

MEET THE EXPERTS

Negative impacts of fossil fuel build out in Wisconsin









Abby Novinska-Lois (she/her) Executive Director, Healthy Climate WI

Abby received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a certificate in Environmental Studies from UW Madison, where she chaired various justice and sustainability organizations, such as REthink Wisconsin, and Students for Social Welfare. Recognizing that the health of the environment and her community were inseparable, she became a Communications Specialist at the Wisconsin Environmental Health Network and an Outreach Specialist for the Global Health Institute. In 2020, Abby helped the Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action become a nonprofit and as the first Executive Director she has led strategic plan development, working teams, programming, fundraising, communications, and more. She is also currently pursuing a master's degree in public health.

Topics: Health Impacts, Cost/Energy Burden

For interviews please contact: abby@healthyclimate.org, laura@healthyclimate.org



Cassie Steiner-Bouxa (they/them) Senior Campaign Coordinator, Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter

In their role as the Campaign Coordinator for the Chapter, Cassie Steiner-Bouxa coordinates online and print communications and serves on priority issue campaigns including public land access, equitable transportation, and the Beyond Coal Campaign. They support volunteers and members of the public in engaging in decision-making processes and grassroots activism. Cassie has a degree in International Studies with an emphasis in Public Diplomacy and minors in Spanish and Peace and Social Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Topics: Cost/Energy Burden

For interviews please contact: cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org



Ciaran Gallagher, PhD (she/her) Energy & Air Manager, Clean Wisconsin

Ciaran advocates for Wisconsin's clean energy transition to mitigate climate change and reduce air pollution. She focuses on the electricity grid and transmission planning through stakeholder engagement at the Midwest grid operator (MISO) and statewide energy policies at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Ciaran has a Ph.D. in Environment and Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a concentration in energy analysis and policy. Her doctoral research explored the intersections of climate change mitigation, air pollution, public health, and environmental justice. She has a B.A. in Environmental Chemistry from Wellesley College.

Topics: Fossil Fuel Infrastructure, Health Impacts, Reliability

For interviews please contact: cgallagher@cleanwisconsin.org, abarrilleaux@cleanwisconsin.org





James Gignac (he/him) Midwest Senior Policy Manager, Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)

Prior to joining UCS, Mr. Gignac served as environmental and energy counsel and as assistant attorney general to Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, where he worked on a variety of regulatory, legislative, and litigation matters involving clean energy, climate change, and environmental protection. Before his time in state government, Mr. Gignac was the Midwest director for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, and also represented private sector clients in environmental matters with the law firm Mayer Brown LLP. Mr. Gignac earned a JD from Harvard Law School, and a BA in history and political science from Albion College.

Topics: Fossil Fuel Alternatives

For interviews please contact: megy@karydesconsulting.com



Maria Chavez (she/her) Energy Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)

Maria Chavez is an Energy Analyst for the Union of Concerned Scientists' Climate and Energy program. In this role, she focuses on the capabilities of renewable energy technologies and the importance of equitable and justice-centered policies for a clean energy transition. Before joining UCS, Maria worked as a market research analyst, writing in-depth reports on clean energy technologies and forecasting market growth in this sector. Ms. Chavez holds a bachelor of science degree in genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a master of public administration degree in environmental science and policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Topics: Fossil Fuel Alternatives

For interviews please contact: megy@karydesconsulting.com



Emily Park (she/her) Co-Executive Director/Communications Lead, 350 Wisconsin

Emily is 350 Wisconsin Action's Co–Executive Director and Communications Lead. Before moving to Madison, she lived in Cleveland, OH, and St. Louis, MO. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 2008 with degrees in Earth & Planetary Science and Environmental Studies.

Topics: Fossil Fuel Infrastructure, Health Impacts, Cost/Energy burden

For interviews please contact: emily.park@350wisconsin.org





Marco Marquez (he/him) Wisconsin State Director, Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE)

Marco graduated from DePaul University in Chicago, IL with a degree in Political Science. Marco has years of experience working with high school and college-age students, building their skills and confidence to become immersed in the civic process. Marco has been with ACE for over 4 years and has led hundreds of students across the state to demand more action from their leaders on the climate crisis.

Topics: National Climate Policy, Fossil Fuel Infrastructure, Environmental Impacts, Cost/Energy Burden **For interviews please contact:** marco@acespace.org



Charles Harper (he/him) Power Sector Senior Policy Lead, Evergreen Action

Charles Harper is the power sector senior policy lead at Evergreen. He has dedicated his career to achieving ambitious climate action at the federal and state levels. Previously, he advocated for wind and solar energy at the American Clean Power Association, advised states on the energy transition as a program officer at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and researched environmental regulation at the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy. Charles holds a degree in Earth & Environmental Engineering from Columbia University, and a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment.

Topics: National Climate Policy, Reliability, Cost

For interviews please contact: emily@evergreenaction.com



John Imes (he/him) Co-founder and Director of the Wisconsin Environmental Initiative (WEI)

John Imes is the Co-founder and Director of the Wisconsin Environmental Initiative (WEI). He serves on several working groups focused on the clean economy and sustainable energy solutions. John presented at the launch of the Climate Fast Forward Action Plan, which outlines 36 priority climate actions for Wisconsin. John's recent work includes advocating for clean energy and sustainable policies with the American Sustainable Business Network (ASBN) in Washington, D.C.

Topics: Environmental Impacts

For interviews please contact: jimesother@gmail.com | 608-712-7898





Brittany Keyes, DPT (*she/her*) Clean Air Coordinator, Healthy Climate Wisconsin

Dr. Brittany Keyes received her bachelor's degree in Athletic Training and doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of Iowa. She is the Clean Air Coordinator of Healthy Climate Wisconsin, and a longtime advocate for the transition to clean energy in her community, Beloit, and across the state.

Topics: Health Impacts, Cost/Energy Burden

For interviews please contact: brittany@healthyclimatewi.org, laura@healthyclimatewi.org



Victoria Gillet, MD Internal Medicine Physician, Healthy Climate Wisconsin

Dr. Victoria Gillet is an internist in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and is affiliated with Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center. She received her medical degree from the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine. She is a member of Healthy Climate Wisconsin, formerly known as Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action, and advocates for the transition to clean energy to protect the health and well-being of her patients and community from the effects of climate change and air pollution.

Topics: Health Impacts, Cost/Energy Burden

For interviews please contact: laura@healthyclimatewi.org



Keviea Guiden (she/her) Energy Burden Organizer, Citizen Action of Wisconsin & Energy/Climate Coordinator, Wisconsin Climate table

Keviea was born in Milwaukee and raised in the Hillside Projects. She has two degrees from the MATC downtown campus. Keviea has been a civically engaged grassroots organizer since 2018, advocating strongly for families in the 53206 zip codes as well as surrounding neighborhoods throughout Milwaukee. She led the "Fight for Our Lights," campaign, hosting rallies and protests against WE Energies rate hikes. Keviea's work has garnered attention from CNN, the Washington Post, Mother Jones Magazine, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and German news channels. She received the 2023 African American Environmental Pioneer Award. Keviea's dedication and investment in Milwaukee are evident. Her commitment extends to advocating for energy burdens, clean water, social justice, fair housing, livable wages, and thriving neighborhoods.

Topics: Health Impacts, Cost/Energy burden

For interviews please contact: keviea.guiden@citizenactionwi.org