



Waukesha County Environmental Action League
Protecting Waukesha County's Natural Resources since 1978.
E-Newsletter October 2022

Plastic: It's more than just litter—it's a slow-motion oil spill

Latest updates on exhuming Boundary Road Superfund Site, Expanding Orchard Ridge Landfill in Menomonee Falls

Charlene Lemoine

WEAL submitted public comments to the Wisconsin



DNR and EPA on Waste Management of Wisconsin's (WMWI) Orchard Ridge Landfill, Southern Unit Landfill Expansion Feasibility Report on 5/28/2021. The comments included a request to allow the formation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the

Boundary Road Landfill (BRL) which is a federally designated Superfund site. [The EPA website](#) states: "A CAG is designed to serve as the focal point for the exchange of information among the local community and EPA, the State regulatory agency, and other pertinent Federal agencies involved in cleanup of the Superfund site. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. A CAG can assist EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site. It offers EPA a unique opportunity to hear-and seriously consider-community preferences for site cleanup and remediation."

On 6/07/2021 the EPA informed WEAL the DNR is the lead agency for the BRL and our request was forwarded to the regional supervisor for Community Involvement Coordinators and the national CAG coordinator for review.

Over the past 16 months, WEAL has emailed and/or called the DNR several times asking when a public notice would be issued to solicit interest in the formation of a CAG. Ultimately, the DNR decided to issue one public notice on



7/31/2022 that included an opportunity for individuals and stakeholder groups interested in forming a CAG to submit comments expressing interest. The public notice also offered an opportunity to provide comments for the upcoming Fifth Five-Year Review Report for the BRL Superfund site. WEAL submitted comments supporting a CAG and provided comments on the Fifth Five Year Review. As of 10/05/2022 WEAL has not been notified regarding the status of the CAG request or a response to comments for the Five-Year Review.

WEAL is not aware of any individual or group receiving notification of a DNR decision.

On 9/29/2022 the DNR finalized the [Fifth Five-Year Review Report](#) for the BRL Superfund site.

The report states: "the responses to the public notice also expressed support of, or interest in, forming a CAG due to the proposed project. WDNR and EPA value these responses and continue to coordinate on-site activities." WEAL emailed the DNR on 9/29/2022 asking if enough statements of interest were submitted to support forming a CAG. WEAL also asked when the DNR would notify interested parties.



WEAL has not received a response. When WEAL has more information on CAG status, it will be posted on the WEAL website at

www.weal.org.

Additionally, the DNR received an Addendum (#1) to the Plan of Operation from WMWI on 9/16/2022 and a second Addendum (#2) from WMWI on 9/30/2022.

WEAL is in the process of reviewing the addenda which will also be posted on the WEAL website.

The three pictures are different angles of Orchard Ridge Landfill. These photos do not include the Boundary Road Landfill portion which is a flat grassed area behind trees that cannot be seen very well from the street.



Zero Waste Waukesha County at farmers' markets

Laurie Longtine

Over the summer and early fall, WEAL took its Zero Waste Waukesha County message on the road—to farmers' markets around the county. We met a lot of great people, raised some money, handed out seed packets to youngsters and had a lot of wonderful conversations about Zero Waste. One more date remains on the calendar: Oct. 15 when the Zero Waste display will be at the New Berlin Farmers' Market from 8 – noon. Stop in and say hello, meet a WEAL board member or two, and take home a seed packet, a couple of bulbs or a plant. We look forward to meeting new members or saying hi to old friends.

Also: If you are a member of a group that would like to hear a Zero Waste presentation or become more involved with Zero Waste Waukesha County, please let us know via the website or Facebook page: www.WEAL.org We'll gladly set up a date and time.



All three pictures are from Brookfield farmers' market

WEAL joins campaign to update municipal waste combustion standards

Charlene Lemoine

On 10.4.2022, WEAL joined 273 local, state/regional, and national groups signing a [letter to the White House Council on Environmental Quality](#) (CEQ) urging the CEQ to direct the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update municipal waste combustion standards and close various loopholes that have allowed a number of waste burning incinerators to operate without the most up-to-date pollution control systems. The letter also includes recommendations for specific changes the EPA should undertake.

Cost-effective Zero Waste Systems able to cut emissions by 1.4 billion tons

Charlene Lemoine

The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) held a worldwide [virtual webinar](#) on 10.4.2022 to launch a new groundbreaking report entitled [Zero Waste to Zero Emissions – How Reducing Waste is a Climate Game Changer](#). The report demonstrates how implementing cost-effective Zero Waste Systems in cities around the world can cut total emissions from the waste sector by more than 1.4 billion tons, which corresponds taking all vehicles in the U.S. off the road for a year. WEAL recommends viewing the webinar and reading the report.



WEAL in action—early Spring to Fall 2022



Mary Hiebl, Nancy Gloe work the weeds out of a raised bed at Waukesha Youth Garden



Nancy Gloe readies a second raised bed at Youth Garden



Mulch covering was the last step before seeding.



Fay and Terry Amerson tackle invasives in Waukesha's Oak Savanna



Zero Waste display at Brookfield Farmers'



Board member Rose Reinders looks on as a customer signs Skip the Straw campaign.

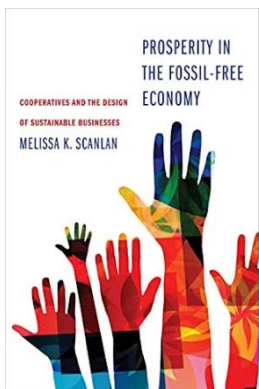


At New Berlin Farmers' Market, two youngsters sign on to Zero Waste's Skip the Straw campaign



Nancy Gloe and Angela Reifenberg direct a volunteer where to empty the wheelbarrow full of invasives gathered from the savanna.





COME JOIN US

Thursday November 10, 2022 7PM

WEAL SPEAKER'S EVENT

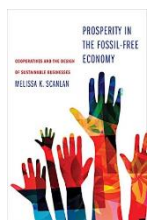
New Berlin Public Library (15105 Library Ln)

Melissa Scanlan, Professor in Water Policy & Director of the Center for Water Policy UW-M

Author of: *Prosperity in the Fossil-Free Economy*

We stand at a history-making moment. If governments fail to align economic stimulus with mitigating the climate emergency, climate risk and suffering will intensify.

Moving the world off fossil fuels and powering our system on renewables requires governments to design economic stimulus programs that reject business as usual in our climate-changing emissions. We have the knowledge, technology and global connections to create a more just, democratic, and environmentally sustainable world.



During her presentation, Melissa will explain, demonstrate, and cite case studies of pathbreakers who have taken climate action and advanced sustainable development. She'll also overview pathways to environmental sustainability, consumer cooperatives, decarbonization and renewable energy. You'll walk away from her presentation with a new awareness of possibilities to create a prosperous fossil-free economy. PLEASE JOIN US.

Event is FREE and open to the public

Sponsored by Waukesha County Environmental Action League

Check website for updates:

www.WEAL.org

