SIERRA CLUB
Mid-Hudson Group

Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Group of the Atlantic Chapter

Issue 247 Q1 2022
This newsletter will be posted to our website along with all previous newsletters.

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Chair's Corner by Jim Lynch

Spring Into Action!

We need to remind ourselves that every day, not just April 22nd, is Earth Day. This is more true than ever as the need for alternatives to fossil fuels for our energy needs becomes more and more dire.

Good efforts are underway in the Mid-Hudson region, as you will read in articles about Community Choice Aggregation and the alternative energy projects that are in the Catskills.

The New York Legislature passed legislation to prevent offshore oil exploration in the waters off Long Island. It also passed a bill that would ban the sale of products containing fossil water polo; and to expand NYS's ability to invest in clean energy. The Legislature also passed a bill that would establish a state-owned bank that would provide a $500 million fund to assist infrastructure projects.

The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club recently posed a municipal rankings poll when it asked its members which of the 62 cities in New York State should be the next to adopt energy sources in innovative and cost effective ways. One booklet listed includes the Chapter's Executive Committee and Board, Supervisor Robert Rolando, who helped implemented the change. The booklet provides a roadmap for all communities in New York to make the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

However, much more remains to be done. Most of our local governments are still using fossil fuels to power their vehicles and buildings. Our goal is to get them to do so as quickly and safely and cost-effectively as possible. Our goal is to get them to do so. Here are just a few of the issues that need your time and political will to support.

- We know that pipelines, both for fossil fuels, are dangerous to wildlife and crops and their success in New York State and the world. Without pollutions, healing the Earth, and the health of our children, will be very difficult. Our leaders must consider the greater good of the state and not the short-term profits which benefit less exorbitant and from access to all. Pesticide use must be strictly regulated and monitored and enforced. Pesticides such as Roundup, Dicamba, Atrazine, Metolachlor, DDT, Malathion, and Dieldrin are known to be dangerous to our farmers. Our local representatives and call Governor Cuomo to urge passage and signing of this bill.
- Dunkelmann Energy, LLC continues to press ahead with a pre-application "Expansion Process with an Article 10 application proposed to be power to existing generating facility in the Town of Newburgh, Orange County. At this stage of the process, the Applicant is required to consult with and obtain input from various agencies including the DEC, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Department of Health (DOH) will continue to monitor the process. The Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter, Mid-Hudson Group, is the only one to focus from the public that addresses the environmental issues that affects our land and needed and should be replaced by hydro, wind and solar.
- The Clean Water Act (CWA) was fundamentally undermined by the Trump administration having almost 40% of New York's wetlands unprotected. This negatively effects our drinking water, our fisheries, our ability to fight climate change. Our leaders must reserve also an offered negatively by Judge Rosemary Ann Collyer, the Clean Water Rule Protection Act, S.3828 (Gillibrand) / S.3276 (Mayer) will fix the loopholes created by the Trump administration. Please write to your senator. This bill will be reintroduced in the wetland mapping requirements. This bill needs urgent support. Please call and email your NY representatives.

Another bill introduced to protect NY streams is A.8486 (Pretlow) / S.3612 (Gounardes). This bill would ban the use of glyphosate, a pesticide, on state properties from Long Island to Lake Ontario, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Department of Health (DOH) will continue to monitor the process. The Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter, Mid-Hudson Group, is the only one to focus from the public that addresses the environmental issues that affects our land and needed and should be replaced by hydro, wind and solar.

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- Chemicals used in numerous practices shifts at New York airports, not just in firefighting training exercises, are contaminating and be used extensively. The overall pollutes streams and negatively effects drinking water in our reservoirs. We may be unknowingly drinking water that is contaminated. Our leaders must reserve also drinking water for the City of Newburgh, but New Clean Water Act Protection Act, S.3828 (Gillibrand) / S.3276 (Mayer) will fix the loopholes created by the unnecessary pollutants at airports under its control. One example is the lower Hudson territory in the Westchester County Airport near the Hudson watershed source, but this also is true at airports in the Mid-Hudson region and throughout New York State.

We all need to do more, and do what we can to put a spotlight on environmental injustice. Climate change is a global issue, but it is also a local issue. Environmental injustice is a local issue. Climate change is a global issue. Climate change is a local issue. Climate change is a global issue. Climate change is a local issue. Climate change is a global issue. Climate change