

## CACC



## NEWS

*The Future of the Earth is in our Hands*

<http://caccmi.org>

## CACC ECO CALENDAR:

MDEQ's Calendar: <https://www.michigan.gov/deq/>

**March 22** - World Water Day 2019 - Check for local events.

**April 22** - Earth Day - Check for local events.

**May 21-23** - Michigan Clean Energy Conference, Haggerty Center in Traverse City, sponsored by Groundwork. Learn more: [www.groundworkcenter.org](http://www.groundworkcenter.org)

**June 1** - CACC GMM & Potluck - 10:30AM - 1:30PM at the Pere Marquette District Library, 185 E. 4th Street Clare, MI 48617

**June 17-19** - Great Lakes Public Forum, Milwaukee, WI at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hotel Registration available soon at Engagement Page at: <https://binational.net/>

The following events are from Michigan Organic Farm and Food Alliance's online calendar: <http://www.moffa.net> (includes sponsors, details/any fees for just italicized events)

**Mar 20** - Organic Practices for Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Carbon Sequestration (webinar)

*Continue on last page.*

## Letter from the CACC Chairman

In local Michigan news Nestle water withdrawals are a topic again. The focus this time is the Evart plant not the Mecosta plant. In Mecosta the group Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) had previously sued Nestle for their water pumping amount and got the rate lowered to 218 GPM (gallons per minute) at that plant. This ruling still stands today.

The Evart plant received a permit from the DEQ to be at 400 GPM. The MCWC challenged the permit based on the prior win in Mecosta with Nestle. An administrative law judge denied attempts from the DEQ and Nestle to get the permit challenge dismissed.

Personally, my part in this is trying to always travel with a water bottle and not purchase any bottled water of any brand. What do you and your family do?

Want to get involved? Want to learn more about CACC? Please hit us up on the website [www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org) for the most up to date information. Contributions of time, money, or articles are always welcome. Reach out through the website or personal emails at anytime to see how you can help!

By Chance Hunt, CACC Chairperson

Pat Race, the developer of the Climate Stick, will be the Featured Speaker at **CACC's General Membership Meeting (GMM)** and Potluck, **Saturday June 1 from 10:30 to 1:30** at the Pere Marquette District Library, 185 East 4th Street, Clare, MI 48617. This meeting is open and the public is welcome! Agenda items including the election of the CACC Board of Directors for 2019-2020 and any other issues to be voted on by members will be posted by mid-April on CACC's website: [www.caccmi.org](http://www.caccmi.org). Bring a dish to pass and new or gently-used donations for CACC's Silent Auction. See you at the GMM!

## Water Watch

This new feature of the CACC Newsletter will present current and updated information about ground and surface water issues affecting Michigan and the Great Lakes Basin. Resources are provided with each article for further information.

• **Osceola County residents challenge second potash mine.** A group of Hersey Township residents is working with Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) to stop the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) from permitting a second potash mine in the area. The project will use 1.8 million gallons of water per day in a solution mining operation. Specifically, MCWC points to a "desk review" of the permit...application rather than a site evaluation and hydrogeological studies. They have filed suit to stop the project, and are urging the Whitmer administration to (*Continue on page 3*)

## CACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

# Climate Stick – A tool to initiate conversation about climate change

By *Murry DeSanto*, CACC Director and  
President of the Saginaw Valley Sustainability Society

Pat Race, founder of the Climate Stick Project, developed the climate stick as a tool to talk with as many people as possible about the critical need to act on climate change. It's a colorful visual and can be worn as a necklace or pendant.

The green in the climate stick represents a time when the CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) level was 275 ppm (parts per million). At that time, the amount of greenhouse gases, including CO<sub>2</sub>, was beneficial. The CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere was about 2300 Gt (gigatons).

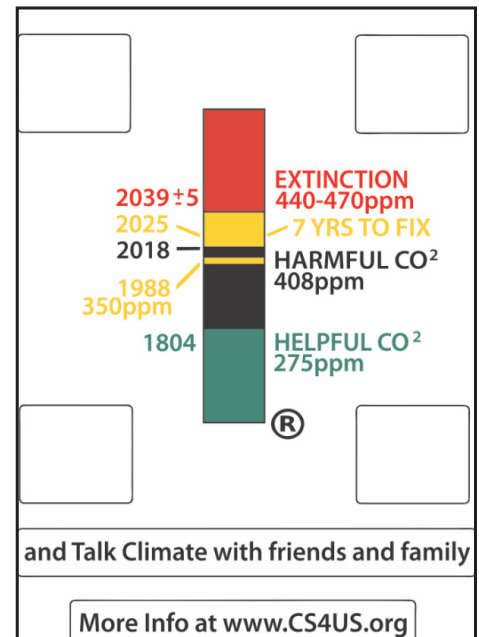
The black represents additional CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere that was mostly added by humans burning coal, oil and natural gas. CO<sub>2</sub> began rising sharply with the invention of the steam engine. By 2011, there was 396 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, which added an additional 1852 Gt. of CO<sub>2</sub>. Between this and methane gas, the earth's temperature increased 1.5°F. Within the black section is a yellow stripe showing when CO<sub>2</sub> in the air reach 350 ppm – believed to be the maximum amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that can exist without beginning to change our climate patterns. That level was passed in 1988. On February 12, 2018, the CO<sub>2</sub> level was 408.6 ppm. And on February 12, 2019, the CO<sub>2</sub> level was 411.8 ppm, according to measurements taken of CO<sub>2</sub> on earth by Scripps for NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory. (NOAA-ESRL).

The yellow represents additional CO<sub>2</sub> (565 Gt.) that will increase earth's surface temperature by 3.6°F. This will disrupt agriculture to a great degree and so will impact our ability to feed the growing population. At one time, we thought we had 30 to 40 years before this was reached. Now we're thinking 10 or 8 years - 15 max.

The red section: The large oil and coal companies have \$28 trillion worth of carbon in the ground that they intend to burn by 2050. Only \$7 trillion of that can be burned without the temperature exceeding the 3.6°F. (Climatestick.org)

The climate stick is a tool for us to develop our 'elevator speech', to open conversations with people we come across in day to day activities. Visit [www.climatestick.org](http://www.climatestick.org) to learn more.

Note: Pat Race will be the keynote speaker at CACC's General Membership Meeting on June 1.



(Cont'd from page 1) require proper hydrological studies if the permit is reconsidered.

Suzanne Potter, Public News Service, 2/18/2019 (<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2019-02-14>)

• **Whitmer Executive Order focuses on drinking water quality.** After initial attempts to reorganize the DEQ were shot down by the Michigan Legislature, Governor Gretchen Whitmer reissued her executive order February 20 to create the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to focus on improving the quality of the state's air, land and water, protect public health, and encourage the use of clean energy. EGLE will be a "full time guardian of the Great Lakes, our fresh water, and our public water supplies."

<https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/>

• **13 Michigan public water systems fail federal test for excessive lead.** According to testing results from the DEQ, twenty seven water providers registered 90th percentile lead levels of at least 13 ppb, above the 12 ppb threshold established in 2018 in response to the Flint water crisis. Federal regulations set the limit at 15 ppb. Water systems ranged from about 100 homes in a Charlevoix County subdivision to the city water systems for Benton Harbor and Hamtramck. Seven of the system had lead levels at least twice the new state limit.

<https://www.mlive.com/>

• **Mining waste threatens Lake Superior fishery.** When the Mohawk Mining Company closed its stamp mill in Keweenaw County 86 years ago, it left almost 23 million metric tons of crushed rock on the shore of Lake Superior in the western Upper Peninsula. Over time, the pile has eroded, but it never went away. Instead, the debris now covers five miles of coastline, damming stream outlets, infiltrating wetlands, and covering 35% of the Buffalo Reef, spawning grounds for lake trout and whitefish. The DNR projects up to 60% of the reef could be covered by 2025 without major intervention. The 2200-acre reef supports a \$5million a year recreational and commercial fishery, producing 22% of the commercial fish in southern Lake Superior. The stamping sands are smothering the spawning grounds and releasing copper and arsenic to the water. The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community has been tracking the problem for more than a decade, and considers governmental inaction a violation of treaty rights. Previous DNR efforts to dredge part of the waste were undone by Lake Superior storms. A contract has been let to dredge 27,500 cubic yards of mining waste from the harbor and 80,000 cubic yards from Buffalo Reef, but the dredge spoils will be put back where they came from – the original pile – unless governments find at least \$13million to wall it from the shore. A task force of state, federal and tribal agencies is researching a permanent solution,

with a report due in October, 2019.

Jim Malewitz, The Bridge, 09/18/2018 (<https://www.bridgemi.com/>)

• **Pfizer wastewater chemicals found in Kalamazoo River.** Toxic chemicals from a Pfizer facility passed through the city's wastewater system into the Kalamazoo River. Methylene chloride, a solvent used in manufacturing processes, was found at seven times greater than the city's standard for the chemical. An operating error at the plant was discovered to be the root cause of the release. OSHA considers methylene chloride to be a potential occupational carcinogen. Short term exposures through air or skin contact can result in harm to the central nervous system, up to and including death. According to the Material Safety Data Sheet, it is harmful to aquatic life. EPA proposed prohibiting the use of methylene chloride in paint strippers in 2017, but has not implemented the ban.

<https://www.mlive.com>

• **Groundwater reservoirs found to be shrinking.** According to The Revelator, a publication of the Center for Biological Diversity, key aquifers in many parts of the US hold much less water than we thought. Researchers looked at the bottom limit of groundwater resources, the depth at which water becomes too salty to use. While groundwater resources in the western US are very deep, they are shallow in the eastern part of the country. One area that raises concern was the use of groundwater in oil and gas drilling operations and the re-injection of produced water, contaminated with drilling fluids, potential naturally occurring radioactive materials, and the byproducts of activities, into areas relatively close to fresh water reserves. This occurs here in Michigan where our groundwater reserves are shallow.

<https://therevelator.org/shrinking-groundwater/>

• **USSC lets beach access ruling stand.** In good news for Great Lakes beach aficionados, the US Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from Lake Michigan property owners who claim their property extends to the waterline and they can legally restrict public access. By refusing to hear the appeal, a prior ruling allowing public access stands. In Michigan, beach walkers have legal access to the shoreline between the high water mark and the public lands under the lakes.

<https://www.mlive.com/>



Cont'd. from page 1

**Apr 3** - Cover Crop Types and Uses on your Farm (webinar)

**Apr 5** - Michigan Racial Equity in the Food System Summit, Kalamazoo

**May 22** - Understanding and Managing Soil Biology for Soil Health and Crop Production (webinar)

**May 10** - Starting and Sustaining a School Garden (Novi)

Check out CACC's ECO Calendar at: <http://www.caccmi.org/eco-calendar/>



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