

Building a Cleaner Wisconsin Together: From Sustainability to Thriving

Thursday, October 8th, 8am to 5pm

UWM School of Continuing Education Conference Center (161 W Wisconsin Ave, 7th Floor).

SCHEDULE

8:00 – 9:00 am – Breakfast and Networking

9:00 am – Opening Remarks and Featured Speakers

9:30 am – Plenary Session, “From Sustainability to Thriving: Aspirations for a Clean Wisconsin”

10:45 am – Breakout Sessions

- ➡ Not Reinventing the Wheel: Policies & Practices from Neighboring States
- ➡ Reimagining the IRA: Lessons Learned & What Needs to Change for IRA 2.0
- ➡ Collaborative Workshop: Vision for a 100% Renewable Wisconsin

11:45 am – Lunch

12:30 pm – Plenary, “Wisconsin Leads: Our Clean & Resilient Journey”

1:45 pm – Breakout Sessions

- ➡ Curbing Wisconsin’s Fossil Enthusiasm: Innovations to Address Peak Power Demand
- ➡ Schools Leading the Way: Public Education and Community Leadership

3:00 pm – Featured Speakers

3:45 pm – Breakout Sessions

- ➡ A Just Transition to Renewables: Green Jobs in a Green Economy
- ➡ Menasha Case Study: Deep Dive Into a Project from Shovel-Ready to Completion
- ➡ Who Gets the Power? Best Practices for Community Benefits Agreements

4:45 pm – Closing Remarks

5:00 pm – Step inside TRUE Skool! Milwaukee’s Center for Transformative Creative Arts and Hip Hop Culture welcomes guests to a fast-paced, immersive 20-minute tour following our Fall Convening. Experience how TRUE Skool builds sustainable youth and community development from their basement studios and learn what’s next!

Sessions are subject to change.

All events will be located at: UWM School of Continuing Education Conference Center (161 W Wisconsin Ave, 7th Floor).



PLENARIES

From Sustainability to Thriving: Aspirations for a Clean Wisconsin

Expert leaders from nonprofits, community organizations, foundations, and government institutions will discuss the future of clean energy and climate work and our shared vision for renewable infrastructure and climate resiliency in Wisconsin. Participants will have the opportunity to collaborate in envisioning this future and the future of FTW's work.

Wisconsin Leads: Our Clean & Resilient Journey

Panelists will share the work that's been happening on the ground across sectors to ensure homes, communities, and the state can weather climate crises, and to transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources. From home improvements leveraging Direct Pay to Microgrids and Solar and Battery Storage in schools; communities in Wisconsin have been leading the way.

BREAK OUT SESSIONS

Not Reinventing the Wheel: Policies & Practices from Neighboring States

What lessons can we learn from our neighbors? What policies have they put in place to meet the moment and fill gaps that federal withdrawal has left? How can we adapt and improve on what our neighbors have done to not only bring their tried and tested programs forward and build on them? Attendees to learn how other states have been trying, what has worked, and what we can build on to make some of these programs even better here in Wisconsin so we can not only catch up, but surpass our neighbors.

Reimagining the IRA: Lessons Learned & What Needs to Change for IRA 2.0

This session will assess the strengths and weaknesses of federal investments in clean energy from the IRA, GGRF and other Biden era federal investments. Speakers with direct implementation experience offer unique perspectives on these federal clean energy policies. This session will feature a panel discussion and offer engagement with audience members.

Collaborative Workshop: Vision for a 100% Renewable Wisconsin

Following our opening plenary, participants will have a robust conversation about their personal and professional visions for a clean energy future and discuss the types of strategies that will take to get us there.

Sessions are subject to change.

All events will be located at: UWM School of Continuing Education Conference Center (161 W Wisconsin Ave, 7th Floor).



BREAK OUT SESSIONS

Curbing Wisconsin's Fossil Enthusiasm: Innovations to Address Peak Power Demand

Across Wisconsin, new fossil electricity generation is being built to serve peak power demand (typically hot summer days when AC and everything else is running on max). To transition our economy to renewable energy, the clean energy movement has made major strides in pushing to build large clean energy projects. The session will highlight three strategies: time of use energy pricing, geothermal energy and virtual power plants. Speakers will explain how these strategies can stabilize a clean energy grid and reduce the need for peak energy demand.

Schools Leading the Way: Public Education and Community Leadership

Sustainability work starts with the next generation. Public School Districts have been leading the way on pursuing sustainability and bringing it into daily life for our students. From Curriculum changes to green spaces, we will see how centering the next generation in sustainability work will see the work grow and new leaders will carry the torch forward.

A Just Transition to Renewables: Green Jobs in a Green Economy

This session will highlight important questions we must consider to ensure that while we shift our economy away from fossil fuels, workers and communities are not left behind. Companies that have historically installed boiler systems might be moving to systems that use geothermal. How are they helping people with those skills? How are they addressing these supply chains? We will also consider that if a fossil fuel plant closes, what is the plant's responsibility to the workers and the communities where it's located? This session will also consider how pre-apprenticeship workforce development training programs are developed and how they are changing to support the emerging clean economy.

Who Gets the Power? Best Practices for Community Benefits Agreements

Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) are a powerful tool to ensure that community investment, renewable energy, and workers rights are a priority when large projects are undertaken in a municipality. In the era of hyperscale data centers, this panel takes a nuts and bolts look at how CBAs can be utilized to empower communities and give them leverage against large corporations.

Menasha Case Study: Deep Dive Into a Project from Shovel-Ready to Completion

This breakout session will be an opportunity for attendees to see how the Maplewood School went from drawing board to fully operational. They'll hear from the folks who built the building on how they made one of the country's few net zero schools, and hear from the administrator who was bold enough to decide they were going to pursue net zero.

Exact sessions are subject to change.

All events will be located at: UWM School of Continuing Education Conference Center (161 W Wisconsin Ave, 7th Floor).

