

***Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter
2015-2016 Legislative Scorecard***



Protecting Wisconsin's Air, Water and Wild Places
<http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org>

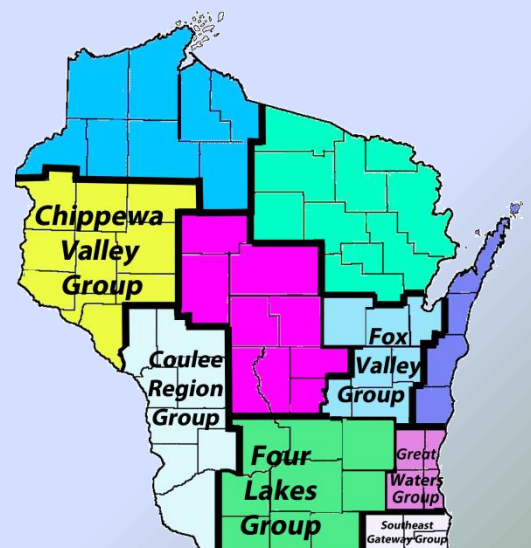


The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter is your statewide voice for the nation's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. Our members include 15,000 of your friends and neighbors located throughout Wisconsin, following the footsteps of legendary Wisconsin conservationists, including Sierra Club Founder John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Gaylord Nelson. Inspired by Wisconsin's beautiful lakes, forests, and other natural features, we work together to protect our communities and the planet.

The Priority Issues that the John Muir Chapter focuses on are grouped in two areas:

- 1. Our Wild Wisconsin:** protecting Wisconsin's unique habitats, forested areas, hills, lakes, and rivers for all to enjoy, use, and drink.
 - **Protecting Wisconsin's Waterways:** raising concerns about water policy and protecting Wisconsin's rivers, drinking water and the Great Lakes. Wisconsin's water resources are vast, but vulnerable.
 - **Native Forests and Wildlife Protection:** advocating to restore Wisconsin's proud tradition of science-based natural resource management. Recently, Wisconsin's natural resource management has become politicized and is putting our forests and wildlife, like the endangered gray wolf, at risk.
- 2. Stopping Climate Change:** curbing climate change emissions in Wisconsin from the biggest sources of carbon dioxide:
 - **Beyond Oil through Clean Transportation:** working to prevent additional tar sands oil pipelines that jeopardize Wisconsin's most important waterways from being built and to better balance transportation funding in the state to support non-driving modes.
 - **Beyond Coal to Clean Energy:** working to transition Wisconsin's coal plants to clean energy that will create family-supporting jobs and create cleaner air for all in Wisconsin.

Local Groups: Our individual members are the heart of the John Muir Chapter. We are organized into six Local Groups, each with its own officers, activities, conservation priorities, programs and activities. We work together on statewide and regional issues, and each group selects a delegate who represents the group members as a voting member of the Chapter Executive Committee.



The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2015-16 Legislative Recap

The 2015-16 Legislative Session was filled with attacks on local control and science — much of which was symptomatic of the pay-to-play culture that has been established in the Legislature. Numerous bills, unfortunately, helped specific special interests at the expense of air and water protections, jeopardizing the health of people across Wisconsin.

The two-year state budget that was proposed in early February of last year was the focus the Legislature for the first part of the session, and set the stage for the rest of the session. The proposed budget by Governor Scott Walker was egregious, cutting Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff, especially in the science division, removing all funding for state parks, freezing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship fund, bonding almost \$1 billion in transportation funding for highway expansions and much, much more. Luckily, the Joint Finance (or budget) Committee fixed some of the worst provisions of the budget, but they also threw in new causes for concern. The result was a hodgepodge of small improvements, overshadowed by numerous assaults on air, water and local control.

The entire legislative session seemed to follow the same pattern: horrendous bills that were introduced and passed with only slight “improvements.” This still resulted in awful changes to air and water protections and a series of bills that paid back donors and fundamentally attacked the environment and democracy.



The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2015-16 Legislative Session Recap:

Wisconsin's State Budget: a Mixed Bag

The proposed 2-year State Budget by Governor Walker was filled with destructive attacks, ridiculous environmental onslaught, the removal of some of our most fundamental protections. Luckily, the Joint Finance (or budget) Committee (JFC) fixed some of the worst provisions of the budget, but they also threw in new causes for concern. What we ended up with was a hodgepodge of small improvements, over shadowed by numerous assaults on our air, water, and local control. As a result, the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter opposed the budget.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY.

STATUS: PASSED and signed into law as 2015 Wisconsin Act 55.

The Good

Natural Resources Board (NRB)

Authority Rescued: Governor Walker had proposed reducing the authority of the NRB. This would have concentrated even more power within his administration, reduced the authority of the Conservation Congress and given the DNR Secretary, currently Cathy Stepp, sole authority over public land sales and purchases. Luckily, the JFC eliminated this proposal in the budget.

Transportation Audit Ordered: The JFC added a recommendation that the Joint Audit Committee (JAC) conduct [an audit](#) to explore how the Department of Transportation makes highway construction decisions, including traffic projection forecasting. Governor Walker vetoed this; however, [the JAC](#) moved this audit forward.

I-94 Expansion Paused: The JFC [removed](#) the 'enumeration' or green-lighting of the [unnecessary I-94 expansion](#). This was big step in showing the need to curb our spending on unnecessary highway expansions and to invest in our local communities.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

Saved: Despite Governor Walker's proposal to freeze Stewardship land purchases until 2028, [the JFC removed this moratorium](#) and restored partial funding, stating that any revenue gained by the sale of land could be used to purchase new property. Governor Walker vetoed this provision.

Utility Watchdog Funding Saved: The JFC [added a provision](#) in the budget that eliminated funding for citizen watchdog groups to intervene and protect ratepayers. Luckily, Governor Walker vetoed this proposal.

The Bad

Attacks on Forestry Program: The budget reduces oversight of the Managed Forest Land program by cutting 4 full time staff and eliminating the requirement for DNR staff to approve cutting notices. It also undermines reviews that document rare or declining species, high-quality or rare natural communities, and unique or significant natural features prior to timber sales. The JFC also increased the number of acres open to forest production by 9%.

Cuts to Wisconsin State Parks: The budget cuts funding for the state parks by almost 30% and increases fees and permits—and the burden on families to connect with nature. In this discussion, we also learned of the [possibility of selling naming rights for our state parks](#)

Cuts to Recycling: the budget [cut recycling grants to local communities by 22%](#); these and previous cuts provide only about half the funding for recycling that was provided in 2008.

Repeal of Complete Streets: this [program](#) requires all new state-funded roads be built complete with bike lanes and sidewalks. This ensures that all users are able to safely use the road.

Elimination of Bike and Walking Funding: The budget removed all [state funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program](#), which funds programs like bike lanes, sidewalks, Safe Routes to School, etc.

Elimination of cost-effective capacity grants to nonprofits: these [grants](#) include funding for groups like the Wisconsin County Forest Association and the River Alliance to support projects like maintenance of the Ice Age Trail. Though the JFC restored 90% of this funding, Governor Walker eliminated all funding with a line-item veto.

The Disastrous

Clean Water Cuts: The budget eliminated funding for the Fertilizer Research Council, innovative manure management studies, county Soil and Water Conservation Departments who work with farmers to reduce runoff pollution, and reductions for nutrient management plans. These cuts increase threats from water pollution caused by factory farms. Originally, some cuts were much larger, but the JFC restored some of the cuts.

Removing Local Protections on Pipeline: a secretive, last-minute motion snuck in items that will pave the way for Enbridge to flow more and more tar sands oil through Wisconsin. One prohibits Counties from requiring insurance for pipeline operators as clear retribution after Dane County required that Enbridge purchase insurance to protect the county from a tar sands pipeline spill.

Expanding Eminent Domain for Pipeline Companies: Historically, only corporations and the government were allowed to use eminent domain. An amendment changed it to 'business entity', expanding this authority. An open-records request by Wisconsin Public Radio showed that Enbridge was behind this change.

Local Control on Water: The JFC added an amendment that prohibits counties from adopting stronger protections than the state minimum on shore lands to protect water.

Staffing Cuts to Department of Natural Resources (DNR): The budget severely cut the DNR, resulting in [66 staff position cuts](#), with targets to the Bureau of Scientific Services and Communication and Education. These and other consistent attacks on science will be felt for decades to come.

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2015-16 Legislative Session Recap

Clean Air Protection Rollbacks

Air pollution can cause respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, and a slew of other health, environmental, and quality of life problems. It is a fundamental right that everyone be able to breathe clean air. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency are responsible for considering different air pollutants and creating rules that protect them. Wisconsin's air is just starting to get cleaner and better; we need to be continuing to make improvements to ensure all have the ability to live their lives with the devastating impacts of dirty air. However, similar to the attacks to our water protections, the state legislature worked to rollback our air protections.

AB25: Updating Clean Air Rules

By law, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) creates new air pollution rules, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is expected to update Wisconsin's rules to comply with the updates. In 2015, the EPA updated the rules for wood-burning appliances or wood stoves. This bill prohibits the DNR from updating the rule—jeopardizing the health and safety of those living with or near a wood stove.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 303 on March 30, 2016.

AB80: Expedited Rules

This bill would allow members of the Assembly and Senate to repeal 'outdated' rules without the full process. The Sierra Club and others were very concerned about this bill because it was in a series of other bills that changes how pollution rules are created and changed. AB80 also does not ensure there will be public input when certain rules are repealed.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The Assembly passed the bill 63-36, but did not get voted on by the Senate and therefore failed to pass this session and will not become law.

Keeping Wild Wisconsin Wild

Wisconsin has some of the most precious, unique habitats, including the forests and waterways of Wisconsin. Urban forests are equally important to thriving, sustainable ecosystems and quality of life. These places keep Wisconsin beautiful, enjoyable, and keep our economy moving. This last session we were happy to see some of this recognized with the rollback of the most egregious proposals to eliminate the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund in the state budget (see above), but instead of moving forward with new proposals to protect these places, minor changes were made that could have a big impact.

SB434: Managed Forest Law Change

The Managed Forest Law allows people who own forest land to participate in a program that creates a tax incentive for those that allow their land be used by the public and participate in sustainable forestry practices. This bill allows participants to close their land to the public and even lease it for hunting land.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 358 on April 14, 2016.



The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2015-16 Legislative Session Recap

Rollbacks to Wisconsin's Clean Energy Economy

Across the Midwest, the country, and even the world, it is becoming increasingly clear that the clean energy economy is here. A third of the electricity in Iowa is now produced by wind energy. In 2014, half of the electricity installed in the United States was wind and solar. In the first half of 2015, 75% of the new electricity installed was clean energy. With this clean energy comes clean energy jobs that are family-supporting and cannot be exported. In Wisconsin, where we do not have any coal, oil, or natural gas, clean energy jobs meaning we are putting Wisconsin first and not sending our money to other states. Wisconsin was once a leader on clean energy—our Focus on Energy program was groundbreaking and we were one of the first states to require that part of our electricity comes from renewable energy. Since 2010, we have seen this leadership be attacked or rolled-back while our neighboring states are flying ahead.



AB804: Reducing Focus on Energy Funding

Within this lengthy bill, there was a provision that would change the formula for Wisconsin's energy efficiency and clean energy program, Focus on Energy. This change could result in a \$7 million decrease in the program. Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Audits of the Focus on Energy program show that for every \$1 invested in the program, \$3.40 is returned. In 2014 alone, more than \$700 million in economic benefits were returned from the program and over 2000 jobs were created.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

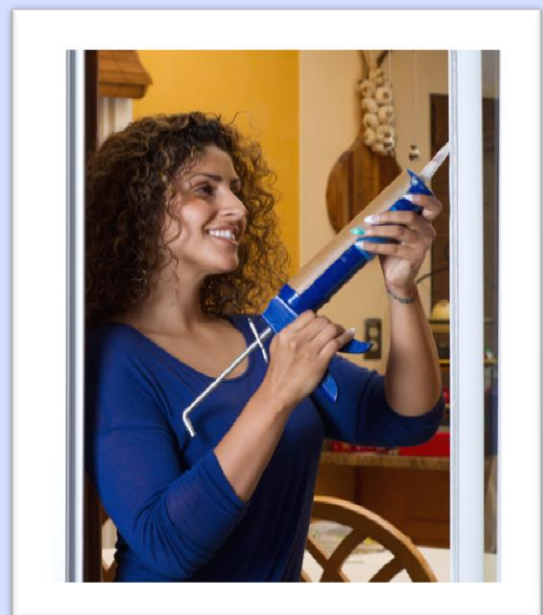
STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 299 on March 31, 2016.

AB384: Nuclear Moratorium Repeal

Wisconsin's nuclear 'moratorium' isn't really a moratorium; instead, it's a law that says, before a nuclear plant can be built, a utility must prove that the facility would have a place to dispose of the nuclear waste and it would be economically advantageous for ratepayers. The repeal of the 'Nuclear Moratorium law' is dangerous as nuclear energy is an accident waiting to happen and puts our air, water, and public safety at risk. One unforeseen possibility is that this bill could open Wisconsin up to be home to a nuclear waste-depository. Finally, there are much better energy sources, like solar and wind.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 344 on April 1, 2016. This bill was voted with a 'voice vote' in the Assembly (individual votes were not scored), so the members of the Assembly Committee on Energy were scored for their vote, as indicated by a †.



The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2015-16 Legislative Session Recap

Your right to clean water is under attack

Wisconsin has a history of recognizing the importance of our natural resources, including clean drinking water. Even our constitution notes how important our water is—making it a sacred, public asset. Unfortunately last session, we saw a multitude of attacks to this important resource. Wisconsin's water quantity is threatened by overuse for factory farms and other industrial uses. A shocking example of this in central Wisconsin and the Little Plover River is being devastated, with sections of the river drying up. The ability to drink clean water is no longer something one could assume they have. We've seen a public health crisis in Kewaunee, where it is not safe for many residents to drink their water and are forced to rely on bottled water. These are problems we would have never expected to see in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, while the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter and others were calling for solutions to these problems, we saw bills to limit, reduce, or even repeal some of Wisconsin's most important water protections.

AB554: Water Privatization

This bill would make it easier to sell Wisconsin's public water utilities and sewage systems to private companies. If a water utility is privatized, then that private company has some control over the water supply, even if that means reducing water protections or increasing the water service rates.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: YOU MADE THE DIFFERENCE

This bill was being fast-tracked and even passed the Assembly on a voice vote. Because of the outrage by communities across Wisconsin, the bill was not voted on in the Senate and will not become law.

AB603: Shoreland Zoning Changes

This bill made some administrative changes to Wisconsin's Shoreland Zoning laws, which are important to ensure there is not over-development of the shores of our lakes and rivers. This increases the hurdles to update the provisions.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 167 on March 1, 2016.

AB640: Fish Farms Supersede Water Protections

This bill assumes that impacts to wetlands are necessary for the operation of an aquaculture (fish farm) facility and exempts aquaculture operators from numerous requirements to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The Assembly passed the bill 63-35, but did not get voted on by the Senate and therefore failed to pass this session and will not become law.

AB874/SB239: Unlimited High-Capacity Wells

This bill would have prohibited the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from considering the impacts of multiple high-capacity wells when granting a high-capacity well permit. This would be the only way to ensure waterways are not overused, leading to rivers and other drying up.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The same version of this bill did not pass both the Senate and Assembly and will not become law.

AB600/SB459: Water Law Onslaught

This bill undermined a slew of protections in our water law. Some of the lowlights include: giving way public land, removing permitting requirements for certain activities, allows property owners to dredge the Great Lakes, and limiting some permitting requirements, etc.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: Some of the worst parts of this bill was fixed, but there were still many concerns. The same version of this bill did not pass both the Senate and Assembly and will not become law.

Brightspot:

AB15/SB15: Banning Microbeads in the Great Lakes

This bill restricted the sale of products containing tiny plastic microbeads (the little round balls in things like exfoliating creams, soaps, etc.). The beads are so tiny they slip through the sewage system. Though small, the quantity of the little beads has begun adding up in the Great Lakes—potentially making it difficult to keep the water clean, and fish safe to eat.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: AYE

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 43 on July 1, 2015.

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2015-16 Legislative Session Recap

Preventing Local Resources Protection

Wisconsin has always recognized the importance of local governments striking a balance between the rights of one property owner and the rights of the other property owners in the community. In fact, Wisconsin ranks #6 for the most towns and municipalities in the country. Wisconsin has a vast and diverse use of land, from agricultural areas to heavily forested areas to very urban areas, and everything in-between. No one knows better whether an area or community needs extra rules and protections than those local governments. Local communities can also be incubators for trying new ideas that end up becoming statewide or nationwide programs. As we have seen the Walker Administration and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) downplay threats to our natural resources, local communities have begun stepping up to analyze the impacts of projects, like frac-sand mining and tar sands pipelines to ensure their local community is protected. Instead of applauding the diligence of these local governments, the legislature spent the last session removing their ability to protect themselves. Worse, many of these bills were disguised 'property rights', but they actually take the rights of Wisconsinites and Wisconsin communities to prosper and do what they wish on their property.

AB582: Corporate Control over Local Control

This bill superseded the ability for a community to make decisions on projects and instead said if a different municipality (city nearby, etc.) made a decision on a project, then they are entitled to a permit everywhere.

This bill directly undermines the ability of cities, towns, and counties to protect the rights of *everyone* living in that community. The problem is that pollution doesn't know property lines. The bill forces a community to accept a project if a different entity (community, the State Government, etc.) has approved a permit related to the project.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 391 on April 26, 2016.

AB563: Run-away Development

The bill would allow towns in Dane County to withdraw from Dane County's Zoning plan. This could lead to runaway development and is another example of the legislature attacking local control because they do not like the progress that is being made.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 178 on February 29, 2016.

AB730: Banning the Ban on Plastic Bags

This bill bans the local regulation of plastic bags and other single-use containers, removing a community's right to make choices about what they want sold and/or used in their community. It prohibits a community from banning, adding a fee to, or otherwise creating rules for using plastic bags.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 302 on March 31, 2016.



The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2015-16 Legislative Session Recap

Attacks on our Democracy

A fully-functioning and transparent democracy is important to ensuring clean air and water for all. When constituents are able to voice their opinions, watch the actions and votes their elected officials are taking, and know who is financially supporting a candidate, we are ensured a democracy that is of, by, and for the people, not the polluters. It is not a coincidence that some of the most well-known contributors to candidates get their money from the coal and oil industry.

AB388: Gutting the Government Accountability Board

This bill eliminates the independent panel that overviews elections and replaces it with a bi-partisan commission, undermining the transparency in our elections.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 118 on December 16, 2015.

AB387: Campaign Finance Law Overhaul

This bill removes protections for transparency in our elections, including allowing interest groups to coordinate with campaigns on activities and fundraising in elections. It also continues to allow unlimited contributions to political parties, PACs, and other election entities.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: NAY

STATUS: The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Walker, becoming 2015 Wisconsin Act 117 on December 17, 2015.
*Democratic members of the Assembly walked out in protest; those people are marked as voting nay.



AB328: Redistricting

This bill requires that the independent Legislative Reference Bureau create the district lines for Assembly, Senate, and House Representative districts. Currently, the legislature draws these district lines and they are often created in a way that benefits one party over another.

PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE: AYE

STATUS: The vote failed in the Assembly 36-61 and therefore will not become law. (This was a procedural vote and legislators are scored based on their vote to suspend the rules).

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2015-16 Legislative Session Recap

Bright Spot: Recognizing the Imbalance in Wisconsin's Transportation Budget

The chapter has been working with coalition partners to expose the lack of balance within Wisconsin's transportation budget. Wisconsin has been putting more and more money into unnecessary highway expansions at the expense of local roads, transit systems, and biking and walking infrastructure. This coalition has called for the State Legislature to better balance the budget to meet the needs of *all* people and *all* communities.

This problem was recognized during the state budget debate. In fact, the disagreement about what to do with the transportation budget was one of the issues that made the budget process drag out so long. Governor Walker proposed almost \$1 billion in funding for highways, much of which would go to expanding highways. Unfortunately, there was not a big move to balance transportation spending.

The Republicans in the Senate, however, did recognize the spending problem and are striving for better solutions. The Joint Finance Committee restricted the bonding for transportation, and called for an audit of the Highway Program. Governor Walker vetoed this audit, but the Joint Legislative Audit Committee unanimously approved the audit and it is now moving ahead. The Senate Republicans also championed this need to get spending in line and come up with long-term solutions. (The Legislative Audit Committee is scored for their vote on the Audit, as indicated by ††.

This work was accomplished by a partnership with many other groups across Wisconsin, including the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation (CMRT), calling for local investment in transit instead of the expansion of I-94 in Milwaukee. (The pictures on the right are from events the Coalition held).

Statewide, communities were calling for this better balance and this call wouldn't have been possible without the expertise of our partners at the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group (WisPIRG), 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, and Sierra Club's Legal Chair, Dennis Grzezinski.



The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2015-16 Legislative Scores

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter's 2015-16 Legislative Scorecard reflects votes taken by the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate on environmental bills. You can learn about bills that affect you by using our Legislative Tracker at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/tracker>.

Our scorecard focuses on bills related to the John Muir Chapter's priority issues of reducing climate change and protecting land and water resources in Wisconsin. The scorecard includes reflections from the past session, bill descriptions, and other important highlights (and lowlights) from the past session.

Use this scorecard as a guide to learn about the legislative actions of the past session and to learn about your Assemblyperson and Senator in your district.

Reading the Scorecard:

Last Name	First Name	D	Score	SB 21	AB25	SB434	AB804	AB384	AB603	SB239	SB459	AB582	AB563	AB730	AB388	AB387
<u>Bewley</u> ^{††}	Janet	25 D	90%	+	A	-	A	+	+	A	+	+	+	A	+	+
Carpenter	Tim	3 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<u>Cowles</u> ^{††}	Robert	2 R	23%	+	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<u>Darling</u> ^{††}	Alberta	8 R	7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Erpenbach</u>	Jon	27 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Legislature Name and District

Bill Numbers (see earlier page for description)

Party
(D= Democrat
R= Republican)

Score (% of pro-environmental votes out of all votes taken)

Vote:
+ Pro-environmental vote
- Anti-environmental vote
A -Absent P-Paired

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

2015-16 State Senate Votes

Last Name	First Name	D	Score	SB 21	AB25	SB434	AB804	AB384	AB603	SB239	SB459	AB582	AB563	AB730	AB388	AB387
Bewley ^{††}	Janet	25 D	90%	+	A	-	A	+	+	A	+	+	+	A	+	+
Carpenter	Tim	3 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cowles ^{††}	Robert	2 R	23%	+	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Darling ^{††}	Alberta	8 R	7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erpenbach	Jon	27 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Fitzgerald	Scott	13 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gudex	Richard	18 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hansen	Dave	30 D	92%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Harris Dodd	Nikya	6 D	100%	+	+	A	+	A	A	+	A	A	A	+	+	+
Harsdorf	Sheila	10 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kapenga*	Chris	33 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Larson	Chris	7 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lasee	Frank	1 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lassa	Julie	24 D	85%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lazich ^{††}	Mary	28 R	7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LeMahieu	Devin	9 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marklein	Howard	17 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miller	Mark	16 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Moulton	Terry	23 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nass	Stephen	11 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Olsen	Luther	14 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petrowski	Jerry	29 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ringhand	Janis	15 D	92%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Risser	Fred	26 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Roth	Roger	19 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	A
Shilling	Jennifer	32 D	92%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Stroebel	Duey	20 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taylor	Lena	4 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Tiffany	Thomas	12 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vinehout ^{††}	Kathleen	31 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Vukmir	Leah	5 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wanggaard	Van	21 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wirch	Robert	22 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

^{††} Transportation Audit vote; *Sen. Kapenga's votes include votes as a Representative; A-Absent

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

2015-16 State Assembly Votes

Last Name	First Name	D	Score	SB 21	AB25	AB80	SB434	AB804	AB603	AB640	AB874	SB459	AB582	AB563	AB730	AB388	AB387	AB328
Allen	Scott	97 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-
August	Tyler	32 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ballweg	Joan	41 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	A	-
Barca	Peter	64 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Barnes	Mandela	11 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Berceau ^{††}	Terese	44 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bernier	Kathleen	68 R	7%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Billings	Jill	95 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Born	Mark	39 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bowen	David	10 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Brandtjen	Janel	22 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brooks	Edward	50 R	7%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brooks	Robert	60 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brostoff	Jonathan	19 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Considine	Dave	81 D	100%	+	+	+	A	A	+	+	A	A	+	+	+	+	+	+
Craig	David	83 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Czaja	Mary	35 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danou	Chris	92 D	100%	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Doyle	Steve	94 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Duchow [*]	Cindi	99 R	0%	NA	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	A	-
Edming	James	87 R	7%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gannon	Bob	58 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genrich [†]	Eric	90 D	94%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Goyke	Evan	18 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Heaton	David	85 R	7%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hebl	Gary	46 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hesselbein	Dianne	79 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hintz	Gordon	54 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Horlacher	Cody	33 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hutton	Rob	13 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jacque [†]	Andre	2 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jarchow [†]	Adam	28 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Johnson	LaTonya	17 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Jorgensen	Andy	43 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

[†]Nuclear Moratorium Committee Vote; ^{††} Transportation Audit vote; ^{*}Rep. Duchow was elected later; A-Absent; P-Paired

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

2015-16 State Assembly Votes

Last Name	First Name	D	Score	SB 21	AB25	AB80	SB434	AB804	AB603	AB640	AB874	SB459	AB582	AB563	AB730	AB388	AB387	AB328
Kahl†	Robb	47 D	94%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	A
Katsma	Terry	26 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kerkman†	Samantha	61 R	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-
Kessler	Frederick	12 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kitchens	Joel	1 R	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kleefisch	Joel	38 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Knodl	Daniel	24 R	7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Knudson	Dean	30 R	0%	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kolste	Debra	44 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kooyenga	Dale	14 R	0%	-	-	-	A	A	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kremer	Jesse	59 R	7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Krug	Scott	72 R	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Kuglitsch†	Mike	84 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	-
Kulp	Bob	69 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Larson†	Thomas	67 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loudenbeck	Amy	31 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Macco††	John	88 R	6%	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mason	Cory	66 D	100%	+	A	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+
Meyers	Beth	74 D	93%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Milroy	Nick	73 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Murphy	David	56 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mursau	Jeffrey	36 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Murtha	John	29 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nerison	Lee	96 R	7%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neylon	Adam	98 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Novak	Todd	51 R	27%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
Nygren††	John	89 R	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ohnstad	Tod	65 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ott	Al	3 R	7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ott	Jim	23 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petersen†	Kevin	40 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petryk†	Warren	93 R	13%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Pope	Sondy	80 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Quinn	Romaine	75 R	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	A	-
Riemer	Daniel	7 D	100%	+	+	+	P	A	+	A	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	+

†Nuclear Moratorium Committee Vote; †† Transportation Audit vote; A-Absent; P-Paired

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

2015-16 State Assembly Votes

Last Name	First Name	D	Score	SB 21	AB25	AB80	SB434	AB804	AB603	AB640	AB874	SB459	AB582	AB563	AB730	AB388	AB387	AB328
Ripp	Keith	42 R	7%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rodriguez	Jessie	21 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rohrkaste	Mike	55 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanfelippo	Joel	15 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sargent ^{†††}	Melissa	48 D	94%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Schraa	Michael	53 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shankland	Katrina	71 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Sinicki	Christine	20 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Skowronski	Ken	82 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	A	A	-	-	A	-	A
Spiros	John	86 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spreitzer	Mark	45 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Steffen [†]	David	4 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steineke	Jim	5 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stuck [†]	Amanda	57 D	94%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Subeck	Lisa	78 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+
Swearingen	Bob	34 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tauchen	Gary	6 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taylor	Chris	76 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Thiesfeldt	Jeremy	52 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tittl	Paul	25 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tranel [†]	Travis	49 R	13%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
VanderMeer	Nancy	70 R	7%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vorpagel	Tyler	27 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vos	Robin	63 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wachs	Dana	91 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	+
Weatherston [†]	Thomas	62 R	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Young	Leon	16 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Zamarripa	Jocasta	8 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Zepnick	Josh	9 D	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

[†]Nuclear Moratorium Committee Vote; ^{††} Transportation Audit vote; A-Absent; P-Paired

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Thanks Environmental Champions

The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter thanks the lawmakers who scored a perfect 100% on the Scorecard (9 in the Senate, 30 in the Assembly).

In the Senate, Tim Carpenter, Jon Erpenbach, Nikiya Harris-Dodd, Chris Larson, Mark Miller, Fred Risser, Lena Taylor, Kathleen Vinehout, and Robert Wirsch.

In the Assembly, Peter Barca, Mandela Barnes, Terese Berceau, Jill Billings, David Bowen, Jonathan Brostoff, Dave Considine, Chris Danou, Steve Doyle, Evan Goyke, Gary Hebl, Dianne Hesselbein, Gordon Hintz, LaTonya Johnson, Andy Jorgensen, Fred Kessler, Debra Kolste, Cory Mason, Nick Milroy, Tod Ohnstad, Sondy Pope, Daniel Riemer, Katrina Shankland, Christine Sinicki, Mark Spreitzer, Lisa Subeck, Chris Taylor, Dana Wachs, Leon Young, and Jocasta Zamarripa.

We will miss the leadership of Environmental Champions who will not be returning to the Legislature, including **Senator Harris-Dodd, Representative Jorgensen, and Representative Kahl** (Mandela Barnes and LaTonya Johnson are leaving the Assembly to run for state Senate)



We are also disappointed in the Conservation Zero's who received 0%, meaning they did not vote a single time for pro-conservation legislation:

In the Senate, Scott Fitzgerald, Richard Gudex, Sheila Harsdorf, Chris Kapenga, Frank Lasee, Devin LeMahieu, Howard Marklein, Terry Moulton, Stephen Nass, Luther Olsen, Jerry Petrowski, Roger Roth, Duey Stroebel, Thomas Tiffany, Leah Vukmir, Van Wanggaard

In the Assembly, Scott Allen, Tyler August, Joan Ballweg, Mark Born, Janel Brandtjen, Robert Brooks, David Craig, Mary Czaja, Cindi Duchow, Bob Gannon, Cody Horlacher, Rob Hutton, John Jagler, Terry Katsma, Joel Kleefisch, Dean Knudson, Dale Kooyenga, Mike Kuglitsch, Bob Kulp, Thomas Larson, Amy Loudenberg, David Murphy, Jeffery Mursau, John Murtha, Adam Neylon, Jim Ott, Kevin Petersen, Jessie Rodriguez, Mike Rohrkaste, Joel Sanfelippo, Michael Shraa, Ken Skowronski, John Spiros, David Steffen, Jim Steineke, Rob Swearingen, Gary Tauchen, Jeremy Thiesfeldt, Paul Tittl, Tyler Vorpapel, Robin Vos, and Thomas Weatherston

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Looking forward....

Wisconsin is falling behind our neighboring states. We need to embrace a clean energy economy that will create family-supporting jobs across Wisconsin, clean up our air for all of us, and make Wisconsin a leader once again. Our electricity rates are some of the highest in the Midwest. Wisconsin has no coal, oil, or gas resources. Our over-reliance on coal plants isn't working for Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's is facing serious and devastating water problems. There are people in Wisconsin that can't drink their water, lakes and rivers that have dried up, and there are possible lead and other contamination in many communities across Wisconsin.

Our local roads and transit systems are crumbling and our current transportation spending is not sustainable.

These are big problems that needs big solutions to fix them. ***They also need political will to address them.*** In January when the legislators go back into sessions, and kick-off discussions on the next budget that will guide us for the next two years, we hope to work with the legislature to solve these problems and create a better Wisconsin for everyone.



***The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter
Looking forward....***

Thank you for taking an interest in environmental legislation by picking up this guide and for all the other things you do to participate in the democratic process. Your efforts contribute to a cleaner environment and a healthier future for Wisconsin.



Visit us online to find out how YOU can get involved in protecting Wisconsin's natural resources!

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Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter



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