

# Tennessee-Sierra

The Bi-Monthly state newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 50, Number 4 - July/August 2017

## New Report Finds G20 Nations Still Sending Billions in Public Finance to Fossil Fuels

By Nicole Ghio

As world leaders prepare to convene in Hamburg, Germany, later this week for the annual G20 summit, it is clear that climate is set to be a key issue. But with the Paris Agreement at the forefront of the world's stage, how do the energy investments of the G20 countries align with their international climate commitments?

The short answer: Countries need to transition their financing away from outdated fossil fuels and toward the clean energy economy.

Even if we were to stop mining all coal worldwide right now, burning the remaining oil and gas reserves that are already operating would push climate disruption above 1.5°C. Exploiting all the reserves in existing fossil fuel fields and mines, without ever opening new ones, would cause global temperatures to rise well above 2°C. Yet despite signing the Paris Agreement and committing to the intention of keeping global temperatures below 1.5°C, G20 countries continue to provide \$71.8 billion in public finance to support overseas fossil

fuels, according to a new report from the Sierra Club, Oil Change International, Friends of the Earth U.S., and WWF European Policy Office (Talk Is Cheap: How G20 Governments Are Financing Climate Disaster). These corporate handouts include sweetheart loans, guarantees, and other forms of preferential financing. This represents only a piece of their support for dirty energy and does not include domestic fossil fuel subsidies.

The report found that G20 governments are providing nearly four times more public finance for fossil fuels than for clean energy. With the G20 summit set to kick off later this week and President Trump recently announcing plans to renege on its climate commitment, it is imperative that the remaining G20 nations step up and meet their pledge to avert the climate crisis by moving all public finance out of fossil fuels once and for all.

Using public money to support fossil fuels instead of clean energy isn't just bad for the climate, it's disastrous for the economy. The International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that the growing

clean energy sector employed 8.1 million people worldwide in 2015, a 5 percent increase from the previous year. Here in the U.S., analysis of U.S. Department of Energy jobs data shows that clean energy jobs outnumber all fossil fuel jobs by more than 2.5 to 1, and they outnumber all jobs in coal and gas by 5 to 1.

If governments want to support jobs, they need to invest in clean energy, not fossil fuels.

Clean energy is the future. Nowhere is that more apparent than in India, where solar is already underbidding coal. As the cost of renewables continues to plummet, clean energy will continue to push outdated fossil fuel technology to the side. However, instead of financing the clean energy revolution, the U.S. is wasting around \$6 billion annually in public finance to prop up coal, oil, and gas, compared with a paltry \$1.3 billion annually for clean energy.

But on the other hand, among G20 countries, Japan—long known as a laggard on climate—is the number-one public financier of fossil fuels, dumping \$16.5 billion into dirty, outdated energy every year. But, as we're seeing more and more, countries are showing that a different path is possible. Both France and Mexico, for example, devote more public finance to clean energy than fossil fuels.

By abandoning its responsibilities and commitments on climate, the U.S. government under Donald Trump has lost its credibility on the international stage. But Trump does not have the final say on the Paris Agreement or the planet. The economic drivers that are slashing the cost of renewables and making clean energy the clear choice for both the economy and the climate will only accelerate. When G20 leaders convene in Hamburg, they must look to the future and recommit not only to the Paris Agreement but also to making their public-finance decisions match their climate ambitions. It will then be up to the U.S. to catch up or be left behind.

### Tennessee Chapter Fall Retreat Pickett State Park

October 27th thru 29th

Come north this fall, for a wonderful weekend in Pickett State Park, the first state park in the Southeast to be certified a dark sky viewing location by the International Dark Sky Association. Mark your calendars now!

Come join the fellowship, hikes, campfire and star gazing.

Pickett's 19,200 acres, with many interesting geologic features, adjoin the newly designated Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area and the 120,000-acre Big South Fork National Scenic River and Recreation Area.

We stay in the Group Camp, with a large dining hall and separate heated bunkhouses, or you can pitch your tent nearby. Early bird reservation fee is \$50 which includes Sat & Sun breakfast plus Sat night dinner.

Specify vegetarian or omnivore when you confirm. Everybody pitches in to help with meals and cleanup before Sunday checkout. Special 1/2 price for first time attendees; children 15 and under are free and several scholarships are available with advance approval.

Cherokee Group is hosting this Fall Chapter Retreat. For further information contact Barbara Hurst at [barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com) or 423-886-9503.

### Looking Ahead: Tennessee Chapter Summer Retreat July 21 - 23, 2017 at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park

Come enjoy the company and interaction with environmental leaders from across the state. Meet others that share your respect for natural resources and appreciation of wild spaces. Engage in fellowship, interpretive walks, swimming in Kentucky Lake\* (See footnote at end of article), an electric car presentation and demo, musical entertainment Saturday evening, and clear night skies. Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park is known for fishing, birding, hiking, and swimming\*. It has 25 miles of hiking trails ranging in length from ¼ mile to 20 miles. Trails wind through hardwood bottoms uphill through oak-hickory forests. Over 85 species of birds have been reported in the park.

We gather and meet quarterly to discuss chapter business, meet people with mutual concerns about environmental issues, share strategies, and enjoy the company of those who share our concerns about the environment. We also renew old friendships and make new ones over the weekend.

#### Friday Evening:

- Arrive at your convenience. Renew friendships and make new ones. Sit and chat with friends. Enjoy the fresh country air. Find a gap in the trees to view the stars. NOTE-Plan to have dinner before you arrive or bring it with you. There are no restaurants or beverage stores nearby- you are truly "away from it all".

#### Saturday morning and afternoon:

- Nature hike at 9am led by State Naturalist, Randy Hedgepeth (<https://goo.gl/U0eXIJ>)
- Presentation on electric vehicles (EV's), and test rides available.
- Outings Training- Sierra Club's process and requirements.
- Indoor activities if the weather is not cooperating. If you are bringing children, consider also bringing rainy weather supplies- paper, crayons, board games, cards, or other.
- Various Sierra Club committees will meet.
- Or go to the Beach and swim\* in Kentucky Lake.

#### Saturday evening:

- Music by Antoinette Olesen and her singing partner Buddy. Olesen is a singer and award winning songwriter who has worked independently and collaboratively with several Music Row publishing companies including Writer Zone and Ash Street Music. She has also toured with many artists including Sheryl Crow, Paula Abdul, and Gloria Estefan among others.

#### "Later":

- Many stay up to converse and strategize with new and old friends about environmental issues in Tennessee and the country- "How are we going to make lemonade out of the lemons in the current political climate?"

#### Sunday morning:

- The Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee (Excom) holds its business meeting.
- Randy Hedgepeth will lead a nature hike on one of the park's interesting trails.

#### Sunday noon:

- Departure- Everybody pitches in to help with clean-up after 11am Sunday.

#### Registration:

Reservations must be made with the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club, NOT with the park. Contact Dennis Lynch 901-361-8029 or [chickasawSierra@gmail.com](mailto:chickasawSierra@gmail.com). Pay by check or cash upon arrival.

Early Bird registration is encouraged so that we can effectively plan our food purchases. Early Bird registration before midnight July 14th is \$50 per person for the entire weekend- after that it's \$60. First time attendees pay \$30, children under 15 are free and several scholarships are available with advance approval. Partial attendance pricing: Saturday meals \$30; Sunday breakfast \$10; attendance only registration \$5.

Full weekend registration includes bunkbeds in the Group Lodge, plus Saturday breakfast and dinner, and Sunday breakfast, and all activities. Specify vegetarian or omnivore when you confirm. Some visitors rent separate cabins at their own cost.

#### Remember To Bring:

Bed sheets or sleeping bag, pillow, towels, toiletries, sturdy shoes, weather appropriate clothing, bathing suit\*, midday lunches, favorite beverages, trail snacks, reusable water bottle.

#### MAPS (GPS= 36.0858, -87.9811)

General information about the park is available on the park web site. <https://goo.gl/3sp0aT> (Remember- Make reservations with the Sierra Club, not with the park.)

Geo-referenced PDF map (Cost \$0.99):

<https://goo.gl/ug6lqq>

Low resolution Printable trail map (free)

<https://goo.gl/t9YjgC>

Interactive Digital Park Finder Map (Free)

<https://goo.gl/LUwHwI>

\*(NOTE) Swimming is at your own risk- the Sierra Club assumes no liability. The Eva Beach site on Kentucky Lake is an unsupervised, sandy beach open to the public, with No lifeguard.

Explore, Enjoy and Protect



# Tennes-Sierran

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

\*Email: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

\*Snail Mail: clip the Moving? coupon below and mail

\*Address changes are processed much faster if you include your Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

E-mail: [c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto:c.demetreon@mchsi.com) and [sinclairesparkman@gmail.com](mailto:sinclairesparkman@gmail.com)

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission Target Date is July 31st for the September/October 2017 issue.

1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to [c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto:c.demetreon@mchsi.com) and [sinclairesparkman@gmail.com](mailto:sinclairesparkman@gmail.com) either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages.

2. Photographs should be scanned in a .jpg or a .tif file format then either attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3 1/2" diskette or CD RM. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.

3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted: however, pre-approval from the Editor is required.

4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

5. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to: Tennessee Chapter Ombudsman, Joel Gearhardt at [jgearhardt@yahoo.com](mailto:jgearhardt@yahoo.com). The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

**Target Date for the September/October Issue is July 31, 2017.**

**All meetings and outings notices, articles, and photographs should be in by then.**

**Send material to Chris Demetreon at [c.demetreon@mchsi.com](mailto:c.demetreon@mchsi.com) and Sinclaire Sparkman at [sinclairesparkman@gmail.com](mailto:sinclairesparkman@gmail.com)**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## All Creatures Great and Small



**"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"**

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32141-6417 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

F94Q W4300 1

## Sierra Club Officers

**TENNESSEE CHAPTER:**

**Chair:** Cliff Cockerham 615-336-3905  
[clifford.cockerham@comcast.net](mailto:clifford.cockerham@comcast.net)  
**Vice Chair:** Mac Post 865-806-0980  
[mpost3116@aol.com](mailto:mpost3116@aol.com)  
**Secretary:** Paula Lennon (615) 506-1502  
[paulalennon615@gmail.com](mailto:paulalennon615@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Alice Demetreon 660-247-2288  
[demetreon1981@gmail.com](mailto:demetreon1981@gmail.com)  
**Conservation:** Axel Ringe 865-387-7398  
[onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)  
**Outings:** Phil Davis 423-247-0473  
[phildavis2006@gmail.com](mailto:phildavis2006@gmail.com)  
**CCL Delegate:** Dennis Lynch 901-213-6088  
[dmlynch1@gmail.com](mailto:dmlynch1@gmail.com)

**TN LOCAL GROUPS:**

**Cherokee Group**

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/charokee>  
**Chair:** Barbara Kelly (423) 718-5009  
[bk1rivers@gmail.com](mailto:bk1rivers@gmail.com)  
**Vice Chair:** Bill Moll (423) 702-5779  
[whmoll@aol.com](mailto:whmoll@aol.com)  
**Secretary:** Kate Anthony (513) 365-7989  
[rainbowgardener2@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowgardener2@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Hurst 423-886-9503  
[barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com)  
**Conservation:** Sandy Kurtz 423-892-5237  
[sandykurtz@comcast.net](mailto:sandykurtz@comcast.net)  
**Outings:** John Doyal 423-800-2745  
[2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com](mailto:2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com)  
**Upper Cumberland Committee:** Josephine McQuail 931-520-0449  
[jmcquail@tntech.edu](mailto:jmcquail@tntech.edu)

**Chickasaw Group - Memphis**

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/chickasaw>  
**Chair:** Dennis Lynch 901-213-6088  
[dmlynch1@gmail.com](mailto:dmlynch1@gmail.com)  
**Vice Chair:** Ed Jones 901-374-0582  
[edshouse35@comcast.net](mailto:edshouse35@comcast.net)  
**Secretary:** Karen Thornton 901-340-6997  
[kmthornton16@hotmail.com](mailto:kmthornton16@hotmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
[jozegovich@yahoo.com](mailto:jozegovich@yahoo.com)  
**Conservation:** Joe Ozegovich 901-612-0399  
[jozegovich@yahoo.com](mailto:jozegovich@yahoo.com)  
**Outings:** vacant

**Harvey Broome Group - Knoxville/Oak Ridge**

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome>  
**Chair:** Ron Shrieves 865-922-3518  
[ronshrieves@gmail.com](mailto:ronshrieves@gmail.com)  
**Vice Chair:** Denise Bivens 865-384-5138  
[denisebivens@gmail.com](mailto:denisebivens@gmail.com)  
**Secretary:** Kris Christen 865-539-9876  
[christen@nasw.org](mailto:christen@nasw.org)  
**Treasurer:** Bob Perlack 865-898-5751  
[perlack@aol.com](mailto:perlack@aol.com)  
**Conservation:** Axel Ringe 865-387-7398  
[onyxfarm@bellsouth.net](mailto:onyxfarm@bellsouth.net)  
**Outings:** Ron Shrieves 865-922-3518  
[ronshrieves@gmail.com](mailto:ronshrieves@gmail.com)

**Middle Tennessee Group - Nashville**

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/middle-tennessee>  
**Chair:** Charles High 615-500-5499  
[cahigh1722@aol.com](mailto:cahigh1722@aol.com)  
**Vice Chair:** Grace Stranch 615-646-1102  
[graces@bsjfirm.com](mailto:graces@bsjfirm.com)  
**Secretary:** Paula Lennon 615-506-1502  
[paulalennon615@gmail.com](mailto:paulalennon615@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Joel Gearhardt 615-598-0268  
[jgearhardt@yahoo.com](mailto:jgearhardt@yahoo.com)  
**Conservation:** Scott Heflinger 615-859-3553  
[sheflinger@aol.com](mailto:sheflinger@aol.com)  
**Outings:** Craig Jervis 615-254-5301  
[cmjervis@comcast.net](mailto:cmjervis@comcast.net)

**Watauga Group - Northeast Tennessee**

<https://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/watauga>  
**Chair:** Gloria Griffith 423-727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)  
**Vice Chair:** Sandi Cranford 423-727-5044  
[scanford1258@yahoo.com](mailto:scanford1258@yahoo.com)  
**Secretary:** Dennis Shekinah 423-534-4804  
[bmwbruno@icloud.com](mailto:bmwbruno@icloud.com)  
**Treasurer:** Cindy Johnson 423-895-1687  
[cinnyj@hotmail.com](mailto:cinnyj@hotmail.com)  
**Conservation:** Dean Whitworth 423-727-7214  
**Outings:** Webb Griffith 423-727-4797  
[gla4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:gla4797@embarqmail.com)

**Chapter Staff:**  
**Scott Banbury**  
Conservation Program Coordinator  
901-619-8567

**Please notify the Editor when changes are needed**

## MEETING SCHEDULE

Chapter Meeting	Location	Dates
Summer	NB Forrest State Park	July 21-23
Fall	Picket State Park	October 27-29
Winter	Cedars of Lebanon State Park	January 26 - 28
Spring	NB Forrest State Park	April 27-29



# Court Blocks Scott Pruitt's Attempt to Delay Key Safeguards Limiting Methane Pollution from the Oil and Gas Sector

## Rule is a Critical Step Toward Protecting Communities and Addressing Climate Change

WASHINGTON - On July 3rd, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia granted Sierra Club and its allies' motion to vacate EPA's stay of a rule that limits methane pollution from new oil and gas operations, in an attempt to delay its implementation. The Court agreed with our coalition, ruling that the agency did not have legal authority to issue such a stay.

A greenhouse gas, methane is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide when it comes to disrupting our climate in the near term, poses a significant threat to public health, and fuels climate change.

The rule was issued by the Obama administration in 2016, and the first compliance date was set to June 3, 2017. In response to requests from the oil and gas industry to recon-

sider the rule, in April EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced it would stay certain core requirements under the rule by 90 days pending its reconsideration. In response, Sierra Club and its allies filed the first lawsuit against Trump's EPA for rolling back EPA's climate standards.

This order means that oil and gas companies are required to comply with these standards. In mid-June, EPA also proposed a separate two-year stay on the rule, and the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on the importance of implementing the rule.

Sierra Club Chief Climate Counsel Joanne Spalding released the following statement in response:

"Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt's attempt to

delay the implementation of these crucial protections had no basis in law, and we are glad to see their effort to do the bidding of the fossil fuel industry fail. These emission standards for new oil and gas sources are a critical step toward protecting communities from dangerous air pollution and addressing climate change.

"Despite Trump and Pruitt's best laid plans to do favors to corporate polluters, advocates for our public health, our climate, and our communities are fighting back – and we are winning. The Sierra Club and millions of Americans across the country will not sit idly by as this administration seeks to put the interests of corporate polluters over our communities' health and the safety of our climate."

# Trump Administration Does the Bidding of Polluters at the Expense of American Families and Communities

## Scott Pruitt ignores the need for clean water, announces he is repealing 2015 Clean Water Rule

WASHINGTON - On June 27th, Donald Trump's EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, announced that he will be repealing the 2015 Clean Water Rule that provided vital clean water protections against dangerous pollution contaminating America's waterways and drinking water supplies.

The Clean Water Rule was created after the EPA held more than 400 meetings with stakeholder groups across the country and published a combination of more than 1,200 studies in peer-reviewed scientific publications. The rule's strong grounding in the Clean Water Act and reliance on the significant scientific evidence showed the need for strong and clear protections against pollution in America's riv-

ers, lakes, and waterways.

Trump's and Pruitt's decision to repeal these important clean water safeguards will put communities across the country at risk.

In response, Michael Brune, Executive Director of Sierra Club, released the following statement:

"Once again, the Trump Administration has agreed to do the bidding of the worst polluters in our country, and once again it's putting the health of American families and communities at risk.

"The Clean Water Rule was meticulously created to protect America's water resources from pollution and destruction after doctors, scientists, public health advocates, and community

leaders weighed in with the EPA. After years of thorough research and informed advice from policy experts and stakeholders, the rule was finalized in 2015. It was ready to protect the drinking water of 117 million Americans and then, within a few months of being in office, Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt threw it into the trash bin to appease their polluter allies.

"It goes without saying that the Trump Administration doesn't care about the environment, public health, or its duty to protect our most precious natural resources – and that is why it's up to us, the American people, to hold them accountable. We will fight this and every other attempt by polluters and the Trump Administration to destroy our water resources."

# Sierra Club Sues to Protect Key Safeguards

## Filing Marks First Lawsuit Brought Against Trump Administration for Attempting to Suspend Climate Pollution Standards

Washington, DC – On June 5, less than a week after Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris Climate agreement, the Sierra Club and its allies filed a lawsuit to block the Trump administration from suspending standards that curb harmful air pollution from the oil and gas industry. This is the first lawsuit filed against Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt's EPA for attempting to suspend climate pollution reduction requirements. During Trump and Pruitt's attempts to spin the administration's decision to leave the Paris Agreement, the two consistently pointed to emission reductions made in recent years. The methane standards established under President Obama would continue this trend.

These protections limit methane emissions and other dangerous pollution from new and modified oil and gas facilities. They are the first-ever national standards for methane pollution, a greenhouse gas that is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide during the time it remains in the atmosphere. These safeguards were finalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Obama administration.

"Following fast on the heels of their historically irresponsible decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, Donald Trump

and Scott Pruitt are reaffirming their view that polluters come first, second, and third, and the American people come last," said Sierra Club Chief Climate Counsel Joanne Spalding. "These emission standards for new oil and gas sources are a critical step toward protecting communities from dangerous air pollution and addressing climate change. They received overwhelming support from Americans across the country as they were written, reviewed, and finalized. Trump and Pruitt's attempt to delay these crucial protections has no basis in law, and their effort to do the bidding of the fossil fuel industry will fail. We look forward to defending the oil and gas standards in court against this reckless and unfounded attack."

The program's major driver of emission reductions are its requirements that oil and gas site operators find and repair equipment leaks. However, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt responded to requests from the oil and gas industry, moving to delay these safeguards (along with several other requirements).

The Clean Air Act doesn't permit EPA to suspend or delay finalized emission standards in these circumstances; by law, the methane safeguards must be implemented immediately. Today, the Sierra Club and a coalition of environmental groups sued the agency in the U.S.

Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to demand the rule be enforced.

EPA's program is crucial for reducing pollution in communities affected by oil and gas development. These communities include thousands of Sierra Club members like Lois Bower-Bjornson, a mother of four and small business owner from Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania. Bower-Bjornson lives within a mile and a half of 15 active new fracking rigs, including four within just 2,000 feet of her rural home. "My family and I moved here to give our children more space to play outdoors and engage with nature," she said. "All these leaky fracking rigs weren't here when we first arrived. Now, they cause health problems for our children like full-body rashes and nosebleeds, and add dangerous levels of smog to our air. We can't wait any longer. We really need EPA to step up and force oil and gas developers to fix these leaks."

"I've lived here for over 40 years, and the leaks from oil and gas wells and equipment keep getting worse," said Sug McNall of Aztec, New Mexico, another Sierra Club member affected by oil and gas leaks. "People are having more asthma attacks, temperatures are increasing, our rivers are drying up, and toxins are leaking into our air. The leaks must be stopped now."

# Meetings

**The public is very welcome at ALL Sierra Club Meetings and Activities! All members traveling across the state should feel free to drop in and attend another Group's meetings. You will find yourself among friends and learning something interesting.**

## CHEROKEE GROUP

**July 3, 2017 & August 7, 2017 – 6:00 P.M. – Strategy/Business Meetings:** Come add your ideas, share your concerns as we resist, insist, persist and enlist! We've got committees on outings, programs, clean energy and climate, water quality, forestry issues, and parks/land protection with room to support YOUR concern. Where: at our new location, Pilgrim Congregational Church, 400 Glenwood Dr., Chatta. 37404 (at the corner of Glenwood Dr. and E. 3rd Street. Come in the front door! We'll be in the parlor on the right. All are welcome!

**July 24, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – July Program:** at our new location; the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chatta. 37411, Off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUC will be on your left, up the hill!

Protect Our Parks. Elizabeth Henderson, full time intern with the Wilderness Society, is leading the Protect Our Parks campaign in Chattanooga, in which the Sierra Club is a partner. The campaign works to secure grass roots support for basic environmental laws and to advocate for our parks and public lands against cuts and destructive uses. As we learn about the work the Protect Our Parks Campaign is doing, we'll be setting up our plans for participation and action as a part of the campaign.

Letter-writing materials with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand written letters do count! Phone calls and e-mails too.

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! FREE as always; look for our banner!

**August 28, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – August Program:** at our new location: the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, 3224 Navajo Dr., Chatta. 37411, Off I-24, just east of the Missionary Ridge cut. Take the Germantown Road Exit, turn north onto Germantown Road, take the 2nd left onto Navajo, go about 1/2 mile, UUC will be on your left, up the hill!

The Teaching & Learning Community Garden at UTC, Dr. Jose Barbosa. A professor at UTC, Dr. Barbosa is the primary faculty sponsor for this outstanding Garden, involving UTC students. The Garden was able to produce organically over 2000 pounds of produce in its first year, which was donated to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. The Garden is a hands-on learning space that addresses topics that UTC students care about—like sustainability, local food economies, health and food production. Dr. Barbosa will talk to us about his work with the gardens and how it connects with Sierra Club concerns on sustainability, clean air, clean water, clean food.

Letter-writing materials with talking points will be available for those interested. Hand written letters do count! Phone calls and e-mails too.

Bring a friend. The public is very welcome! FREE as always; look for our banner!

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

**July 20, 2017 – 5:45 P.M. – MEETING:** Benjamin L. Hooks Library in Memphis, TN.

**August 17, 2017 – 5:45 P.M. – MEETING:**

Benjamin L. Hooks Library in Memphis, TN.

Check <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group> for more meeting information.

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

Our monthly programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 P.M., at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. For additional information see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs>

**August 8, 2017 – 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. – Harvey Broome Group Annual Picnic:** Clark Center Park, 7620 Bull Bluff Rd, Oak Ridge TN 37830. All Sierra Club members, families and friends are invited to this annual event. RSVP Mac Post: [mpost3116@gmail.com](mailto:mpost3116@gmail.com) or 865-806-0980.

**September 12, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. – Meeting:** Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, The Moral Significance of the Long-Term Effects of Climate Change, by Dr. John Nolt, Department of Philosophy, University of Tennessee.

Our business meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at The Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville, TN 37909 at 7pm. Everyone is invited. These meetings are free and open to the public. See our web page ([sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs](http://sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/programs)) for details.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

**July 5, 2017 – 6:15 P.M. – ICO MEETING:** Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group in leading disadvantaged kids on outings. Contact Craig Jervis at [cmjervis@comcast.net](mailto:cmjervis@comcast.net) for more information. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

**July 13, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – Program:** Nashville's New Transportation Plan – Transportation emissions account for a substantial percentage of the green house gases emitted in the Nashville area. It is remarkable what Nashville and 9 surrounding counties are planning to accommodate our area's growing transit needs. Come hear Hannah Paramore, the Chair of Moving Forward's public engagement task force, discuss where the transit conversation stands in Middle Tennessee. We appreciate Hannah taking the time to educate us on these critical issues, and hope that we have a large turnout for this program. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. The program is free and open to the public.

**July 18, 2017 – 6:30 P.M. – LOCAL ISSUES MEETING:** Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 if you'd like to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or [cahigh1722@aol.com](mailto:cahigh1722@aol.com) with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

**August 1, 2017 – 6:15 P.M. – ICO MEETING:** Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we lead disadvantaged kids on outings. Contact Craig Jervis at [cmjervis@comcast.net](mailto:cmjervis@comcast.net) for our new meeting location and information on our summer outings. Put "ICO" in the subject line.

**August 10, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – PROGRAM:** "WHAT CAN I DO TO CHANGE CLIMATE POLICIES?" Come hear Dan Joranko speak on Climate organizing possibilities here in Tennessee - including engaging with Livable Nashville, Community Solar, increasing renewables and reducing coal at TVA, and national campaigns to commit the US to a low-then-no-carbon future.

Dan Joranko is a long-time organizer on energy issues. He was a leading energy organizer in Chicago with the Northwest Community Organization. He initiated the Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign in Tennessee - organizing Climate Action Teams around the state. Recently he has convened Climate Nashville through Tennessee Alliance for Progress. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. The program is free and open to the public.

**August 15, 2017 – 6:30 P.M. – LOCAL ISSUES MEETING:** Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 if you'd like to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or [cahigh1722@aol.com](mailto:cahigh1722@aol.com) with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

**September 1, 2017 – 6:15 P.M. – ICO MEETING:** Come join our Nashville Inspiring Connections Outdoors Group as we meet in Nashville and discuss the past summer outings. Contact Craig Jervis at [cmjervis@comcast.net](mailto:cmjervis@comcast.net) for our new location. Put "ICO" in the subject line. September 19, 2017 (Tuesday) – 6:30 P.M. - LOCAL ISSUES MEETING: Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Come at 6:00 if you'd like to eat. We meet at House of Kabob, 216 Thompson Lane, Nashville. Please contact Charlie at (615) 500-5499 or [cahigh1722@aol.com](mailto:cahigh1722@aol.com) with any questions. Put "MTG Sierra" in the subject line. We look forward to seeing you.

**September 14, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. – Program:** Reducing our Exposure to Toxics as we Build Healthy, Sustainable and Resilient Communities. Robert C. Wingfield Jr., Ph. D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, Fisk University, will discuss how participants can build healthy, resilient and sustainable neighborhoods, homes, and businesses while reducing their exposure to toxics. The presentation will include a discussion of the nexus of energy, water, food, material, and human health sustainability; as well as concepts and issues regarding environmental sustainability both locally and globally. Come at 6:30 to socialize, and the program will begin at 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center. You must enter Radnor Lake from Granny White Pike, which may involve ignoring your GPS. For more info contact Russ at 615 506-4070. The program is free and open to the public.

## WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

**Program and business meetings begin at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday** near Doe Mountain Recreation Area from spring through fall at R&D Campground Pavilion at 900 Mining Town Rd., Mountain City, TN. During the wintertime meet up at The Loft 5902 Hwy 421 south Mountain City, TN. Got questions, contact [bmw@icloud.com](mailto:bmw@icloud.com) 423- 534-4804 or [GLa4797@embarqmail.com](mailto:GLa4797@embarqmail.com) 423-727-4797.

Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WataugaGroup](http://www.facebook.com/WataugaGroup)



# Outings

The Tennessee Chapter's Outings and activities are always open to the public and members of the Club from across the state! Sponsored by our local Groups, pre-registration with the trip leader is a must for all outings.

**July 8, 2017 – Backpack - Shining Rock Wilderness Proposed Addition Backpack:** (Pisgah National Forest, NC). Several areas surrounding the Shining Rock Wilderness in North Carolina (off the Blue Ridge Parkway and near Waynesville) are proposed for wilderness designation. One such area is called Sam Knob, which at 6,050 feet overlooks the main Ivester Gap trailhead for the Wilderness. We'll do this backpack to Sam Knob, starting at FS Route 215, passing Bubbling Spring Branch Waterfall, and hiking to a large grassy meadow campsite below Sam Knob. We'll probably day hike to the knob's summit, about 1.4 miles, for the incredible views from the top.. We'll later hike out the way we came in. Backpacking hiking distance will be about 5.6 miles total. Rated Easy. Drive distance, 113 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-2327; whshome@bellsouth.net. ([Harvey Broome Group](#))

**July 15, 2017 – Dayhike - Clingmans Dome to Newfound Gap on the Appalachian Trail:** GSMNP. My favorite section of trail in the Smokies. This is a great summertime hike due to the elevation and tree cover. This section of trail is ethereal, a place where I'd expect to see fairies and other mythical creatures. This 7.3 mile hike is rated moderate. Drive, 60 miles one-way from Knoxville, about 1 hr 45 minutes. Preregister with Denise Bivens: denisebivens@gmail.com: phone 865-385-5138. ([Harvey Broome Group](#))

**July 15, 2017 – 10:30 A.M. – Tennessee Riverwalk:** This month we'll explore another part of the new section, walking upstream from Blue Goose Hollow to downtown Chattanooga, followed by lunch at the Mellow Mushroom! We'll meet at the Blue Goose Hollow Trailhead, the small park off Riverside Drive on the Riverfront at the end of Martin Luther King Blvd., adjacent to the Cameron Harbor Development. (for your GPS: 876 W 9th Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37402). Easy walking. Kids welcome. Bring friends! Pre-registration required, with John Doyal, 2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com or 423-315-0965. ([Cherokee](#))

**July 29, 2017 – Naturalist Ramble - Aquatic Stream Diversity:** Snorkel Citico Creek with

the US Forest Service Fisheries Biologists. Streams in the Cherokee National Forest have an extraordinarily diverse assemblage of fish. In the clear waters of the snorkeling sites, it is typical to see 15 to 20 species of fish on any given day. Several thousand fish will be present on any given day. The experience is like swimming in an aquarium full of fish. Turtles, tadpoles and salamanders are all usually present. Cost is \$25 per snorkeler and includes Forest Service Biologist guide, lifeguard, wetsuits, masks and snorkels. Families are encouraged to bring children along for a fun and educational day outside. The Forest Service requires that children must be 12 years of age. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. Driving distance 55 Miles one-way. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred) ([Harvey Broome Group](#))

**August 12, 2017 – Backpack - Shining Rock Wilderness Backpack:** Pisgah National Forest. Shining Rock Wilderness in North Carolina (off the Blue Ridge Parkway and near Waynesville) is one of the three original wilderness areas in the Eastern US. It is certainly one of our best, and the HBG has done backpacks in the area in early August since the mid-1970's. The wild blueberries are usually plentiful and ripe then. We'll backpack about 5.5 miles on Saturday across the Black Balsam Knob (6,214 feet) to Ivester Gap and then down along Cove Ridge to a camp at Greasy Cove Gap. Sunday will be 5.3 miles down Greasy Cove Prong and the East Fork of the Pigeon River to US 276. There will be several creek crossings. Hiking distance will be about 10.8 miles total. Rated strenuous. Drive distance, 113 miles. Preregister with Will Skelton: H 523-2272; C 742-2327; whshome@bellsouth.net. ([Harvey Broome Group](#))

**August 19, 2017 – Dayhike - Honey Creek Loop, Big South Fork NRR:** This 5 mile loop is strenuous and rated difficult. The trail has some of the best geological features in BSF. The strenuous rating is due to the fact that there are obstacles you have to climb up/down, fat man squeezes to maneuver through. Hopefully the blueberries will be ripe! Drive 69 miles from Knoxville one-way, about 1.5 hours. Preregister with Denise Bivens: denisebivens@gmail.com: phone 865-385-5138. ([Harvey Broome Group](#))

**August 19, 2017 – 11:00 A.M. – Stringers Ridge Walk:** Easy walking in this outstanding

92-acre urban wilderness park in North Chattanooga, taking the loop to the observation platform for spectacular views of the city. Afterwards we'll enjoy lunch at Nikki's Restaurant. We'll leave from the park entrance's parking lot, off of Old Bell Ave, which is behind Nikki's Restaurant, 899 Cherokee Blvd, Chattanooga, TN 37405 (DO NOT PARK IN NIKKI'S!) Kids welcome. Bring friends! Pre-registration required, with John Doyal, 2ndoutdoorscha@gmail.com or 423-315-0965. ([Cherokee](#))

**NOTE:** Our Outings Leader Training produced 24 enthusiastic new leaders/Outdoor Ambassadors, now scheduling their apprentice outings! We look forward to our continued partnership with Outdoor Chattanooga, and a host of outings reaching diverse populations with the joy of nature. It's not too late for YOU, if you're interested in becoming a trip leader – contact Barb Kelly, bk1rivers@gmail.com or 423-718-5009. Training opportunities still available!

**August 26, 2017 – Naturalist Ramble - Spruce-Fir Forest, Clingmans Dome, GSMNP:** Hike distance is 2.5 miles, rated easy but there is an elevation gain to the Clingmans Dome tower. We'll take it slow using the more forgiving By-Pass trail. From this highest point of the park, and the entire Appalachian Trail, will stay entirely in the Spruce-Fir zone of the Smokies, We will stop by the air-quality monitoring station and discuss the current trends in air pollution in the park and impacts on ecosystems. Families are encouraged to bring children along for a fun and educational day outside. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate. Drive distance, 66 miles. Preregister with Mac Post: 865-806-0980; mpost3116@aol.com (email preferred) ([Harvey Broome Group](#))

## CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

Time and dates of outings are to be determined. For information check: <http://www.facebook.com/Chickasaw.Group/>

## HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

See our web page ([sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/outings](http://sierraclub.org/tennessee/harvey-broome/outings)) for details.

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Nashville Outings! We have an active outings schedule and want you to come along! Many times our outings are planned too late to be included in this newsletter. To check out our outings, please go to <http://www.meetup.com/Middle-Tennessee-Sierra-Club-Outings-and-Adventures>

## Change the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park?

Over the past couple of years, some Sierra Club members and at least one visitor to our chapter meetings at Nathan Bedford Forrest Park have expressed negative opinions about the name of the park. It is somewhat controversial that the Sierra Club holds meetings in a place named after a man who fought for the confederacy in the Civil War and who was known to be a slave trader as well as a founding member of the Ku Klux Klan. At least one Sierra Club member in Memphis will not attend events held at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park.

The Chickasaw Group uses NBF park for chapter meetings due to the location. It is one of the few reasonably priced state parks within decent driving distance of Memphis that has facilities that meet the needs of our chapter meetings. Should

the Sierra Club advocate changing the name of the park? While this sounds like something worth pursuing, General Forrest has many fans among southerners who are interested in the history of the civil war and who object to attempts to do what they view as erasing history.

On the other hand, African Americans and many civil rights advocates find it repugnant that we honor a former slave trader, and Klan member by naming parks and monuments after him. The city of Memphis has changed the name of a city park formerly named Nathan Bedford Forrest Park. The city of New Orleans has moved some confederate monuments to less visible places and all 8 Mississippi state colleges have stopped flying the state flag because of its resemblance to the confederate battle flag which they say is offensive

to black students.

Some interesting commentary on the subject of the park and NBF was published in a local Memphis newspaper, The Memphis Flyer back in 2016. <http://www.memphisflyer.com/NewsBlog/archives/2016/10/21/nathan-bedford-forrest-statue-and-remains-to-stay-in-the-health-sciences-park>

Should the Sierra Club pursue a change of name for Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park? Should we continue to hold meetings there? What are the alternatives? How could we pursue this in an effective way? Would it be good for the Tennessee Chapter to pursue a petition to the legislature (or whoever is in authority over park names) about changing the name? Perhaps it is worth discussing this issue among ourselves.



# Over 110 U.S. Mayors Endorse Powering Their Communities Entirely With Clean, Renewable Energy

By Shane Levy

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. – The Sierra Club released a new analysis that found that transitioning all 1,400+ U.S. Conference of Mayors member-cities to 100 percent clean and renewable electricity will significantly reduce electric sector carbon pollution nationwide and help the United States towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

According to the Sierra Club analysis, if cities belonging to the U.S. Conference of Mayors were to move to 100 percent clean and renewable electricity, it would reduce electric sector carbon emissions by more than that of the five worst carbon polluting U.S. states combined. If the 100 percent energy targets were achieved by 2025, the total electric sector carbon pollution reductions would fill anywhere from 87 percent to 110 percent of the remaining reductions the United States would need to achieve in order to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The analysis of National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Energy Information Administration (EIA) data comes before the start of the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual meeting in Miami Beach, where members will consider a resolution that would establish support for the goal of 100 percent clean, renewable energy in cities nationwide.

In addition, the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign and the Co-Chairs of Mayors for 100% Clean Energy announced today that 118 mayors across the country have endorsed a goal of powering their communities with 100 percent clean, renewable energy such as wind and solar.

The Mayors for 100% Clean Energy initiative is co-chaired by Mayor Philip Levine of Miami Beach, Mayor Jackie Biskupski of Salt Lake City, Mayor Kevin Faulconer of San Diego, and Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin of Columbia, South Carolina. Mayor Benjamin is also a Vice President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

"It's up to us as leaders to creatively implement clean energy solutions for our cities across the nation. It's not merely an option now; it's imperative. Cities and mayors can lead the transition away from fossil fuels to 100 percent clean and renewable energy." – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin.

"We can't ignore climate change because climate change is not ignoring us," said Mayor Jackie Biskupski of Salt Lake City. "Cities must adapt to cope with the threats of climate change, and that's also why we must take action to mitigate them. Salt Lake City has set the

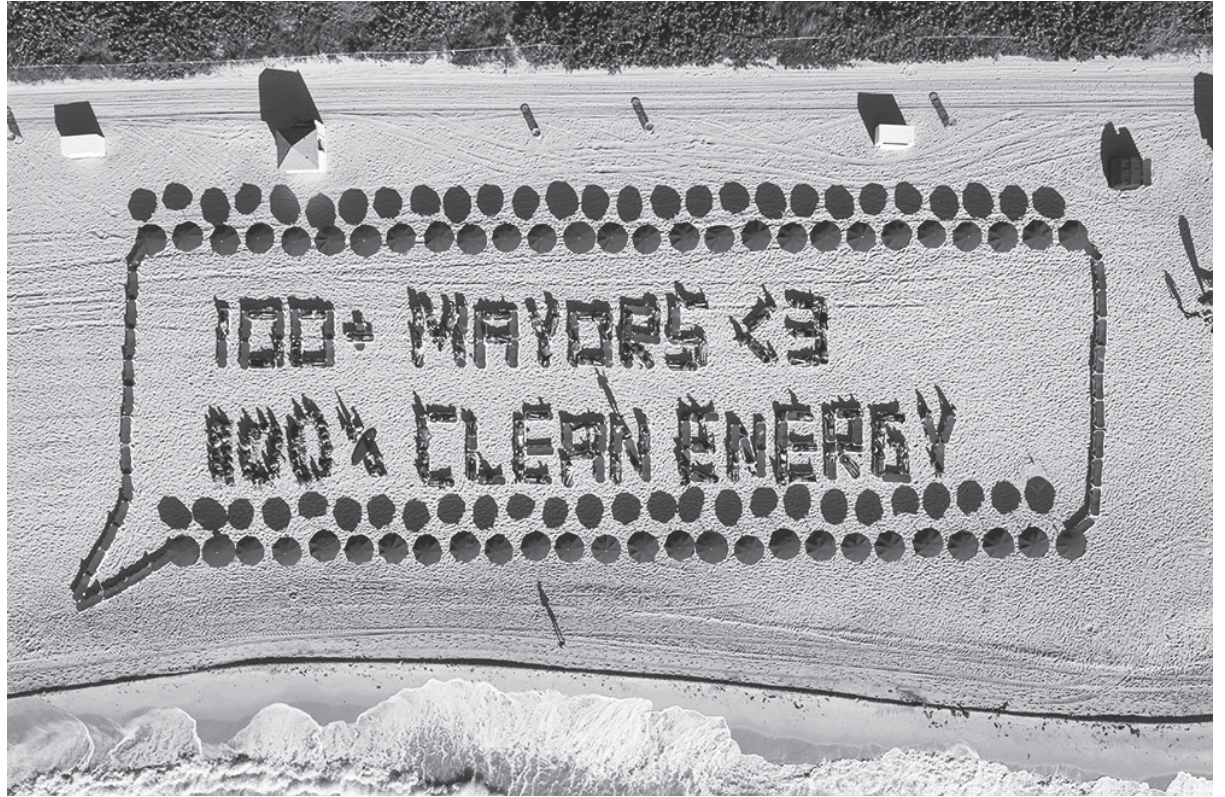


Image Source: Miami Aerial

ambitious but achievable goals of generating 100 percent of the community's electricity supply from renewable energy by 2032, followed by an 80 percent reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. We are taking action to achieve these goals and I am honored to join mayors from across our nation to lead the transition to clean, renewable energy."

"Clean energy isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do," said San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. "In San Diego, we brought business and environmental groups together to advance a goal of 100 percent renewable energy. Since then, San Diego has become the nation's top ranking city in solar energy capacity. We're going green not only because it supports clean air and water but because it supports our 21st century economy. It makes sense for mayors across the country to work together because when we talk about the future of our planet, we're talking about the future of our communities. As a city known around the world for its beautiful environment, we look forward to showing the world how to protect it."

"As mayor of Miami Beach, I am proud to stand with more than 110 mayors across the country in supporting a vision of 100 percent clean energy for my community. We have already taken steps to expand renewable energy and we will continue to improve our infrastructure and innovate clean energy solutions for

a stronger Miami Beach," said Mayor Philip Levine of Miami Beach, Florida. "Climate change may be the challenge of our generation, but it is also the opportunity of a lifetime. The transition to clean and renewable energy will both help Miami Beach confront climate change and strengthen our local economy."

Mayoral endorsements of 100 percent renewable energy have led to ambitious action in municipalities across the United States. The mayors of St. Petersburg, Florida and Abita Springs, Louisiana issued proclamations endorsing a goal of transitioning to 100 percent clean and renewable energy, followed by the formal adoption of a community-wide goal establishing 100 percent clean, renewable energy as the target for city energy planning.

Salt Lake City recently released its Climate Positive 2040 plan which details the specific steps and policies the city will pursue with Rocky Mountain Power to achieve the goal of 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2032.

Thirty-six cities across the United States have now committed to transition to 100 percent clean and renewable energy. This growing list of cities most recently includes Columbia, South Carolina, which this week unanimously voted to transition entirely to clean, renewable energy by 2036. Other cities including Los Angeles and Denver are studying pathways to 100 percent clean energy.

## July Chapter Meeting - Electric Vehicle Event

Want to see and experience a revolution in the making?

During our July 23rd Chapter meeting Joe Ozegovich – Chickasaw Group, will give a presentation on the benefits of owning and operating an Electric Vehicle and marrying their use in clean solar energy as its source.

The following topics will be covered:

- Benefits
- Charging
- Maintenance
- Costs
- Solar Integration

Rides will be available to experience the thrill of instantaneous torque.





# Over 110 U.S. Mayors Endorse Powering Their Communities Entirely With Clean, Renewable Energy

By Shane Levy

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. – On June 23, 2017, the Sierra Club released a new analysis that found that transitioning all 1,400+ U.S. Conference of Mayors member-cities to 100 percent clean and renewable electricity will significantly reduce electric sector carbon pollution nationwide and help the United States towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

According to the Sierra Club analysis, if cities belonging to the U.S. Conference of Mayors were to move to 100 percent clean and renewable electricity, it would reduce electric sector carbon emissions by more than that of the five worst carbon polluting U.S. states combined. If the 100 percent energy targets were achieved by 2025, the total electric sector carbon pollution reductions would fill anywhere from 87 percent to 110 percent of the remaining reductions the United States would need to achieve in order to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The analysis of National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Energy Information Administration (EIA) data comes before the start of the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual meeting in Miami Beach, where members will consider a resolution that would establish support for the goal of 100 percent clean, renewable energy in cities nationwide.

In addition, the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign and the Co-Chairs of Mayors for 100% Clean Energy announced today that 118 mayors across the country have endorsed a goal of powering their communities with 100 percent clean, renewable energy such as wind and solar.

The Mayors for 100% Clean Energy initiative is co-chaired by Mayor Philip Levine of Miami Beach, Mayor Jackie Biskupski of Salt Lake

City, Mayor Kevin Faulconer of San Diego, and Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin of Columbia, South Carolina. Mayor Benjamin is also a Vice President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

"It's up to us as leaders to creatively implement clean energy solutions for our cities across the nation. It's not merely an option now; it's imperative. Cities and mayors can lead the transition away from fossil fuels to 100 percent clean and renewable energy." – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin.

"We can't ignore climate change because climate change is not ignoring us," said Mayor Jackie Biskupski of Salt Lake City. "Cities must adapt to cope with the threats of climate change, and that's also why we must take action to mitigate them. Salt Lake City has set the ambitious but achievable goals of generating 100 percent of the community's electricity supply from renewable energy by 2032, followed by an 80 percent reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. We are taking action to achieve these goals and I am honored to join mayors from across our nation to lead the transition to clean, renewable energy."

"Clean energy isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do," said San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. "In San Diego, we brought business and environmental groups together to advance a goal of 100 percent renewable energy. Since then, San Diego has become the nation's top ranking city in solar energy capacity. We're going green not only because it supports clean air and water but because it supports our 21st century economy. It makes sense for mayors across the country to work together because when we talk about the future of our planet, we're talking about the future of our communities. As a city known around the world for its beautiful environment,

we look forward to showing the world how to protect it."

"As mayor of Miami Beach, I am proud to stand with more than 110 mayors across the country in supporting a vision of 100 percent clean energy for my community. We have already taken steps to expand renewable energy and we will continue to improve our infrastructure and innovate clean energy solutions for a stronger Miami Beach," said Mayor Philip Levine of Miami Beach, Florida. "Climate change may be the challenge of our generation, but it is also the opportunity of a lifetime. The transition to clean and renewable energy will both help Miami Beach confront climate change and strengthen our local economy."

Mayoral endorsements of 100 percent renewable energy have led to ambitious action in municipalities across the United States. The mayors of St. Petersburg, Florida and Abita Springs, Louisiana issued proclamations endorsing a goal of transitioning to 100 percent clean and renewable energy, followed by the formal adoption of a community-wide goal establishing 100 percent clean, renewable energy as the target for city energy planning.

Salt Lake City recently released its Climate Positive 2040 plan which details the specific steps and policies the city will pursue with Rocky Mountain Power to achieve the goal of 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2032.

Thirty-six cities across the United States have now committed to transition to 100 percent clean and renewable energy. This growing list of cities most recently includes Columbia, South Carolina, which this week unanimously voted to transition entirely to clean, renewable energy by 2036. Other cities including Los Angeles and Denver are studying pathways to 100 percent clean energy.

## Protecting Our Right to Be Heard and to Vote

By Courtney Hight

Sunday, June 25, is the fourth anniversary of the Supreme Court's Shelby v Holder decision to gut the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. This decision undermined a fundamental value that our country was founded on – one person, one vote. Since this decision, numerous states have passed laws making it harder, and in many cases impossible, for Americans to vote and to have a voice in the issues that affect their lives.

The same people most affected by toxic chemicals in our air and water and who are experiencing the harshest impacts of climate disruption are the same communities targeted with voter suppression and discrimination. The gutting of the Voting Rights Act opened the door for state legislatures, and now the president, to take away the one guaranteed power and voice we have to influence our government. Our vote is our voice, and we must fight to protect what we have and we must grow it louder.

The Shelby decision did not eliminate the entire VRA, but it overturned one of the most powerful sections of the law. The key section struck down required that states with a long history of discrimination and racist voting laws, mostly former slave states, must have any new changes to voting laws pre-approved by the Justice Department. This added protection stopped attempts by state legislatures to institute racist voting laws for decades.

Unfortunately but unsurprisingly, the states once barred from establishing discriminatory voting laws have jumped at the opportunity to discriminate and disenfranchise millions of Americans. Thirty-three states now have restrictive voter ID laws that prevent people from voting. The 2016 election was the first election in 50 years without the full protection of the VRA, and we saw states shut down polling locations and limit hours with little to no repercussion. In my home state of Arizona, officials cut the amount of polling locations from 200 to 60 in Maricopa County, the largest and most populous county. Some voters waited over five hours to vote.

North Carolina's Republican-controlled legislature passed multiple pieces of legislation that restricted the right to vote. A federal court recently ruled that the legislature targeted African Americans "with almost surgical precision." These laws also have a disproportionate impact on older voters, people with disabilities, and students – groups that tend to vote Democratic.

And now, these attacks are coming from the highest office in the land. Beginning on his first week in office, Donald Trump has been leading the charge to suppress the votes of American citizens. He has created a commission that will investigate his disproven claims of voter fraud. There have already been numerous investigations into voter fraud, and every single one has proven that voter fraud almost never occurs. A study of

one billion votes cast between 2000 to 2014, showed only 31 credible instances of in-person voter fraud. There was no presidential commission on who shot Mr. Burns because it was fictional – just like Trump's claims of voter fraud.

Trump is right about one thing: There is a problem when it comes to voting in America – it's just not the one that he promotes. In the wake of the Shelby decision, legislatures are passing laws restricting people of color, low-income people, and young people from voting. Rather than establish a commission to find ways to reduce barriers and address bigger problems, like longer lines, or to modernize our election system, Trump has chosen to search for ways to make it harder to vote.

Voting is our basic right as Americans, one that we will and must always fight to keep and expand. If we are going to make the long-term progress on limiting the impacts of climate change on our families and communities and on stopping corporate polluters from dumping toxic chemicals into our air and water, then we must ensure that those people who are most affected by those policies can use their voice and vote. On the anniversary of the dismantling of the Voting Rights Act and on every day, we must remain vigilant to ensure no one is denied the right to vote.



# Monarchs & the Middle Tennessee Group

By Betsy Garber

After Joy Mayfield decided to help the declining butterfly population, the Middle Tennessee Group (MTG) began an education campaign using the plight of the Monarch butterfly as the main theme for our tabling events. Consequently, I learned about the Monarchs and decided to grow milkweed – the only plant that a Monarch butterfly will lay eggs on. Just plant the native common or swamp milkweed seeds, and then water, water, water until they are established. After the first year, the plants will grow bigger, will spread, and can be transplanted. (Again, water the transplants a lot). Planting a variety of flowers from seed to avoid dangerous pesticides, also encourages the butterfly and bee population.

While Joy and John had great luck the first year using a bucket with a screen over the top on their living room hearth (ultimately releasing 17 butterflies from caterpillars she had collected from a field to be mowed), I attempted to use a bed canopy mosquito net outside to protect the caterpillars from predators. I had very little success – the main predators were the wasps that search out and eat caterpillars. Additionally, one night a rodent or lizard managed to get in and eat most of the chrysalis. Heartbreaking! Joy and John’s main problem

was parasitic flies laying eggs in the caterpillars before they were retrieved from the field.

Last year, a March storm killed most of the Monarchs before they arrived in Nashville for the Spring migration. This year, Nashville had a bumper crop of spring Monarchs. Joy and I have progressed to store-bought butterfly cages, and we put as many caterpillars as we could in the cages. Joy gathered her caterpillars when they were tiny to avoid the flies; I waited until they were a bit bigger. I again tried to put a mosquito netting tent outside where I put the outdoor caterpillars that would not fit in my cage, being especially careful to weigh down the edges and close all gaps. Unfortunately, when the caterpillars would crawl up the side of the mosquito netting to rest or shed their skin to grow, the wasps would kill them through the netting and actually cut through the netting to get at them. (Very depressing).

But the inside caterpillars fared better. Between us we had over 30 chrysalises. Beginning in mid-May, we released a total of 32 butterflies. They are beautiful. Heartened, I have bought a bigger cage and hope that on their way south in the fall, Nashville will have more Monarchs laying eggs! If someone as squeamish as me can do this, I’m pretty sure you can too. First step? Plant some milkweed.

## The TN Chapter ExCom names Sinclair Sparkman as Electronic Newsletter Editor for the TN Chapter

Sinclair Sparkman is a service-driven journalist with a passion for getting people outdoors. She holds a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Middle Tennessee State University and serves as the news editor for a local newspaper in Lebanon, TN. She enjoys playing music and creating connections.

Sinclair is currently researching and reviewing various other Sierra electronic newsletters to determine the most desirable format for the TN Chapter.

Watch for more information regarding the Chapter's electronic newsletter in the near future.

# Nashville science and climate march



"Despite the thunderstorms, MTG (and an estimated 3,000 others) turned out for the Nashville Science & Climate March. MTG was a co-sponsor of the event."

Tennes-Sierran  
3712 Ringgold Rd., #156  
Chatanooga, TN 37412-1638

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Nashville, TN  
Permit No. 3225

### Moving?

Attach mailing address label, or fill-in current name, address & Membership ID#

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

My new address is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041