The Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition (MWBDC) was founded in 2020 to play a leadership role convening stakeholders and allies around a regional decarbonization strategy. MWBDC is advancing a first-of-its-kind, equity-first coalition model with a regionally-specific theory of change.

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Who We Are

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Our Mission: To develop and implement equitable strategies to achieve zero emissions from the Midwestern building sector by 2050.

Decarbonization: Converting appliances like furnaces, water heaters, and stoves from fossil fuels to clean, carbon-free electricity. This includes energy efficiency & weatherization. But without electrification, efficiency can only reduce emissions, not eliminate them.

Equitable Decarbonization: To remove the hazard of fossil fuel usage in buildings and facilitate access to carbon-free heating, water heating, and cooking, while prioritizing BIPOC / intersectional identities and empowering poor, low- and moderate-income households and underserved communities with clean technologies and infrastructure including:
- Equitable outcomes in who produces and who benefits from decarbonization; and
- Leadership of enterprises and communities most impacted by the burdens of energy and environmental injustices.

What We Do

MWBDC connects individuals representing a mix of local, state, regional, and national organizations - from local Environmental and Climate Justice advocates to nationally recognized “Big Greens”. This diversity is vital in fostering an ecosystem of collaboration and the ability to learn from experts in all facets of this work. We have active participants from each of the eight states in our region.

Ohio  Iowa  Illinois  Indiana
Michigan  Minnesota  Wisconsin
To better build equity into our ongoing work, MWBDC offers two sources of funding: Participation Stipends to support participation by BIPOC individuals and organizations directly involved in equity, environmental justice, and building decarbonization; and Empowerment Grants to support organizations in taking action on one or more of our five domains of work. In our first round of funding, MWBDC distributed a total of $518,500 to BIPOC and environmental coalition members. In 2022, the second round of our re-granting program saw $427,000 distributed. All funding decisions are led by a sub-committee of the Equity Working Group, ensuring that these decisions are coalition-led and transparent at every step of the process.

MWBDC is committed to continuing to allocate a minimum of 40% of our annual budget to this re-granting work.

Another priority of the coalition is providing trainings every month, meeting folks where they are at, and growing our collective knowledge around equitable decarbonization. This training program equips participants to be leaders on the local and state level to advance the new green economy in a manner rooted in the principles of Environmental Justice and a Just Transition.

Get Involved

There are many ways to get involved with MWBDC - and they all start with attending our monthly orientation! Scan the QR code to sign up. After you're oriented with MWBDC, you are able to join our email list and participate in one of our Working Groups:

- Equity
- Health
- Governance
- Federal Policy
- Affordable Housing / QAP
- Local Building Codes and Standards
- Midwest Advanced Water Heater Initiative
- And coming soon...
  - Regulatory Working Group
  - Faith-Based Working Group
  - Healing Justice Working Group
  - Youth Working Group

In the spirit of transparency, we would like to name and thank our funders - the Energy Foundation and the McKnight Foundation.