



FALL 2023

Volume 45, Issue 4

*The future of the Earth is in our Hands.*

# CACC NEWS

JOHN AND CARRIE WALES

Center for Environmental and Social Justice

[www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org)

## WHEATLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

A huge shout out to this past year's Wheatland volunteers.

For over 20 years Connie Beauvais has been responsible for managing the kitchen, ordering food, setting up the menu and for 10 years she has also helped in working with the volunteers. Laura Sanderson has done a great job of stepping up to coordinate volunteers. Connie would like to retire and pass the kitchen management to someone who would be willing to take on this responsibility. Please note if you may be interested in this position when filling out the survey below. From the set-up crew, prep cooks, shift cooks, servers, dish crew, snack bar workers, to the clean up crew you were all awesome! Whether this was your first year or you are a "seasoned volunteer" we would like to invite you to take a survey to help us as board members in planning for future fundraising activities.

Again, Thank you for all your efforts! Please scan this QR code to complete the survey. Even if you didn't volunteer you can complete the survey, we would like to get to know you all a little better. Here is your chance to get involved. The median age of our board is 68 years old, and we would love to see younger members willing to help CACC educate people about the happenings in our environment and help support change. One lucky respondent will get a free ticket to Wheatland next year.



---

## Utility-scale solar field to replace Consumers Energy's old coal units

**Published: Oct. 05, 2023 M-live**

*by Sheri McWhirter*

ESSEXVILLE, MI – Consumers Energy will replace its old coal-burning power plant with a large-scale renewable solar array.

Consumers officials said on Wednesday, Oct. 4, that the utility intends to build an 85-megawatt solar array at the former Karn 1 and 2 coal facilities, which closed down in June this year. The project will be part of the company's clean energy transition.

David Hicks, vice president of clean energy development for Consumers, said top among the company's thoughts when closing the coal-burning units was what the site would become afterward. "Based on future use studies and input from local stakeholders, solar emerged as the best option to ensure we continue to be good stewards of the land and to provide valuable tax dollars for the community while pushing us further toward our sustainability goals," Hicks said in a statement.

The new solar project remains in the design phase, but the expectation is the effort could provide enough electricity for about 20,000 homes and pay millions of dollars in taxes through the years.

Officials said they aim for the solar project to be generating power by 2026.

*(Continued on next page)*

## CACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

**John Witucki, Chairperson**  
989-529-1704 [jwitucki58@gmail.com](mailto:jwitucki58@gmail.com)

**Connie Beauvais, Treasurer**  
[cacc.connie@gmail.com](mailto:cacc.connie@gmail.com)

**Marcia Ellwanger, Secretary**  
[mwe1257@gmail.com](mailto:mwe1257@gmail.com)

**Chambre Beauvais,**  
[chambrebeauvaismi@gmail.com](mailto:chambrebeauvaismi@gmail.com)

**Murry DeSanto,**  
[planetpal322@gmail.com](mailto:planetpal322@gmail.com)

**Phill Hunt,** 989-588-9845

**Victor McManemy,** 231-709-1566

**Steve Sanderson,**  
[sjhvac@gmail.com](mailto:sjhvac@gmail.com)

**Laura Sanderson,**  
[sandershaw@gmail.com](mailto:sandershaw@gmail.com)

**Tom Strawn,**  
[tomstrawn101@gmail.com](mailto:tomstrawn101@gmail.com)

**The CACC NEWS is published by  
Citizens for Alternatives to  
Chemical Contamination (CACC)**

PO Box 175  
Pinconning, MI 48650-0175  
[www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org)

**Newsletter Edited by:**

**Marcia Ellwanger**

**Newsletter Layout/Design:**  
Angela De La Rosa

CACC is a proud member of Earth Share of Michigan, Michigan Environmental Council, and Beyond Nuclear.

*(Continued from previous page)*

Consumers Energy has state-approved plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, shift its power generation away from carbon-emitting fossil fuels, and rapidly expand its renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

The company intends to entirely end its use of coal by 2025, which will come 15 years ahead of the utility's initial plans. The utility's goal is to generate more than half its electric capacity with renewable sources by 2040.

The Michigan Public Service Commission only just reported its expectation that regulated utilities like Consumers Energy are on track to meet a 35% renewable energy benchmark set for 2025.

The regulatory agency said in its latest report that rate-regulated electricity providers had about 6,000 megawatts of renewable projects within Michigan by the end of last year. Based on utilities' integrated resource plans, officials expect the state will have more than 8,000 megawatts of renewable energy in operation by the end of 2026.

This announcement of a major new solar array by Consumers Energy comes amid discussions in Lansing as lawmakers consider codifying Michigan's climate plan, which may set a 60% renewable and 100% clean energy standard statewide. The bills in the package being negotiated in both the state House and Senate are designed to reduce carbon emissions and lower energy costs for Michigan residents. The legislation would force regulated utilities off fossil fuels faster than planned and require heavy investment in energy efficiencies and reduced costs for lower-income households.

Michigan's top utility regulator said he believes those clean energy goals are achievable.

"I continue to be optimistic that there's a path and a path that would work well for Michigan, and that this is doable, even while maintaining reliability and affordability for customers," said Dan Scripps, MPSC chairperson.

"But the details are important. And so, we'll leave that to the Legislature as they need to deliberate."

Renewable energy generation – such as solar – does not result in carbon emissions, which drive the greenhouse effect and cause global warming and the accelerating climate crisis.

We are united by our love of the Great Lakes. They provide drinking water for millions in the United States and Canada, drive our economy, and define our way of life. This is all threatened by Line 5, the aging oil pipelines crossing the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac, where Lake Michigan meets Lake Huron. CACC supports the No Tunnel efforts of Oil and Water Don't Mix to keep oil out of our Great Lakes.

## ENBRIDGE LINE 5 CRUDE OIL PIPELINE

Line 5 is owned and operated by Enbridge, the same Canadian corporation responsible for the 2010 spill of more than 1.2 million gallons of heavy tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River watershed near Marshall, Michigan. That spill sickened more than 300 people, permanently drove more than 150 people from their homes and properties, and continues to harm the environment to this day. It took seven years and over \$1.2 billion to clean it up to the extent possible, and remains one of the largest inland oil spills in U.S. history.

On November 13, 2020, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer took decisive action to shut down Line 5 by May 2021 under the Public Trust Doctrine to protect the Great Lakes from the risk of a catastrophic oil spill. This historic action represents a clear victory for the Great Lakes and the citizens and tribes of Michigan and recognizes that alternatives to Line 5 exist for supplying oil and propane. However, The State of Michigan must remain vigilant until the oil stops flowing for good because Enbridge defies the shutdown order, and Line 5 remains exposed to exceptionally strong currents, lakebed scouring, new anchor and cable strikes, and corrosion.

Nearly 23 million gallons of oil flows daily through two old pipelines, the "Line 5", located 1.3 miles west of the Mackinac Bridge in the Great Lakes. Line 5 has experienced 33 spills, with a total of 1.1 million gallons spilled since 1968.

Enbridge made unapproved modifications, adding hundreds of supports to elevate the pipeline after a significant oil spill in the Kalamazoo River.

The Great Lakes, especially the Straits of Mackinac, are ecologically sensitive, providing fresh water and supporting fisheries and tourism.

Concerns include damages to the pipeline (like the 2018 anchor strike), Enbridge's safety history, and issues of compliance with the contract.

University of Michigan Scientists identified the Straits of Mackinac as the worst possible place for an oil spill in the Great Lakes.



Most oil in Line 5 (90-95%) is from Canada, taking a shortcut through Michigan before returning to Canada.

Scientists emphasize the urgent need to shift away from fossil fuels due to the looming climate crisis.

Enbridge's Line 5 is part of a larger Lakehead System system, transporting crude oil across North America.

Enbridge experts testified in Federal court that without Line 5, gas prices in the Midwest would rise by a mere ½ cent per gallon.



**Please keep the CACC NEWS coming to my mailbox!**

- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Organization
- \$30 Family
- \$250 Lifetime
- \$20 Student – Fixed Income

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special interests \_\_\_\_\_

**Support CACC! Be part of the solution! Support healthy, sustainable communities and watersheds!**

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

The CACC Newsletter is printed on 30% post consumer use recycled paper.

**Please check your expiration date and renew promptly!**

**Return Service Requested**

PRST STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 222  
Dearborn Hts, MI  
48127

**CACC  
P.O. Box 23  
Lake, MI 48632**