



SUMMARY: Meeting the Moment

Wisconsin Climate Action Navigators (WI-CAN) Network

October 6 & 7, 2025

UW Stevens Point

Overview

On October 6 & 7, 2025, over 55 attendees from over 50 organizations from across Wisconsin gathered in Stevens Point for Wisconsin Climate Action Navigators (WI-CAN) “Meeting the Moment” gathering. The event was hosted by OSCE, as the organization providing WI-CAN's backbone infrastructure, and was designed to:

- Create initial draft of WI CAN mission, metrics and strategies that will accelerate climate action work by navigator organizations.
- Deepen cross sector connections and relationships between navigators by lifting up progress, identifying opportunities, and recognizing shared challenges.
- Foster short- and long-term collaboration between navigators to advance their goals and increase organizational capacity.
- New Navigators feel welcomed, connected and informed.

Attendees participated in a series of facilitated exercises that included individual, small group, and large group work. The Couillard Solar Foundation hosted a table to provide hands-on assistance in signing up for CAMP, the climate action networking application. The Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts & Letters hosted *StoryWalk*, an interactive event inviting participants to share climate success stories through drawing, writing, video interviews, and audio recordings. A Gallery Walk shared posters featuring all Incubator Projects. Participants offered multiple offerings for restoration and celebration throughout the event.

Evaluations of the event were overwhelmingly positive – and provided helpful insights for strengthening future events. Over 50% of participants (32) completed a survey – and gave the event an average of 4.4 stars (out of 5). Participants appreciated making new and deeper connections and collaborating within a facilitated structure. They would also like more focus on specific, actionable next steps. Over 90% agreed or strongly agreed:

- the event was valuable for their organization and for them individually
- they had the opportunity to be heard and to hear from others
- they made a new connection or deepened an existing connection

The gathering was led by OSCE's Eleanor Gagnon; staffed by OSCE's Maria Redmond, Caity Carmody and Winston Thompson; facilitated by Alison Lebwohl; and emceed by Monré Moore. Please see linked Appendices below for all attendees and materials.





Themes

The themes captured below emerged from participants' discussions over the two days. These themes, as well as the detailed transcription of small-group work that generated them, will be used to inform Wi-CAN's strategic planning work.

Our strengths include meeting people where they are at. We believe personal experience and shared narratives open doors and lead to meaningful connections.

Participants described the power of:

- Building and sharing narratives
 - Make it personal & speak from experience
 - “personal impact, telling stories”
- Community Building and Empathy
 - Meeting people where they are at
 - “If ‘climate’ isn’t a group’s first priority, ask what is, and that is probably related to climate work”
 - Build strong and strategic relationships that build trust.
- Creating the conditions for serendipity
 - Crowd-source
 - Take calculated risks
- Holistic approach
 - “Take rest and seek inclusion in nature, find peace inside before trying to promote it to others”
 - Take care of yourself and provide care for others

Our desired future includes clean energy, clean water, and healthy communities.

When asked to create a headline for a desired future, participants shared the following:

- WI protects the gift of water for future generations
- The Wisconsin Miracle: Community driven climate action makes big impacts
- WI WINS: WI takes holistic approach to tackle climate change & environmental health
- Food, Water and Energy Nexus Figured Out
- Wisconsin Reimagines Climate Action
- Wisconsin closes final coal plant!
- WI CAN becomes WE DID
- 2030 Headline: A future worth fighting for – WI leads the nation in and with clean energy data centers
- Rural Investment Spurs Economic Growth in WI

- For Generations to come – clean energy & equitable life for ALL!

Our work needs to support community and a just transition

These topics were selected by participants for focused discussion on the second day of the event as part of exploring how we can best leverage our strengths to arrive at our desired future.

- Innovative distributed power to lower energy burden
- Retiring Coal Plants
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Let's Talk Climate, community conversations
- Leveraging Lived Experience
- CAMP; Wisconsin Academy for Sciences, Arts & Letters; and Future of WI-CAN
- Holistic Approach to Climate Change

Next steps include continuing to invest in technical solutions, organizational alignment, and community connections

During these focused discussions, participants described the promise of:

- Advocating for investments in clean energy technology
 - Nature-based solutions
 - Retiring coal plants
 - Rural investment
 - Green infrastructure
 - Innovative financing for reducing energy burden on low-income families
 - Clean-energy data centers
- Mapping and mobilizing relationships
 - Speak to the grassroots and speak to power -- “trusted voice -- deliver messages through broad array of deliveries + technologies.”
 - Conduct power-mapping and geographic mapping of WI-CAN members
 - Geographic hubs
- Aligning and amplifying organizations and resources
 - “Integrated Resource Planning – address climate impacts ”
 - Leverage shared resources (CCAP report, CAMP, WI Academy, Green Bank, 350 toolkit)
 - Create & share models & examples others can learn from, e.g., policy, technical, legal, financial expertise and frameworks
 - Focus on health and justice
- Educating and building community around mutual needs and experiences

- Stakeholder centered design: I'm going to figure out what you care about and start there
- "Identifying needs + providing space for collaboration and community input"
- Connect people with opportunities to save money on their power bills

WI-CAN next steps

Next steps for WI-CAN coming out of this gathering include:

- Articulate WI-CAN's mission, metrics and strategies [draft by Spring 2026]
 - Sources include this work, the final CCAP (due out in January), and additional feedback and guidance from WI-CAN members.
 - Develop implementation & evaluation plans – including specific, actionable next steps – to support action and learning.
- Continue strengthening climate action movement in Wisconsin [ongoing]
 - Provide backbone infrastructure (including funding) to convene members, map assets and strengths, strengthen communication, articulate shared mission and mutually reinforcing activities, and generate shared metrics. See 2025-2026 calendar of gatherings in Appendices.
 - Support and grow CAMP as our primary connection platform.
 - Uplift and support existing incubator projects.

Appendices

- List of attendees
- Participant agenda
- Transcription of flip charts & worksheets
- Survey results