



PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WISCONSIN

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

FUTURE OF ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

## PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WISCONSIN

PSR Wisconsin (PSR WI) recognizes that the two most significant threats today to human survival are nuclear weapons and climate change. Our members are also deeply concerned about the health consequences from growing contamination of our environment by toxic chemicals and pollution. We rely on the medical and public health expertise of our members to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons, to reverse our climate change trajectory and to stop further degradation of our environment.

## WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

WEHN is a group of healthcare professionals collaborating with Wisconsin environmental organizations and advocates. We work to inform healthcare professionals, the public, and policy makers about the effects of environmental toxins and climate change on public health. WEHN develops and promotes clinical tools, offers environmental health education for public and healthcare professionals and advocates for strong environmental regulation to protect human health. WEHN strives to bring a health voice to environmental issues. *WEHN is a program of PSR Wisconsin.*

## ADDRESS

720 Hill Street  
Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53705

A detailed list of PSR WI activities and financial reports are available upon request.

## CONTACT

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[wehnmail@gmail.com](mailto:wehnmail@gmail.com)  
(608) 232-9945

PSR WI is a chapter affiliate of the national organization, Physicians for Social Responsibility.

PSR WI is a proud member of Community Shares of Wisconsin.

## WEBSITES

[www.psr-wisconsin.org](http://www.psr-wisconsin.org)  
[www.wehnonline.org](http://www.wehnonline.org)

Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin is a 501(c)3 organization and registered as a charitable organization with the State of Wisconsin. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



overview of  
**2021**



**435**  
for WEHN's annual Health and Environment Series in February and March

**REGISTERED**



**MEDIA APPERANCES**

**22**



mentions in news media: from interviews and press conferences to op-ed's and letters to the editor

**100**

**ATTENDED**

Lanterns for Peace in August to commemorate the WWII bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki



**SPEAKING EVENTS**

**17**



PSR WI & WEHN members were invited to speak and share expertise

**2**

**LEGAL ACTIONS**

legal initiatives to uphold laws and legislation that protect public health and the Wisconsin environment



what is coming in  
**2022**

Save the dates for our annual Health and Environment Series!

This series will be virtual and over four separate evenings.

- **February 2, 2022** at 7:00pm CT featuring Vijay Limaye, PhD. Dr. Limaye will be speaking on health impacts of extreme heat and how to look at its cost as well as the the costs of intervention vs inaction.
- **February 16, 2022** at 7:00pm CT, featuring Trish Koman, PhD. Dr. Koman will discuss how clinicians can get more involved in policy implementation to provide data about health effects or exposure and accomplish primary prevention.
- **March 2, 2022** at 7:00pm CT, Speaker To Be Announced
- **March 16, 2022** at 7:00pm CT featuring Mary Ward, PhD. Dr. Ward's research focuses on environmental and occupational causes of cancer, with emphasis on drinking water contaminants, pesticides and other chemicals in relation to types of cancers.

*Stop the license extension of Point Beach Nuclear Reactors - [www.closepointbeachnuclear.org](http://www.closepointbeachnuclear.org)*

- **The public can make comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) until January 3, 2022 (visit the above website for details)**
- The state water discharge permit (WPDES permit) will be released in 2022 and there will be a public comment period following the release
- Continue our education and advocacy efforts as well as developing connections with the communities near the reactors

*Renewable energy and climate change advocacy - [www.wehnonline.org](http://www.wehnonline.org)*

- Work to increase renewable energy, energy storage systems and energy conservation while working to end the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure in Wisconsin
- Provide education on the health effects of climate change and encourage health professionals to take action

*Nuclear weapons abolition and nuclear security - [www.psr-wisconsin.org](http://www.psr-wisconsin.org)*

- Continue support for the City of Madison to pass a Back from the Brink resolution
- Collaborate with Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin to stop the basing of nuclear weapons capable F35 fighter jets in Madison, WI

*Coalitions and collaboration with other organizations*

- Continue serving on the No Coal Coalition, Wisconsin Energy Foundation State Group, Wisconsin Climate Table, PFASFree Wisconsin, and more!
- Maintain these partnerships and increase outreach through combined efforts



# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH & ADVOCATING FOR A CLEANER, SAFER WISCONSIN IN 2021

## Moving on climate change action



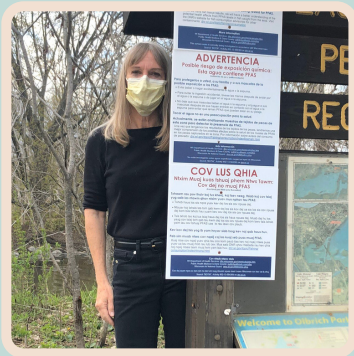
We participated in two state-wide coalitions focused on a future without coal, stopping the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure, and increasing renewable energy in WI. PSR WI submitted comments on the Public Service Commission's "Roadmap to Zero" docket. This year we co-hosted a webinar with Sierra Club WI to advocate for the halt of plans for Liquefied Natural Gas infrastructure near Ixonia, WI. On August 23, Claire Gervais, MD, WEHN co-president, spoke on WORT about the public health case against Line 3. Andrew Lewandowski, DO, WEHN steering committee member, co-authored a study on patient and family responses to climate change counseling.

## Supporting nuclear weapons abolition & nuclear security



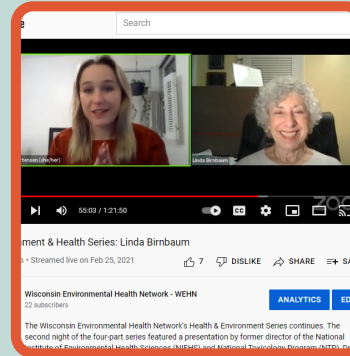
On August 6, PSR WI hosted our annual family friendly event. Lanterns for Peace, with close to 100 people in attendance. The event sought to commemorate the lives lost in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings 76 years ago and pledge that such nuclear attacks never happen again. In 2021, PSR WI organizationally signed onto several letters urging elected officials to reduce military and nuclear weapons spending. We supported Safe Skies Clean Water's effort to stop the basing of the nuclear weapons capable F35 fighter jets in Madison, WI.

## Protecting public health from PFAS exposure



Led by Beth Neary, MD, WEHN co-president, WEHN educated the public about the health consequences of PFAS, also called 'forever chemicals'. We submitted comments and participated in public meetings supporting PFAS drinking water standards. Then with the help of Midwest Environmental Advocates, WEHN submitted an amicus brief in a lawsuit attempting to undermine the Spills Law, a critical public health protection for clean-up of PFAS and other toxic chemicals. Dr. Neary was quoted and interviewed by the media, bringing attention to the serious human health effects of PFAS and the need for immediate action to prevent further PFAS exposure.

## Providing environmental health education



WEHN hosted their annual environment and health series with 435 people registered! This was a 4-night virtual event on environmental toxins (Arlene Blum, PhD), PFAS (Linda Birnbaum, PhD), fluoride research (Christine Till, PhD) and endocrine disrupting chemicals (Leo Trasande, MD). In October, WEHN co-hosted a webinar on the effects of coal on health. In November, Tucker Burch, PhD and Mark Borchardt, PhD discussed their research on manure contamination and illness in Kewaunee County, WI. In 2021, WEHN Steering Committee members spoke to medical and public audiences about prenatal health, PFAS contamination, climate change effects and activism, and more.

## Opposing the license renewal of Point Beach Nuclear Reactors

Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant (PBNP) has two reactors and is located near Two Rivers, WI on the shores of Lake Michigan. NextEra Energy has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a subsequent license extension of 20 years for both reactor units. We are concerned by the thermal pollution to Lake Michigan; entrainment and entrapment of aquatic organisms; aging and weakening structures of the reactors; the cost to ratepayers for this energy; increase of lake level fluctuation and severe storms due to climate change that could affect PBNP operations; and the risk of accidents which places the drinking water of millions in danger. The surrounding communities of Green Bay, Kewaunee, Appleton and Sheboygan, and all the land surrounding the reactors are also in harm's way.

We filed a petition to the NRC asking for a hearing on our four legal contentions regarding the license extension. Terry Lodge, our attorney, argued our case to have a hearing on June 22. The NRC denied our petition and is reviewing our appeal. We were granted standing, the right to participate in these proceedings, by the NRC because of 10 local intervenors that voiced their concerns - this is a significant accomplishment! On July 31, Point Beach Nuclear Reactor Unit 1 was shut down due to mechanical failures. We requested the NRC send an Augmented Inspection Team to evaluate the root causes and to release the findings to the public. More information and action alerts available at [www.closepointbeachnuclear.org](http://www.closepointbeachnuclear.org).



from the executive director

# A YEAR'S OVERVIEW



As we faced another year of a global pandemic in 2021, PSR WI and WEHN remained hopeful that Wisconsin could be a safer, cleaner & healthier place for all. Our program work developed and expanded in this past year. We were able to submit an amicus, or 'friend of the court', brief in the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) v Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lawsuit over the Spills Law, a critical environmental health protection. We filed a legal petition for a hearing on the license extension application for Point Beach Nuclear Reactors. Our team of volunteers were able to host & participate in educational webinars, provide public input on state and federal proposals and bring a health perspective to various environmental coalitions. I am truly uplifted by the progress that occurred this year to protect public health and future generations. **PSR WI and WEHN will continue this momentum into 2022 with your help! Please consider making a donation to support our work for 2022 and beyond.**

Thank you and wishing you a Happy New Year!

## LEADERSHIP

### PSR WISCONSIN BOARD

Bruce Barrett, MD  
Ann Behrmann, MD (Treasurer)  
Mary Doherty  
Claire Gervais, MD  
Rebecca Patterson  
Karin Ringler, PhD  
Paula Rogge, MD  
Amy Schulz, RN (President)

### WEHN STEERING COMMITTEE

Ann Behrmann, MD  
Susan Davidson, MD  
Jed Downs, MD  
Jenny Draeger, NP  
Claire Gervais, MD (Co-president)  
Andrew Lewandowski, DO  
Beth Neary, MD (Co-president)

We welcome new faces, ideas and energy to the PSR WI and WEHN teams. If you are interested in joining our leadership teams, please email Hannah at [info@psrwisconsin.org](mailto:info@psrwisconsin.org) or [wehnmail@gmail.com](mailto:wehnmail@gmail.com).

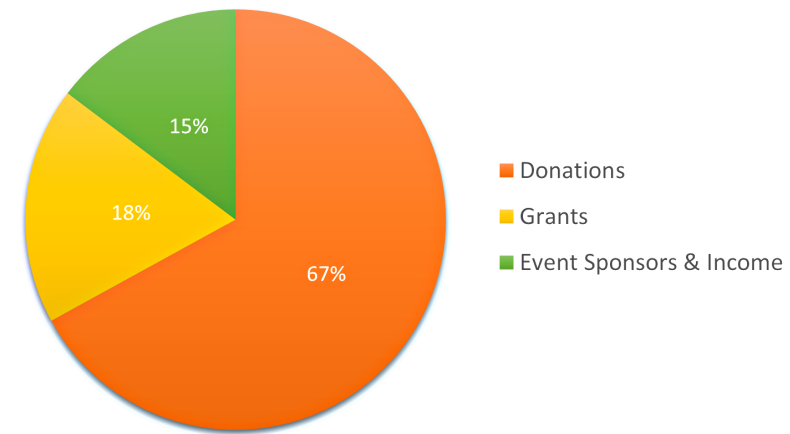
2021

# NUMBERS & STATISTICS

In 2021, donations and grants funded our Executive Director at 25 hours per week as well as two paid-internships that were focused on environmental health and climate change.

\*PSR National has a revenue sharing formula, calculated as a flat percentage rate of 5% of the total gross revenue (with certain restrictions) to PSR National from donors in a chapter's area. For PSR WI, our area covers the state of Wisconsin and in 2021 we expect to receive approximately \$750 from revenue sharing. PSR National no longer offers grants to chapters.

### Income 2021



### Expenses 2021

