



Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network (SRWN)

“Coalition of the Willing”

Dynamic and pragmatic coalitions built on shared interests

Madison Strategy

Target policymakers with stories from rural Wisconsin to their door.
Build knowledge in both political parties.



Why Now? It's July!

Think about the current political climate as a kind of wintertime—not a season for building, but a season for research and planning.

Sandra Begay
Navajo renewables engineer

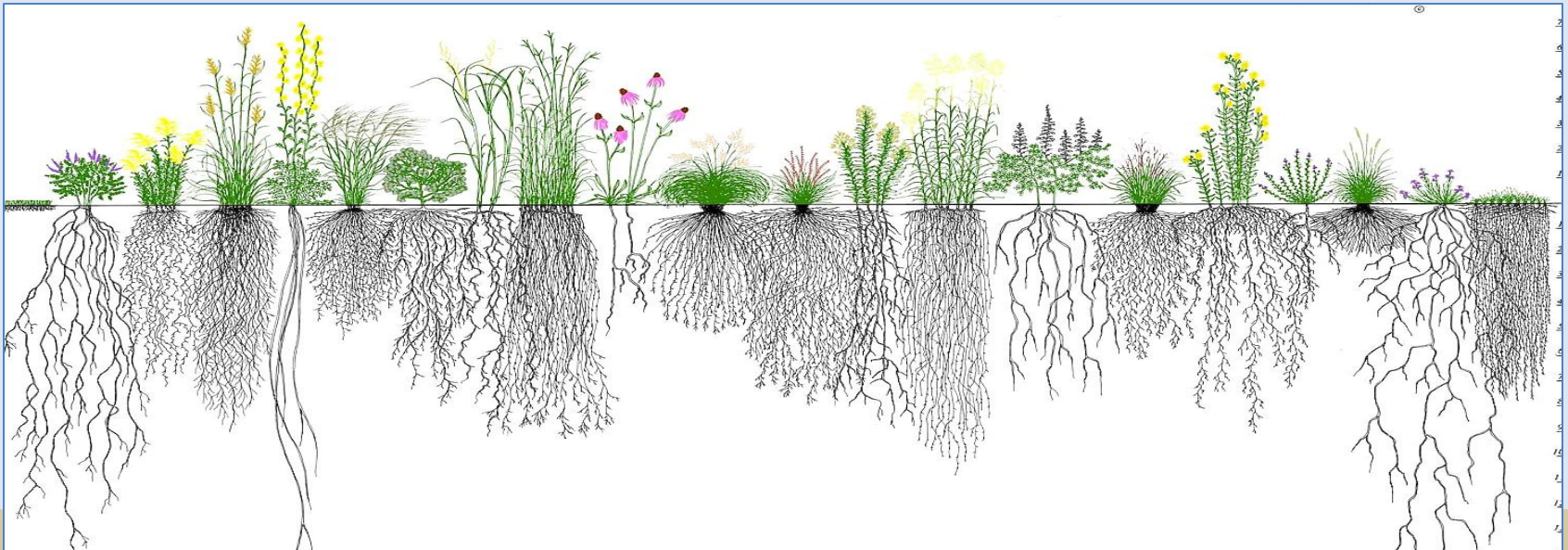


Ute tribal
officials and
staff at the
groundbreaking
ceremony for
the Foxtail Flats
solar project in
New Mexico.
May 2026

Goal

Build Grassroots Power

- Increase local understanding of how Madison works
- Leverage local relationships that cross political lines
- Begin making systemic policy change



Key Message

- *Bi-partisan* support for *rural industrial developments* of factory farms and data centers is *fueling* massive new *expansions*
- Communities *spanning the political spectrum* are *resisting* & passing ordinances to protect health and property
- Madison policymakers *know little* about the resistance or harmful effects
- Communities are *ready to connect* with policymakers and make change

Rural Industrial Development

Global investors in frac sand, data centers and industrial livestock. Same law firms, banks and politicians. Often default and leave communities to sweep up the damage.



Frac Sand



Dairy CAFO Biogas



Law Firms

- Husch Blackwell
- Micheal Best

Open AI & Oracle Data Center



Objectives

- Leverage SRWN infrastructure to support two partners' legislative work
- Enhance good governance of public finance for factory farms and data centers

CHAMPIONING
RURAL
COMMUNITIES IN
WISCONSIN



Objective

Support Two Partners' Legislative Issue

Outcome: Add more partners and add value to existing partners by leveraging SRWN's campaign infrastructure (social media, website, email blasts, phoning)

Action Step: Identify and prioritize legislative issues for CAFO and data center partners.



Objective

Good Governance of Public Finance

Outcome: Improve transparency and eliminate unfair public financing of factory farms and data centers.

Action Steps- Surgical Amendments

Public Finance Authority (PFA)

Require full County and Town board approval for tax-exempt bonding proposals

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

Public notice of pending bond approvals within 2-mile radius

Public notice of approval before bond sales completed

Require public input on tax-exemption certifications, grant awards, etc

Public Service Commission (PSC)

Revise definition of 'biomass' to exclude manure

End tax credits for CAFO infrastructure and manure biogas

Improve financial reporting for manure biogas companies

Repeal state sales tax exemption for manure biogas and data center developers





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