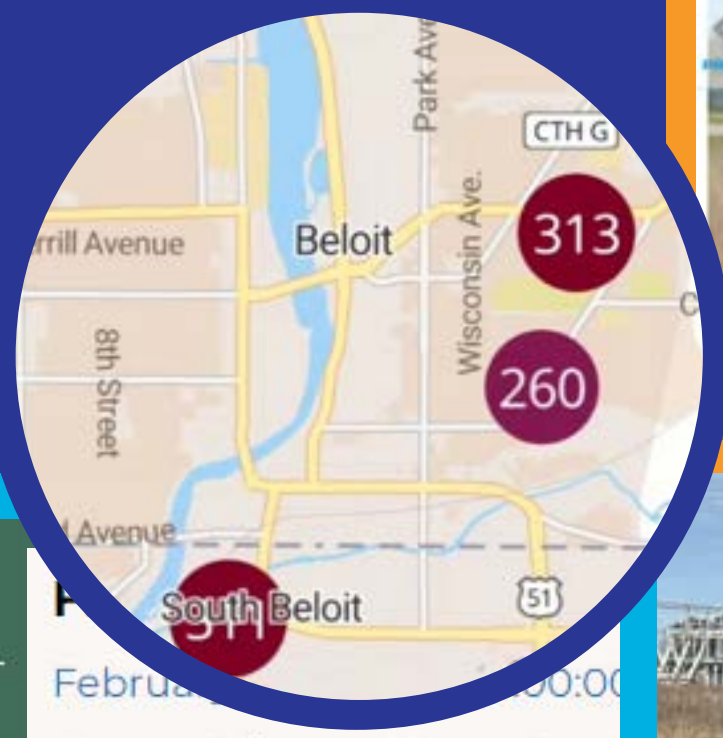
## BELOIT - RAISING AWARENESS FOR CLEAN AIR

We raised awareness about our new air monitoring network and the dangerous health impacts of burning fossil fuels through outreach and press. We received TV, radio and print coverage statewide.



Presented and discussed the data with:

- Rotary Club of Beloit
- Physicians and Pediatricians at Beloit Health System (some are now sharing live air quality data with patients)
- Beloit City Council
- WI DNR and DHS
- Testified at the EPA



To amplify the message that there's nothing natural about gas and urge the EPA to strengthen pollution safeguards, we created a social media toolkit that we shared with over 46 organizations.





# LOCAL WINS

## SUPERIOR AND WESTERN WISCONSIN

Climate change is posing in our generation a life-threatening situation for my kids, grandkids, and for all populations, especially those who are already shouldering health inequities. HCW provides me with the collegiality to work alongside other public health and healthcare care providers to make the change we need to!



Pamela Guthman, DNP, RN, APHN-PhN

RURAL SCHOOL NURSE. GRANDMA. HCW BOARD MEMBER.

[Listen to a radio interview with Pam >>](#)

**DAIRYLAND CO-OP SHOULD LEAD ON RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR OUR HEALTH & PROSPERITY**

HEALTHY CLIMATE WISCONSIN

RETIRING MADGETT AND WESTON COAL PLANTS AND REPLACING THEM WITH RENEWABLES COULD SAVE CUSTOMERS \$55 MILLION A YEAR

Modeling shows that we can retire coal and avoid new gas by building our renewables, transmission, and batteries, all while saving lives and money.

FOSSIL FUELS HARM THE HEALTH OF FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY OUR KIDS.

GAS	COAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Extraction is linked to leukemia, increased asthma, and adverse cognitive effects.</li><li>Gas plants increase ozone, which raises the risk of lung and heart disease.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Air pollution from burning coal triggers asthma attacks, harms brain development, increases heart failure and stroke, and poor birth outcomes.</li><li>Children are more vulnerable to health impacts, in fact, their development can even be harmed before birth by toxins like mercury, released by coal power plants.</li></ul>

Dairyland's proposed 625 MW fossil gas plant, the Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC), would cause \$2 billion in climate damages if built. The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has also raised concerns about burial grounds on site

AS A CO-OP YOUR VOICE AS A MEMBER MATTERS. [Join health workers in action.](#)

The EPA estimates that the Nemadji Trail Energy Center, an expensive 600 MW gas plant proposed by Dairyland Power Co-op, [would cause \\$2 billion in climate damages if built](#). The site in Superior, WI is upwind of tribal areas and next to Ojibwe burial grounds.

That's why over 20 health workers joined local leaders and Indigenous tribes working to stop it. HCW members submitted comments to the USDA about the subsidy being considered for the plant and met with Dairyland's CEO multiple times to encourage them to shift track toward an ambitious clean energy grant under the Empowering Rural America Program. Dairyland's updated proposal (currently under federal review) would build dramatically more renewables compared to what they had been planning to deploy.





# LOCAL WINS

## MILWAUKEE

### MILWAUKEE FLOOD AND HEALTH VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Led by Groundwork Milwaukee, this assessment provides critical information on flood exposure and social vulnerability to support community-based advocacy and planning. We partnered with them to identify the public health risks.

[See the story map >>](#)

[Read more >>](#)

### HALTING I-94 EXPANSION

Sixteen health workers called upon the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to alter their proposal to expand I-94, which segregates neighborhoods, pollutes the air and water of nearby communities, and increases flood risk. A Civil Rights complaint, led by lawyer Dennis Grzezinski, that we co-signed is currently under federal review.



HCW's MKE Team meets for coffee

#### Flood Health Vulnerability Hotspots

Vulnerability and Exposure Vulnerability Exposure Not a Hotspot



Feet are extremely vulnerable to floods precipitated by climate change. The rate of amputations increases after flooding. Through my work at a federally qualified health center, I know it's vulnerable communities like those I serve that will be most impacted. By advancing environmental justice, I can better protect my patients and community.



Rene' Settle-Robinson, DPM

GRANDMA. PODIATRIC SURGEON. HCW BOARD MEMBER.

[Read Rene's article on particulate matter that will be featured by the National Medical Association in 2024 >>](#)





# STATE VICTORIES

## 2023 WAS A HUGE YEAR FOR SOLAR

This year the Public Service Commission (PSC) approved over 1,300 MW in solar projects and 480 MW in battery. To give an idea of how amazing that is, the approval of High Noon Solar and battery storage alone will power 58,000 homes. The expansion of solar allows utilities to reduce their reliance on coal and improves public health. HCW members commented on each of these projects and Commissioners noticed. Here is a statement directly from their [decision on Langdon Mills](#), *“renewable generation projects such as this one promote public health and welfare by generally avoiding most of the impacts created by other types of electric generation.”*

Northern Prairie Solar - 101 MW

Elk Creek Solar - 300 MW

Saratoga Solar - 150 MW

Portage Solar - 250 MW

High Noon Solar - 300 MW

Langdon Mills Solar - 200 MW





# STATE VICTORIES

## WE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED NET-METERING

HCW joined efforts to reject Madison Gas and Electric and Alliant Energy's rate hikes and proposed net metering policies, which would have discouraged Wisconsinites from adopting rooftop solar on their homes. In

both cases, the PSC rejected the utilities' net metering proposals and protected rooftop solar as a viable option for Wisconsin families.

### MADISON GAS & ELECTRIC AND ALLIANT ENERGY JUST PROPOSED RATE INCREASES & CUTS TO SOLAR



#### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

##### BILL INCREASES

- MGE has proposed an electricity rate increase of 9.6% for residential customers and 8.8% for small businesses, with a natural gas increase of 4.5% for residential customers and 1.8% for small businesses.
- Alliant has proposed an electricity rate increase of 19.2% for residential customers and 8.7% for small businesses, with a natural gas increase of 7.5% for residential customers and 5.8% for small businesses.

##### CUTS TO ROOFTOP SOLAR

Both proposals would harm rooftop solar by disrupting net metering, making families and health clinics to budget for rooftop solar investments.

### OUR UTILITIES ARE BLAMING CLEAN ENERGY FOR PRICE HIKES THEY RAKE IN PROFITS



Both MGE and Alliant proposed to keep their profit rates (return on equity) above the national average at 9.8% and 10% respectively.

- MGE reported a profit of \$111 million in 2022 or more than double the size of the profit reported in 2021, despite the rate increases being sought.
- Alliant reported \$350 million in profit in 2022, and another \$88 million so far in 2023.

### HOW DO THESE PROPOSALS CONNECT TO HEALTH EQUITY?

More than 25 million US households report reducing or forgoing food or medicines to pay electricity costs. This is often referred to as "heat" or "eat" poses high risk of malnutrition for children. Other health impacts include asthma and respiratory issues, heart disease, and mental health harms.



A legacy of racist housing policies, and job and income discrimination, contribute to Black and Brown families living in inefficient homes that have higher energy costs. This increases health inequities. Low-to-moderate-income families will also face a greater health burden of rate hikes.

ENERGY JUSTICE IS A HEALTH ISSUE [www.healthyclimatewi.org/fair-rates-s](http://www.healthyclimatewi.org/fair-rates-s)

Listen to our [WORT radio interview to learn more >>](#)



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COMMUNITY RADIO • MADISON, WI

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### Health Care Workers Say That Renewable Energy Is The Better Option

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 BY FAYE PARKS AND WORT NEWS DEPARTMENT

This afternoon, WORT News Producer Faye Parks spoke with Abby Novinska-Lois, Executive Director of [Healthy Climate Wisconsin](#), an organization of Wisconsin health care professionals that advocates for climate action through a medical lens. The group agrees with other organizations that say energy rate hikes are not the best move for Alliant Energy and MG&E.





# STATE VICTORIES

## FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR ENERGY JUSTICE



HCW is part of the Energy Burden Working Group, a coalition of social justice and climate organizations calling for energy justice. In 2023, We Energies, Madison Gas and Electric, and Alliant Energy proposed rate increases that would have heightened energy burden for low-income families. Energy burden is a social determinant of health linked to environmental racism and lower life expectancy.

Health professionals submitted comments on the PSC's Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), rate increases, and continue to advocate for the expansion of weatherization and energy efficiency. Following public engagement, the PSC ruled in favor of lowering the hikes in all three cases and told utilities they would be looking more closely at price structures in future cases.

“As a healthcare provider, I know how important it is to have warmth in the winter and cool in hot summers. Optimum health requires a healthy environment! We must do our best to maintain it for future generations.



Carla Wright, MD, FAAPMR  
INTERNIST. FRIEND. HCW BOARD MEMBER.





# STATE VICTORIES

## CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ABOUT CLIMATE

We're building relationships with reporters to ensure public health is part of climate coverage. HCW pitches, press releases, and press conferences are bringing health messages to the forefront of stations, newspapers, and medical newsletters in a big way – with over **103 articles featuring HCW or our members this year**. Topics range from the health of [climate refugees](#) to [rural populations](#) or [heat in Milwaukee](#).

### A warmer climate means mosquitoes, ticks and their diseases will thrive

Angela Davis and Matt Alvarez July 26, 2023 2:27 PM



Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

### Many Milwaukeeans live in a heat island, and 'we can't air condition our way out of this'

Caitlin Looby, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
July 26, 2023 - 6 min read



AAMCNEWS

### Rural Americans find little escape from climate change

Farm work, geography, and health care gaps leave those who live in rural areas vulnerable to extreme weather. But research on the health impacts and effective prevention is thin.



### Stress on Farmworkers Climbs Alongside Temperature

Farm workers are 35 times more likely to die of heat exposure than workers in other industries, according to the National Institutes of Health

PUBLISHED ON JULY 11, 2023



NEWS

### 'This is on our doorstep now': Wildfire smoke a reminder that climate change impacts human health

Madeline Heim  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Published 5:30 a.m. CT June 9, 2023 | Updated 5:22 p.m. CT June 9, 2023



Smoke from Canadian wildfires that turned skies along the East Coast a sickly yellow has become yet another illustration of how changes in our climate foster extreme weather events.

In the last week, smoke from the same



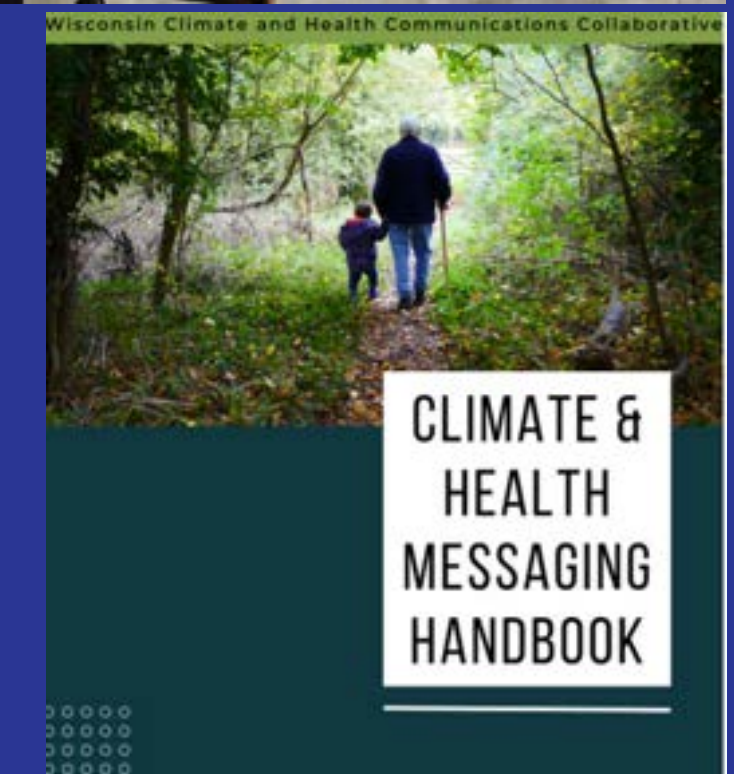
### Because of the Climate Crisis Displaced Populations Face Dangerous Health Impacts

People displaced by the changing climate know the real dangers—sickness, hunger, and insecurity. It's going to get worse, and it's happening in the U.S.

By Pamela Gorbman | March 6, 2023



We are also co-leading the Climate and Health Communications Collaborative (CHCC) with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Through the collaborative, we facilitate conversations across partners to develop shared plans and resources for climate and health communication.







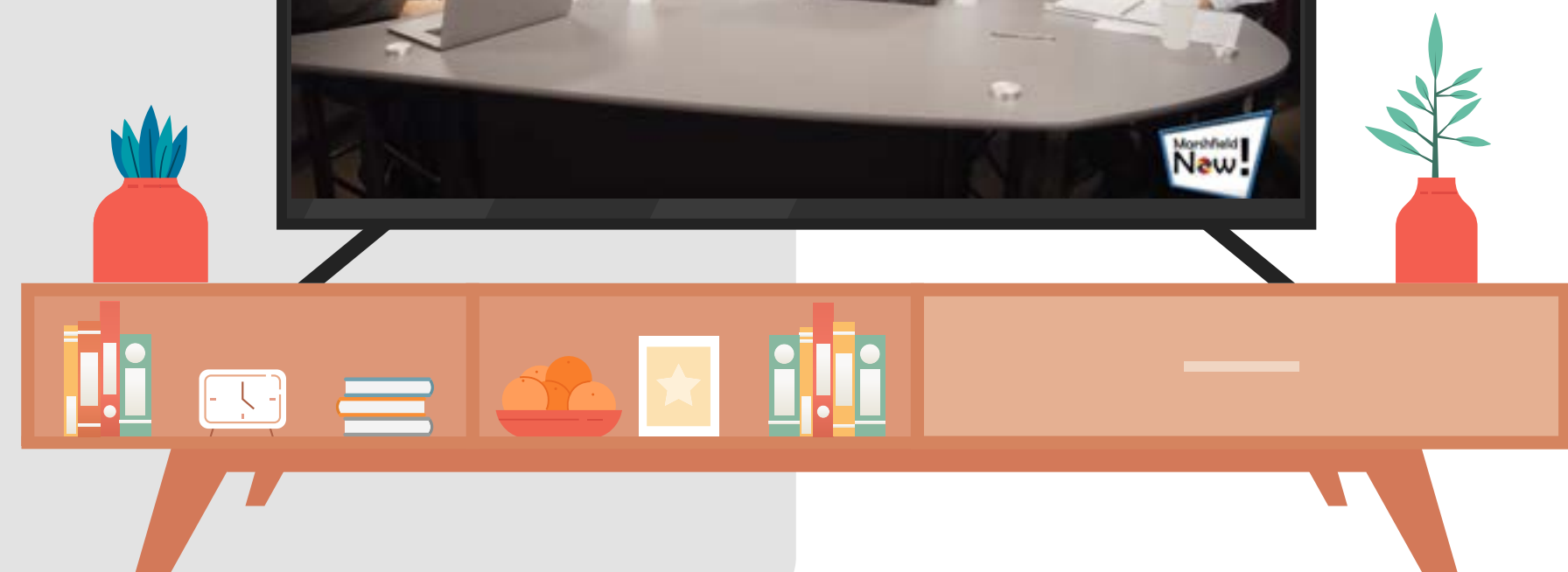
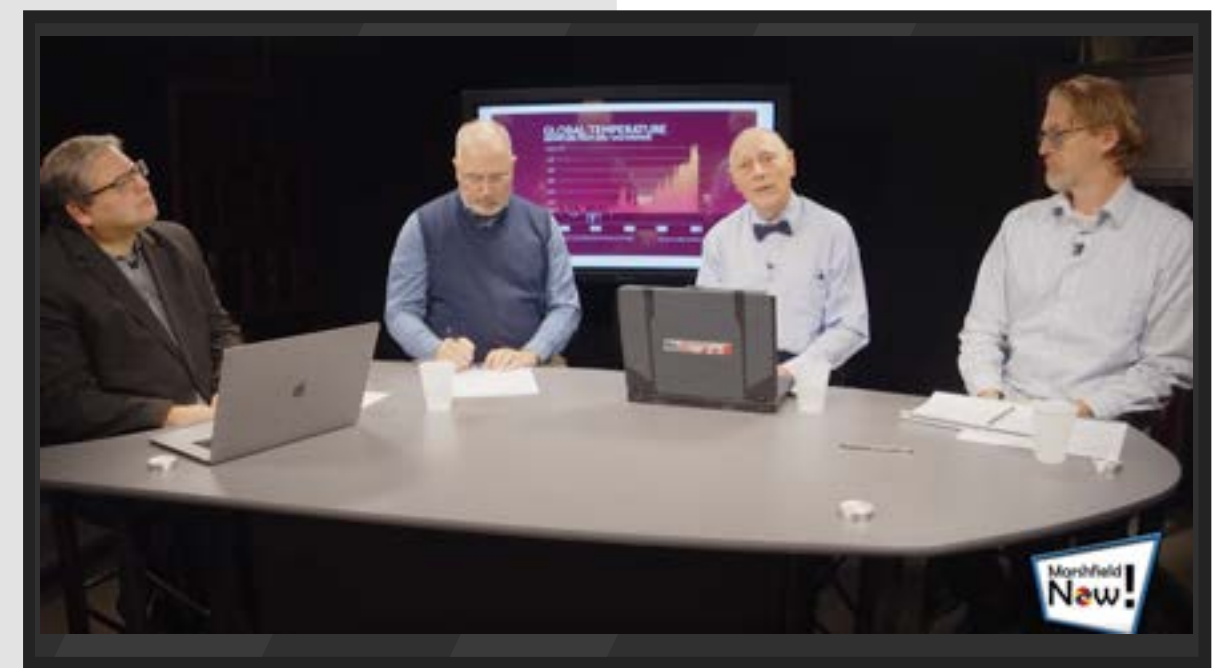
# STATE VICTORIES

## EDUCATING & PREPARING A HEALTH WORKFORCE

**HCW's health professionals hit the road and gave 48 talks** about how climate solutions are health solutions across the state. Dr. Bruce Krawisz's presentation for the Marshfield City Council even turned into a [45 minute TV segment](#).

Here are just a few of the places where our members presented:

- Advocate Aurora Health Grand Rounds
- UW School of Medicine and Public Health
- Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians
- Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- Society of Internal Medicine
- Edgewood Nursing
- UW Eau Claire Public Health Program



In April, **over 100 health professionals gathered at our annual conference** which offered interdisciplinary CE credit. You can [find the full agenda and conference workbook here. >>](#)



And **over 270 nurses attended the panel we co-hosted** in September, which is [available online for credit](#) from the Wisconsin Nurses Association for one year.





# FEDERAL GAINS

## HCW IS RECOGNIZED ON THE NATIONAL STAGE



In February, our Executive Director received a personal invitation to a White House meeting where key Wisconsin labor, business, and nonprofit leaders met with USDA and federal policymakers to discuss priorities for our state. And in March we advocated on the hill to ensure those priorities continue to be heard.







# FEDERAL GAINS

## SOLUTIONS FOR POLLUTION - RAISING AWARENESS

We came together to demand the EPA protect health by enacting a suite of strong pollution safeguards as quickly as possible (our EPA 'to-do' list). In February, HCW's Kelly DeMarco, Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Representative Lisa Subeck, and Senator Melissa Agard received TV coverage when they connected transportation to health and advocated for EPA clean car standards as part of that effort.



In April, we co-hosted a [health equity panel](#) on the EPA's particulate matter standard. And in May, we organized a [press conference](#) near the Elm Road and South Oak Creek coal plants, in response to the EPA's historic proposal to cut carbon pollution from power plants. Speakers expressed support and called on the EPA to expand the proposal to cover more plants, to protect more Wisconsites, especially those living in frontline communities that suffer the greatest harm from air pollution and climate change.







# FEDERAL GAINS

## SOLUTIONS FOR POLLUTION - TESTIMONY

EPA TO-DO LIST



- Good Neighbor Plan
- PM2.5 (Soot) Standard
- Methane Safeguard
- Coal Ash Disposal Rules
- Climate Pollution (Power Plant Carbon Limit)
- Cars and Light Trucks Standard
- Heavy Duty Vehicle Standard
- Mercury Air Toxics
- Ozone Safeguard

“As someone who lives with asthma... My very health and survival depend on others caring enough to put strong safeguards in place.”

“Air pollution is literally killing us. Do something.”

“As a pulmonologist I see the impact of particulate matter pollution every day. My patients with chronic lung disease have immediate and direct impacts on their health whenever particulate matter levels are high. There is only so much an individual can do about the air they breathe when they walk out their door.”

Our health professionals submitted over 360 comments and testified before the EPA to provide health expertise. Our members met with medical societies and nonprofits to grow support for strong pollution safeguards from the EPA. We were part of the national effort which delivered more than 1 million comments to the EPA demanding historic cuts to power plant pollution.







# FEDERAL GAINS SOLUTIONS FOR POLLUTION - IN THE NEWS

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## EPA rules will help planet and public health -- Kristi Jones

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### Breathing Easier (Hour 1)

Jun 7, 2023 | 44m |

0:00 / 44:21

Listen and Subscribe:

Spotify Apple Google Stitcher

Guests: Melissa Balduff, Melissa Kaye, Pam Gutman

THE CAPTIMES SUPPORT US

GUEST COLUMNS

### Opinion | Sick of the dirty air? Because of inaction, you might have to get used to it

By Jonathan Patz | guest column  
Jul 4, 2023

85° Partly Cloudy

Beloit Daily News *the local*

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 | e-Edition

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WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO Wisconsin and the World. npr

### EPA contemplates tougher air pollution standards

By Joe Tarr  
Air Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 7:30am

SHARE

Listen Download

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering stricter standards for soot, one of the deadliest air pollutants. We talk two doctors — one from Viroqua, one from Milwaukee — about how this type of pollution affects humans.

CIVIC DIA

UP NORTH NEWS RADIO with Pat Kreitlow

Host: Pat Kreitlow

Environmental epidemiologist Amy Kaixbrenner studies the bodily harm done by environmental pollutants. She and Dr. Kristin Lyerly note that while the smoke from Canadian wildfires is obviously bad, Wisconsinites are frequently exposed to tiny but dangerous...

## LETTER: We all deserve clean air to breath

WISCONSIN EXAMINER

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT WORK & THE ECONOMY EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT CIVIL RIGHTS & IMMIGRATION

ENVIRONMENT HEALTH CARE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

COMMENTARY

### Climate change is killing us. It's time to act.

DR. JOEL CHARLES

News Press Releases WisOpinion Events

### Healthy Climate Wisconsin: Call on the EPA to implement the strongest possible safeguards to cut climate pollution from power plants

Wisconsin elected officials, health groups seek stronger standards to reduce air pollution from power plants

EPA proposes rules affecting mercury and nitrogen oxide emissions

WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO Wisconsin and the World. npr

HOME NEWS WEATHER ARTS & CULTURE MUSIC EVENTS SHOWS ABOUT WPR SUPPORT

WUWM 89.7 MILWAUKEE'S npr

### Promise of federal dollars could help bring Milwaukee climate and equity plan to life

THE CAPTIMES SUPPORT US

GUEST COLUMNS

### Opinion | Feds should make climate-friendly EVs more affordable

By Valeria D. Halston | guest column  
Jul 2, 2023

To grow public awareness and support for strong pollution for clean air, safe water, health equity, and a liveable climate, our health professionals were featured in 36 articles and wrote 4 opinion editorials and 2 letters to the editor. We were interviewed on radio programs across the state and were featured on 5 TV stations in Milwaukee, 3 TV stations in Madison, and 5 TV stations in La Crosse.





# FEDERAL GAINS

## TWO EPA WINS BUILD A PATH TO BETTER HEALTH

In 2026 alone, the Good Neighbor Plan will have the following public health benefits:

### GOOD NEIGHBOR PLAN



Cut asthma symptoms by 1.3 million cases



Prevent ~1,300 premature deaths



Avoid 2,300+ hospital & emergency visits



Avert 430,000 school absence days

From 2024 to 2038, the Methane Safeguard will:

### METHANE SAFEGUARD



Prevent 80% of methane emissions



Avoid 16 million tons of VOC emissions



Cut 590,000 tons of air toxics



Yield \$97 to \$98 billion in climate health benefits

“

Climate change is a significant public health threat but I'm privileged to work with a group of enthusiastic, compassionate health professionals at HCW that care as much as I do about this challenging problem, which gives me hope.



Claire Gervais, MD

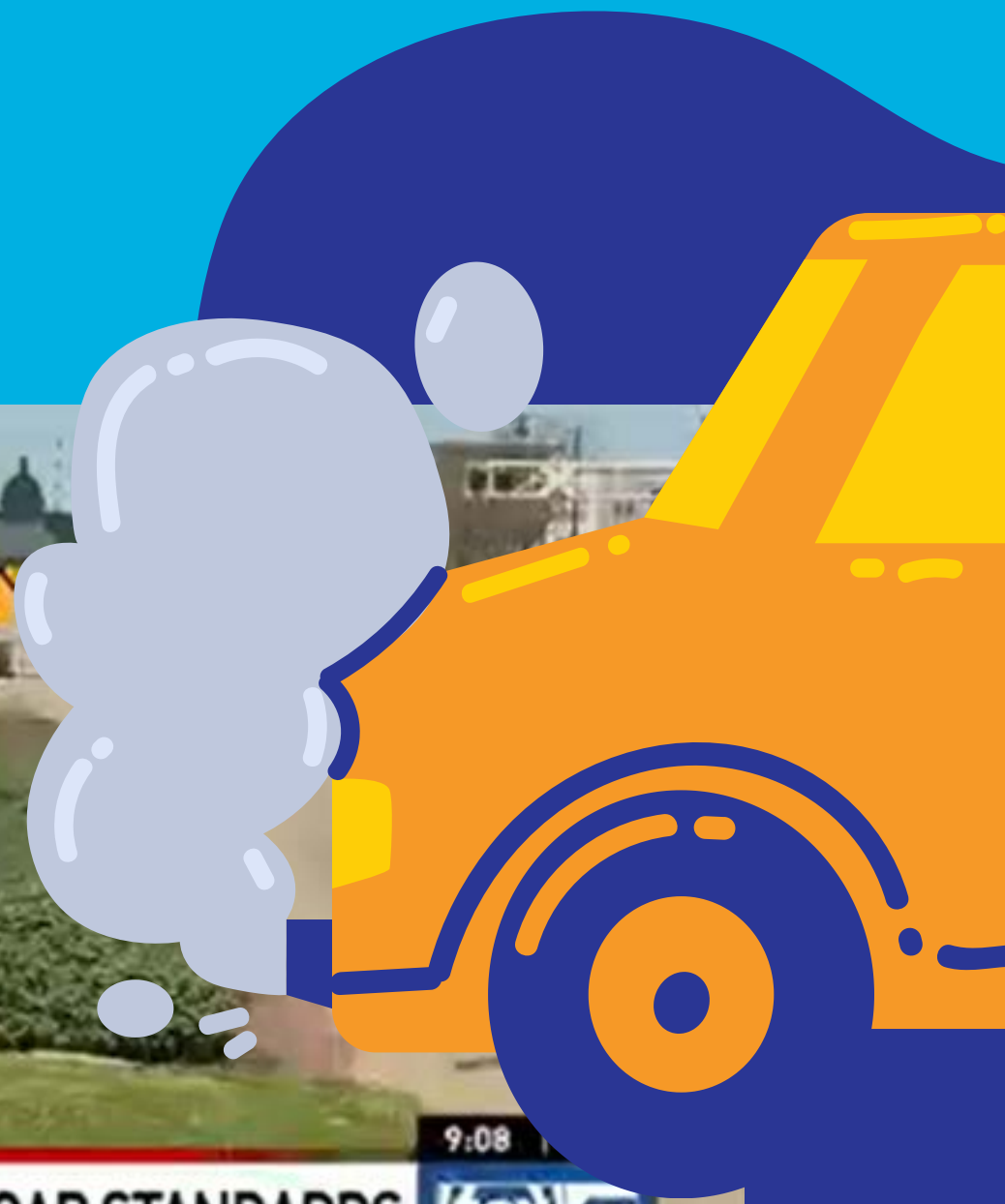
MOTHER. FAMILY DOCTOR. HCW BOARD MEMBER.

[Claire's Reflects on Good Neighbor Plan >>](#)





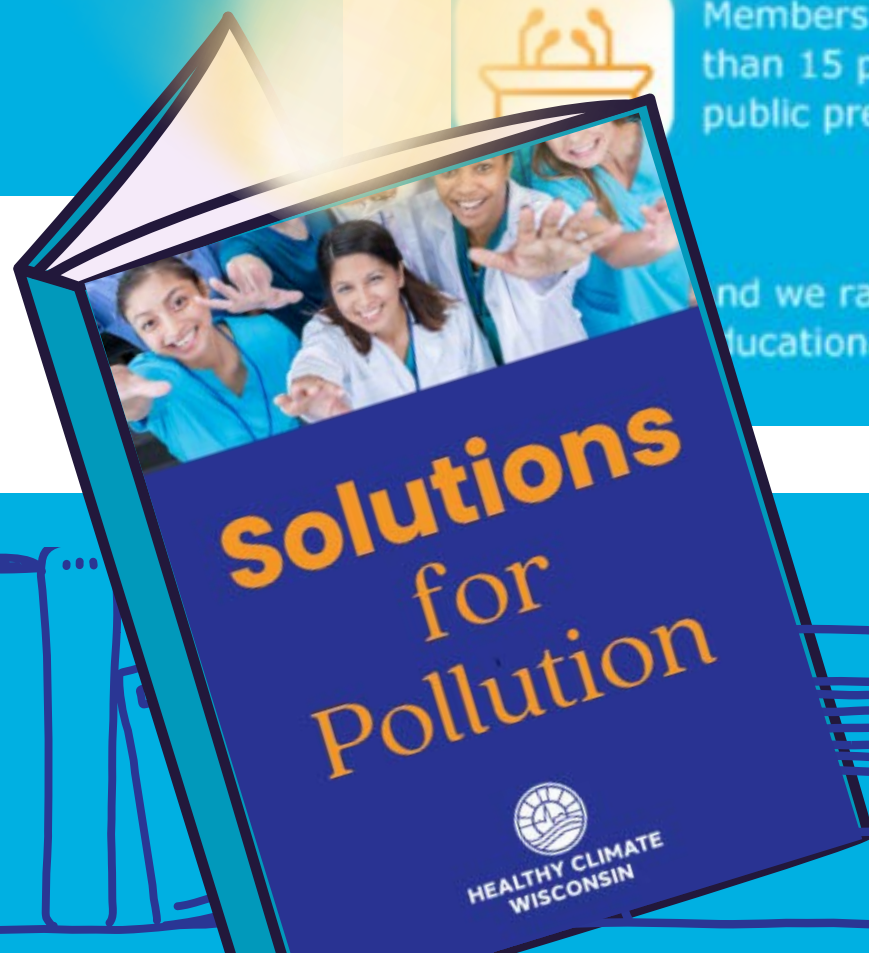
# FEDERAL GAINS SOLUTIONS FOR POLLUTION



We finished the year strong with a December press conference, and we'll continue to push the EPA in 2024 to finalize more health-protecting safeguards.

Check out our Solutions for Pollution e-book which celebrates the federal advocacy of our members.

[GET THE E-BOOK >>](#)



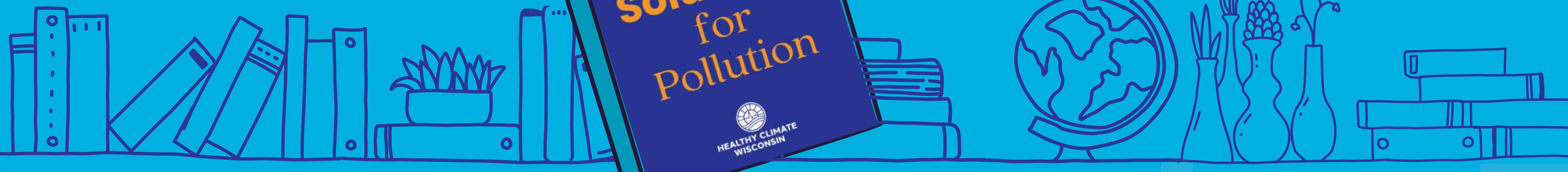
We joined health advocates across the country to educate policymakers about the health benefits of EPA protections.



Members spoke at or co-hosted more than 15 press conferences to build public pressure for EPA safeguards.

and we raised awareness through educational webinars and social media.

We were part of the national effort which delivered more than **1 MILLION** comments to the EPA demanding historic cuts to power plant pollution.







# FEDERAL GAINS

## CLIMATE WINS HERE - MILWAUKEE

Rep. Gwen Moore  
@RepGwenMoore

Happy anniversary to the Inflation Reduction Act! President Biden & Democrats have worked together to deliver this historic legislative achievement that is lowering costs for families, combating the climate crisis, and growing the economy from the bottom up and middle out.



Congresswoman Gwen Moore and Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson joined us to celebrate federal funding of Milwaukee Harbor's Living Breakwater Project, a flood resiliency measure.

We also received an invitation to President Biden's celebration of clean energy manufacturing jobs at Ingeteam.

To help Wisconsinites see the on-ground benefits of climate policy, we celebrated the 1st anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act by highlighting projects and investments we're seeing across our state.







# FEDERAL GAINS

## CLIMATE WINS HERE



### MADISON

In Madison, Congressman Mark Pocan, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, and Dane County Executive Joe Parisi highlighted the benefits of the federally funded Efficiency Navigator Program, which provides energy efficiency upgrades for affordable multi-housing units.



### LA CROSSE

Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski spoke beside Dr. Amy Kalkbrenner to commend the health and climate benefits of electric bus funding in La Crosse.



### GREEN BAY AREA

Senator Baldwin joined HCW at Brickstead Dairy to celebrate how federal funding of climate-smart agricultural programs will continue to benefit the health of soils and Wisconsin farming families.

[SEE MAP FOR MORE WINS IN WI >>](#)





# FEDERAL GAINS

## EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



In March, we presented at a national conference. Then we celebrated Rene' Settle Robinson, DPM, and Valeria (Dee) Hairston, DPM, two HCW members who graduated from the Medical Society Consortium's Climate and Health Equity Fellowship.



HCW members also published research and articles to educate health colleagues. Some highlights are below:



Calling Attention to Opponents of Climate Action in Climate and Health Messaging

*The Lancet Planetary Health*

Joel Charles, MD, et al.

[See article >>](#)

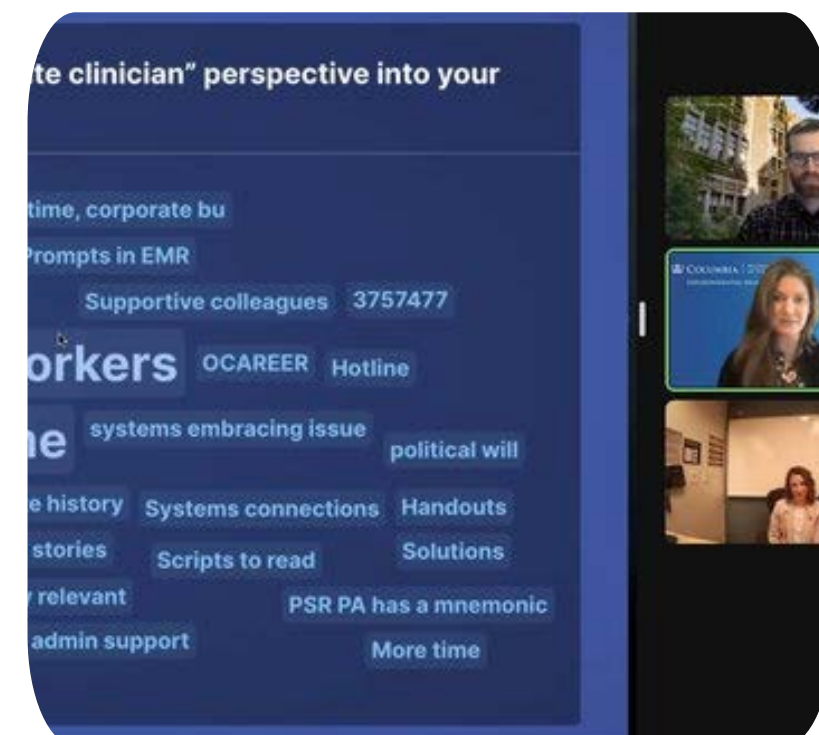


Join the Conversation: Talking About the Health Consequences of Global Heating/Climate Destabilization

*Wisconsin Medical Journal*

Bruce Krawisz, MD

[See article >>](#)



Imagining Eco-Wellness: A Scoping Review of Interventions Aimed at Changing Individual Behaviors to Promote Personal Health and Environmental Sustainability

*Wisconsin Medical Journal*

Brandon Kim, MD, MPH, & Bruce Barrett, MD, PHD, et al.

[See article >>](#)





# FEDERAL GAINS

## NEW NATIONAL REPORTS REAFFIRM OUR ROLE

“ I worry about the long-term effects of climate change on people, plants, animals and ecosystems, especially when we have the means to intervene to solve this profound issue. It is essential — for the health of our patients and our communities — to advocate for a healthier climate.



Jonathan Temte, MD, PhD

TEACHER. FAMILY PHYSICIAN. HCW BOARD MEMBER.

[Read One of Jon's Practice Updates from 2023 >>](#)

Both the [5th National Climate Assessment](#) and the [2023 Lancet Countdown](#) sounded the alarm on how climate change is damaging human health. However, data also shows the transformative health benefits that could come from the transition to a zero-carbon future, with health professionals playing a crucial role in the process. HCW's Joel Charles weighed in on the report findings, sharing how climate has impacted his life and patients on WUWM Radio. [Hear the interview>>](#)

**1**

The Fifth National Climate Assessment

The Fifth National Climate Assessment is the US Government's preeminent report on climate change impacts, risks, and responses. It is a congressionally mandated interagency effort that provides the scientific foundation to support informed decision-making across the federal government.

**Fifth National Climate Assessment**

**2**

THE LANCET

The 2023 Report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change: The imperative for a health-centred response in a world facing irreversible harms

"With climate change claiming millions of lives annually and its threats rapidly growing, seizing the opportunity to secure a healthier future has never been more vital."

**The Lancet Countdown**

**News**

New national climate assessment reaffirms Wisconsin health care group's call for action

WUWM 89.7 FM | By Susan Bence  
Published November 20, 2023 at 10:58 AM CST

Climate change, fossil fuels hurting people's health, says new global report

NOVEMBER 14, 2023 - 6:30 PM ET  
By Alejandra Borunda

**WUWM 89.7 MILWAUKEE'S**

HOME NEWS LAKE EFFECT PROGRAMS & PODCASTS ABOUT WUWM CONNECT SUPPORT

Health & Science

Two major reports say that climate change is hurting human health too





# GIVE THE GIFT OF CLEAN AIR

## YOU ARE WHAT MAKES THIS POSSIBLE



I donate and volunteer because HCW is a powerful group of health providers across the state that has made a lasting impact in the climate movement already, and we are just getting started. By investing in climate action, we are investing in the health of our communities for generations to come.



Brittany Keyes, DPT, PT, ATC

MOTHER. PHYSICAL THERAPIST. HCW BOARD MEMBER.

[Read more about Brittany's local advocacy >>](#)



The climate health emergency is here, but together we can build resilient communities. A gift today creates a brighter tomorrow and is critical to bringing our programming to life. Support our work to bring a safe climate, clean air, and better health to your family and neighbors.

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO DONATE >>\*\*](#)

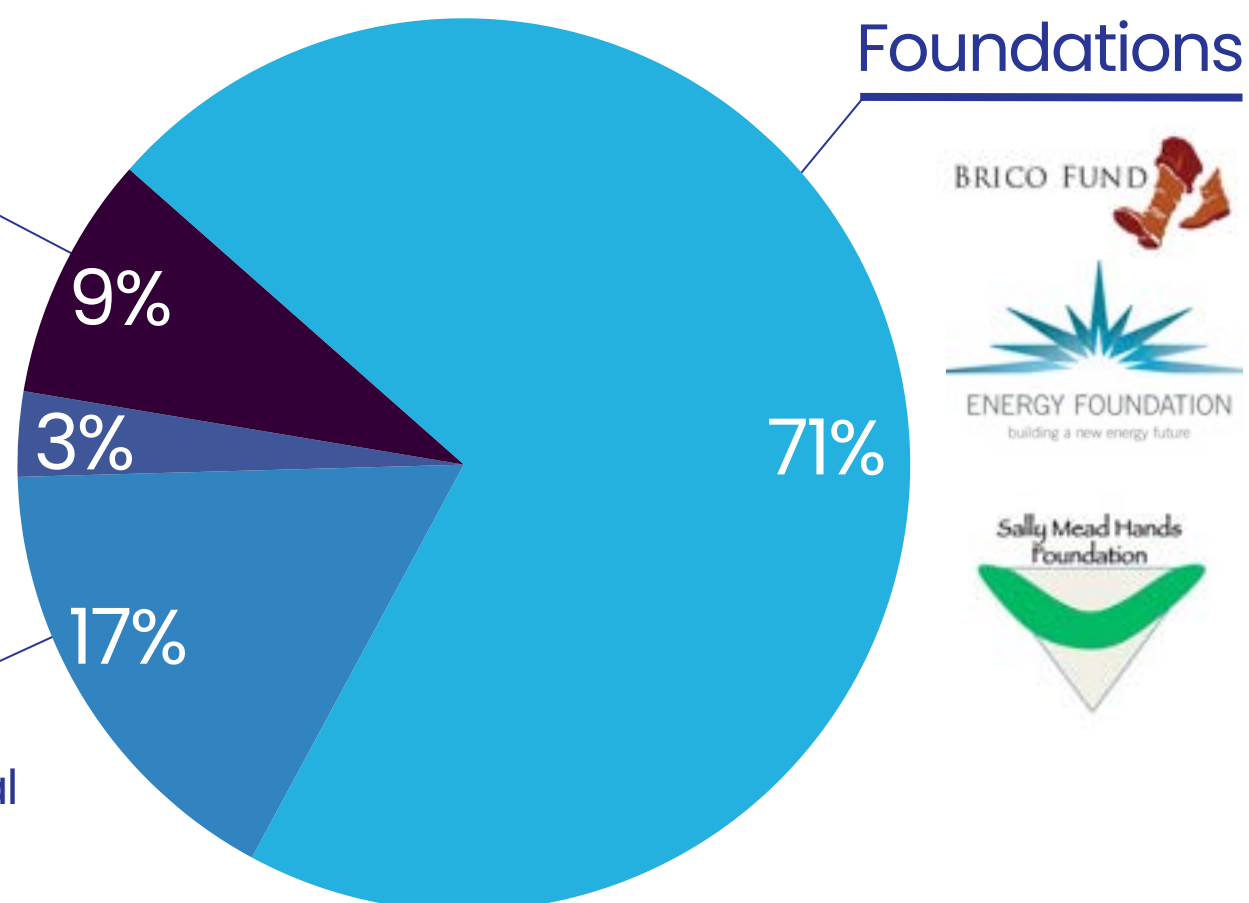
### Income

Individual Donations

Events

Public Funding

- Nonprofits
- Governmental Agencies
- Coalitions



Foundations



### Expenses

Administration

5%

Programs & Outreach

95%

- CE Events
- Climate-Smart Healthcare
- Beloit Project
- Clean Energy
- State Advocacy
- Climate Wins Here
- Solutions for Pollution
- Energy Justice
- And more!





# THANK YOU

## SHARE YOUR HEALTHY CLIMATE WISCONSIN JOY

# WHPCA

Wisconsin Health Professionals  
for Climate Action



# HEALTHY CLIMATE WISCONSIN

— formerly known as —

Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action

### WE CHANGED OUR LOOK IN 2023

### BUT OUR PASSION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE REMAINS THE SAME.

### SHARE IT WITH THE WORLD.



### [SHOP THE HCW STORE >>](#)





# COALITION BUILDING

**PARTNERSHIPS ARE WHAT POWERS CHANGE**

Complex challenges require multifaceted solutions. HCW frequently works in coalition to amplify diverse perspectives and foster collective action. We believe that solidarity will pave the way to a brighter future.

HCW is part of the following coalitions and working groups:

- Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin: **We are on the Steering Committee and Communications Table**
- Climate Action Campaign Wisconsin Table
- Climate and Health Communications Collaborative: **We are on the Steering Committee**
- Coalition for More Responsible Transportation – Wisconsin
- Energy Burden Working Group
- Fossil Free for Health: **We are on the Steering Committee**
- Love My Air Wisconsin
- Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health (MSCCH): **We are part of their State Network, State Leadership Group, and Climate-Smart Healthcare Working Group.**
- National Academy of Medicine Decarbonizing Healthcare Collaborative
- Our Future Milwaukee Coalition
- Renewable Network
- Re-Amp Network
- Stop Line 5 Working Team
- Wisconsin Climate Table



We'd like to give a special shout out to the following groups who worked closely with us on projects this year!

- 350 Wisconsin
- Action for a Climate Emergency
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- Citizen Action of Wisconsin
- Climate Health Now
- Climate Action Campaign
- Faith in Place
- Groundwork Milwaukee
- Healthcare Without Harm
- Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
- Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
- National Wildlife Federation
- Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter
- Thriving Earth Exchange
- UW ICEP
- Western Wisconsin Health
- Wildwood Clinic
- Wisconsin Environmental Health Network
- Wisconsin Nurses Association





# OUR TEAM

## THE CHANGE-MAKERS WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR

### OUR BOARD

Brittany Keyes, DPT, PT, APT  
Carla Wright, MD  
Chirantan Mukhopadhyay, MD  
Claire Gervais, MD  
Pamela Guthman, DNP, RN-BC  
Joel Charles, MD, MPH  
Jonathan Temte, MD, PHD, MS  
Rene' Settle Robinson, DPM

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Andrew Lewandowski, DO  
Ann Berhman, MD  
Bruce Barrett, MD, MPH  
Katie Wickman, MS, RN, CIC  
Jonathan Patz, MD, MPH  
Richard Dart, MD, MACP, FCCP,  
FAHA, FASN, FASH

### SPEAKERS BUREAU & TEAM LEADS

Alexandria Zielinski, RN  
Amy Kalkbrenner, PHD, MPH  
Bruce Krawisz, MD  
Cameron Kiersch, DNP, BSN  
Jed Downs, MD  
Joanne Bernstein, MD  
Kelly DeMarco, OTR/L, NBC-HWC  
Lillian Jensen, MN, RN, CNL, NPD-BC  
Lisa Cottrell, PHD, CBSM, DBSM  
Victoria Gillet, MD  
Zoe Rammelkamp, MD

### OUR STAFF

Abby Novinska-Lois, MPH, CPH **Executive Director**  
Dawn Brintnall **Climate-Smart Healthcare Coordinator (Part-time)**  
Laura Lane, JD **Communications Coordinator (Part-time)**

### CONFERENCE PLANNERS

Andy Ringquist, MSN, RN, CDE  
Alex Dudek, RN  
Claire Gervais, MD  
Dafna Berman, LCSW, MSW  
Ginney Stoffel, PHD, OT, FAOTA  
Jack Kampf, PharmD  
Joel Hill, MPAS, PA-C  
Karene Boos, PT, JD, DPT  
Lisa Cottrell, PHD, CBSM, DBSM  
Susan Bietila, RN

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with admiration for the incredible compassion of our dedicated health professionals and staff. Their tireless commitment to protecting Wisconsinites and their patients has not only advanced a healthier and more just climate but has also cultivated a sense of community. It is heartening to witness the camaraderie and support we can provide one another when we are united by a shared passion for a better world where everyone feels valued. Thank you to each and every health worker who has contributed to our shared mission. Let's continue igniting hope, building friendships, and transforming our state. Together, we are creating a legacy of positive change.



With heartfelt gratitude,  
Abby Novinska-Lois, MPH, CPH  
**HCW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Abby Novinska-Lois*