

Federal Economic Recovery Act Invests in Wisconsin Water and Energy Improvements

By Katy Walter, 1Sky Organizer & Ezra Meyer, Water Specialist

Since Barack Obama took office as President of the United States in January, we have all heard much about the actions he and Congress have taken to help the economy regain momentum. Clean Wisconsin has closely followed developments regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or the “stimulus package,” watching for opportunities for this influx of federal money to benefit Wisconsin’s environment. We also anticipate seeing this money leverage further gains from policies and programs we have advocated for in recent years in regards to both clean energy and clean water.

Energy Investments for Wisconsin

The Recovery Act is a substantial down payment on our clean energy future. The comprehensive bill represents a significant shift in direction, with a total of \$78 billion nationwide heading to programs and

incentives that will increase renewable energy and energy efficiency and reduce global warming pollution.

Wisconsin will see a total of \$233 million for energy-related projects that will seek to both create immediate jobs and lay the foundation for a clean energy economy. Funding for Wisconsin includes \$55 million to the state to fulfill our energy priorities, \$37 million to cities and counties through block grants, and a \$141 million increase in funding for the state program that helps weatherize homes in low-income communities. With this additional funding, the Home Weatherization Program expects to hire 500 more employees and retrofit thousands more homes in neighborhoods where a high proportion of income is spent covering energy costs.

(cont. on page 7)



photo of Lake Superior by Amanda Wegner

FACTORY FARMS: A Looming Water Quality Threat



photo of Castle Rock Lake by Chris www.flickr.com/photos/cedwardmoran

By Melissa Malott, Water Program Director

As you read this, the lake near my home will be choked with algae and weeds so thick that muskrats will be making unholy treks across the water. Lake Michigan's shore in Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties will reek with sewage-like cladophora steaming on the beaches. The rocks on Lake Wisconsin's shore will appear to be peeling turquoise paint, the result of encrusted blue-green algae drying in the sun. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources attribute this pollution largely to agricultural runoff.

One looming water quality threat to our state is from CAFOs, or confined animal feeding operations; these are the giant dairy operations, and they are growing in size and number. CAFOs are not intrinsically a threat to water quality. However, when these operations aren't responsible for their waste, the impact can be devastating and widespread. This April, a CAFO near Luxemburg, Wis. had a 100,000-gallon manure spill just days after the DNR had stocked a nearby affected stream with 250,000 trout and salmon. This spill may devastate the stocked fish population and impact nearby waterways

(cont. on page 4)

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TAKING & CHARGE TAKING & ACTION

Below are some of the actions you can take to help protect Wisconsin's clean water, clean air and clean energy.

Use GoodSearch to help Clean Wisconsin

With a few simple clicks, you can help Clean Wisconsin by using GoodSearch, a search engine which donates 50 percent of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users.

You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine (like Google) and because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. The money GoodSearch donates comes from its advertisers – users and the organizations do not spend a dime! This comes to about one cent for every search.

Simply go to www.goodsearch.com, then set Clean Wisconsin as your selected organization by typing "Clean Wisconsin" under the "Who Do You Search For" bar and hit "verify." Then set GoodSearch as your home page to help Clean Wisconsin any time you do an internet search!

Give us your e-mail address!

Clean Wisconsin is your environmental voice, but we need you to be involved! Right now, Clean Wisconsin is working on a variety of issues affecting your clean air and clean energy options in Wisconsin. While we certainly need your financial support, we also need you to support our work with your actions! The quickest, most affordable way for us to contact you when we need your help is via e-mail.

Please e-mail Becky at bbains@cleanwisconsin.org with your email address and join our action network. Be a part of our winning team!

Mercury Products Ban: Contact your Legislator

Contact your legislators today and let them know that you support Senate Bill 200 and Assembly Bill 299, to reduce mercury products. Find out who your legislators are by visiting www.legis.wisconsin.gov/waml

Help Pass Strong Global Warming Legislation

Each of us has unique reasons for wanting strong policies to address global warming. Whether it's to protect the world for your children, protect our health and the environment, protect your farm fields from flooding and droughts, or you're looking for job opportunities in the clean energy economy, **it's important for our leaders to hear your personal stories explaining the importance of passing strong and effective global warming legislation.**

Your personal reasons for wanting strong policies are the most important messages we can deliver to decision makers! We need your help! Please help us push leaders to pass such legislation by sharing your reasons for wanting aggressive action addressing global warming. **Send your personal reasons and we'll pick the most compelling to post to our Web site and share with policymakers** as well as our friends in the media.

Have a Web cam? Even better! Help us put a face – your face – behind the story by submitting a recording of your personal reasons for wanting to address global warming.

With your help, we can convince decision makers to pass the legislation we need to avoid the most disastrous consequences of global warming.

Send stories by email to:

Sam Weis at sweis@cleanwisconsin.org
Subject: Why I Want Global Warming Action

Please include your name, city, and an e-mail address.

Please note, we plan to use these messages in the media and on our Web site.

Or by mail to:

Clean Wisconsin
Attn: Sam Weis
122 State St. Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703

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Clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy organization, protects Wisconsin's clean water and air and advocates for clean energy by being an effective voice in the state legislature and by holding elected officials and polluters accountable. Founded in 1970 as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, Clean Wisconsin exposes corporate polluters, makes sure existing environmental laws are enforced, and educates citizens and businesses. On behalf of its 10,000 members and its coalition partners, Clean Wisconsin protects the special places that make Wisconsin such a wonderful place to live, work and play.

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Clean Wisconsin LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The latest developments on environmental priorities

Please contact your legislators today and let them know support these important environmental priorities.

Find out who your legislators are by visiting www.legis.wisconsin.gov/waml

You can follow the progress of any bill by visiting the State Legislature's Web site at www.legis.wi.gov

Phosphorus Restrictions

Clean Lakes Bill signed into law!

Thanks go out to Clean Wisconsin members who contacted their legislators in support of the Clean Lakes Bill, which restricts phosphorous in lawn fertilizer. After hearing overwhelming support from their constituents, the bill received unanimous support in both the state Senate and Assembly and was signed into law in April - a good sign for other important environmental legislation to come.

Electronic Waste

Responsible disposal of your old TVs and computers

Senate Bill 107, which ensures discarded electronic equipment such as televisions and computers be recycled at the end of their life, has been sailing through the Legislature. As of the writing of this article, the bill only awaits a vote of the full Assembly before being sent to the Governor for his signature.

Reducing Global Warming

Transitioning to a clean energy economy

Progress continues on legislation to reduce the impacts of global warming in Wisconsin. Chairs of the energy committees and environmental committees are currently drafting legislation that will enact the recommendations of the Governor's Global Warming Task Force. Passage of these recommendations will ensure Wisconsin is poised to become a leader in the clean energy economy and capture the potential 37,000 family-supporting jobs that a recent study showed could be created in our state with an investment in renewable energy. You can take action now by signing the petition to support the strong Clean Energy Economy bill to fight global warming at Clean Wisconsin's Web site, www.cleanwisconsin.org/action/globalwarmingPetition_0209.html.

State Budget

Much of the State Legislature's work in the spring is devoted to reviewing the biennial budget. The final budget includes several pro-environment measures:

Great Lakes

The budget continues the state's commitment to the Great Lakes by including four staff positions to ensure proper enactment of the Great Lakes Compact for protection of our most precious natural resource.

Decreasing out-of-state trash

The budget includes an increase to the garbage tipping fee, which is paid by garbage haulers when they dump their waste at a landfill. Increasing the tipping fee has been a long-standing priority for Clean Wisconsin, and we're excited to see it increased to stop filling our landfills with neighboring state's trash.

Clean Sweep program

The budget restores funding for the popular Clean Sweep program, which allows citizens to properly dispose of hazardous wastes. That funding had been in jeopardy, and Clean Wisconsin is especially pleased to see the program restored so people can properly dispose of their mercury-containing and other environmentally dangerous products.

Additional fees for factory farms

Farms across our countryside are growing bigger and bigger. With these super-sized farms comes increased potential for pollution of our waterways. Clean Wisconsin successfully fought for additional fees for water discharges from these Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), with the additional funding going to the Department of Natural Resources for more permit review and monitoring. A large industrial farm operation is a multi-million investment for the owner(s), and an increase in permit fees will go a long way toward ensuring the protection of our waterways and the recreational and tourism opportunities associated with clean water in Wisconsin.

MERCURY PRODUCTS BAN CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR



photo by Gilles Pilon www.flickr.com/photos/gilles1313

Clean Wisconsin is once again working on legislation to ban the sale of non-essential products that contain mercury. Senate Bill 200 and Assembly Bill 299 were introduced by Senator Bob Jauch (D-Poplar) and Representative Chris Danou (D-Trempealeau) in May. It is similar to a bill introduced in the last legislative session, which passed the Senate by a 30-3 vote but was inexplicably stalled in the state Assembly.

Mercury products release more than 6,600 pounds of mercury into our air, land and water. Recently, Wisconsin adopted strong mercury emission rules for utility companies. In combination with mercury products legislation, this will lead to a major reduction in mercury releases that can cause brain and nervous system damage in fetuses and young children and make Wisconsin's fish dangerous to eat. The threat to our \$2.3 billion fishing industry is too great to ignore the impacts these products can have in Wisconsin.

The bills prohibit the sale of non-essential products that contain mercury where alternatives exist. It is incomprehensible in this day and age that products like light-up shoes that our children wear, cosmetics or bathing salts that we unwittingly purchase may still contain mercury. The bills also prohibit the use of products that contain mercury in schools in order to keep our children safe from exposure. Because many of these products are still being manufactured overseas, it is imperative that we regulate them at the point of sale.

These bills have already received broad-based, bipartisan support from a number of legislators and a variety of children and health advocates, sporting organizations, environmental groups and tribes but we need your help to make sure this bill is not allowed to languish for another session.

Contact your legislators today and let them know that you support Senate Bill 200 and Assembly Bill 299 to reduce mercury products.

a letter from the Executive Director

Those of you who have been members for many years have noticed many changes at Clean Wisconsin. In 2003, we changed our name and over the past five years, we've increased the amount of work we do in Wisconsin. Our staff has grown to 20 dedicated people working on the most important environmental issues facing our state. This issue of *The Defender* is a good illustration of the great work and great changes at Clean Wisconsin. You'll see the breadth and depth of our work in the many articles written by senior staff who have championed issues and won important environmental victories for many years; and you'll see articles highlighting the work of new additions to the Clean Wisconsin staff.

Our program work for nearly 40 years has been extremely successful. Fortunately, we have been able to leverage our recent victories to bring additional financial support to Wisconsin's environmental movement, including the passing of the Great Lakes Compact, new rules reducing mercury pollution

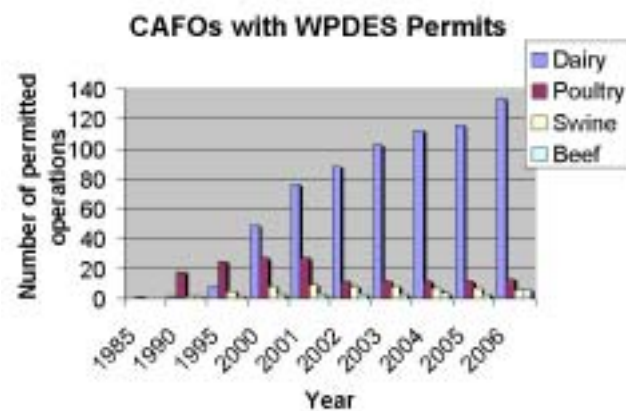
from power plants, strong recommendations for the state and Midwest region to promote global warming solutions, a unanimous decision by the PSC to deny the construction permit for a new coal plant, and many others.

Even though our founders envisioned a world where environmental issues were solved in a decade, nearly 40 years later, the problems we face are more complicated and dire. They often require years of painstaking work, collaboration with many friends and adversaries, and significant financial resources. That is why I'd like to thank you for your continued financial and membership support, and ask you to pay close attention to the leadership roles our top-notch staffers play in Wisconsin as they work to enact good environmental solutions, prevent new problems and stop violations of environmental laws.

Mark Rostater

FACTORY FARMS (continued from front page)

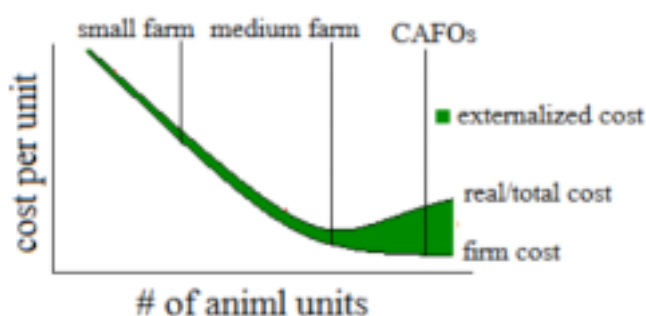
throughout the summer with elevated phosphorus and nitrogen levels that can lead to eutrophication (the excessive growth and decay of plants and algae) or contribute to cladophora growth in a vulnerable part of Lake Michigan's western shore. These changes not only disrupt ecosystems, they also create dangerous health problems due to toxic algae. Given their potential for devastation, CAFO growth in Wisconsin needs to be scrutinized and done thoughtfully.



Last semester, a group of students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison researched the economic and social impacts of CAFOs. The statements in this article are based on their report.

CAFOs are not necessarily more cost-efficient than conventional farms.

Proponents of CAFOs attribute their growth to cost reductions brought about by "economies of scale." However, there is growing concern that economies of scale reach their peak at medium-sized farms and that large farms do not reduce cost, but simply externalize them or allocate costs to the general public. Part of this is due to the additional costs that CAFOs must pay for machinery, antibiotics and waste management structure and transportation. Economies of scale do exist for CAFOs when costs such as manure disposal are avoided, but are often small and reach optimum levels at an operation size below that of large CAFOs.



CAFOs do not spur as much economic growth as traditional farms.

An Illinois State University study shows that economic growth rates were 55 percent higher in areas with conventional hog farms as compared to areas with new large hog operations. The reason for the disparity in growth rate is that regional economic development depends on money circulating in the local economy before "leaking" out to the state, national and global economies. Large farms tend to make a smaller percentage of purchases locally. In effect, traditional agriculture creates 33 percent more local economic growth than factory farms.

CAFOs create fewer jobs than traditional farms.

It is inherent in CAFO's business model to create fewer jobs. Unlike traditional forms of agriculture, CAFOs operate on a structure of high startup costs and lower variable costs. In other words, CAFOs spend lots of money on advanced machinery to automate the means of production, therefore eliminating much of the need for human labor. Such a setup doesn't provide much space for local employment and most of the machinery is imported from outside the region. A study of hog CAFOs showed that they create four jobs for every 1,000 sows, while traditional farms create 12.6 jobs for every 1,000 sows.

CAFOs can unfairly control the market to disadvantage traditional farmers.

The trend of large farms to purchase from greater distances may be attributable to the fact that CAFOs predetermine grain dealers with suppressed prices early in the week in order to decrease market prices later in the week. This is a practice called "captive supply" and while it is technically illegal, a USDA study shows almost 100 percent of trading in the first few days of the week show symptoms of captive supply.

CAFOs can hurt the local tax base.

The assumption that CAFOs will increase the tax base has been discredited. Concerns about public health, odor and noise lead to suppressed property values within proximity of CAFOs. Decreased property values mean decreased property taxes. A study by the University of Missouri-Columbia showed that the average property value loss within three miles of each hog CAFO would be approximately \$2.68 million. One collection of case studies by the Sierra Club found that local property taxes decreased in Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota and



Missouri by 10 percent to 30 percent due to close proximity to hog CAFOs. There is also a significant loss of tax revenue from the smaller farms that are pushed out by CAFOs.

Water pollution from manure imposes significant costs on the public.

A study by Kansas State University determined that eutrophication from agricultural runoff costs the United States approximately \$2.2 billion annually in lost property values, lost boating and fishing, increased drinking water treatment and the need for habitat restoration. Since Wisconsin contains 6.7 percent of the surface water in the United States (not including Alaska), we can give a rough estimate of \$147 million lost annually to eutrophication in the state of Wisconsin.

Since the effects of agriculture on water quality are significant, we need to work with the farming community to find solutions. Clean Wisconsin is collaborating with the agricultural community to make sure growth in the industry is done in such a way that will improve water protection policies. However, this is a huge job, and we need your help.

Ways to help protect Wisconsin's water

- Report any manure spills you see to us
- Set up legislative meetings through us
- Help educate your friends and neighbors (we can come and present)
- Send us pictures

contact Melissa Malott
mmalott@cleanwisconsin.org

Wisconsin's Groundwater Needs Protection AND YOU CAN HELP

By Ezra Meyer, Water Specialist



photo by Zach Everson www.flickr.com/photos/zacheverson

For more information on Wisconsin's groundwater and what we're doing to protect it, visit

www.cleanwisconsin.org/campaigns/Groundwater/

Groundwater is one of Wisconsin's most precious natural resources. Lying unseen just beneath our feet, it not only provides the majority of Wisconsinites with their drinking water, but it also maintains the water levels and the high quality of our treasured lakes, rivers and wetlands, which provide important habitat for fish and wildlife and ensure quality outdoor recreational opportunities for us all. Most of the water used for agricultural and industrial purposes in Wisconsin also comes from groundwater. Our way of life, our economy and the health of our environment are all tied to our groundwater.

Thanks in part to our glacial heritage and also due to the healthy levels of rain and snowfall we receive each year, Wisconsin, as a whole, has a large quantity of groundwater. But local and regional overuse in some parts of the state have led to water shortages and major public concern in recent years.

The groundwater aquifers in both southeastern and northeastern Wisconsin have been severely drawn down (in both cases, the water table has dropped several hundred feet!) to the point where serious water quality concerns have emerged and both regions have had to look to nearby Lake Michigan as an alternative source of their water supply. In the capital region around Madison, a smaller drawdown has been measured, which is not yet an indicator of a crisis but is nonetheless a cause for concern.

Local-level concerns include the drying up in recent summers of the Little Plover River in central Wisconsin, which is due in part to the excessive groundwater pumping of growing agricultural operations and communities in the area. Another local concern that has cropped up in several communities across the state is the threat to nearby lakes, streams and wetlands posed by new high capacity wells. Lake Beulah in Walworth County is one such example. There, the proposed new Village of East Troy well – to be located very near to the shore of Lake Beulah – raised concerns for locals and lake users over potential impacts to the lake and adjacent wetlands. The Department of Natural Resources was unable, under existing law, to consider those potential impacts in its process to approve the well. The existing law's failure to address the valid concerns raised by this well led to extensive court battles and unhappiness on both sides.

These issues highlight the problem that although the scientific reality is that groundwater and surface waters are intimately connected, our laws scarcely recognize that connection. Laws regulating surface water use and groundwater use are completely separate, and the laws covering groundwater pumping by large users only address the potential for pumping to impact surface waters in a tiny fraction of potential cases. Specifically, current law fails to consider the potential impacts of groundwater pumping on 99 percent of the state's lakes, 92 percent of rivers and streams, 97 percent of springs and 100 percent of wetlands.

Clean Wisconsin and a coalition of partners in the environmental, hunting and fishing communities are working to change that. Building on our qualified legislative success with a groundwater bill in 2004 – where a small but important set of rivers, lakes and springs were granted some protections – the group plans to work with key legislators to have a bill introduced this legislative session that will afford protections to all lakes, streams, springs and wetlands threatened by significant negative impacts from groundwater pumping. The goal is not to prevent farms, cities and industry in Wisconsin from accessing groundwater – they have that right. The goal is to see to it that the legal reality in Wisconsin reflects the scientific reality that groundwater and our cherished surface waters are intimately connected. Put simply, the point is that no one should have the right to pump groundwater (a shared, publicly owned resource) in such a way that other valued public resources (our surface waters) are damaged.

The other important change we will be pushing for with this group is a requirement that large water users across the state incorporate water conservation measures into their planning and that those water conservation plans be considered as part of state approvals for large groundwater withdrawals; this is reflective of a long-time statewide Clean Wisconsin campaign and important in the context of the Great Lakes Compact. Appropriate measures to conserve and use water more efficiently are the cheapest and most effective way to move toward more sustainable management of our ground and surface water resources and thus avoid reaching crisis, as has happened in the places described above.

Please watch for further developments on this issue and for your chance to play a role in seeing these important changes become reality in the coming year. We hope to see action on this legislation later this summer and into the fall. At that time, we will ask you to voice your support for these changes.

OBAMA COMMITTED TO GREAT LAKES RESTORATION

By Melissa Malott, Water Program Director

President Obama proposed an unprecedented investment of \$475 million in his 2010 Budget to restore the Great Lakes, an effort that is key to creating jobs and growing our economy. Additionally, there could be as much as \$1 billion in other Great Lakes restoration funding provided to the Great Lakes states through increased funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs.

President Obama truly is a Great Lakes President. This investment is a major victory for the Great Lakes and represents the largest, most serious commitment to Great Lakes restoration in a president's budget in history. Along with the participation in Great Lakes Day in Washington, D.C. by the White House Council of Environmental Quality Director Nancy Sutley and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, the President's budget demonstrates that he is serious about his campaign commitment to the Great Lakes. It is clear he understands that unless America invests in the Great Lakes now, these problems will get worse and the price we pay will ultimately be higher.

Today, the health of our Lakes is seriously threatened by problems such as untreated sewage and invasive species. The plan for Great Lakes restoration and economic recovery is a multi-year strategy for tackling the problems, and calls for action to modernize sewage treatment, clean up polluted harbors, restore wetlands and prevent new, unwanted species from invading the lakes. Each of these steps is essential if we are to restore the lakes and revive our economy.

ORGANIZING FOR A STRONG CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY



Activists at the Clean Energy Economy Forum on May 14, 2009 in Green Bay show their support for clean energy with a photo petition to send to their representatives.

Clean Wisconsin needs your help to pass the Strong Clean Energy Economy Bill this year – sign up for our Action Network at www.cleanwisconsin.org/action/index.php to receive updates on our progress and how you can get involved.



Rick Adamski, owner of Full Circle Farms, spoke about the importance of homegrown energy and the steps he has taken to build his sustainable farm. Other panelists at the forum were Ryan Schryver, Clean Wisconsin's grassroots organizer; Paul Linzmeyer, co-founder and partner of Innovation for Sustainable Organizations and Clean Wisconsin board member; Dan Waibel, president of asset management, Orion Energy Systems; and Brother Steve Herro, social concerns director, Catholic Diocese of Green Bay.

UPDATE: Federal Action on Climate Change

By Katy Walter, 1Sky Organizer

Much has happened since Clean Wisconsin starting working on clean energy and climate on the federal level. With the green stimulus package, Obama's historic budget and promising momentum in Congress, we can be proud of the dramatic directional change our country has undergone on clean energy and climate change.

New Leadership

In the early days of the Obama administration, eager environmentalists asking about the President's plans for climate change were told to watch the President's budget. To our delight, his budget spelled out programs for massive investments to develop renewable energy, eliminated billions in subsidies for the oil and gas industry and counted on revenues from a cap and trade program to limit global warming pollution. In his first address to a joint session of Congress, President Obama showed his intentions:

"... to truly transform our economy, protect our and save our planet from the ravages of climate change, we need to ultimately make clean, renewable energy the profitable kind of energy. So I ask this Congress to send me legislation that places a market-based cap on carbon pollution and drives the production of more renewable energy in America."



Clean Wisconsin has partnered with 1Sky, a national campaign, to enact bold federal climate change legislation in 2009. Find out more at www.1sky.org

Congress

Congress was listening. On June 26, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 was passed in the House by a narrow vote of 219 to 212. This comprehensive bill is the first to pass in Congress that limits global warming pollution and would create millions of jobs for American workers in the clean energy industry, save businesses and consumers billions in energy costs through energy efficiency and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

The bill's authors, Rep. Henry Waxman and Rep. Ed Markey, and House Democratic leaders worked hard in the preceding weeks to craft a bill that addressed the concerns of the diverse regions of the U.S. In the end, the bill was weakened to ensure its passage, but still represents a critical first step in addressing climate change. The legislation now moves on to the Senate, where Clean Wisconsin is committed to strengthening and passing it on to the President's desk.

Wisconsin's Delegation

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) deserves special recognition for her hard work representing Wisconsin on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the body that initially crafted the legislation.

Voting in favor of the bill were five Wisconsin Representatives, including; Congressman Ron Kind (D - La Crosse); Congressman Steve Kagen (D - Appleton); Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D - Madison); Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D - Milwaukee); and Congressman Dave Obey (D - Wausau.)

Voting against the bill were Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R - Brookfield); Congressman Paul Ryan (R - Janesville); and Congressman Thomas Petri (R - Fond du Lac.)

Our Role

While we have our leaders working in Washington D.C. to thank for (finally) stepping up, the demand for clean energy solutions has undoubtedly come from the people back home in states like Wisconsin. It is in our hands to ensure that the momentum continues for a clean energy economy.

To learn more about the American Clean Energy and Security Act and stay updated on our work on the federal level, check out www.cleanwisconsin.org

Home Energy Audit

By Mark Redsten, Executive Director

For years, Clean Wisconsin has been advocating for additional funding to promote energy conservation and efficiency. Clean Wisconsin worked to create the Public Benefits Fund, a state fund which supports the Focus on Energy program to encourage energy-efficiency measures and help low-income electric users. We then fought to ensure that this money was not used to balance the state budget, but only used for its original purposes. And now we're advocating to increase the amount of the fund to ensure more and better clean energy projects happen in Wisconsin.

One thing individuals can do to make a difference is perform a home energy audit. Recently, I worked with one company to find opportunities to reduce gas and electric use in my home and to use energy more efficiently. The process was more complex than I originally anticipated, but the end result was very helpful. The auditors found many ways I could reduce my electric and gas usage.

Incentives come from two directions: the state's Focus on Energy program, and federal tax credits. Focus on Energy is ratepayer-funded. To receive these incentives (varying from \$25 to about \$1,000, depending on the level of improvements) the homeowner must first hire a consultant to perform a residential performance evaluation. After work is completed, the consultant returns to perform a follow-up evaluation. The consultant documents changes, which are then submitted to Focus on Energy. The homeowner eventually receives a check in the mail for the sum of the rewards.

For information on the federal tax credits available, see the Federal Economic Recovery Act article below.

To be sure, neither of these routes are ways to get rich, but they do help to alleviate the out-of-pocket sting for homeowners trying to do their part when it comes to energy efficiency.



Jamie Derr, a local farmer and member of the Farmer's Union, spoke about what he is doing to go green on his family farm at the **Homegrown Solutions to Clean Energy, Good Jobs and a Better Future** event in Eau Claire on May 6. He was joined on the panel by Pastor Paul Oppendahl; Rick Becker from Sacred Heart Hospital's Green Team; and Bruce Barker from the Chippewa Valley Technical College.



After the panel discussion, constituents in the Chippewa Valley took action for Wisconsin's clean energy future by signing petitions in support of the Strong Clean Energy Economy bill. You can do the same at

www.cleanwisconsin.org/action/globalwarming/Petition_0209.html

Federal ECONOMIC Recovery Act

(continued from front page)

If you have ever considered making energy-related home improvements that cost some money up front but save money in the long term, 2009 is the year to take action. Whether you install energy-efficient windows or purchase an Energy Star geothermal heat pump, you can potentially receive a \$1,500 tax credit to help offset those up-front costs. Starting in 2009, two different federal tax credits are available to homeowners for making energy-efficiency improvements or installing alternative energy equipment.

For details, see the table below and check out

www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=206875,00.html.

In addition to these federal tax credits, don't forget Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program, described in the "Home Audit" sidebar on this page.

Tax Credit	Projects	Credit Amount
Home Energy-Efficiency Credit	Insulation, energy-efficient windows, heating and/or air-conditioning systems	30 percent of the total cost of qualified property,* with a maximum of \$1,500 per home for projects installed in 2009 or 2010
Home Energy Credit	Solar hot water heaters, geothermal heat pumps, wind turbines	30 percent of the cost of qualified property* installed beginning in 2009

*The standards for products that qualify as energy efficient are higher than they were for the tax credit available in 2007. Homeowners can temporarily rely on current manufacturer certifications or Energy Star labels until updated certification guidelines are announced in summer 2009.

Water Quality Investments for Wisconsin

The Recovery Act will benefit Wisconsin and Wisconsin's water environment significantly in the coming years as it funnels federal monies to beneficial on-the-ground (and in some cases, in-the-water) projects. Through a number of existing federal grant and loan programs administered by various federal agencies, in some cases with the help of state agencies, massive sums of money will flow to an array of Wisconsin water projects.

For example, through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Wisconsin will receive roughly \$106 million which it can provide as low-interest loans to help fund various water quality projects. Historically, both in Wisconsin and at the national level, much of the fund's loans went to wastewater treatment plant construction projects carried out by municipalities, local sewer utilities and regional sewer districts. Recently, though, the EPA has encouraged expansion of the program to also help with polluted runoff reduction projects, urban stormwater controls, wetland restoration and brownfield redevelopment. The Wisconsin DNR's priority list for the coming year contains a mixed bag of wastewater treatment infrastructure projects and stormwater management efforts, all of which go to ensuring clean water in our lakes and rivers, large and small.

Wisconsin will also receive nearly \$38 million through the EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, to help communities improve drinking water infrastructure, including wells and treatment facilities. In addition to helping to create jobs and stimulate the economy, all these efforts will improve or protect the quality of the water we drink and use every day.

The EPA will also be passing significant funds through Wisconsin's DNR to clean up brownfield sites for redevelopment, to clean up leaking underground storage tanks and possibly clean up Superfund hazardous waste sites.

Recovery Act funds will also make their way to Wisconsin through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, namely through programs aimed at reducing flooding impacts on communities and on the environment. Projects will likely include improvements to failing dams designed to protect against catastrophic flooding impacts, as well as easements to prevent floodplain development. This will help to restore the natural functions of floodplain lands and reduce both the quantity and severity of flooding.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Habitat Restoration grant program will also be getting a boost through the Recovery Act, meaning that we will likely see more beneficial projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat along Wisconsin's Great Lakes coastline in the coming years.

Through the programs listed above and many more, the road to economic recovery will include significant investments in improving the infrastructure that helps keep our lakes, rivers and the groundwater most of us in Wisconsin drink, both clean and safe. Energy efficiency and renewable energy will also get a substantial boost in the form of increased federal investments in Wisconsin programs.

MIDWESTERN GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDS STRONG ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

By Elizabeth Wheeler, RE-AMP Coordinator

Eighteen months ago, the Midwestern Governors' Association (MGA) announced the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord and Energy Security and Climate Stewardship Platform. The Platform and Accord were aimed at addressing the problem of climate change through regional regulation of global warming pollution as well as a suite of complementary policies including energy efficiency, renewable energy, biofuels and transportation. The Platform was signed by nine Midwestern governors and the Accord was signed by six; Governor Doyle signed on to both.

Since November 2007, Clean Wisconsin has been involved in helping design policy recommendations for achieving the goals set by MGA. In May, the stakeholders (including environmental advocates, businesses, utilities and climate experts) unanimously recommended action stronger than what is currently proposed at the federal level. The MGA recommendations allow for a reduction of global warming pollution between 18-percent and 20-percent from 2005 levels by 2020, and 80 percent by 2050. Thanks to the hard work of everyone on the advisory groups, this goal is supported by well-designed policy options that ensure the Midwest can achieve its pollution-reduction goal.

No Freebies

One of the strongest recommendations is that the cap and trade policy requires polluters to pay for all their pollution. Industry lobbyists pushed to receive free pollution credits, as opposed to paying for them through an auction. This is an extremely contentious issue among policymakers, environmentalists and industry lobbyists. Requiring polluters to purchase credits provides a critical source of revenue for mitigation, low-income assistance and other projects to assist the transition to clean energy. The Midwest's plan is unique in that it strikes a balance between industries' complaint about uncertainty and environmentalists' concern about requiring polluters to pay – it assesses a fixed fee for a certain amount of credits and an auction for the rest. Once the market for pollution credits is established, the program will switch to 100-percent auction.

In addition to directly regulating global warming pollution, the governors agreed to support the following policies aimed at reducing overall global warming pollution:

- A 2-percent increase per year in energy efficiency region-wide by 2015
- A recommendation for renewable energy buyback rates
- A 30-percent renewable energy standard by 2030
- A low carbon fuel standard that requires a 10-percent reduction of fuel carbon content in 10 years

In October 2009, the Governors will hold a "Jobs and Energy Summit" to recommend adoption of the model policies defined by this process. The MGA Accord recommendations send a strong message to Congress: The Midwest values sound climate policy and is ready to make the transition into a clean energy economy. We will **not** allow our over-dependence on coal get in the way of solving the problem of climate change.



Nearly 100 concerned citizens participated in a discussion about how global warming affects marginalized communities at **A Climate of Change: African Americans, Global Warming and A Just Climate Policy for the U.S.**, an event held in Milwaukee on March 16, 2009. To learn more about policy solutions that work to combat global warming and social inequality while providing the best overall policy for the environment *and* the economy, see the full Climate of Change report at www.ejcc.org/issues/us_policy

ORGANIZING FOR A STRONG CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY



Nia Robinson (left), director of the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative, led the panel. She was joined by Shahn Hayes of Making Milwaukee Green (center) and Jennifer Giegerich of Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (right). Also on the panel were Dan Kohler of Wisconsin Environment and Clean Wisconsin's grassroots organizer Ryan Schryver.

THANK YOU to Departing BOARD MEMBER Guy Wolf

By Mark Redsten, Executive Director

Clean Wisconsin's staff and board would like to thank Guy Wolf for his seven years of service on our Board of Directors and strong support of our mission. Guy has been a lifelong, tireless advocate for the environment, and we are blessed that he helped lead our organization.

Notably, in his Board role, Guy was an important voice for strong public participation, ensuring that our elected and appointed officials heard from thousands of members throughout Western Wisconsin. Additionally, Guy has been an important mentor to many on our staff, including Grassroots Organizer, Ryan Schryver.

Guy was an excellent ambassador for our organization, especially in Southwestern Wisconsin, and he helped recruit many new members to support our cause. We wish Guy all the best as he continues his great work to protect and improve Wisconsin's air and water, and know he will stay a strong part of the Clean Wisconsin family. **Thanks, Guy!**

Thank You to Our Founder, Doug LaFollette

In the last year, we have seen wild fluctuations in the stock market (more down than up, unfortunately), and extremely low interest rates for savings and money markets. Many people are wondering where they can safely invest their money.

Our founder, Doug LaFollette has the answer: Invest in Clean Wisconsin and our state's future. In January, Doug put \$25,000 into a gift annuity for Clean Wisconsin at the Madison Community Foundation. A gift annuity is a safe investment that provides you with reliable income for the rest of your life and will help create an endowment for Clean Wisconsin that will ensure you leave an environmental legacy for your children and grandchildren.

More about Doug LaFollette

Doug LaFollette is a visionary. Back in 1970, when LaFollette was a professor at UW-Parkside, he saw the need for a statewide policy organization working to enact and enforce strong environmental laws in the state of Wisconsin. With his energy and vision, strong support from volunteers and fledgling staff and a mimeograph machine in his living room, Doug created what is now one of the largest statewide environmental groups in the nation. Doug currently serves as Wisconsin's Secretary of State and is an active outdoor adventurer and enthusiastic environmental steward.

"Protecting and improving Wisconsin's air and water quality are long battles. We need to arm the next generation with our knowledge and give them the resources to continue what we have begun. I created a \$20,000 gift annuity for Clean Wisconsin in 2007, and it turned out to be such a sound investment that I followed it up with another \$25,000 this year. It is my hope that others will do the same." — Doug LaFollette

More about Charitable Gift Annuities: A charitable gift that pays you back

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA) are planned gifts that provide a donor or donors with a stream of income during their lifetime(s), and a favorite charity with a stream of income in perpetuity. Although savings, CD and money market interest rates remain low, and many companies have cut their dividend rates, CGA rates remain robust for charitably inclined individuals who are over 60 years old. A CGA is a good tool for people who are seeking a steady stream of income for life and are also interested in making a gift to charity. It offers an immediate tax deduction for the charitable portion of the gift, based on rates prescribed by the IRS.

If you set up a CGA for Clean Wisconsin at the Madison Community Foundation, the Foundation agrees to make

payments to you (and a surviving spouse) for the remainder of your life, at a guaranteed rate of return. You can choose to receive payments as often as quarterly, and a portion of every payment is tax-free. Upon the donor's death, the remaining assets are added to Clean Wisconsin's endowment fund. CGAs can be created with an irrevocable gift of \$20,000 or more. Below is an example of CGA rates.

Donor Age	Annuity Rate
60	5.0%
65	5.3%
70	5.7%
75	6.3%
80	7.1%
85	8.1%

If you are interested in setting up a charitable gift annuity to benefit Clean Wisconsin, or to discuss other planned giving options, please contact Brian Kelly

608-251-7020, ext. 23
bkelly@cleanwisconsin.org

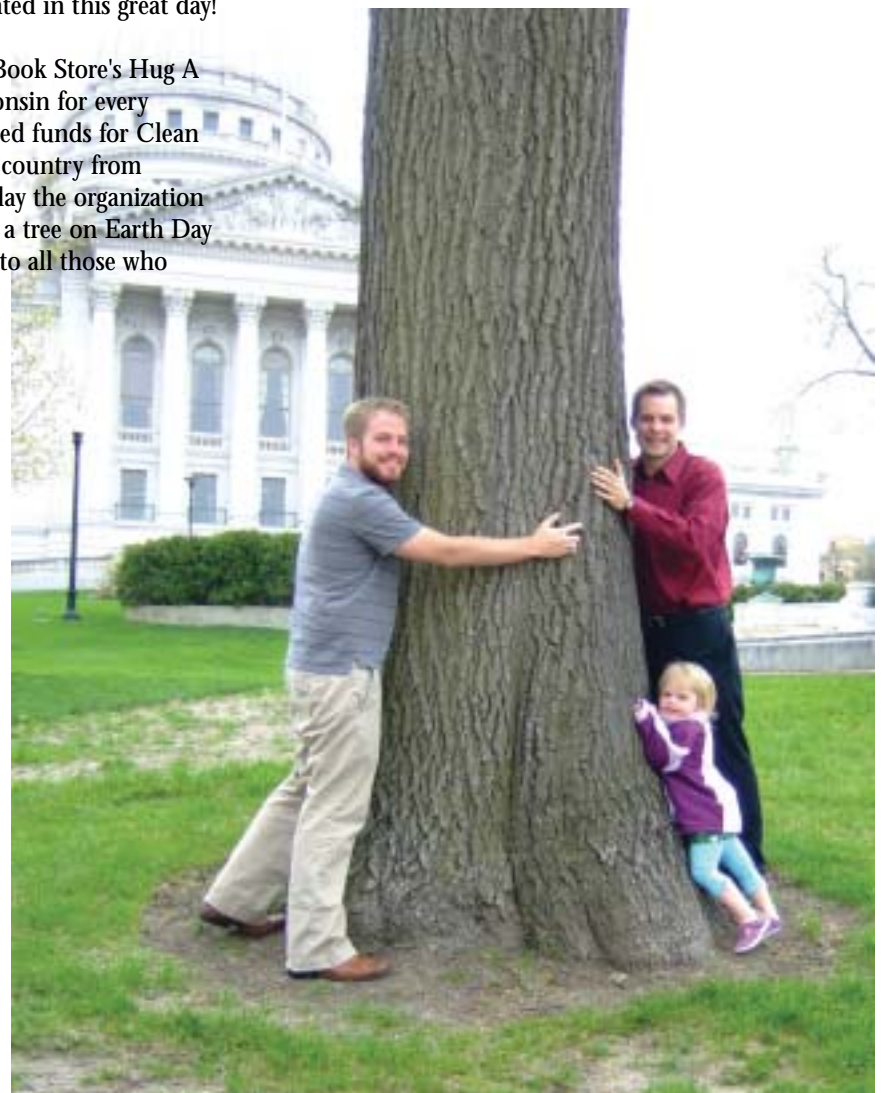
Small-Scale Events Lead to LARGE-SCALE VICTORIES

By David Vitse, Office Administrator

Lines of customers weaved in and out of the produce section, the bakery and the deli on Thursday, April 16 in support of Clean Wisconsin for Whole Foods Spring 5% selection day. Thanks to our members, the Whole Foods staff and the neighboring community, an impressive \$4,000 (five percent of the store's total sales for the day) was raised to help support our organization's clean water and clean energy programs, just in time for Earth Day 2009. As executive director Mark Redsten said, "Partnering with a local business that shares values and goals such as promoting sustainable farming and organic agriculture, maintaining water quality and producing renewable energy within Wisconsin makes this event even more special."

In addition to the fundraising, Clean Wisconsin staff members educated shoppers on Clean Wisconsin's campaigns, discussed personal environmental interests and handed out information on Wisconsin's most pressing environmental issues. Global warming intern Shaina Kilcoyne said, "Directly interacting with concerned citizens is the best way to listen to the needs of our members and to renew Clean Wisconsin's vigor to protect the environment in which they live, work and play." Based on these successes, Clean Wisconsin looks forward to working with Whole Foods and other local businesses in the future to build a better, greener Wisconsin. Thank you to all of you who participated in this great day!

Complementing the 5% donation day, Clean Wisconsin raised additional funds at the University Book Store's Hug A Tree event on the Library Mall in Madison. The University Book Store donated \$1 to Clean Wisconsin for every person who hugged a tree on the Library Mall. This Earth Day event not only garnered much needed funds for Clean Wisconsin but also increased our organization's media visibility by gaining news reports across the country from Chicago to Los Angeles. "This event was fun, educational and supported Clean Wisconsin on the day the organization was founded 39 years ago," said Ezra Meyer, Clean Wisconsin water specialist. He added, "Planting a tree on Earth Day is important but loving the ones we already have by hugging them is just as important!" Thank you to all those who participated in this enjoyable Earth Day event.



Profile of Legislative Leadership

SENATOR ROBERT COWLES



By Amber Meyer Smith, Program Director

Senator Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay) has long been a champion of renewable energy and energy efficiency issues in the Legislature. Senator Cowles is also known for his ability to balance environmental protection with business needs and has guided sound environmental/business policy for the State of Wisconsin. As the past Chairman of the Environment & Energy Committee, Senator Cowles has been recognized by numerous environmental groups for his leadership.

"I came to the Legislature in a time when acid rain was still an issue," Cowles remarked. "I'm proud that we've come a long way since then and can focus on how the promotion of things like renewable power can help create green jobs in these tough economic times."

Cowles lists some of his proudest accomplishments as being able to create bipartisan support for passage of the Clean Energy Act of 2006 and the passage of the Great Lakes Compact in 2008. The Clean Energy Act mandated that Wisconsin increase its renewable usage to 10 percent by 2015 to reduce our state's dependence on out-of-state energy. Cowles was also a leading architect of the Great Lakes Compact, protecting our most precious water resource for future generations, and has promoted the regulation of ballast water from the shipping industry in order to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

"Our Great Lakes are a source of jobs and wealth to Wisconsin," Cowles commented. "Likewise, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency is bringing new businesses to our state."

Before being elected in 1982, Cowles worked in the alternative energy field. He currently serves as a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail. Cowles is also a member of the National Conference of Environmental Legislators, Trout Unlimited and the Friends of the Fox River Trail.

Clean Wisconsin looks forward to working with Senator Cowles in his continued leadership on energy and water issues during this legislative session.

ASK DAVID

By David Vitse, Office Administrator



Thank you for the interesting questions, thoughtful replies and constructive criticism you sent in response to the first two editions of this column. Please continue to send your e-mails, letters and notes to either address below.

Dear David,
My television, DVD player, VCR and wireless router are all plugged in to a single surge protector and power strip. Should I turn off the power strip or simply unplug it from the wall at night or when I leave the house? Second, will unplugging my wireless router at night negatively affect it? Lastly, will unplugging my laptop weaken the battery?

Joan B.

Joan, excellent questions that I should have addressed more clearly in my last column. Unplugging the surge protector from the wall entirely is the sure-fire way to keep electricity from flowing to your electronics. However, simply turning off your surge protector is also very effective in reducing phantom load and your electricity bill. In effect, your surge protector is shielding your electronics from sudden energy pulses, your wallet from lost money and the environment from dangerous CO₂ emissions.

To deftly and swiftly answer your last two questions, your wireless router will be fine, although you may have to wait a few minutes for it to come back up and it may take your computer a few extra minutes to recognize your wireless network because it has been turned off. Excessively turning your laptop on and off may have negative effects on your battery, but simply unplugging it from the wall or having it connected to a turned off surge protector should not do damage to your laptop's battery.

Dear David,
What laundry detergents are environmentally friendly?

Collette B.

Although you have a single-layered question, Collette, I am going to give you a multi-layered response.

Clorox has a line of cleaning detergents called the *Greenworks* line that they tout as being environmentally friendly. You can review their information and documents at www.greenworksexpresskit.com.

In addition, Seventh Generation makes quality products and is an environmentally friendly company. You can review their information at www.seventhgeneration.com. According to their Web site, if every household in the U.S. replaced just one 100-ounce bottle of 2x ultra petroleum-based liquid laundry detergent with Seventh Generation's version, we could save 460,000 barrels of oil, enough to heat and cool 27,000 U.S. homes for a year. I am sure that you can purchase these two products at your local supermarket.

For a more homemade solution, here are recipes for a liquid laundry detergent and an environmentally friendly all-purpose cleaner that the staff contributed.

Liquid Detergent

Water
 1 bar Fels-Naptha soap, grated
 5 gallon bucket
 1 cup washing soda
 4 1/2 gallons water
 Place grated soap in a small saucepan and cover with water. Heat on low until dissolved. Fill bucket with hot water, and add soap. Stir to combine. Add 1 cup washing soda and mix well. As it cools it will thicken. May be used immediately. Use 1-2 cups per load.

From *Talking Dirty Laundry with the Queen of Clean* by Linda Cobb

Household Cleaner

2 Tbsp. vinegar
 1 tsp. borax
 1/4 cup liquid soap or 1/8 cup liquid detergent
 10 to 15 drops of essential oils (lemon or lavender)

In a 16-ounce spray bottle, mix the vinegar with the borax. Fill the rest of the bottle with very hot water, preferably purified or distilled. Shake until the borax is dissolved. Add the liquid soap liquid detergent. To scent, add 10 to 15 drops of essential oil. (It is important to follow the order so the ingredients don't clump).

From *Clean House, Clean Planet* by Karen Logan.

Fels-Naptha® Laundry Soap Bar: Made by the Dial Soap Company; any store that carries Dial should be able to get it for you. If they carry it, it will be found in the bar soap or laundry soap aisle at your regular supermarket. It is usually on the bottom shelf. If you can't find it in your area, try Ivory Soap instead.

Super Washing Soda: Washing Soda can be found on the laundry detergent aisle of your supermarket. It comes in a 55-ounce yellow box. Baking soda SHOULD NOT be used in place of washing soda. They are completely different products, although they are both made by Arm & Hammer.

Borax: Can be found in the detergent aisle of your local grocery store.

One last but very important consideration is to use cold water during the washing cycle as well as to use a clothesline to dry your garments as often as possible. As heating up anything requires a great deal of energy, using cold water and line-drying will provide significant environmental benefits for the earth and lower your energy bill.

Please send questions to:
 Ask David
 C/O Clean Wisconsin
 122 State Street Suite 200
 Madison, WI 53703
dvitse@cleanwisconsin.org

Enviro-SCRAMBLE

by Clean Wisconsin's staff

Unscramble each of the five scrambled words below, filling each space with one letter. Then unscramble the enclosed letters to answer the joke below.

WRNEE _ _ [] _ _ []
 NITSAUS _ _ [] _ [] _ _
 EDNEFD _ _ _ _ _ []
 TELNAP [] _ _ _ _ _
 MOONCEY _ _ _ _ _ [] _

Why did the wetland specialist come home late for dinner three nights in a row?

Answer: She was " _ _ _ _ _ " at work.

Answers: Renew, sustain, defend