A Bad Deal for Kansas, the Environment

Introduction to the Sierra Club Fact Sheet on the Governor’s Coal Plant Agreement with Sunflower Electric

By Craig Volland, Chair, Air Quality Committee, Kansas Chapter, Sierra Club

The Governor’s claim that his settlement with Sunflower will boost the use of renewable energy in Kansas is substantially unfounded. The RES ACT is generally unenforceable and adds nothing to the voluntary program that was already in place. The Governor has vastly exaggerated the extent to which the settlement compensates for, or offsets, the 6.7 million tons of new heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated by Holcomb 2 in the state of Kansas. The settlement and the associated legislation contain ambiguous language and numerous escape clauses whereby Sunflower may avoid some future performance requirements. Thus, we can only conclude that this settlement is a serious step backward for the environment of Kansas and elsewhere.

The Governor has justified his May 4, 2009 settlement

See Fact Sheet on page 8
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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.
Kansas Coal Plant

By David Anderson

I was amazed to see that Kansas intends to build another coal-fired power plant. Certainly, one coal plant, along with some wind energy development, is better than two — but given our present circumstance we should not be building any coal plants.

The dispute has been framed as an argument between utility executives and environmentalists, but in reality Sunflower Electric executives are at odds with the scientific community.

Articles in the current issue of the prestigious journal “Nature” conclude that the world must reduce CO2 emissions by 80 percent by 2050 to avoid dangerous amounts of warming (greater than two degrees centigrade).

The MIT Joint Program recently issued a report projecting a 5.1 degree centigrade average temperature rise by 2100 as the most likely outcome if we continue with a policy of business as usual.

An increase of five degrees may not sound like much, but consider that the Earth was about five degrees cooler about 11,000 years ago, when the Earth was in an ice age.

Going five degrees warmer likely means we could have arid scrub land up to the Canadian border, which means a lot less food and many fewer people.

GoGreenScore.org

The Little Test that Makes a WORLD of Difference

By Lynate Pettengill

GoGreenScore.org is a free, easy, and fun survey that’s designed to help people learn how green their current lifestyle is - and how green it could be. Unlike many online questionnaires that can make the user feel bad about their green lifestyle choices, GoGreenScore.org promotes a positive, optimistic outlook. And it doesn’t just ask questions; it provides answers too. Dozens of links to “Live Green Tips” shed light on why each question is important to both our environment and consumers’ pocketbooks.

The sponsors of www.GoGreenScore.org believe that every person has the power to make a positive, measurable effect on our environment with just a few, simple changes in their lives. And the more people who make these changes, the better off we all will be.

“When I took other online questionnaires, I was shocked at how many Earths it would take if everyone lived like me,” explains GoGreenScore.org Co-Founder, Lynate Pettengill. “I thought I lived a pretty darn green lifestyle already. It didn’t motivate me to make any more changes; it made me want to give up. So that’s why we came up with a fun way to let people know how green they’re currently living, and how easy it would be to make a change or two to help out our troubled planet.”

In just a few short minutes on GoGreenScore.org users will find out whether they are “Heading Toward Greener Pastures” or if they are a “Lean, Mean, Green Machine.”

For more information go to www.GoGreenScore.org

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Holcomb Reborn…
Again: The 2009 Odyssey

By Tom Thompson, Chapter Legislative Coordinator

“Holcomb Reborn” was used in the title of my first KLN in 2008 and 2009. It has been a depressing thought every time I have used it in a title. In January it just seemed absurd. This time leaves me speechless. The year’s legislative story is one that illustrates how crazy and unpredictable government can be. Some this past year complained of regulatory uncertainty. This past session shows Kansas has a problem with governmental uncertainty.

If you don’t know what the KLN is, it is the Kansas Legislative Network News that is a weekly report written by the Legislative Coordinator (Lobbyist) to report what happens in the Kansas Legislature while it is in session. Topics depend on what legislation is being acted upon in any given week throughout the session. This year’s session adjourned on May 8. You can read all 15 editions of the KLN and sign up for the Legislative Action tree by going online to:

http://kansas.sierraclub.org/LegUpdates.htm

In most years, the legislative session starts out slowly the first couple weeks especially when on the heels of an election year. In 2008 both the House and Senate had elections. This also means that bills from 2008 died unless resubmitted as new. Furthermore, new bills are proposed. Because Sunflower Electric was pushing for a new bill to allow Holcomb to be built and there was pressure to do something about renewable energy, primarily wind and energy efficiency, the House Energy and Utilities Committee quickly became busy.

Because the legislature has rules concerning when bills must be passed, House Utilities Committee Chair Rep. Carl Holmes reported there were 41 bills that needed to have hearings, be worked in committee during the first few weeks of the session. This number grew. I am going to write about those that had testimony given by the Sierra Club.

The Kansas Legislature went into session on Monday January 12. By Wednesday, the Republican leadership presented their agenda for the coming session. On it was the building of a coal fired power plant in Holcomb, Kansas.

The action began in the House Energy Utilities Committee. Chairman Holmes sat down with me in his office and talked to me about his plans to hear a number of energy bills. These would need to be completed in a short period of time so that they could have hearings, be worked and passed by the House before turn around, the time when House bills are passed to the Senate and Senate bills to the House. This was scheduled to be February 28 but Rep. Holmes told be it was being changed to the 21st. This meant the work on energy legislation would have to be done in five weeks in order to be passed on to the Senate.

The first bill for the Sierra Club, HB 2013, had a hearing on January 21. This bill provided for an RPS of 10% by 2010, 15% by 2015 and 20% by 2020 using nameplate capacity. It had broad support but was opposed by the Citizen’s Utility Ratepayer Board, which typically opposes net metering and RPS legislation. The Sierra Club supported this bill but added to its testimony that it would not support an RPS if attached to legislation allowing a coal plant to be built. It was apparent that the line up of bills was leading to that. This bill remains in the House Utilities Committee.

On January 22 there was a hearing on HB 2016. This time the Sierra Club was in opposition. 2016 attempted, through legislation, to set acceptable levels of toxins for air emissions in new coal fired power plants being built instead of KDHE writing regulations. This bill was designed to take away the authority of KDHE (Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment) to regulate and give it to the legislature. The bill seemed directly aimed at building the Holcomb Plant and was opposed by the Sierra Club. This bill remains in committee.

Continuing on January 26 the Sierra Club presented a neutral testimony on HB 2038 in House Utilities Committee. Written by Rep. Tom Sloan, 2038 provided for emission controls and standards for CO2, an RPS based on energy production and the building of transmission lines. We did not support the bill because of what was thought to be ambiguous language some of which could have been illegal. The Sierra Club did support many of the concepts presented by 2038. 2038 remains in committee.

Two days later there were 3 bills. I should note that the Sierra Club was selective about which bills were given testimony. Several other bills concerning deadlines and other technical issues also had hearings. Those bills directly dealing with Holcomb, renewable energy, net metering and efficiency and conservation were targeted. Bills that remain in committee will unlikely ever be acted upon further. However, they could be used as vehicles for yet to be determined legislation next year.

On January 28th, Sierra Club testimony was given on HB 2035 and 2043.

2035 presented the first bill that Sunflower Electric has also wanted in previous Holcomb bills. 2035 would allow electric cooperatives the size of Sunflower a mechanism for taking themselves out from the regulation of the Kansas Corporation Commission when it comes to rate issues. The Sierra Club opposed this saying now was an especially poor time for doing so. Not only might the Holcomb plant be built but federal carbon legislation and regulation was on the horizon that could influence rates in a variety of unknown ways. The issues in this bill ended up in yet to be written 2014 and 2369, which I will soon discuss.

See Holcomb Reborn on page 12.
Johnson County Stream Cleanup Day

By Bob Sommer

About two dozen volunteers from the Kanza Group gathered in the cool morning air on April 4th for Stream Cleanup Day. The group focused on a section of Indian Creek along the Johnson County Hiking and Biking Trail at 103rd and Quivira. It looked like a small enough stretch, but there was plenty to do.

Richard Voss coordinated the effort, handing out gloves, trash bags, t-shirts, and encouragement.

In addition to some great fellowship and fresh air, volunteers were treated to a herd of deer passing through the area.

After most of the work was done, a young man who jogs regularly along the trail stopped and asked a couple of the remaining volunteers if they had anything to do with the cleanup. Yes indeed, they said, to which the jogger replied, “Thanks.”

Sierra Club at Earth Day Events

Richard Voss (right with cap) and Tom Thompson (below) talk the issues at Sprint Earth Day Event in Kansas City

(Below) At the table on the left is Gretchen Heasty. Next to her is Stacey Cook. There were many exhibitors at the Earth Day event in South Park in Lawrence. The booth visitors enjoyed chatting it up with volunteers Gretchen Heasty, Steve Lopes, George Brenner and Carolyn Binns. Children enjoyed coloring the Reduce Your Carbon Footprint fans donated by the Kansa Group.
July Kanza Meeting:
Transportation Future
of Metro Kansas City.

By Steve Baru, Kanza Group Chair

How would you spend billions of dollars on transportation projects in the Kansas City region over the next 30 years? The Mid America Regional Council (MARC) wants to know, and Sierra Club wants to give you the chance to answer.

During a recent visit to Shanghai, China, I took the opportunity to ride the high speed Maglev train. Built by Siemens Engineering, this high speed train floats on magnets and is reported to be the world’s fastest train. It was a fast and smooth ride to the airport from the suburbs, reducing a 70 minute trip to 7 minutes. This train can cover the distance between Stilwell, KS, and downtown Kansas City in 15 minutes. Wouldn’t it be nice to travel effortlessly around our community without depending on the automobile?

Steve Baru riding inside the Maglev at 200mph.

Maybe that’s not your vision and you have other ideas for transportation projects. Now is the time to speak up. MARC is required to develop a long-range transportation plan that guides transportation decision-making and funding decisions over a period of several decades. Transportation Outlook 2040 will be the region’s new long-term plan, looking ahead 30 years. They want your input. Now is the time to speak up. Whether you see a need for more buses, more trains, more trails, or more bike lanes, MARC wants to hear from you.

The Sierra Club joined with a group of local community leaders in Stilwell, KS, on May 20 to present a forum for those citizens who live in the southern most parts of Johnson County to voice concerns, make comments or ask questions about the new transportation plan to MARC and KDOT planners. These residents have been through a couple of highway wars, first the unpopular 21st Century Highway proposal and most recently a South Metro Connector Highway proposal, equally unpopular. Eighty-one people showed up for the forum and many made comments that reflected understandable anger. Still, the process was constructive, as the MARC planners heard comments that mostly asked for future transportation projects to be the least invasive to their community as possible. My interpretation was, plan transit, not highways.

We are repeating this event on July 14 in a joint meeting with our Missouri sister group, the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club. You are invited to come, listen to MARC planners and then make comments. Even though this is a Sierra Club event, the public is invited as well.

The July 14 meeting will be at the Sylvester Powell Community Center in Mission, 6200 Martway St Shawnee Mission, KS 66202 - (913) 722-8200. Time for this meeting will be different, 6:30 to 8:30. Hope to see you there. Please feel free to direct any questions to Stevebaru@aol.com.
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with Sunflower Electric Power Corporation primarily on two premises. First, and most importantly to the Governor, the settlement broke the impasse in the Kansas legislature and allowed passage of measures (HB2369) that will promote the use of renewable energy resources in the state. Secondly, the settlement is subject to conditions whereby Sunflower and partners would “offset” a substantial portion of the carbon dioxide emissions from the proposed 895 megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant, Holcomb 2. The purpose of the fact sheet is to assess the validity of these premises and associated claims.

Highlights of the legislation

A.  Does the Deal Boost Renewable Energy in Kansas?

1.  RES Act.

   a.  Requires utilities to purchase 10% of their power from renewable sources by 2011, 15% by 2016, and 20% by 2020.

   b.  However, with the exception of renewable energy generated after January 1, 2000, utilities get a credit of 1.1 MW toward compliance for each MW of renewable generating capacity they install after January 1, 2000. Thus, the real standard is 9.1% in 2011, 13.6% in 2016, and 18.2% in 2020. The Governor has vastly exaggerated the value of greenhouse gas offsets. Enforcement of the agreement will be tenuous. The few good provisions in the agreement are overwhelmed by the bad.

Conclusions.  The Governor’s deal is unlikely to materially boost renewable energy on Kansas. The Governor has vastly exaggerated the value of greenhouse gas offsets. Enforcement of the agreement will be tenuous. The few good provisions in the agreement are overwhelmed by the bad.

Fact Sheet on the Governor’s Coal Plant Agreement with Sunflower Electric

Updated 5-22-09

By Craig Volland, Chair, Air Quality Committee, Kansas Chapter, Sierra Club

The Governor has justified his May 4, 2009 settlement with Sunflower Electric Power Corporation primarily on two premises. First, and most importantly to the Governor, the settlement broke the impasse in the Kansas legislature and allowed passage of measures that will promote the use of renewable energy resources in the state. Secondly, the settlement is subject to conditions whereby Sunflower and partners would “offset” a substantial portion of the carbon dioxide emissions from the proposed 895 megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant, Holcomb 2. The purpose of this fact sheet is to assess the validity of these premises and associated claims.

A.  Does the Deal Boost Renewable Energy in Kansas?

The major elements of the legislation (Senate Substitute for HB 2369) in this regard are the Renewable Energy Standards (RES) Act and the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act.

1.  RES Act.

   a.  This new law would require affected utilities to use renewable energy generating capacity equal to 10% of peak demand by the year 2011, 15% by 2016 and 20% by 2020. But what legislators giveth they taketh away in the fine print. For each MW of renewable generating capacity that a utility installs after January 1, 2000, they get a credit of 1.1 MW toward compliance. Thus the real standard is 9.1% by 2011, 13.6% in 2016 and 18.2% in 2020. In other words they gave the utilities a 10% discount at the outset.

   b.  The Agreement Offsets, at best, only 15% of the new coal plant’s 6.7 million tons per year of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions.

      i.  Incorrectly calculates carbon offset values.

      ii.  Counts retirement of two existing plants that Sunflower has not used for 20 years.

      iii.  Counts a plan to burn biomass that is highly unlikely to be technically or economically feasible.

      iv.  Counts “reasonable efforts” to develop the highly experimental bio-energy center and algae reactor technology.

      v.  Gives escape clause for half of energy efficiency expense.

   c.  The only valid offsets are some extra wind power capacity and modest gains from energy conservation.

      i.  New transmission lines are modestly useful, but they go to the West, not to the East where the principle market for Kansas power lies.

      ii.  Requires tighter emission standards for the existing 350 MW coal plant, Holcomb 1.
Kwh. New renewable generating capacity starts at 5 cents (wind farms with the production tax credit) and goes up from there. It is inevitable that rates will increase more than 1%.

Finally, former Governor Sebelius had already gained from the major utilities a promise to comply with a 20%-by-2020 RES. In fact most Kansas utilities already have in the works wind farms that will comply with the 2011 requirement in the RES Act. Thus we can say that the RES Act will have no significant effect on the deployment of renewable energy generation capacity in Kansas.

   - Net metering allows a business or a homeowner to install their own electricity generating unit, such as a solar panel or small wind turbine, and then get a credit by sending excess power back into the grid. Again this sounds great until one gets to the fine print:
   - This applies only to investor-owned utilities, not to cooperatives like Sunflower Electric or to municipally owned electric utilities. This means it would not apply to vast areas in western Kansas with the best wind and solar resources. That’s where people would most likely want to use net metering, and they can’t.
   - The use of net metering is capped at 1% of a utility company’s peak demand. Based on KCC data for 2008 the sum total of net metering that could be utilized would be only 67MW. That compares to some 11,000 MW of existing generating capacity of all types in the state. The KCC is authorized to increase this limit, but that could be difficult under a future KCC and Governor.
   - User credits that accrue over the year are wiped out at year end. Thus users can never get payment or continuing credit from the company for more power than they use from the grid in any year.

3. Competition from Coal Plants.
   - HB 2369 significantly reduces the KDHE Secretary’s authority to prevent or delay the issuance of a construction permit for either Holcomb 2 or any other future coal plant. The Governor’s settlement agreement explicitly allows Sunflower to file for another coal plant permit after April 30, 2011.
   - It can be argued that opening up Kansas to new coal plants will retard the development of new wind farms and utility-scale solar thermal power plants because they would be competing both in cost, and for transmission-line space against large coal plants. The Holcomb expansion will, at certain times of the year, present a huge overhang of excess power that can be dumped at below cost onto the market. The 600 MW of the project owned by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Co. can be routed to the east when not needed in Colorado.

4. A Big Favor to Sunflower Electric.
   - HB2369 also conveniently allows Sunflower Electric to exempt itself from regulation by the KCC for the purposes of setting rates. This is curious given that other Kansas utilities have abandoned their coal plant proposals due to the high risk from rising construction costs and impending carbon regulation. Ratepayers in Sunflower’s service area should be very concerned. Ironically the Colorado Public Utility Commission is considering increasing their oversight of Tri-State, Sunflower’s main partner in the project. There are provisions for Sunflower’s ratepayers to petition for a vote requesting KCC supervision.

Conclusion.
The Renewable Energy Standard Act provides little or no incentive for the development of renewable energy in Kansas beyond what was already in place. Other measures in HB2369 that facilitate the construction of coal plants may actually retard renewable energy in the state. The Net Metering Act will have a very modest favorable impact, but is not operative in those parts of the state that have the best wind and solar resources.

B. Would the Deal Offset a Substantial Part of Holcomb 2’s CO2 Emissions?
   - According to calculations performed by Sunflower Electric and provided to Governor Parkinson, Sunflower’s proposed 895 Mega-watt (MW) coal plant at Holcomb will now...
generate 6.67 million tons per year of carbon dioxide down from 10.72 million tons from the two 700 MW coal units in Sunflower's previous proposal. Governor Parkinson also used Sunflower's calculations to claim that the agreement includes “offsets” to these emissions amounting to 3.016 million tons or about 45% of the total. These offsets are individually examined below, the most dubious first.

To begin with, however, Sunflower & the Governor have made a systematic error by assuming that these offsets, such as new wind farms or energy efficiency measures, will always displace the carbon emitted from their existing coal-fired generating capacity (credited at 2150 lb CO2/Mwh). Actually the particular offset, at any point in time, may actually displace the burning of natural gas or power that they would have purchased on the open market.

For example, from April through December of 2007, Sunflower's system purchased 11% of its power on the open market and generated 13% with natural gas. Power purchased on the open market often comes from natural gas generators. Burning natural gas emits half the carbon dioxide per unit of power that coal does. It’s too complicated here to estimate the real carbon reduction in lb/Mwh, but it’s safe to say the discrepancy, i.e., exaggeration, is significant.

1. Two oil fired generating units, Garden City 1 & 2 must be permanently decommissioned from Sunflower's fleet. An offset of 59,568 tons/yr is claimed. A look at Sunflower's website at http://www.sunflower.net/facilities.aspx will show that these two units are no longer listed in their summary of facilities. They were also not listed in their 2006 annual report, and they were not listed in DOE's 2003 Inventory of Existing Generating Units in the US. GC3 is still listed, and it entered service in 1962, which means GC1 & 2 are even older. Finally the Lawrence Journal World confirmed that these units have not been used for more than 20 Years! To include the Garden City1&2 generating units as carbon offsets is patently absurd.

(http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2009/may/05/units-be-decommissioned-part-coal-plant-deal-haven/)

2. Sunflower must use or cause to be used biomass fuel equivalent to 10% of the heat input to Holcomb 1 & 2.

- An offset of 945,467 tons/yr is claimed. The agreement does not specify where this fuel is to be burned. However they need not proceed with this project if it is found to be technically or economically infeasible. Technical feasibility is not defined, which in itself indicates that this condition is not enforceable. Further, the technical feasibility of this proposal is in question.
  - The sum total of biomass burning must be equivalent to about 126 MW of electricity generation. According to a recent presentation to the Midwest Section of the Air & Waste Management Assn by Black & Veatch Consulting Engineers, a biomass burning operation of this size exceeds anything in regular operation in the United States. Reaching 10% co-firing in a pulverized coal boiler requires separate fuel handling facilities and boiler modifications. Also the alkali content of agricultural biomass such as switch grass may damage the boilers of power plants. Biomass burning tends to slightly reduce the efficiency of a boiler. It’s obvious why Sunflower caused this technical feasibility escape-clause to be included in the agreement. It is easier to burn biomass in cyclone boilers but candidates have not been identified.
  - Economic feasibility is defined as meaning that the cost of biomass fuel may not exceed 200% of the cost of coal. According to Sunflower’s presentation to the Kansas Energy Council the cost of Wyoming PRB coal delivered to Holcomb, Kansas, is about $25.00/ton. That translates to $1.50 per million BTUs. According to our preliminary research, wood waste could meet a $3.00 per million BTU cost threshold, but there is little wood waste available anywhere near Holcomb.
  - The cost of agricultural biomass would likely be several times that of PRB coal. This is due to the high cost of collecting and transporting such a diffuse resource. For example, Alliant Energy Co., which has experimented with burning switch grass, estimates it would take 50,000 acres to produce enough biomass to produce 35 MW of power and it would involve as many as 500 farmers. Also, Sunflower will be competing in the future against increasing demand for biomass needed for cellulosic ethanol production. Further, burning biomass in a utility boiler requires additional auxiliary power.
  - Thus there is legitimate concern that Sunflower will ultimately be excused from this important performance requirement due to the cost of biomass fuel which may exceed the specified threshold. When both technical and economic contingencies are taken together, we conclude that it is unlikely that Sunflower Electric will ever burn an appreciable amount of biomass to serve as a carbon “offset” for Holcomb 2. Even if they did, the claimed offsets do not take into account the reduced boiler efficiency, the additional auxiliary power needed for the operation, nor the large quantities of fuel needed to collect the biomass in the first place.

3. Sunflower to use “reasonable efforts” to advance a Bioenergy Center & Algae Reactor. An offset of 825,000 tons/yr is claimed. The dubious nature of this enterprise has been noted on the Sierra Club website (http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/Wind/AlgaeReactors.htm). It is in a very early stage of development and would be prohibitively expensive. It is highly unlikely that this project will ever displace any of the carbon emitted by Holcomb 2.

• An offset of 135,605 tons/yr is claimed. This calculation contains two errors. First, Sunflower has already contracted for 124 MW of wind power. They calculate that the additional requirement will be 20% of their members’ peak of 800 MW which would yield an additional requirement of \((160 - 124) = 36 MW\). But the actual 2020 RES is 18.2% not 20% (See under section A-1 above). Thus the extra wind required by the RES Act is only 21 MW, not 36 MW.

• Secondly, Sunflower had already committed to meet former Governor Sebelius’s voluntary RES of 20% in 2020. So the net advantage from the settlement agreement is 21 MW of wind for four years. But Sunflower calculates the offset as if this provision will offset emission for the 50 years or more that Holcomb 2 is in operation. That’s comparing apples and oranges.

• In all fairness, Sunflower deserves some credit for buying 75 MW of wind power from TradeWind Energy’s Smokey Hill Wind Farm in response to pressure from renewable energy advocates and the Sebelius Administration. So alternate views on this offset claim are possible.

5. Sunflower must spend 1% of gross revenues for energy efficiency programs.

• An offset of 376,680 tons/yr is claimed. While this would be a step forward there is no performance standard or goal specified. Former Governor Sebelius’s original compromise offer included a requirement for 100 MW of energy conservation. Apparently Governor Parkinson abandoned this performance standard. Sunflower says they will achieve 40 MW under this performance requirement.

• However the agreement allows Sunflower to credit any expenditure for their experimental Bioenergy Center toward the 1% requirement. In fact Sunflower may reduce expenditures for energy efficiency to only 0.5% of gross revenues if they so choose. There is no guarantee that the Bioenergy Center will ever offset a single pound of carbon. Nonetheless 40 MW is probably a reasonable estimate for this offset.

6. Sunflower and/or partners must build new wind farms in Kansas equivalent to 20% of the “net capacity” of Holcomb 2.

An offset of 674,257 tons/yr is claimed. Net capacity refers to output after deducting the parasitic load (to run controls etc), so it’s not clear just how many MW we are talking about here, since the 895 MW coal plant is referred to as “nominal capacity” in the agreement. If one applies a typical de-rating for parasitic load, this offset should be at least 165 MW of new wind.

Although the language in the agreement is ambiguous, this new capacity is supposed to be in addition to any requirement for Sunflower and Midwest Energy to comply with a statewide Renewable Energy Standard (RES). This offset appears to be substantially valid.

Conclusion.

Only the energy efficiency and the (20% of Holcomb 2) new wind requirement can be considered valid. Thus, at best, one can expect only about 15% of the 6.7 million tons of carbon dioxide per year to be offset under the Governor’s settlement.

C. Other Issues in the Settlement Agreement.

1. Sunflower must use “reasonable efforts” to build two 345 kV transmission lines to Colorado.

• They have until 5 years after the start up of Holcomb 2 to accomplish this. Given that it would take a year or more to both obtain the new coal plant permit and to clear appeals, and four years to construct, these lines need not be in place until 2020 or beyond. This prospect hardly supports the Governor’s claims that this will be a boon to wind power in Kansas.

• The original Sunflower - Tri-state proposal envisioned two 600 MW coal plants that would run output through three 345 kV transmission lines. (A third plant at Holcomb was to serve Kansas and a partner in Oklahoma and Texas). One 345 kV line would run from Holcomb to Burlington, Colorado and two 345 kV lines would run from Holcomb to Lamar, Colorado. Last year the third coal plant was dropped along with one of the lines to Lamar, Colorado. Tri-state was to take 100 MW from one of the remaining two plants plus all the 700MW from the other. The two remaining transmission lines were to be beefed up to 500 kV capacity. The current settlement calls for 600 MW of the 895 MW coal plant to go to Colorado via two transmission lines that have been downsized to 345 kV each. It appears that Tri-state is more interested in sizing the transmission lines to fit their coal power needs than accommodating wind power from Kansas to Colorado.

• Nonetheless if we compare the ratio of coal plant to transmission line capacity in the original plan to the current set up, it suggests that, on average, a modest 200 MW of wind capacity could be served by the two 345 kV transmission lines. That would be helpful. Also, connecting to the western grid in Colorado would help reduce the intermittency of wind power production since, if the wind is not blowing in Colorado, it may be blowing in Kansas and vice versa.

• On the other hand Colorado has developed their own substantial wind industry, and the vast majority of the market for Kansas wind is in the population centers to the east. Also if, as expected, Sunflower tries to build a second new plant, the 200 MW of spare capacity on the lines would quickly be displaced by more coal power. So, in the larger scheme of things, these lines will provide only marginal help for the Kansas wind industry.

See Fact Sheet on page 15  
June / July 2009
HB 2043 seemed to be moving discussion in the right direction. It provided for net metering. Because this issue had been discussed for some time and it was well known that a single meter system was needed, the Sierra Club opposed 2043. Two meters were required, one for electricity being used and one for electricity being produced. It was time for single meter net metering. Again, this bill remains in committee.

Net metering continued to be nibbled at January 29th. HB 2051 was also opposed. The Sierra Club believes that true net metering consists of one meter measuring electricity where any excess generation is compensated to the producer at retail rates. 2051 did neither of these. It remains in committee.

January testimony ended with HB 2064, which was not an energy bill. 2064 was the Night Sky Protection Act and dealt with limiting light emissions in specific outdoor venues like state parks and wilderness areas. The Sierra Club felt this bill, being ambiguously worded, could impede the development of wind power in Kansas. Because of this, the Sierra Club spoke in opposition. 2064 remains in the House Utilities Committee.

Moving on to February, the Sierra Club came out in support of HB 2116 on the 2nd. This was a very short bill that required the KCC to publish biennial reports on the current and forecasted capacity and peak load for electric public utilities in Kansas. Electric Public Utilities were also to develop and implement an Enhanced Energy Efficiency and Load Management Program that would have the potential to reduce total generation requirements. This bill too remains in the House Utilities Committee.

February 3rd was another day. Again the Sierra Club came out in support of a bill. This time it was HB 2127. This bill came from Governor Kathleen Sebelius’s office and was called the Renewable Energy Standards Act. It consisted of a number of items the Sierra Club supported. Net metering used one meter and credited energy generated to producer in a 1:1 ratio. However, at the end of the year any excess generation credit was given to the utility. There was an acceptable RPS section and energy efficiency standards for government buildings and vehicles. Many of these items, though altered in various ways, can be found in the Governor Parkinson’s recent agreement with Sunflower and 2014 that was vetoed. Otherwise, this bill remains in committee.

On February 5th the Sierra Club testified in favor of HB 2224. This bill set up rules and regulations plus administrative fees for compressed air technology. This bill allows for the use of compressed air technology to be used with wind energy and has the potential to make it part of what is often referred to as base load. This bill is still in committee but became part of 2014 and 2369.

After about two weeks of hearings on energy bills, the House Energy and Utilities Committee was divided into subcommittees. Each subcommittee was assigned some of the bills that had been previously heard to look over, ask questions about and to make recommendations to the whole committee. This went on for over a week with many of the subcommittees meeting early in the morning. No minutes were taken at these subcommittee meetings though staff was available for answering questions. Subcommittee Chairs were to keep track of recommendations.

The recommendations made by these subcommittees were used to write Substitute for HB 2014 or what has been referred to as the 2009 version of the Holcomb bill. Attempts were made to sell this bill as a Comprehensive Energy Bill but everyone knew it was written to build Holcomb. This passed the committee and was eventually passed by the full House on February 27 by a vote of 79-84.

During this time, the Senate began thinking about their version of 2014. At one point, to get Senate Utilities Committee members thinking about a bill, Sen. Apple, the Committee Chair, handed the committee copies of last years Holcomb bill.

Eventually, the Senate wrote and considered SB 265, the Senate version of the Holcomb bill. Hearings were held on February 18, 19 and 25. The Sierra Club testified in opposition to the bill. When Substitute for HB 2014 was sent to the Senate and then assigned to the Senate Utilities Committee, 265 was amended into 2014 making it Senate Substitute for Substitute for HB 2014.

This version of 2014 passed the Senate on March 5th by a vote of 31 to 9. The debate in the Senate primarily concerned itself with building Holcomb. The bill then went to a conference committee consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of both House and Senate Utilities Committees and the Ranking Minority member of both. In this committee the differences between House and Senate versions of the Holcomb bill were hammered out.

On April 2nd the Senate voted 31 to 7 to adopt the Conference Committee report on 2014. The House did the same on April 3rd by a vote of 74 to 48. The bill went to Governor Sebelius who vetoed it on April 13 before she resigned to be the US Secretary of Health and Human Services. The veto set the stage for a possible veto override attempt in the House requiring 84 votes. The Senate vote had been beyond the required two-thirds majority so a veto override vote was thought to be a sure thing. Only one chamber of the legislator needs to sustain a veto for a bill to remain vetoed.
There were other bills dealing with energy not associated with 2014 or 2369. On February 27th and March 2nd, the House Taxation Committee had a hearing on HB 2196. The Sierra Club testified in opposition to this bill, eliminated tax incentives for wind energy. 2196 was not acted upon and remains in the House Tax Committee.

The Senate Utilities Committee on March 11 and 16 heard SB 284. Sierra Club once again testified in support of a bill. This bill directs the Kansas Corporation Commission to establish an independent entity for the purpose of developing, implementing and monitoring an energy efficiency, conservation and education program. This entity is to be organized as a not-for-profit corporation and includes a charge to utility customers for supporting these programs. This would be for investor owned utilities, both electric and natural gas, though coops and municipal utilities could also participate. No action was taken so the bill remains in the Senate Utilities Committee.

On Friday April 3rd, the legislature adjourned the regular session. Since this is the first year of a two-year cycle for bills, bills still in committee could still be considered next year. The so-called veto session began on April 29th when the legislature reconvened primarily to consider the omnibus appropriations bill and gubernatorial vetoes.

The expectation was that there would be an attempt to override Governor Sebelius’s veto of Senate Substitute for Substitute HB 2014. It appeared that those House members who had previously voted to sustain vetoes last year and those who voted against 2014 would continue doing so. It was expected that the veto would be sustained.

On May 4th at 3:30 p.m., the newly promoted Governor Mark Parkinson, joined by Earl Watkins from Sunflower Electric, held a news conference to announce the Comprehensive Energy Settlement. This allowed for one 895 MW coal fired power plant to be built in place of the two 700 MW plants that had been sought. This agreement included a number of other aspects including a contingency that a bill be written and passed that had specified items. This bill became Senate Substitute for HB 2369.

At this point there was no need to try an override of 2014, there was a new bill. This bill includes a number of items. It has RPS and net metering sections similar to what was in HB 2127. It also had allowing Sunflower to opt out of KCC regulations like in HB 2035 and limits to the authority of KDHE similar to HB 2182. Since the Governor’s staff helped to write this bill, there was no way that it was going to be a veto. With this bill passing, it is probable that a permit will eventually be issued allowing Holcomb, albeit downsized, to be built. One other aspect of the agreement is that Sunflower has agreed not to apply for another permit for 2 years. At that time a new permit application can be made for another plant.

The specifics of 2369, the Governor’s Agreement, a Fact Sheet by Sierra Club member Craig Volland and other items about the bill can be obtained on the Sierra Club website at: http://kansas.sierraclub.org/Wind/Parkinson-Coal.html

A Non-Holcomb Issue, rGBH Dairy Labeling

On February 26th, Craig Volland gave the Sierra Club testimony opposing HB 2295. HB 2295 would have made it illegal for dairies to indicate they were rGBH free. rGBH also known as rBST is a hormone given to dairy cows that allows them to produce more milk. It was also opposed by a number of organic and small farm organizations including the Farmers Union. The hearing was before the House Agriculture Committee though it came from the House Taxation Committee, an exempt committee. On March 20 it passed the House 75 to 44 and was sent to the Senate. In the Senate it was assigned to the Senate Agriculture Committee. It was thought there would be no hearing on the bill so there would be no vote.

Another bill, HB 2121 dealing with a variety of other agriculture issues was in conference committee. A version of 2295 was amended into 2121 putting the dairy labeling issue back on the table. On April 2 the Senate voted to adopt the Conference Committee report 22-15. On April 3 the House did the same on a vote of 82-42 sending the bill to Governor Sebelius. On April 23rd Governor Sebelius vetoed HB 2121 because of the dairy labeling sections.

Since the other parts of this bill were important to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, it was feared there would be an override attempt. Fortunately, HB 2295, the original dairy-labeling bill, was gutted and made into Substitute for HB 2295. The new version of 2295 had the original 2121 without the dairy-labeling sections. There was no need for a veto override attempt. Unwanted dairy labeling regulations were defeated for another year.

What To Do Now

Day to day many of us talk to friends who believe in global warming, renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation. It tends to give us the feeling that “everyone” knows about these. It can give one a false sense of security that our political leaders know what we know. Certainly they all know about the debate and issues but often see them from differing points of view. Some will never understand but will follow whatever those helping put them in office tell them.

Education and a positive campaign to promote what we believe in are needed. Start by showing support for legislators who stuck with us by voting against 2014 but especially those who continued fighting Holcomb by voting no on 2369 too. Next, keep talking to new people and groups about the need for clean renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation. At Clean Energy Day in March there were a number of organizations collaborating to promote these issues. Encourage other groups to join the collaboration.

The legislature is not the only place we can make progress. A couple years ago, the then Lt. Governor Parkinson told me there are more ways to get things done than through
Holcomb Reborn, continued from page 13

the legislature. Progress needs to be made at the county, city and even township levels too. These entities also need to hear from constituents about building green, pressing for community wind, providing programs to help citizens weatherize homes and otherwise be more sustainable. School districts need to hear that you want new schools to be built green or old ones to be retrofitted green. Short-term budget needs often result in corners being cut that are not green. These government entities also lobby. Your tax dollars often go toward lobbying for legislation at the state level that is not good for the environment.

Green candidates are needed at all levels of government. Even Coops in Kansas have elected boards but one may have to go to annual meetings to vote. To vote, you would have to be a member, ratepayer, of the Coop. If you or someone you know want to run for state, county, city, water board, school board even levee board to promote being green as one of the platforms let someone in the Sierra Club leadership know. Then run for that office or help the friend you know who wants to run. Kansas has more elected offices per capita than any other state in the country.

Go to forums, city council meetings, county commission meetings, coop meetings and ask questions. Publicly let leaders know that you want them to be sustainable and have a smaller carbon footprint. Letters to the editor and calling in to radio shows are also good ways to promote our issues. The fight for the issues we believe in is not over.

Thanks Aren't Enough

The effort to lobby the legislature every year is an important one. The lobbyist is not the most important person influencing the legislature however. You are! I and everyone else must thank those of you who called, wrote, phoned, visited or emailed a legislator about an issue. My value testifying on issues comes from those efforts. Otherwise I am just a voice. The more there are people doing this the more the lobbyist's words are listened to.

Clean Energy Day participants should all be thanked for taking the day to join a collaboration of people who all want a clean energy future. All the groups that joined this event helped to show renewable energy is part of the agenda for a broad spectrum of people. Stephanie Cole from the Sierra Club Coal campaign worked diligently with Scott Allegrucci and James Roberts of the Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy (GPACE) along with Nancy Jackson, Maril Hazlett and the crew at the Climate and Energy Project (CEP) to make this event a success and give lobbying efforts a shot in the arm. Those from GPACE and CEP also regularly joined me to testify on energy bills, talk to legislators and keep people informed about what goes on in Topeka concerning energy. There are also those whose names I don’t know who made phone calls for Clean Energy Day and the campaign to sustain the Governor’s veto of 2014. All deserve thanks.

There were legislators that I could count on day after day. The ranking Democrat on the House Energy and Utilities Committee, Rep. Annie Kuether, was always there to fill me in and give support. Rep. Josh Svaty was a voice of reason concerning both energy and dairy labeling despite the fact that his wife Kimberly, gave birth during some of the most critical moments of debate. Rep. Margaret Long constantly surprised me with her frank comments about energy legislation. And Sen. Marci Francisco is unsurpassed in arguing for issues she believes in. She never stopped fighting for a clean energy future and appropriate labeling for dairy products. At times she seemed like the lone voice in the wilderness. These and the others who continued voting against Holcomb bills to the end, especially Rep. Jo Ann Pottorff and Senate David Wysong, the lone Republicans to vote against 2369, are all greatly appreciated.

Others were also at the Capital helping. Don Teske from the Farmers Union took a leading role in the battle with 2295 and 2121. Paul Johnson was in Topeka for the League of Women Voters and the Catholic Conference. Paul was a constant source of information about issues and was a friend. Gary Anderson from the Topeka Group often came to the Capital Building keeping track of legislation and giving me encouragement and a Sierra Club member to talk to. These and some others made my job much more tolerable. I cannot forget Jim Mason from Kansas Natural Resource Council who emailed me his valuable insights on upcoming legislation helping me to make points that I may have otherwise overlooked.

Last but not least, Joe Spease, Legislative Chair and the Legislative Committee were of tremendous help with guidance and information. They let me know what was important to the Sierra Club on issues important to the well being of the environment. Craig Volland provided a wealth of expertise that made testimony and lobbying have credibility, as did other members of the Legislative Committee. Craig Wolfe put together alerts and other literature, both hard copy and electronic, keeping all of us on our toes when it was time to act. Stephanie Cole, the Sierra Club staff person working on the Coal Campaign seemed to have her finger in everything going on during the legislative session. Her planning, educating, coordinating, and communicating were invaluable. Also, Chapter Chair Frank Drinkwine and the Kansas Sierra Club Executive Committee’s consistent attention were necessary for supporting all efforts.

Without these people, lobbying would have been lonesome, ineffective and impossible.
Fact Sheet, continued from page 11

2. Efficiency of the boiler.
   - According to the handout supplied to legislators by the Governor’s office, Holcomb 2 is described as an “ultra supercritical coal generating unit.” However the actual agreement signed by the Governor describes the unit as a “super critical coal generating unit.” Thus Sunflower is under no legal obligation to use a more efficient ultra supercritical boiler. The difference could be as much as 4 efficiency points (42% vs 38%) or about 11%. That’s a lot of extra carbon.
   - In any event “supercritical” is not a concise term and covers a range of boiler efficiencies. Sunflower claims to have reduced their CO2 emission rate in the new proposal to 1850 lb/Mwh from 1900 lb/Mwh in their earlier plan. However this prospect is not enforceable in the agreement. Boiler efficiency needs to be defined in terms of actual boiler design.

3. Modifications to (existing) Holcomb 1.
   - The agreement requires that Sunflower agrees, without changing the existing permit limitations, to meet lower limits for oxides of nitrogen and sulfur dioxide emissions from Holcomb 1. Also Sunflower must install new mercury controls on Holcomb 1 such that the total of mercury emissions from H1 and H2 will not increase from the 327 pounds emitted in 2005 by Holcomb 1. This firms up a verbal commitment made by Sunflower during the Holcomb 2&3 permit proceedings.

4. Escape Hatches in the Settlement Agreement.
   - The agreement includes a number of “escape hatches” for Sunflower that evokes considerable skepticism about the outcome of this enterprise. For example, Sunflower’s performance is conditioned upon receiving all the governmental approvals necessary for it to perform the terms of the agreement including the recovery of all costs through its rate structure. The construction of this large coal plant and other elements of the program are likely to generate substantial rate increases both for Sunflower’s members in western Kansas and also for Tri-state's members in Colorado.
   - For example, under a new governor & in the interests of reducing these rate increases, the KCC might allow financing of the coal plant but disallow the new wind farms and energy efficiency. Sunflower would thus be excused from satisfying the promised carbon offsets that were part of the agreement.
   - Of course the new legislation allows Sunflower to exempt itself from KCC regulation. It’s unclear how this would play out. What happens if the Colorado PUC refuses to allow Tri-State to recover its costs? There are a number of other contingencies...
Kanza Silent Auction Continues Its Winning Ways

Eating Our Way to a Healthy Planet Was Theme

By Craig Wolfe, Silent Auction Chair

The Kanza Group again held its 2009 Silent Auction on May 2 at the Lenexa Conference Center. The theme this year focused on reducing our carbon footprint, but in a way typically not obvious to most Americans, and even many environmentalists. Food, as it turns out, may be our easiest and most effective path to reducing our carbon footprint.

We all know that we should attempt to purchase food that is locally grown so as to reduce the fuel it takes to bring it from its source to our plates. But the disturbing little secret is that our consumption of meat and dairy products has its consequences. Did you know that animal agriculture contributes 40 percent more greenhouse gases than the entire worldwide transportation sector? So, if we are really serious about reducing our carbon footprint (we are, aren’t we?), then we don’t have to wait until we can afford a Prius to get started. We can get started right now just by changing our diets.

For our speakers at the Silent Auction, the Auction Committee brought in 3 panelists to address the area of food. Each spoke briefly on their own topic of expertise, and then we opened up the panel to questions from the audience. I had many very favorable comments about our speakers, who were:
- Katherine Kelly - Executive Director and co-founder of the KC Center for Urban Agriculture.
- Lisa Markley, MS, RD, LD - Registered Dietitian Program in Integrative Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center
- Craig Volland - Coordinator of The Kansas City Food Circle and Chair of the CAFO and Agriculture Committees for the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club

Our excellent food this year was again coordinated by Elaine Giessel along with her most excellent Food Committee. Added to the food selections was an added treat, both for its taste and its education. Beth Redwood, along with her and her band of vegans, prepared a wide assortment of foods containing no animal products whatsoever, showing us all that food can taste great and also have a minimal impact on our carbon footprint. (See photos below)

Of course it goes without saying that many, many volunteers, individuals, and businesses contributed countless hours of time and effort to make this year’s Silent Auction another great success.
Thank You to our Donating Businesses and Individuals

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Kimberly Reene  

Craig Volland & Anne Allegre  

Steve & Randee Werts  

Craig & Jamie Wolfe  

More Auction Highlights on page 18
Silent Auction Awards Recognize Leadership and Activism

Craig Wolfe (left) presents New Activists of the Year Award to Bob Sommer, Jim Graham, and Bob Fritsch.

Bill Esch receives the Homegrown Corporate Hero Award for David Ball - Hen House Markets

Katherine Kelly receives the Green Thumb Award for herself, Daniel Dermitzel, and Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture

Donna Gray receives the Volunteer of the Year
Looking over the goings on we see some of the Exhibitors, food vendors and attendees and the Lenexa Conference Center. A great time was had by all.

Speakers and Panelists Craig Volland, Liz Markley, and Katherine Kelly enlighten the audience on all aspects of how our food habits and diet impact Earth and our Carbon Footprint.
Eating As Though The Earth Matters
Ideas and Recipes for a Changing Diet

By Beth Lily Redwood

“When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren’t pessimistic, you don’t understand data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and you aren’t optimistic, you haven’t got a pulse.” – Paul Hawken

The opportunity of our lifetime now lies before us. Nature beckons us to stop the damage being done to our precious planet, to make the effort to act on her behalf. With all of us making the effort, we can create the world of the 21st century we’d like to see. We can overcome the outmoded 19th century systems that rely on cheap fossil fuels, non-renewable resources, and the unsustainable domination of nature to maximize profits, while severely damaging the air, water, land and beauty of our world. Every time we consume, we have a choice to use our money for or against the future viability of our planet. If we continue to support businesses that are damaging our planet, we add to the problem, but every time we make the more enlightened choice and support those that are working in harmony with nature, we become a force for good.

While certain actions to lower our ecological footprint have been widely communicated—changing light bulbs, turning down our thermostats, driving a hybrid car—it still comes as a surprise to many environmentalists that the greatest determinant of our individual contribution to global warming is our diet. According to the UN Report, Livestock’s Long Shadow, animal agriculture contributes 40 percent more greenhouse gases than the entire worldwide transportation sector. The production of animal foods accounts for 9 percent of annual human-induced CO2 emissions, 37 percent of methane emissions, (which has more than 20 times the global warming potential than CO2), and 65 percent of nitrous oxide, (which has nearly 300 times CO2’s global warming potential).

If we wish to be a force for beneficial, positive change for our planet, then the place to start is by eating lower on the food chain: minimizing or eliminating animal meat, dairy products and eggs from our diet.

At its recent annual fundraiser, the Kanza Group of the Sierra Club focused on the theme of “Eating Our Way to a Healthy Planet.” People came with an open mind to learn how they could reduce their harm to the environment by changing their approach to eating. To the delight of many participants, there was a sumptuous table with a full array of earth- and animal-friendly, plant-based foods for them to sample. These vegan foods included spinach triangles, potato and bean tamales, vegetable curry rollups, baked tofu, red pepper and walnut spread, hummus, peanut butter chocolate chip cookies, and almond cookies.

Some of the ideas discussed at the conference were the environmental impact of eating locally-sourced, organic foods, as well as the question of “humanely” raised animals. There are positive aspects to all of these approaches compared to consuming animal foods produced by commercial confined feeding operations (CAFOs). These businesses cruelly confine animals in spaces so small they can hardly move, mutilate their bodies without anesthesia, force them to grow in such distorted ways that they spend their short lives in abject pain, feed them unnatural diets, and expose them to massive doses of antibiotics and petroleum-based pesticides. These corporations are directly responsible for some of the most egregious damage to our air, water and land. For more details on these operations, please see www.farmsanctuary.org or www.hsus.org.

However, when one looks closely at the scientific data, the adverse environmental impact of eating animal foods, even those produced locally, organically and/or “humanely,” is far more substantial than the impact of eating a plant-based diet.

It’s the Meat and Dairy, More Than the Food Miles, That Count

“A compromise in recent years has been the idea of animals raised locally and organically. Becoming a “locavore” who eats regional fruits and vegetables in season as much as possible makes abundant sense, of course…. But with global warming, here’s the inconvenient truth about meat and dairy products: If you eat them, regardless of their origin and how they were produced, you significantly contribute to climate change. Period. If your beef is from New Zealand or your own backyard, if your lamb is organic free-range or factory farmed, it still has a negative impact on global warming.” – Mike Tidwell, “The Low Carbon Diet,” Audubon Magazine

“An analysis of the environmental toll of food production concludes that transportation is a mere drop in the carbon bucket. Foods such as beef and dairy make a far deeper impression on a consumer’s carbon footprint.” – New Scientist Magazine

In a comprehensive study of the greenhouse gas emissions of our meals, Christopher Weber of Carnegie Mellon University found that eating less meat and dairy lowers the average U.S. household’s climate footprint more effectively than buying local food. Eating red meat and dairy products is responsible for nearly half of all greenhouse gas emissions from food for the average U.S. household. Weber’s team found that out of the 8.1 metric tons of greenhouse gases generated annually as a result of food consumption by the average U.S. household, 11 percent was due to transportation, compared to 83 percent that was due to agricultural practices. The study concluded that switching to a totally local diet would produce the carbon savings of driving about 1,000 miles less per year, while switching to a vegan diet (no meat, dairy or eggs) cuts the equivalent of driving 8,120 miles per year.
Grass-Fed Cows and Organic Chickens Are Worse for Global Warming

“What was surprising is that grazing, grass-fed cattle — those happy cows we all like to celebrate — will emit four to five times more methane than corn-fed cattle.” — Lou Bendrick, Grist

“A report from Science News argues that beef produces 19 kilograms of CO2 for every kilogram served; that grass-fed beef is worse — yes worse — for global warming than feed-lot beef; and that for every percentage reduction we make in meat consumption we’ll see a corresponding reduction in its contribution to global warming.” — Mark Bittman, New York Times

In a study comparing the greenhouse gas emissions of plant- and animal-based diets, University of Chicago professors Gidon Eshel and Pamela Martin found that “if you eat the mean American diet, then you are responsible for the emissions of an extra ton and a half of CO2 per person per year, as compared to a vegan who eats the same number of calories but derived only from plants.” By contrast, switching from a standard sedan to a hybrid car saves about one ton of CO2 emissions.

The Science News report, “Climate-Friendly Dining,” discusses the research of Nathan Pelletier of Dalhousie University which found that, contrary to the common belief that fattening cattle on pasture grass is better for the environment than corn-fed cattle, the opposite is true from a climate perspective.

As Pelletier explains, “We do see significant differences in the greenhouse gas intensities [of grass vs. grain finishing]. It’s roughly on the order of 50 percent higher in grass-finished systems.” This is because grass-fed cattle require more resources and thus cause more greenhouse gas emissions.

Another interesting study by Adrian Williams of Cranfield University looked at the environmental impact of organic, free-range chickens, and found that these birds have “a 20 percent greater global warming impact than conventionally-raised broiler birds.” The main reason is that the organically raised animals take longer to fatten to slaughter weight and they eat more feed. Williams also found that organic eggs have “a 14 percent higher impact on the climate than eggs from caged chickens.”

The Controversy Over “Humane” Meat, Milk, and Eggs

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” — Mahatma Gandhi

In recent years, caring consumers who do not want to support the unconscionable cruelty and commodification of animals raised in CAFOs, have turned to animal foods with labels like “humane,” “natural,” “cage free,” and “free range.” What’s most controversial is the fact that the actual treatment of animals raised for the “humane” market varies widely. There is no broadly recognized definition of what these terms mean, no governmental inspection, and evaluations of the treatment of animals being marketed with these labels rely completely on self-reporting by the farmers themselves. In the absence of any independent verification by the USDA of the statements producers make, I highly recommend visiting the farms and slaughterhouses personally to determine whether they satisfy your requirements for humane treatment. Along these lines, groups such as the KC Food Circle have made efforts to treat animals humanely by requiring its members take the pledge agreeing, among other things, “to provide living conditions that will support the normal behavior and social interactions of each species on (their) farm so that animals will thrive and to reduce the incidence of injury, stress and disease.” For details on humane labeling, please read “The Truth Behind the Labels: Farm Animal Welfare Standards and Labeling Practices” at www.farmsanctuary.org.

Making the Switch

“The challenge of living without cheap fossil fuel is the challenge of doing more for ourselves — empowering ourselves — and discovering that doing more for yourself is eminently doable, eminently pleasurable and makes you feel empowered. This is what's driving the whole food movement. It is one area of our lives where we can take back power from the cheap energy culture. We don't see how we can live without our cars, without heat and air conditioning, but we can change the way we eat and begin really to tackle these problems one delicious bite at a time.” — Michael Pollan

See The Earth Matters on page 22
Roasted Red Pepper and Walnut Spread

**INGREDIENTS**

Makes 1 cup or more

- 2 to 3 whole roasted peppers (from jar or roasted yourself)
- 2/3 cup bread crumbs (see below to make your own)
- 1 cup walnuts, toasted
- 4 large garlic cloves (roasted)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons agave nectar
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes (or more for added spiciness)

**DIRECTIONS**

In a blender or food processor, combine the peppers and all the remaining ingredients. Taste, and add more spice or salt as necessary.

**SERVING SUGGESTIONS AND VARIATIONS:**

- Garnish with toasted pine nuts.
- Serve with pita triangles, fresh bread, crackers, chips, carrots, mushrooms, cucumber, etc.

To toast walnuts, just place them on a toaster oven tray and toast for 5 minutes; watch closely or they will burn.

To make your own bread crumbs: Place some bread (stale bread works great) in the oven until it's crispy but not really browned—at 300 degrees. Let it cool, and then add it to your food processor until it is reduced to crumbs. Add Italian herbs such as dried oregano, thyme, basil, marjoram, rosemary. Enjoy!

To roast your own pepper: Heat the oven to 525 degrees (or use your broiler). Place peppers on an oiled cookie sheet. Roast on the highest rack for about 30 minutes or until they turn completely black. It's not necessary to turn them. Remove them from the oven, and put them in a paper bag right away. Let them cool before handling them. The blackened skin will then just peel off after only about 10 minutes in the bag. Roasting peppers over an open flame is also a great way to do it (and you don't need any oil). Use your gas range or grill. Use tongs and just turn over an open flame for about 10 minutes until charred. Proceed as above.

**Pan-Grilled Portobello Mushrooms with Herb-Infused Marinade**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 8 to 12 large-size Portobello mushrooms
- 1 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup tamari soy sauce
- 1 cup water
- 2 or 3 sprigs fresh rosemary (or 1 teaspoon dried)
- 2 or 3 sprigs fresh thyme (or 1 teaspoon dried)
- 2 or 3 sprigs fresh marjoram or oregano (or 1 teaspoon dried)
- Small amount of olive oil, for sautéing

**DIRECTIONS**

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Handle mushrooms, cucumber, etc.

In a large-size bowl, combine vinegar, tamari, water, rosemary, thyme, and marjoram. Stir to combine. Add mushrooms and make sure each one is covered by the marinade. You may need to move them around to give the marinade a chance to coat the top mushrooms. Marinate mushrooms for as little as 30 minutes or for as long as overnight in the refrigerator.

When ready to cook, add some oil to a large-size sauté pan, and turn heat to medium. Remove mushrooms from marinade, but do not discard marinade. Put as many mushrooms as can fit in the pan, tops down. They will shrink as they cook. Cook for 3 to 5 minutes, until lightly browned. Turn and cook for 3
Join the 2nd Annual Energy Fair in Mayetta on June 13th!

If you missed it last year, you’re getting a second chance this year! Last year’s Energy Expo in Mayetta, Kansas attracted 1/3 of the town’s population, and it is certain to be another success this year. The Energy Fair will include seminars on how to save energy, which also saves you money and reduces air pollution. Vendors will be available with informational handouts, energy-saving products, and display wind and solar generators. To top it off, there’s guaranteed good food at the fair!

**Is your air conditioner ready for summer?**

**KCP&L Cool Home Program**

By Elizabeth Golson, KCP&L Marketing Specialist

**Editor’s Note:** The below is not part of a KCP&L advertising program. It is part of KCP&L and Sierra Club working together as part of our efforts to save energy & cooperate according to our 2007 agreement.

KCP&L’s Cool Homes program can help you make sure of it. All you have to do is call a Certified Check Me! Contractor and have them come test your A/C. If they can bring it back to manufacturer’s specifications they will, otherwise they’ll suggest purchasing a new unit. If you decide to purchase one, you may qualify for a rebate up to $850 if you install an energy efficient one. An efficiently operating unit uses less electricity, therefore keeping the environment cleaner. For more details, visit www.kcpl.com/coolhomes.

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**The Earth Matters, continued from page 22**

to 5 minutes longer.

Remove fresh herb sprigs from marinade, and pour marinade into pan, reserving some for additional batches of mushrooms. Cover and cook for 5 to 7 minutes. Flip mushrooms, and cover and cook for 5 to 7 minutes longer. When fork-tender, remove from pan, and repeat above steps with remaining mushrooms.

To serve the mushrooms hot, simply use multiple sauté pans on the stove at once. Serve 2 mushrooms per person.

**YIELD:** 4 to 6 servings

**SERVING SUGGESTION:**

After marinating the mushrooms, cook them on the grill, about 5 minutes on each side.

Recipes reprinted from The Vegan Table by Colleen Patrick-Goudreau by permission of the author.

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**Fact Sheet, continued from page 15**

that would allow Sunflower to escape its obligations if permit or legal proceedings changed the setting for this agreement, even in a minor way.

**Overall Conclusions.**

The Governor’s claim that his settlement with Sunflower will boost the use of renewable energy in Kansas is substantially unfounded. The RES ACT is generally unenforceable and adds nothing to the voluntary program that was already in place. The Governor has vastly exaggerated the extent to which the settlement compensates for, or offsets, the 6.7 million tons of new heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated by Holcomb 2 in the state of Kansas. The settlement and the associated legislation contain ambiguous language and numerous escape clauses whereby Sunflower may avoid some future performance requirements. Thus, we can only conclude that this settlement is a serious step backward for the environment of Kansas and elsewhere.
### Chapter Executive Committee

**Officers, Committee Chairs**

*Elected ExCom member; **Appointed ExCom member, ***Group Representative to Chapter, ****Officer/Committee Chair

- **Frank Drinkwine***, Chapter Chair, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Yvonne Cather***, Vice Chair, Council Delegate, (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Tom Kneil****, Secretary, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Scott Smith****, Treasurer, Compliance Officer, (785) 539-4424, lerick@ksu.edu
- **Craig Wolfe***, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Communications Chair, Membership Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Carolyn Binns***, Treasurer, (785) 841-3238, carolynbinns@sunflower.net
- **George Brenner***, Publicity Chair, (785) 842-7137, Slopes3688@aol.com
- **Richard Voss****, CAFO Chair, Trade Chair, Agriculture Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 788-7336, richard.voss@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Toby Groz*, Secretary, Water Quality Chair, (Kanza cont')

- **(913) 381-8168, wireless2@mindspring.com**
- **Frank Drinkwine**, ExCom Member, (913) 385-0385, frank.drinkwine@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **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, graham-james@hotmail.com**
- **Mike Miller*, Membership Chair, Air Quality Chair, (913) 362-2600, mrmiller1@mindspring.com**
- **Bob Sommer*, Political Chair, (816) 898-1100, sommer@kc.rr.com**
- **Joe Spease*, Legislative Chair, (913) 492-2862, spease4kc@everestkc.net**
- **Craig Wolfe*, Fundraising Chair, Communciations Chair, Program Chair, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org**

#### Southwind Group (Wichita)

- **Dave Kirkbride**, Chair, Chapter/Group Rep., Newsletter Chair, (316) 945-0728, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Ellie Skokan**, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Ej Chair, (316) 744-0033, ellie.skokan@yahoo.com
- **Tom Kneil** Secretary, Alternate Chapter Delegate, Global Warming Chair, (316) 744-1016, thomas.kneil@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Stuart Bolt**** Treasurer, (316) 685-3492, Stuart.Bolt@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Elizabeth Bishop* Sprawl Chair, Parks & Refuge Chair, (316) 684-0988, elizar@earthlink.net
- **Kathryn Buck** Membership Chair, Program Co-Chair, Publicity Chair, (316) 789-0739, justkathryn@kaiser.com
- **Bill Cather* Program Co-Chair, (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Larry Ross** Outings Chair, Political Chair, Transportation Chair, (316) 685-5681, larryross7133@sbcglobal.net
- **Yvonne Cather**** Energy Chair, (316) 522-4741, Yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Barbara Keltnor**** CAFO Chair, Corporate Accountability Chair, International Trade Chair, (316) 722-5621

#### Flint Hills Group (Manhattan Area)

- **Scott Smith***, Group Chair, Treasurer, (785) 539-1973, wizard13@cox.net
- **Larry Erickson**, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Environmental Education, (785) 539-4424, lertick@ksu.edu
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- **Carol Barto**, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, (785) 410-8608, snowsage54@hotmail.com

#### Kanza Group (Kansas City)

- **Steven Baru*, Chair, Corporate Accountability (913) 814-0583, steve.baru@sierraclub.org**
- **Craig Lubow*, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, Energy Chair, Calendars, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Richard Voss****, Treasurer, (913) 888-8517, richard.voss@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Toby Groz*, Secretary, Water Quality Chair, (316) 906-9728, toby.groz@kansas.sierraclub.org**
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- **Yvonne Cather**** Energy Chair, (316) 522-4741, Yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Barbara Keltnor**** CAFO Chair, Corporate Accountability Chair, International Trade Chair, (316) 722-5621

#### Topeka Group

- **Paul Post**, Chair, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com
- **Jim Tuchscherer**, Vice Chair, (785) 272-5633, jimtuch@earthlink.net
- **Bill Cather* Program Co-Chair, (316) 522-4741, bill.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org**
- **Jack Smith**, Outings Chair, (785) 273-3138, JKJSmith@aol.com
- **Jo Ann Van Metter, Conservation, (785) 234-3023, worrybeads@aol.com**
- **Gary Anderson**, Membership Chair, (785) 246-3229, ganderon1963@ksbroadband.net
- **Phil Morse****, Political Chair, (785) 273-3613, p.morse@sbcglobal.net

#### Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)

- **Carey Maynard-Moody***, Chair, Political Chair, Sprawl/Transportation, (785) 842-6517, careymm@kansas.sierraclub.org
- **Carolyn Binns***, Treasurer, (785) 841-3238, carolynbinns@sunflower.net
- **George Brenner***, Cool Cities Committee member, (785) 393-3882, gbrenner@sunflower.com
- **Steve Lopes*, Recording secretary, (785) 842-7137, Slopes3688@aol.com
- **Maggie Ogden**, KU student liaison, ogden_sm@yahoo.com
- **Gretchen Heasty****, Publicity Chair, (785) 550-1129, gretchen04@sunflower.com

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### Groups are the local body of the Kansas State Chapter

Flint Hills Group Rep, (785) 246-3229, paulpost@paulpost.com

Wakarusa Group (Lawrence)

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*Month 1/17, Year 2009*
General Meetings

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)
June 9, 7:00 pm
Steve Baru’s Trip to Annapurnas Nepal
7:00 pm - Come early, and we will have sandwiches and good conversation
7:30 pm - Program - Steve Baru will present his Sierra Club Annapurnas trip to Nepal. Nepal’s Kathmandu Valley is a vast storehouse of Hindu and Buddhist art, with more shrines and temples per square mile than anywhere else in the world. Kathmandu also contains an amazing mixture of ethnic groups. The trek along the southern slopes of the Annapurna Himalayas offered dramatic close-up views of some of the highest and most beautiful mountains in the world. Steve will share stories and fantastic slides from this legendary land on the other side of the world. Where - Overland Park Lutheran Church, 7810 W. 79th Street. 8 blocks west of Metcalf at Lowell. Park on north side.
Directions at www.kansas.sierraclub.org/kanzadirections.htm.
Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Kanza Group (Kansas City)
July 14. 6:30 pm
Transportation Future of Metro Kansas City
Transportation Outlook 2040 will be the region’s new long-term plan, looking ahead 30 years. Kanza joins with the KCMO Thomas Hart Benton Group and MARC to examine our transportation future. They want your input. Now is the time to speak up. Whether you see a need for more buses, more trains, more trails, or more bike lanes, MARC wants to hear from you.
Different Location: The July 14 meeting will be at the Sylvester Powell Community Center in Mission, 6200 Martway St Shawnee Mission, KS 66202 - (913) 722-8200. Time for this meeting will be different, 6:30 to 8:30. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

Southwind Group (Wichita)
June 12. 6:30 pm
Southwind Annual Potluck Picnic
Join us at the south shelter in Chisholm Creek Park. Dave Kirkbride david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org 316-522-4741

Topeka Group
June 23 28. 7:00 pm.
Topeka Common Ground
The Topeka Common Ground Project was a collaboration of organizations that shared a vision of creating a local, sustainable food system in the Topeka area. Common Ground initiatives included several community and school gardens, production of organic bedding plants for farmers in an urban greenhouse, assistance with an urban-rural subscription vegetable service, provision of food to local food banks, and the development of commercial and social links between urban people and nearby farmers. Join our speaker, Diana Hershberger, to learn more about this project, plus a few tips that you can use in your own garden. Topeka and Shawnee County Library, 1515 SW 10th Street. An optional “no host” dinner will precede the meeting at Annie’s Restaurant at Gage Center, starting at 5:30 p.m.. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Topeka Group
Jul 30. 7:00 pm.
Climate Change in Kansas
Nate Brunsell, K.U. professor with the Department of Geography, will present highlights from his recent article, “Climate Change in Kansas,” prepared by The Land Institute. We’re all aware of climate change to some degree, but how will global warming affect our future, particularly here in Kansas? What can Kansans expect in the future concerning seasonal temperature and precipitation changes, rainfall patterns, soil moisture and its effect upon crop yields, and other important climate variants? Nate will provide answers to these questions. Topeka and Shawnee County Library, 1515 SW 10th Street. An optional “no host” dinner will precede the meeting at Annie’s Restaurant at Gage Center, starting at 5:30 p.m. (Note that this is a Thursday rather than our regular Tuesday night meeting). 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
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]  **Jun 2.  6:30 pm. House Party**  
Big Picture Campaign House Party. The home of Billie Knighton, 7 Lansdowne Dr. (near 37 & Woodlawn). Southwind. Billie Knighton. 316-684-6664, billie.knighton@gmail.com

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

[2]  **Jun 8.  5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town**  
Drinks and Conversation at the Caffé Moderne. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynb@hotmail.com

[2]  **Jun 12.  6:30 pm. Southwind Annual Potluck Picnic**  
Join us at the south shelter in Chisholm Creek Park. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

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

We’ll ride about 10 miles on this level crushed rock trail alongside the Little Blue River. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Kathy Patton, (816) 461-6091, kspatton@comcast.net

This class is for people who are considering buying or who have recently purchased a GPS receiver. We’ll discuss how GPS works, how to use waypoints, routes and tracks. How to relate what your GPS is telling you to a topographic map and how to have some fun geocaching. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@yahoo.com

We’ll check out the late spring flowers on this afternoon day hike. $5 donation requested. Kanza. Doris Sherrick, (816) 779-6708, djsher@fairpoint.net

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, wildwoodp@hotmail.com
## Committee Meetings

**Kanza Group**  
*(Kansas City)*

**Executive Committee**  
June 25, July 23 - 7:00 pm,  
Steve Baru, (913) 814-0583,  
steve.baru@sierraclub.org

**Joint Action Committee**  
June 25, July 23 - 7:00 pm,  
Conservation, legislative, and political  
Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620,  
craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Southwind Group**  
*(Wichita)*

**Executive and Fundraising Committee**  
June 7 - 6:00 pm  
Equity Bank Building  
Dave Kirkbride, (316) 655-8299,  
david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

**Conservation Committee**  
June 16, July 21 - 6:30 pm  
5825 Memphis St, Bel Aire, Wichita  
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.

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**Topeka Group,** ExCom meets quarterly, TBA.  
Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com  
**Energy Committee,** June 11, July 9,  
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, July 18 (location TBA)  
Yvonne Cather (316) 522-4741, yvonne.cather@kansas.sierraclub.org

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**EPA Offers Tips to Save Energy and Fight Climate Change this Summer**

**Contact: Enesta Jones, 202-564-4355 / 7873 / jones.enesta@epa.gov**

(Washington, D.C. – May 12, 2009) With summer and the high costs of cooling right around the corner, EPA is offering advice to help Americans reduce both energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions by one third through Energy Star. The energy used in an average home costs more than $2,200 a year and contributes more greenhouse gas emissions than a typical car.

“A few simple changes will help create real reductions in high summer electric bills and provide a hefty cut in greenhouse gas emissions in the bargain,” said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. “It’s important that we all do our part to confront climate change, especially when it can help save money during these challenging economic times.”

Here are some tips to save energy and help protect the environment at home and at work:

- Set your programmable thermostat to save while you are away or asleep. Using it properly can save up to $180 per year in energy costs.
- Run ceiling fans in a clockwise direction to create a wind-chill effect that will make you “feel” cooler. Remember that ceiling fans cool people, not rooms -- so turn them off when you leave the room.
- Inspect your duct system for obvious signs of leaks and disconnections (most houses leak 20 percent or more). Seal any leaks with foil tape or a special sealant called “duct mastic.” Also consider insulating ducts in unconditioned areas (like the attic, basement or crawlspace).
- Seal air leaks around your home to keep the heat out and the cool air in. The biggest air leaks are usually found in the attic or basement, but also come in around doors, windows, vents, pipes and electrical outlets. Use caulk, spray foam or weather stripping to seal the leaks. And add more insulation to keep your home cooler this summer.
- Maintain your cooling system. Check your system’s air filter every month at a minimum and change the filter every 3 months. Remove leaves, dirt and other debris from around the outdoor components to improve air flow and efficiency. Have a qualified professional tune-up your system with a pre-season maintenance checkup and, if it’s time to replace your old system, look for models that have earned EPA’s Energy Star.
- Turn off office lights and equipment when not in use so they don’t generate unnecessary heat.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs in your desk lamp with Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs which use two-thirds less energy and generate less heat than conventional bulbs.
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 21, Outings page 22, and Committee Meetings page 23. 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

316-684-6664, billie.knighton@gmail.com

Out Jun 6-7. Canoeing, MO/AR Ozarks. Kanza. Terry DeFrates, (913) 385-7374, theerustbucket@aol.com

CM Jun 7. 6:00 pm. Southwind ExCom Meeting. Southwind.  
Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Jun 8. 5:30 pm. Southwind at Caffé Moderne, 300 block of Mead in Old Town. Southwind. Kathryn Buck, (316) 789-0739, justkathrynbb@hotmail.com

GM Jun 9. 7:00 pm. Steve Baru’s Trip to Annapurnas Nepal. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Jun 11. 7:00 pm. Energy Committee. Topeka. Phil Morse (785) 273-3613, p.morse@sbcglobal.net

Out Jun 12. 6:30 pm. Southwind Annual Potluck Picnic. Southwind. Dave Kirkbride, (316) 522-4741, david.kirkbride@kansas.sierraclub.org


CM Jun 16. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com


GM Jun 23. 7:00 pm. Topeka Common Ground. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

CM Jun 25. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Steve Baru, (913) 814-0583, steve.baru@sierraclub.org

CM Jun 25. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

Out Jun 27. Class, Introduction to GPS, George Owens Park, Independence, MO. Kanza. Dave Patton, (816) 461-6091, davedahiker@yahoo.com


CM Jul 9. 7:00 pm. Energy Committee. Topeka. Phil Morse (785) 273-3613, p.morse@sbcglobal.net

Out Jul 11. Bike Ride, Powell Gardens, Kingsville, MO. Kanza. Melody Gross, (816) 228-6563, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

GM Jul 14. 6:30. Transportation Future of Metro Kansas City. Kanza. Craig Wolfe, (913) 299-4443, info@kansas.sierraclub.org

CM Jul 21. 6:30 pm. Conservation Committee. Southwind. Ellie Skokan, (316) 744-0033, ellie_skokan@yahoo.com

CM Jul 23. 7:00 pm. Kanza ExCom meeting. Kanza. Steve Baru, (913) 814-0583, steve.baru@sierraclub.org

CM Jul 23. 7:00 pm. Conservation and Joint Action Committee. Kanza. Craig Lubow, (913) 299-6620, craig.lubow@kansas.sierraclub.org

GM Jul 30. 7:00 pm. Climate Change in Kansas. Topeka. Paul Post, (785) 354-1972, paulpost@paulpost.com

Deadline for the next issue is July 15

www.kansas.sierraclub.org