Clean Energy Day II a ‘Smashing Success!’

By Stephanie Cole, Kansas Chapter Clean Coal Campaign

In the words of our lobbyist, Tom Thompson, Clean Energy Day II was a ‘smashing success!’ On March 19, hundreds of Kansans gathered at the statehouse to ask for a clean vote on clean energy. This phrase means a vote on true, effective renewable energy policy, as opposed to votes on coal bills being promoted as a “comprehensive energy plan.” This was the second year such an event was organized.

The day began with participants gathering together to meet other clean energy fans, fill out postcards to legislators, and then bus to the Capitol for the featured event – a clean energy rally! The rally included a diverse lineup of speakers from labor unions, faith-based organizations, conservation groups, and public health advocates. Scott Allegrucci, director of the Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy (GPACE), kicked off the rally. Allegrucci’s speech contained some crowd favorites, such as “the proposed legislation is really good energy policy… for Colorado and Texas utilities” (who will get most of the power generated from the Holcomb expansion). Allegrucci went on to state the coal bill would be “good economic development… for Wyoming coal mines.” He concluded by calling on the legislature to put forth real comprehensive energy policy that isn’t merely a collection of weak “green provisions” thrown together to mask two coal plants.

The rally continued with labor unions advocating for renewable energy policy that will create family-supporting jobs for Kansans, the American Lung Association expressing support for clean energy that will clear the air of harmful pollutants associated with coal plants, and Interfaith Power and Light

Emil Ramirez, representing the United Steel Workers and Kansas Blue-Green Alliance, addresses the Clean Energy Day crowd. Many more photos on pages 8-9.

See Clean Energy Day on page 8
America needs a smart energy policy that increases our energy security and protects the environment. There is a better way. Congress should pass legislation that cuts our country’s dependence on oil, increases our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power, protects our public lands, and modernizes the electricity grid to prevent future blackouts.

Join the Sierra Club today and add your voice to protect the planet.
Carbon Markets

Buying and Selling the Right to Pollute

By Robert Freehling, Energy and Climate Committee, Sierra Club California

Carbon pollution markets, where governments give companies the right to pollute and allow them to buy and sell such rights (a “cap and trade” system), are being widely adopted as one of the largest—and most controversial—tools for limiting global climate change.

In the basic “cap-and-trade” system, the government annually grants to each business a certain number of pollution allowances, each worth one metric ton of carbon dioxide. The allowances are handed out free of charge. The number of allowances is capped for the entire trading system, and decreases each year. If a business pollutes less than its allotment, it can sell extra credits to other companies. If a business pollutes more than its number of allowances, then it must buy extra allowances from other companies that reduced their pollution. Companies that don’t comply pay steep fines.

Businesses are supposed to respond to market pressure by finding cost-effective ways to lower emissions. A business that requires expensive retrofits or replacement of factories will find it cheaper to buy allowances, paying another business that can reduce its emissions at less cost. A pollution market is supposed to be more efficient than government mandates that might not be sensitive to costs and benefits. Theoretical analysis of supply and demand curves predicts that carbon markets will lead to a least-cost reduction in carbon pollution. Since market participants don’t always make ethical or even rational choices, though, it’s an open question whether they will obey mathematical equations.

Cap-and-trade systems do have potential problems. They give little incentive to reduce carbon faster than the declining caps, since that leads to a surplus of allowances and falling carbon prices. Participants may also face unpredictable prices, which will depend on decisions by government regulators, economic cycles, and even the weather. Prices can also be influenced by speculation; under the European Climate Exchange, a secondary market has developed in derivatives, such as carbon futures and carbon options. Buying a carbon option would give someone a right to buy or sell a pollution allowance at a future date at a preset price. In theory that is supposed to be a way to control price risk, but in practice it can lead to higher risk.

The basic “cap and trade” approach is subject to several major criticisms:

- it allows many businesses to buy their way out of reducing emissions;
- it provides an incentive to limit total pollution to the cap, but not to do better than that;
- it provides no revenue for government programs that reduce carbon emissions;

See Carbon Markets on page 11
A One Trick Pony?

By Tom Thompson, Legislative Coordinator

After having 3 Holcomb Bills die in 2008, two of which were successfully vetoed and the third allowed to lie at rest, the 2009 Legislature got creative by writing a fourth Holcomb Bill (sarcasm). They call it a Comprehensive Energy Plan but once again its main purpose is to build a coal fired power plant that will spew 11 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. The purpose of the bill was especially made apparent when the bill, Senate Substitute for Substitute for House Bill 2014, was debated in the Senate.

This article is being written with one week remaining in the regular legislative session. The veto session is not for another four weeks. My guess is that, with your efforts, this pony is headed for the same pasture as the three Holcomb bills from 2008.

This year's bill did have some differences from last. Last year's Holcomb bill was a huge bill that was written by a handful of legislators, then presented in the House Energy and Utilities Committee and the Senate Utilities Committee. This bill was added to over time and was eventually dubbed an economic development bill. Ultimately, three versions made their way through the House and Senate.

This year, there are two versions, but only one is progressing through the legislature. That is 2014. The other bill, SB 265, could come into play in 2010. It remains in the Senate Utilities Committee. All 5 bills have sections that limit the authority of the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment when issuing permits and allow Sunflower Electric to re-submit a permit application to build the Holcomb power plant. One other aspect of the bill is to allow electric cooperatives like Sunflower to remove themselves from the regulation by the Kansas Corporation Commission.

The Sierra Club did give testimony on a number of other bills. Some of these bills were considered in the development of Senate Substitute for Substitute for HB 2014. Of these, some concepts have been whirled to the point of no longer being what was supported. These include a net metering section that does not pay for excess generation, energy efficiency for government buildings that is less than the Governor's current mandate, and an RPS that has a number of loopholes. There are also items from other bills the Sierra Club gave testimony against including allowing electric cooperatives to remove themselves from the authority of the Kansas Corporation Commission, that were amended into 2014.

The regular session of the legislature is scheduled to end on April 4th. The veto session will start on April 29th and is expected to last into the first week of May. The conference committee report on 2014 is expected to pass next week. The bill will then be sent to the Governor who is expected to veto it. A motion to override the veto is expected at some time during the veto session.

It is important that legislators who originally opposed 2014 are thanked, and that all legislators are encouraged to sustain the veto. This can be done by directly contacting Representatives and Senators or by writing letters to the editors of newspapers.

The legislature also considered two other items of interest going into the last week of the session. One was HR 6011, a House Resolution requesting the Kansas Corporation Commission to convene a group of stakeholders to study energy storage including compressed air technology and HB 2295 that would prohibit certain labeling of dairy products that inform people they are rBST free.

HR 6011 successfully passed through General Orders and should be passed in Final Action during the last week of the session. Since it is a House Resolution it will go directly to the Governor for a signature and not go to the Senate.

Though the Sierra Club opposed it, it appears that HB 2295, which passed in the House, may be amended into HB 2121 in conference committee. I will report on the progress of this bill in the next Planet Kansas.

Another bill supported by the Sierra Club had a hearing in the Senate in March. SB 284 created a third party entity that would be charged with the purpose of decreasing energy use throughout the state. This entity would develop plans and execute programs designed to decrease energy use through various means. Right now some utilities have energy conservation programs like programmable thermostats, but utilities’ primary purpose is to generate and sell electricity or natural gas. AARP and the Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board also supported this bill. SB 284 remains in committee and will probably not make any further progress this year.

There have been a number of good discussions about renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation this session. Legislators seem to be asking questions that indicate they take issues like net metering, developing renewable energy and implementing energy efficiency programs more seriously than in the past. Funds from the federal government’s economic stimulus package seem to be driving some of this interest. However, at this point, it seems that the legislature continues to be a one trick pony.
Kanza Group Starts Info ListServe for Members

By Richard Voss

The Kanza Group (northeast Kansas) of the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club announces a new email service for our local members who want to become more engaged in Club issues.

If (and only if) you sign up, you will receive emails with links to important articles on renewable energy development, updates on the Kansas “no coal” campaign, bulletins on other important regional conservation issues, notices of local public forums and hearings, reminders of area Club meetings, trainings and outings, opportunities for volunteering at “green” events, and more.

This service is not intended to be a blog or chat room -- if members wish, we might try that in the future. We will be utilizing a Google Group called “KanzaNews”, open to Club members only. Your email address will never be released to anyone.

To subscribe or get help, send an email to the moderator: kanzagroup@gmail.com indicating the address where you want the messages (or daily digest) delivered. You may unsubscribe at any time, or change from receiving all email messages to a once-a-day digest.

Bruce Nilles Named Among Top Agents of Change in Rolling Stone

Bruce Nilles, director of National Sierra Club’s Move Beyond Coal Campaign, was recently recognized in Rolling Stone for his tremendously effective efforts to halt the coal rush. For those who know Nilles, this is well-deserved recognition. Bruce had a vision many years ago of stopping all new coal plants, and his vision is finally becoming a reality. The article included the following statement: “Bruce is running the most successful campaign the environmental movement has seen in more than a decade,” says Michael Brune, executive director of Rainforest Action Network. While Nilles is no-doubt an incredibly visionary and dedicated leader, the success of the Move Beyond Coal Campaign is only possible due to the hard-working volunteers on the ground who work tirelessly to carry out the objectives of the campaign. Give yourself a big pat on the back!

For the entire article, see this link:
http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/26754176/the_rs_100_agents_of_change/4
Eating as Though the Earth Matters
Ideas and Recipes for a Changing Diet

Beth Lily Redwood

Editor's Note: The following is part of a new series of articles and recipes dedicated to helping us all change our diets. Of all the actions individuals can take, our diets can make the most impact in reducing greenhouse gases while causing no or minimal impact on our family budgets. Feel free to submit your earth friendly recipes to the Planet Kansas at info@kansas.sierraclub.org.

“Yet, as environmental science has advanced, it has become apparent that the human appetite for animal flesh is a driving force behind virtually every major category of environmental damage now threatening the human future: deforestation, erosion, fresh water scarcity, air and water pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, social injustice, the destabilization of communities, and the spread of disease.” --Worldwatch Institute, “Is Meat Sustainable?”

“Other than not driving a car, not eating meat is the second most important positive environmental decision that a consumer can make.” -- Union of Concerned Scientists

One of the most uplifting stories in the news recently was about the new vegetable garden being planted by the First Family on the White House grounds. It’s inspiring for so many reasons, but most of all, I appreciate the groundbreaking decision they made to emphasize the important benefits of a diet rich in fresh vegetables and fruit.

Eating vegetables, fruits, whole grains and legumes is unanimously recommended by all major health organizations (National Institutes of Health, the Surgeon General, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, etc.) for maintaining optimum health and preventing the most prevalent chronic diseases of our time. These diseases include heart disease and hypertension, many cancers, diabetes, kidney and gall bladder disease, and obesity. And yet, the benefits of eating green have a far greater reach than just our personal health – a plant-based diet is by far the most important, effective, pro-active step an individual can take on behalf of the health of planet Earth.

As an environmentally-conscious person, you are probably aware that animal agriculture (meat, dairy, and eggs) is responsible for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions of CO2. It is the highest contributor to global warming of all human activity, even higher than the entire transportation industry (cars, planes, trains, SUVs, boats), which accounts for 13 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. Animal agriculture is also the number one source of methane worldwide, a gas with over 20 times the global warming impact than CO2, producing more than 100 million tons of methane a year through the digestive processes of livestock and massive “lagoons” of farm animal waste. Methane causes nearly half of the planet’s human-induced global warming. Animal agriculture is also directly responsible for 65 percent of nitrous oxide emissions, which has almost 300 times CO2’s global warming impact.

The environmental magazine, E, reported in 2002 that more than one third of all fossil fuels produced in the U.S. is used to raise animals for food. At every stage of its operations, animal agriculture involves pollution, greenhouse gases, and massive amounts of energy--from deforestation and land degradation to graze cattle and grow animal feed; to chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides to grow corn and soybeans to feed animals; to massive use of energy for lighting, heating, cooling, automated machinery for feeding and watering, and ventilation; to trucking 10 billion farmed animals many miles to slaughter annually; to operating the slaughterhouse; to packaging and transporting meat, dairy products and eggs many miles in refrigerated trucks to grocery stores and keeping it refrigerated or frozen until it’s sold.

As someone who is concerned about the environment and wants to lower their carbon footprint, the less animal foods you consume and the lower on the food chain you eat, the more you are contributing to a solution to global warming. To put it simply, the power is in your fork!

Here are some wonderful, earth-friendly recipes for you to enjoy.

Carrot Cake

Makes one 9-inch layer cake (or one 8 x 10 sheet cake), serves 8 to 10

This cake is sugar and spice and everything nice. It’s a lovely treat to savor in the afternoon with a cup of tea.

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup unbleached flour
1 cup pastry flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon sea salt (fine-grained)
½ teaspoon grated nutmeg
½ teaspoon ground cloves
½ cup soy milk
1 cup maple syrup
¼ cup safflower oil
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups shredded carrots
½ cup raisins

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Carrot Cake

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup unbleached flour
1 cup past unheard of
½ cup chopped fresh pineapple*

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Grease two 9-inch round cake pans (or one 8 x 10 inch baking pan).

2. In a large mixing bowl, mix together the flours, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg, and cloves. In another bowl, combine the soy milk, maple syrup, oil, and vanilla extract. Pour the wet ingredients into the flour mixture and stir well to combine. Mix in the carrots, raisins, and pineapple.

3. Divide the batter into the 2 prepared cake pans. Bake for 35 minutes, or until a cake tester or toothpick comes out clean when inserted into the center of the cake. Remove from the oven and let cool on wire racks for about 30 minutes.

*I prepared this cake with canned pineapple. I used a can of pineapple chunks packed in juice, drained the pineapple, then chopped it finely, then added it to the batter.

Other Variation: I added ½ cup chopped pecans and mixed them into the batter along with the carrots, raisins, and pineapple.

Recipe compliments of the Candle Cafe Cookbook, written by Joy Pierson & Bart Potenza, the owners of Candle Cafe & Candle 79 in NYC. The carrot cake was developed by their pastry chef Jorge Pineda.

For topping, I highly recommend Soyatoo! topping cream. It’s available at Whole Foods or can be ordered at Vegan Essentials: www.veganessentials.com. I prefer the version in a box (as opposed to the spray can). Serve the carrot cake with the whipped topping – you won’t be disappointed!

If you’d prefer to serve the carrot cake with a delicious cream cheese frosting, here’s a wonderful recipe from The Joy of Vegan Baking:

Nondairy Cream Cheese Frosting

The foundation of this simple icing is a store-bought nondairy cream cheese, which can be found at large natural food stores. Tofutti brand is the best. Look for the version made without trans fats and partially hydrogenated oil.

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 8 ounces (225 g) nondairy cream cheese, cold
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup (100 g) confectioners’ sugar, sifted

Combine the cream cheese, vanilla, and confectioners’ sugar in a food processor.


“Cheesy” Cashew Dip

Makes about one cup.

This dip is easy and delicious. I’ve served it on many occasions to rave reviews.

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 cup raw cashews
- Juice of ½ large lemon
- 4 cloves roasted garlic*
- ¼ red bell pepper (finely chopped)
- 2 tablespoons chopped sundried tomatoes (packed in oil and drained)
- ¼ teaspoon sea salt or 1 tablespoon mild white miso
- ¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg
- ½ cup filtered water

Put ingredients in a food processor and blend until smooth. Keep refrigerated until ready to use. Serve with whole grain crackers or baked corn chips.

Optional serving suggestion: Sprinkle ¼ cup lightly toasted, finely chopped pecans on top.

*How to roast garlic: One method that works well for me is to put a small amount of olive oil on the garlic cloves, wrap them in aluminum foil and roast them in the toaster oven on 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Let cool, then squeeze the roasted garlic into the food processor and blend with the rest of the ingredients.
Hundreds of Kansas advocates for a Clean Energy Future came to Topeka on Thursday March 19 to rally and demonstrate to the state legislature their support for a 21st Century energy policy for our state. Here are photos of the rally.

Clean Energy Day, continued from page 1

calling for a transition to clean energy to fulfill our obligation to be faithful stewards of God’s creation. Our very own Tom Thompson energized the crowd with a dialogue on what types of energy policy we wanted. The crowd responded with an enthusiastic “Yes!” when asked if we wanted energy efficiency and conservation. A loud “No!” followed when the crowd was asked if they wanted to build new sources of carbon dioxide emitting power plants. Kim Hanson of True Blue Women took the stage and asked the legislature to “Quit wasting our time trying to force new coal plants and start doing something positive for Kansans!” She also delivered a reminder that despite the relentless efforts of the coal industry to promote the idea that coal can be clean, “there is no such thing as clean coal.”

James Roberts of GPACE concluded the rally by speaking from the perspective of a young professional and recent college graduate who wants to see jobs created that will allow him and his friends to stay in Kansas when looking for work. His message to the legislature was simple: “we’re ready.”

Participants came from Wichita, Hutchinson, McPherson, Salina, Kansas City, Johnson County, Lawrence, and many other locations. Signs and posters in the crowd contained various phrases, such as “Kansas Energy: Keep it Clean”, “Yes Wind Can”, “Green Jobs”, and “Clean Coal = Dirty Lie.”

After the rally participants visited with legislators and thanked the 51 state leaders who voted NO on the coal bill. Hundreds of postcards were delivered to representatives, and the day ended with an after party in Memorial Hall.

The following organizations helped to make Clean Energy Day II a success: Kansas Interfaith Power and Light, Kansas Farmers Union, Kansas Rural Center, League of Women Voters, United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, United Steelworkers local - Topeka Goodyear plant, Kansas Natural Resource Council, True Blue Women, Building a Sustainable Earth Community, Reno County Wind Energy Task Force, American Lung Association, Climate and Energy Project (CEP), GPACE, and Sierra Club.

It was a great day for Kansas, and Sierra Club was a proud participant!
Event banners set up with Capitol back drop.

Donn Teske, Kansas Farmers Union, addresses the crowd.

Diane Kuhn, Kansas League of Women Voters

Jeff Manning, United Auto Workers

Kathie Moore, Reno County

Kim Hanson, True Blue Women

CED-Nancy Jackson, Climate and Energy Project

John Neuenswander, American Lung Association

Eating Our Way to a Healthier Planet

That’s the theme of this year’s silent auction

Saturday • May 2 • 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Lenexa Conference Center, 11184 Lackman Road (College Blvd & Lackman)

- Special Presentation
  Panel of 4-Star experts discuss how our eating habits impact our planet in ways we did not understand, and how our changes can make a big difference!

- Great Bargains - Silent Auction
  Talk to businesses working to reduce our carbon footprint.

- Special Exhibitors:
  Fine Wine, Hors d’oeuvres & desserts
  Environmental Awards
  Admission:
  $25 at door
  $45 per couple at door
  $20 Advance registration. Go to www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Auction

Kansas continues to fight coal plants as our Planet shows startling evidence that Climate change is real and accelerating. The new Obama administration shows signs it understands, but will it implement effective policy fast enough to make meaningful change? Will we, as citizens, make meaningful change? Join us as we learn how to make our voices heard, change ourselves, and increase our effectiveness.

Now, you can help make a difference. Support Sierra Club’s Work. See you on May 2nd

You can help make our Silent Auction a success

We need your help on the Auction Committee to call members, ask for quality donations from merchants, and help with details of the event.

Interested?
Contact Craig Wolfe at 913-299-4474 or info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Carbon Markets, continued from page 3

it violates the ethical principle that the “polluter pays”.

Another complication in a carbon market is the “offset”, where businesses can pay for carbon reductions outside the trading system. Many critics consider offsets to be “leaks” that remove the market pressure of the gradually tightening caps and that thus can undermine the market system.

In response to such problems, policymakers are moving toward an auction system, where polluters have to bid for all allowances. To make sure that revenues are generated beyond the cost of holding the auction, government may set a minimum bid price. President Obama has recently stated that he favors an auction to create an effective program for reducing carbon emissions, and to limit gaming of the system.

Others, however, believe it may be more efficient to impose a carbon fee or tax, as was recently recommended by Rex Tillerson, the CEO of ExxonMobil, a company that for years denied that climate change exists. A tax eliminates the price uncertainty of a pollution market, and lowers transaction costs. While cap-and-trade is usually limited to large industrial polluters, a tax can be distributed across the whole economy. A given amount of revenue is generated at a lower cost per ton of carbon, which reduces the burden on businesses.

There has been speculation about how high a carbon cost (whether through cap-and-trade, auction, or a tax) would motivate businesses or consumers to change their habits. There may, however, be significantly less expensive ways to transform our energy system. A $25 per ton tax on the nation’s six billion tons of carbon dioxide would generate $150 billion of revenue per year. That could pay for efficiency programs, subsidies for renewable energy, conversion to cleaner transportation, and redesigning our infrastructure. It is unlikely that the equivalent tax of 28 cents per gallon of gas could achieve a similar transformation through a penalty effect.

Real Carbon Markets

The European Union created the first major carbon market, the European Climate Exchange, in 2005. At first, the EU issued too many allowances. Most companies could easily meet the cap, and the price of carbon plummeted. This resulted in little incentive to cut emissions. In spite of challenges, the market has grown dramatically. In 2005, 94 million tons of carbon permits traded hands; in 2008 the trading volume was 20 times larger, equivalent to about half of all the carbon emissions in the EU. Prices have ranged from 10 to 30 euros per metric ton (about $15 to $45 per English ton), with 2007 sales of $64 billion and the value more than doubling every year.

Despite years of stonewalling by the U.S. government and the oil industry, discussion and action on climate protection are rapidly moving ahead in this country. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a group of 10 states that created a “northeastern climate confederacy” with Kyoto-style regulations. Nearly all carbon allowances under the system are auctioned, and offsets are minimized; currently only power plants are covered.

The three auctions held since the market began in September 2008 have raised a hefty $260 million—to be spent by states for efficiency, renewables, and other climate-protection programs. The caps are designed to reduce regional emissions 10% by 2018.

The next region to bolt from under the Bush regime of climate inaction was the West. In 2007 five states (California, Oregon, New Mexico, Arizona, and Washington) formed the Western Climate Initiative (WCI). Two more states and four Canadian provinces have since joined, and a few Mexican states sit in as observers. While still in the planning stage, WCI will cover nearly all sectors including transportation, residential, commercial, and industrial carbon pollution. It aims for a 15% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020.

California has developed its own climate agenda through AB 32 (Núñez and Pavley), the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. California has focused strongly on programs, planning, and regulations to achieve greenhouse-gas reductions. These include requirements to increase renewable energy to 33% of the state's electricity supply, to reduce the carbon content of transportation fuel, to reduce methane emissions from waste, and to improve local planning and land use. A pollution market will account for 21% of the reductions. The trading scheme will probably involve auctions, after a phase-in when initial allowances may be handed out for free. This is a contentious issue, with environmentalists wanting to minimize, or ideally to eliminate, free allowances.

It is too early to judge the effectiveness of carbon pollution markets. The market systems that have achieved significant reductions in other pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, have been mixed with regulatory structure, and have operated largely though retrofitting existing facilities. In contrast, controlling carbon emissions will require replacement of entire power plants, factories, transportation systems, and other infrastructure. Clearly, the economic incentive required to rebuild infrastructure will need to be much higher than for adding equipment to existing facilities.

It is almost certain that pollution markets will not be able to achieve all the necessary reductions in greenhouse gases. Much of our infrastructure—such as roads, planned urban environments, transit systems, passenger rail, airports, electric utilities, and vast portions of the nation’s real estate—is immune to market incentives because it is owned or heavily regulated by government. Government plays a key role in research and development of new technologies and controls about 40% of the U.S. economy through the power of taxation. Governments also set laws and regulations, and can design climate policies, programs, and plans. These are things that few people expect or want the “free market” to do. Government and markets both have critical roles to play in protecting the world’s climate; the challenge will be to integrate them into effective and timely solutions to the major crisis of our age.
Chapter Executive Committee  
Officers, Committee Chairs
*Elected ExCom member; **Appointed ExCom member, ***Group Representative to Chapter, ****Officer/Committee Chair

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Bob Fritsch*, Outings Chair, (913) 906-9728, bobfritsch@hotmail.com
Elaine Giessel*, Solid Waste Chair, Environmental Justice Chair, (913) 888-8517, elaine.giessel@kansas.sierraclub.org
Jim Graham*, Hospitality Chair, (913) 706-4011, jimraham@kansas.sierraclub.org

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Tom Kneil* Secretary, Alternate Chapter Delegate, Global Warming Chair, (785) 744-1016, Thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
Elizabeth Bishop* Outings Chair, Political Chair, Transportation Chair, (913) 685-5681, larryross7133@sbcglobal.net
Yvonne Cather**** Energy Chair, (913) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
Barbara Keltner**** CAFO Chair, Corporate Accountability Chair, (913) 722-5621

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Steve Lopes*, Recording secretary, (785) 842-7137, slopes3688@aol.com
Maggie Ogden*, KU student liaison, ogden_sm@yahoo.com
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Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
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Maggie Ogden*, KU student liaison, ogden_sm@yahoo.com
Gretchen Heasty****, Publicity Chair, (785) 550-1129, gretchen004@sunflower.com

Chapter & Group Leaders
Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter
General Meetings

General public is welcome to attend

Flint Hills Group
(Manhattan)
General Information
For information please call Scott Smith at 785-539-1973 anytime or email wizard13@cox.net.

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
April 14, 7:00 pm
Realities of Switching (or not Switching) To Renewable Energy
7:00 pm - Come early, and we will have sandwiches and good conversation
7:30 pm - Toby Grotz will present the cost of transition to a renewable energy infrastructure. The use of carbon based fuels presents the dangers of poor air quality, poor public health, resource depletion, and carbon caps. The net effect of these pressures will result in a change in energy sources to renewable energy. We will not have the energy required for the manufacturing and distribution if we wait. This would result in a return to a pre-industrial lifestyle.. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
May 2. 6:30 pm
Silent Auction: Eating Our Way to a Healthier Planet
The Kanza Group’s major fundraiser, with this year’s theme to reduce carbon footprint. Panel of 4-Star experts discuss how our eating habits impact our planet in ways we did not understand, and how our changes can make a big difference!Great bargains. Fine Wine, hors d’oeuvres and desserts. Environmental Awards. $25 at the door. $20 pre-registration at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Auction/ . Lenexa Conference Center, 11184 Lackman Road.. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
April 10. 6:30 pm
Meeting To Be Announced
Food & Conversation will begin at 6:30 pm and the program will start at 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. Program to be announced.. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Topeka Group
April 28. 7:00 pm.
The Climate and Energy Project
Eileen Horn with the Climate and Energy Project will be our speaker. CEP supports lively, informed conversations about our energy future. Their goal is to help halt the Midwest’s contributions to global warming and climate change. CEP supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency and developing renewable energies in a sustainable manner. A “no host” dinner will be at Annie’s Place Restaurant before the meeting at 5:30.. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Topeka Group
May 28. 7:00 pm
The Kaw River InventoryTopeka.
Laura Calwell, Riverkeeper with the Friends of the Kaw, will tell us about her group’s 2008 inventory of the Kansas River, the start of a project to document the condition of the river and to determine areas in need of preservation or restoration. Laura and other members of FOK kayaked the entire river and took over 1000 pictures with GPS locations, which will assist in future decisions and actions that affect the Kaw River. A “no host” dinner will be at Annie’s Place Restaurant before the meeting at 5:30. (note that this is a Thursday, rather than our usual Tuesday night meeting) Topeka and Shawnee County Library, 1515 SW 10th Street, Topeka, Kansas. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)
General Information
The Wakarusa Group is limiting its general meetings in order to concentrate on holding special events. To get the most up-to-date announcements about these events, please add your name to our e-mail list by contacting Carey Maynard-Moody.. Carey Maynard-Moody,(785) 842-6517, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org
Sierra Club Outings

General public is welcome to participate

Below is the combined list of all outings by the Kansas Chapter and Groups. The number in [brackets] indicates the area of the outing as shown on the map. Please contact the outing leader listed after the description by phone or e-mail before attending any of these activities. For trips requiring physical exertion, leaders need to know your ability and condition. Sierra Club policy also requires participants to sign a liability waiver or acknowledgement of risk prior to departing the trailhead.

[2]  Apr 3-5. Fri pm. Elk City Hike
Base camp at Card Creek Campground Friday and Saturday night. On Saturday morning, the hike will begin at the US 160 access just north of the river. Southwind. Chris Collings, (316) 942-4339

A fun, 8-mile loop on a well-marked trail near Beaver Lake in NW Arkansas. We’ll stop for cornbread at War Eagle Mill on Sunday. $10 donation requested. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 341-4753, randri@kc.rr.com

We’ll ride 10-15 miles on the level, paved bike trails alongside Smithville Lake. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 481-6091, davedahiker@yahoo.com

[2]  Apr 13. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne
Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com

We will car camp at the Silver Mines Recreation Area and day hike two proposed wilderness areas in the Mark Twain National Forest; Van East Mountain and Lower Rock Creek. Your advocacy requested. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

Base Camp Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. A joint KCKA / Sierra Club event. The river will be selected at a later date depending on conditions. Expect sections on a river like the North Fork of the White, Current, Niangua, Spring, Eleven Point or Buffalo that will be suitable for recreational kayaks. RSVP and a liability release are required for ALL participants. Southwind. Chris Collings, (316) 942-4339

[1]  Apr 25. Day Hike, Kill Creek, DeSoto, KS
We will hike an easy 3-1/2 mile combination of short segments of grass, wooded trails, asphalt, and horse trail at Kill Creek Park. Bring water and snacks to share after we are done. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Tom Kutscher, (913) 383-9351

For those folks who can’t get away on weekends due to work or family obligations, this will be an easy backpacking trip to an Ozark location. $5 donation requested (New Date). Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rjwilshire@kc.rr.com

Bicycle travel can be very safe provided that you know a few rules of the road. This workshop will teach you how to travel by bike for commuting or other types of errands. We will begin with a discussion of bike safety and will then go for an easy ride. Please bring your bike and a helmet. $5 donation requested. Kanza. David Anderson, (816) 678-4359, kobecobra76@gmail.com

Bring your compass and we will learn to set bearings to find unique trees in one of the most beautiful parks in the city. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net

[2]  May 11. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne,
Drinks and Conversation at the Café Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com

We’ll stay at the YMCA’s scenic Camp Wood in Elmdale, KS, where your choice of accommodations range from your own
## Committee Meetings

**Kanza Group**  
(Kansas City)  
Executive Committee  
Apr 23, May 28 - 7:00 pm,  
Steve Baru, (913) 814-0583, steve.baru@sierraclub.org  
Joint Action Committee  
Apr 23, May 28 - 7:00 pm,  
Conservation, legislative, and political  
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org  

**Southwind Group**  
(Wichita)  
Executive and Fundraising Committee  
Apr 6, May 3 - 6:00 pm  
Equity Bank Building  
Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org  
Conservation Committee  
Apr 21 - 6:30 pm  
5825 Memphis St, Bel AireWichita.  
Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033  
ellie_skokan@yahoo.com  

**Wakarusa Group**  
(Lawrence)  
Executive Committee Planning  
TBA - 7:00 pm  
Location TBA. Carey Maynard-Moody, (785) 842-6517, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org  
Conservation Committee  
Contact Carey Maynard-Moody, (785) 842-6517, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org  

**Topeka Group**, ExCom meets quarterly, TBA.  
Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com  
Energy Committee, Apr 9, May 4  
Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza Shopping Cntr, 2225 SW Fairlawn Plaza Dr  
Phil Morse (785) 273-3614, p.morse@sbcglobal.net  

**Kansas Chapter**: (State), Executive Committee, May 16 (location TBA)  
Yvonne Cather (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org  

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**Tent to a well-appointed cabin. On Saturday we’ll hike and explore at the beautiful Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. Campfires and horseback riding, too! $10 donation (per family) requested. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 341-4753, randri@kc.rr.com**

**May 30. 10:00 am. Springtime in the Flint Hills**  
6-mile backcountry day hike at Tallgrass National Prairie Preserve. Lunch on the trail. Moderate conditioning required due to length of hike. Spring wildflowers should be in bloom. For adults and teens. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com**

**Jun 6-7. Canoeing, MO/AR Ozarks**  
Experience two easy days of classic Ozark scenery and waters from your canoe (or kayak.) Saturday night we will camp on a sandbar, make a campfire and soak it all in. $10 donation requested. Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com**

**Jun 13. Day Hike James A. Reed Wildlife Area, Lee’s Summit, MO**  
Make time for a nice hike through flat grass trails and some wooded small hill trails at J. A. Reed Wildlife Area. We will hike about 5 miles and finish up with a brown bag picnic lunch (bring your own and some snacks to share). $5 donation requested. Kanza. Tom Kutscher, (913) 383-9351**

**Jun 20. Bike Ride, Little Blue Trace,**

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**Jun 20. Bike Ride, Powell Gardens, Kingsville, MO**  
Join us for this 25 fun-filled mile ride of rolling hills and rural settings. All levels of riders are encouraged to join us, we won’t leave anyone behind. We will reward ourselves to a delicious lunch buffet at Café Thyme, followed by a hike through the gardens. For the return trip a trailer for bikes and car rides will be available. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Melody Gross, (816) 228-6563,
Calendar of Events

Below is a listing of all General Meetings (GM), Outings (Out), and Committee Meetings (CM) for the Kansas Chapter and Groups. For specific information, see General Meetings page 13, Outings page 14, and Committee Meetings page 15. For the latest update on events, go to www.kansas.sierraclub.org/EventsSearch.htm.

CM TBA. 7:00 pm. Planning committee meeting. Wakarusa. Carey Maynard-Moody, (785) 842-6517, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Apr 3-5. Fri pm. Elk City Hike. Southwind. Chris Collings, (316) 942-4339
Out Apr 4-5. Beginner Backpack, Pigeon Roost Trail, War Eagle, AR. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 341-4753, randri@kc.rr.com
CM Apr 6. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Apr 6. 4:00 pm. Fund Raising Committee Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Apr 9. 7:00 pm. Energy Committee. Topeka. Phil Morse (785) 273-3613, p.morse@sbcglobal.net
GM Apr 10. 6:30 pm. TBA. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Apr 11. Bike Ride, Smithville Lake, Smithville, MO. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@yahoo.com
Out Apr 13. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com
GM Apr 14. 7:00 pm. Realities of Switching (or not Switching) To Renewable Energy. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Apr 17-19. X. Hike Proposed Wilderness Areas, Madison County, MO. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net
CM Apr 21. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
CM Apr 23. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM Apr 23. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out Apr 25. X. Day Hike, Kill Creek, DeSoto, KS. Kanza. Tom Kutscher, (913) 383-9351
Out Apr 27-29. X. Backpacking. Kanza. Bob Wilshire, (913) 384-6645, rwilshire@kc.rr.com
GM Apr 28. 7:00 pm. The Climate and Energy Project. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
GM May 2. 6:30 pm. Silent Auction: Eating Our Way to a Healthier Planet. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
CM May 3. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out May 9. Urban Bike Riding Workshop, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. David Anderson, (816) 678-4359, kobecobra76@gmail.com
Out May 9. Loose Park Champion Tree Compass Course, Kansas City, MO. Kanza. Eileen McManus, (816) 523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net
Out May 11. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com
CM May 14. 7:00 pm. Energy Committee. Topeka. Phil Morse (785) 273-3613, p.morse@sbcglobal.net
Out May 15-17. Family camping, Flint Hills, Elmdale, KS. Kanza. Renee Andriani, (913) 341-4753, randri@kc.rr.com
CM May 28. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Frank Drinkwine, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
GM May 28. 7:00 pm. The Kaw River Inventory. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
CM May 28. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org
Out May 30. 10:00 am. Springtime in the Flint Hills. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com
Out Jun 6-7. Canoeing, MO/AR Ozarks. Kanza. Terry DeFraties, (913) 385-7374, thereebucket@aol.com

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Deadline for the next issue is May 15