



April 2016

CONTENTS

- FORUM: METHANE PIPELINES PLANNED FOR CT
- RALLY: DEMOCRACY AWAKENING
- HIKES:
 - ~ *Penwood Park, Simsbury*
 - ~ *Mile of Ledges, Burlington*
- GROUP MEETINGS:
 - ~ Greater Hartford: Methane Pipelines Planned for CT
 - ~ Shoreline: Energy Committee Planning Session
 - ~ Shoreline: Guided Tour of Energize Center
- LEGISLATION ISSUES 2016: SHARED SOLAR
- NATIONAL ELECTIONS 2016: PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL
- GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
 - ~ Branford River at Risk
- EVENTS:

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION LIST

- **BRIDGEPORT, FAIRFIELD, HAMDEN, NEW HAVEN, NEW MILFORD, STORRS, WILTON**
- ARTICLES
 - ~ *Bridgeport Celebrates First Earthfest*
 - ~ *Fairfield: Make Every Day Earth Day*
 - ~ *Earth Share, What's Your Environmental Concern?*
- SPRING POEM
- NEWSLETTER STAFF
- REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
- SOLAR ENERGY
- LEGACY PLANNING

FORUM

Methane Pipelines Planned for Connecticut

Natural Gas Pipeline Forum Presented by The Sierra Club – CT Chapter

Speaker: Martha Klein, CT Chapter Communications Chair

Date: Tuesday, April 26th

Time: 6:45pm – 8:00pm

Location: Avon Public Library, 281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT

Questions: Deb at DeborahSRoe@gmail.com



Currently there are five different large-diameter, high-pressure natural gas pipeline projects either proposed for Connecticut or actively under construction. The forum is an opportunity to learn more about these topics and to have your questions about the future of energy policy in Connecticut answered. Find out how Connecticut's current energy policy may impact you.

Expect Answers to These Questions

- What is involved in pipeline construction?
- Where does the gas come from?
- Is there an unmet demand for natural gas in Connecticut?
- What are the potential impacts of gas pipelines: economic, environmental and health?
- Are there alternatives?

RALLY

HELP WAKE UP DEMOCRACY

Overview: Join thousands of people from over 170 organizations mobilizing in Washington, D.C. April 16th through 18th for Democracy Awakening. We are going to Washington to demand a democracy with an equal voice for everyone and to demonstrate the breadth of voices calling for change.

Bus: Leaves UCONN Storrs, Sunday, April 17th;

Returns Monday, April 18th

Contact: Bob Hannan, 203.928.7435, robert.hannan_jr@uconn.edu

Sierra Club Registration: <http://sierra.force.com/events/details?formcampaignid=70131000001M87BAAS>

Information: democracyawakening.org



U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.

Reasons for Protest

We see threats to our democracy every day with:

- ***blatant obstructionism in the Senate***
- ***refusal to hold a hearing on a Supreme Court nominee***
- ***failure to hold a hearing on voting rights***
- ***failure to move forward on reforming money in politics***

We are demanding a democracy where every vote is heard and counted, all Americans have an equal voice and money doesn't buy access and power.

Sierra Club Fight

The polluting corporations and executives the Sierra Club fight every day are the same people opposing us in demanding a stronger democracy. Democracy Awakening presents an opportunity for the Sierra Club members, leaders and staff who are fighting for a just transition to clean energy and to protect the health of our families and communities, to stand alongside activists across many movements: civil rights; labor; reform and economic, racial and social justice.

Sierra Club's focus will be the Rally for Democracy, held Sunday, April 17th. To register for the Rally for Democracy, please register here: <http://sierra.force.com/events/details?formcampaignid=70131000001M87BAAS>

The rally in Washington, D.C. will include an array of actions, including demonstrations, teach-ins, music, a Rally for Democracy and pressing for a Congress of Conscience advocacy day.



WHAT

In April 2016, more than 100 organizations representing a diverse array of movements and hundreds of thousands of people are coming together to demand a democracy that works for all of us. Join us as we converge upon Washington, D.C. for an array of actions, including demonstrations, concerts, teach-ins, a rally, lobbying, and more – all in support of a democracy in which votes are not denied and money doesn't buy policy. This will mark an unprecedented coming together of historically separate communities and reform proposals. Together we will build a nation that is truly of, by and for the people.

WHY

American democracy is premised on the fundamental tenet of “one person, one vote,” but since the very beginning, we’ve had to fight for every voice to be heard and every vote to be counted. Today an array of barriers are keeping regular Americans shut out of the political process, from restrictive voting laws suppressing the voting rights of people of color, students, and low-income Americans, to a campaign finance landscape that allows big money to increasingly shape elections and the policy-making process. On both voting rights and money in politics, Congress has solutions in front of them, but has so far failed to pass them into law. It's time for us to come together and claim a democracy where every voice is heard and every vote counts equally.

THE PLAN

From **April 16-18**, join us for three days of protest, education, music and cultural exchange in Washington, D.C. Here's the plan:

- **Saturday, April 16 – Teach, Learn, Transform:** Saturday will feature teach-ins and workshops by powerful leaders from around the country who will inspire us as we build a movement to fight back against the attacks on democracy. We'll have a cultural hub where people can gather to create art and inspire change. Saturday night will feature a large event to bring us together in the lead up to Sunday's Rally for Democracy.
- **Sunday, April 17 – Rally for Democracy:** Join thousands of people in a march and rally at the U.S. Capitol, where we'll mobilize in mass to call for solutions that protect the people's right to vote and prevent our voices from being drowned out by big money.
- **Monday, April 18 – Congress of Conscience Day of Action:** Join activists on Capitol Hill for a day of advocacy and lobbying to encourage our representatives to champion critical voting rights and money in politics reform measures. Advocates from around the country will meet with elected officials and their staff in support of legislation to: restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act; modernize voter registration and ensure equal access to voting for all; overturn Supreme Court decisions like *Citizens United* so we can get big money out of politics; and empower small donors in our democracy.

GET INVOLVED

As an individual or an organization, there are many ways to get involved, and we need your voice in this movement. Visit <http://democracyawakening.org> for more information, or contact info@democracyawakening.org.

HIKE

1. Penwood State Park, Simsbury, CT

Date: Sunday, April 3rd

Time: 12 Noon

Difficulty: Easy hiking on rolling terrain

Meet: Parking lot just off the Rte.185 park entrance

Hike Leader: Renee Taylor

RSVP: YES only by 4/1 to mchawigirl@yahoo.com

Note: *If you say YES and change your mind, please let Renee know so she can hike nearer to her home instead.*

GPS: You can mapquest/GPS Stafford Street and Hartford Road intersection in Simsbury, CT for a site close to park entrance.

Directions: Rte. 91 to exit 35B, Rte. 218 west. Take 218 until you reach Rte.189 north in Bloomfield. Turn right onto Rte.189 and continue north to Rte.178. Turn left onto Rte.178 and proceed to end where it intersects with Rte.185. Turn right onto Rte.185. Ahead about a mile on the right is park entrance.

Dogs: Friendly dogs are welcome but must be leashed as others approach. Messes on the trail must be removed.

RAIN/SNOW THAT DAY CANCELS

All hikers, adults and children over 10 years of age, with or without dogs are welcome as long as they refrain from cell phone use and smoking and can tolerate our dogs.

Hiking Waiver

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please click the following link. https://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-sign-in_waiver.pdf

2. Mile of Ledges, Burlington, CT



Rugged Terrain at Ledges

Date: Sunday, April 24th

Time: 10:00am

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult rocky terrain at a moderate pace; must be able to hoist yourself up and down bedrock fissures.

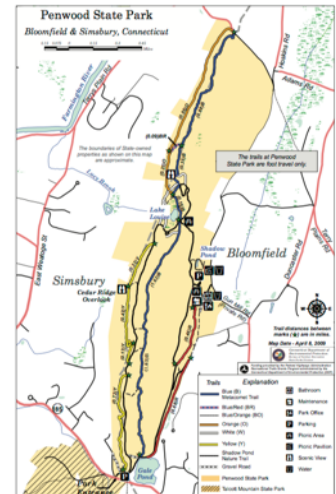
Directions: From West Chippens Hill Road in Burlington, CT, turn onto Greer Road. Trailhead is 0.2 miles on the left. Carpooling encouraged.

GPS: 23 Greer Road, Burlington (approximately)

Hike Leader: Amanda Kenyon:

amanda.kenyon@sierraclub.org

RSVP: Optional



Description: A 3.75 mile hike at one of the most rugged and interesting sections of the state's blue-blazed trail system. Includes Tory Den, a cave that provided refuge to British loyalists during the Revolutionary War, and later, The Leatherman. A playground for adults!

Info: Free. Non-members welcome. Experienced hikers only. No dogs, please. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring snacks and water. Steady rain cancels. For more info contact hike leader.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1685060355100129/>

Hiking Waiver

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please click the following link. https://content.sierraclub.org/outings/sites/content.sierraclub.org/outings/files/forms/local-outings-sign-in_waiver.pdf

GROUP MEETINGS

1. Greater Hartford Sierra Club Group

April Meeting and Presentation

Speaker: Martha Klein, CT Chapter Communications Chair

Topic: Methane Pipelines Planned for Connecticut



Overview: Subjects covered will include:

- state energy policy
- the growth of fracked gas use and transport
- interstate and intrastate pipeline construction
- necessary changes to our energy policy to prevent more catastrophic climate change events

Did You Know?

Northeast Energy Direct is a fracked methane gas expansion project planned by Kinder Morgan to cross Connecticut habitats with pipelines. Numerous pipeline projects in the state are currently under construction or approval, yet many in Connecticut are unaware of the costs associated with these projects - pollution, danger, and health concerns. Much of this methane is for liquefaction and export to other countries who pay more for it.

Come hear the status of fracked gas use and transport and learn what you can do about it.

Date: Thursday, April 14th

Time: 7:30pm (*Activist letter writing at 7:00pm*)

Location: Westmoor Park

Address: 119 Flagg Road, West Hartford, CT

Contact: Renee at mchawigirl@yahoo.com

Suggested Donation: \$4.00 to defray cost of hall rental

Refreshments: Provided

2. Shoreline Sierra Club Energy Committee

Topic: Energy Committee Planning

Overview: As the initial meeting for the Shoreline Group's Energy Committee, the focus of the Committee will be discussed.

Date: Monday, April 18th

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Yale Book Store, snack bar area, upstairs in the back

Address: 77 Broadway, New Haven, CT

Contact: johndixonct@yahoo.com or 475.212.3163



Energy Committee Planning Site

3. Shoreline Sierra Club Program

Bring the Family to Guided Tour of Energize Center

Overview: Shoreline continues the theme of renewable energy with hands on learning for adults and children to discover efficient and renewable energy solutions at Energize Center. The Energize Center is a joint venture between United Illuminating (UI) and Eversource. There is no charge for the tour.

Date: Wednesday, April 13th

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Energize CT Center, 122 Universal Drive N, North Haven

Questions: Jennifer Yoxall 203-457-2624 or jyoxall@comcast.net

Open to the public.



Discover Renewable Energy

LEGISLATION ISSUES

2016 State Legislation

by Helen R. Applebaum

The CT chapter of the Sierra Club typically files testimony on about 30 bills a year. Issues this year include water planning and conservation, natural resources, energy, solid waste, animal protection, open space lands, toxics and pesticides.

Dominating the 2016 session is the state budget deficit. At this time, bills are emerging from their Committees of origin every day. They will go to other committees for a vote, or directly to the House and Senate floor for voting before the annual session ends on May 4, 2016.

We care about every legislative issue we chose to advocate for. Some issues are critically important, even though there is not a large, or any, group supporting it. Issues to support are selected based on their value, not estimated size of supporters. If we are not advocating for the issues you care about, please reach out to our legislative chair, Marty Mador at mmadorm@gmail.com and let him know.

Shared Solar Information

Let's look at solar sharing. Connecticut needs a shared solar program, similar to the one in Massachusetts and other states. In our state, four out of five residents are unable to install solar panels on their homes because they live in rentals or apartments, their homes are shaded by trees, the house is sited in the wrong direction or it's too small. A shared solar program allows all residents to purchase power that is generated from solar panel systems built on suitable sites.



The location of these sites can be strategic in aiding the community. For example, they can be placed on commercial rooftops, brownfield or municipal land. The purpose is to optimize grid operations and local economic development. The electricity generated from these shared solar systems goes to the electric grid over infrastructure that exists today--lines and poles that connect into our homes and apartments. Subscribers receive credit for their solar investment share.

Utilities also obtain benefits from shared solar programs. First, they can advise where and how to site and arrange the panels to obtain maximum electricity benefits. Then, they can manage the grid more effectively because it has streamlined its operations by having more connections through shared power rather than many individual solar systems.

Pilot Program Delay

A shared solar bill, which called for a very small two year Pilot Program, was passed in the legislature in 2015 (Public Act 15-113). But the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has delayed setting up the program waiting for clarification from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) regarding what will be allowed into the pilot.

The questions on the Pilot Program are:

- Can the legislature allow utilities to charge their customers for shared solar costs?
- Will the legislature allow the utilities to administer the Pilot Program?
- Is the delay on the Pilot Program an opportunity for the utility companies to re-argue the shared solar concept?
- Do the utility companies see financial incentives for renewable power as harmful to their current business model?

Legislature Should Approve Shared Solar

What can be done? Two bills were introduced this year about a shared solar program (House Bill 5427 and Senate Bill 334). The first bill, regarding the Pilot Program, had a public hearing on Tuesday, March 1st and was voted out of committee 24-0. This action discharges the committee of the bill and sends the bill to the floor for consideration without a report from the committee. It is usually without the cooperation of the leadership. It's a technique used when the chair of a committee refuses to place a bill on the committee's agenda. By never reporting the bill, the matter never leaves the committee and the full House is unable to consider it. By discharging the bill, individual members of the House are able to usurp a small amount of power from the leadership and committee chairs. (*See Wikipedia, "Discharge petition"*)

The Energy Committee voted March 17th on tweaking the Pilot Program, guaranteeing payments for more than 15 years. But absolutely nothing was stated about getting to a full program.

The Future for Shared Solar

The reality is right now Connecticut has nothing and most citizens believe there is no need for a Pilot Program. The state knows how to implement solar sharing because more than ten states have programs in place. In fact, the CT Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) wrote a 112 page report for the legislature explaining exactly how to implement a shared solar program.

The Pilot Program is nothing more than a two year delay which makes the electric distribution companies (Eversource and UI/iberdrola) happy. This decision has led Connecticut to lag even further behind other states, such as Massachusetts, that have successful shared solar programs. As Connecticut procrastinates, clean energy investors are putting their money into these states while Connecticut falls behind.

The CT Chapter opposes the Pilot Program, which only delays a program for no benefit, and is calling for the full implementation of shared solar in the state.

*Martin Mador, Legislative Chair, CT Chapter Sierra Club, contributed to this article.
Helen R. Applebaum is editor of The Quinnehtukqut.*

References

Click the link <http://www.sierraclub.org/connecticut/legislative> to see a list of most (but not all) of the bills we are working. Provided are the subject matter, comments and Sierra position, committee of origin, bill number, and status as of March 18, 2016. The legislature's website is: cga.ct.gov

The following website is very informative about shared solar energy nationwide. See:

energy.gov/eere/sunshot/community-and-shared-solar

See: <http://ctmirror.org/2016/02/01/shared-solar-program-in-connecticut-stalled-over-who-pays-for-what/>

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Participation is Critical for a Strong National Sierra Club

A Democratic Sierra Club Demands Grassroots Participation

Did you receive your national Sierra Club ballot? If you are eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election, you have received it in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option.) The ballot includes information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site. Your vote is due by April 27, 2016.

Grassroots Members Improve Club Function

As a democratically structured organization at all levels, The Sierra Club is dependent on the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its membership. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Your participation is needed in the voting process.

How can I learn about the candidates?

The official election ballot provides candidate bios and their views on the issues. You can also visit the Club's election web site for additional information about candidates:
<http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>

Make your choice and cast your vote!

Voting Online is Quick and Easy!

Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, you may use the Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than Election Day, April 27, 2016.

clubhouse.sierraclub.org/people/committees/board/bannerpageboard-election-2016.aspx



GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

BRANFORD RIVER AT RISK

by Lynn Marquis



Save Branford River

The biggest environmental issue in our Shoreline community is in Branford. At issue is the proposed commercial development of a 44 acre parcel of land known as the Costco project at exit 56, at the I 95 interchange. The project involves the construction of a Costco store, room for 1200 cars on 22 acres of paved surface, a 16 pump gas station and seven additional buildings, most likely retail.

The site was initially earmarked for light industry, research and development, office, biotech or medical. Branford planning and zoning changed the zoning to allow commercial development.

In response, Branford Citizens for Responsible Development (BCRD) and Branford Land Trust are fighting the project by accumulating and presenting evidence of environmental impact. Our argument is the current proposed project would threaten six wetlands and the storm water runoff would adversely affect the downward watercourses, known as Jarvis Creek, to the Branford River. The results will be delivered to the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Update: As this article went through the publishing process, we learned that Branford Land Trust has backed off from the fight and they no longer consider Jarvis Creek to be in jeopardy. Branford River is still at risk.

The Shoreline Group supports the BCRD and have made a monetary donation to offset engineering/legal fees in this battle. Your donations are welcome. Checks may be sent to BCRD at 16 Old Pawson Road, Branford CT 06405.

"The future is not determined and it lies in our hands." Margaret Mead

Lynn Marquis is secretary of the Shoreline Chapter

EARTH DAY EVENTS

EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS 2016

Many Connecticut towns are celebrating Earth Day 2016. Sierra Club of Connecticut plans to be at the following events:

Bridgeport

First Annual Earth Day and Art Fest

Hear Carolyn Stearns, renowned storyteller, tell a new story about fossil fuels and a better future.

Thursday, April 21st, 12:00pm- 2:00pm

McLevy Green, 999 Broad Street, Bridgeport

www.mdac-kc.org

Fairfield

Saturday, April 30th, 10:00am-4:00pm

Fairfield Warde High School, 755 Melville Avenue, Fairfield

<https://fairfieldearthday.wordpress.com/>

Hamden

April 16th, 10:00am-3:00pm

Hamden Middle School, 2623 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden

<http://www.hamden.com/content/7089/7093/7091/9215/15766.aspx>

New Milford

Saturday, April 30th, 10:00am-4:00pm

The Pratt Nature Center, 163 Paper Mill Road, New Milford

<https://www.facebook.com/PrattNatureCenter/photos/a.109778652375016.14912.107152669304281/1171827492836788/?type=3&theater>

New Haven

Rock to Rock Bike Ride

Saturday, April 30th, 8:30am-10:30am, (departures depend on ride length)

Common Ground High School, 358 Spring Side Avenue, New Haven

<http://rocktorock.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=cms.page&id=1014>



More Earth Day Celebrations 2016



Storrs, UCONN

Earth Day Spring Fling

Tuesday, April 19th, 11:00am-2:00pm

Fairfield Way, center of campus

<http://www.ecohusky.uconn.edu/outreach/edsf.html>

Wilton

Go Green Festival

Sunday, May 1st, 11:00am-4:00pm

Wilton Town Green and Wilton Library parking lot

wiltongogreen.org

Bridgeport Celebrates First Earthfest

Bridgeport's very first annual EarthFest, EarthFest 2016 invites local artists, entrepreneurs, students, city officials, and Bridgeport residents to celebrate Earth Day Through the Arts.

As this year's recipient of the Regional Initiative grant, The Kennedy Center's Maggie Daly Arts Cooperative (MDAC) and The Bijou Theatre are hosting a community wide celebration on April 21st which will include:

- A recyclable art exhibit by MDAC artists at the Bijou
- A recyclable art contest where participants' works will be showcased at various partnering businesses in downtown Bridgeport.
- A variety of Earth Day workshops for community members and artists of all ages as well as a celebration
- Sierra Club's sharing of information about conservation and Connecticut's environmental issues. Carolyn Stearns, storyteller, relates her new story about fossil fuels and a better future.
- Tai chi, a drumming circle and more on McLevy Green
- A community-wide "ribbon tying" symbolizing connections and intentions
- A free celebration with music and awards at the Bijou





New Haven Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO)*

8th Annual Rock to Rock Bike Ride

Event: Riders of all ages and abilities participate in any of five bicycle routes from 8 miles to a metric century (64 miles). The day starts at West Rock with a farm breakfast and ends with a festival at East Rock Park.

More than 20 local groups participate to create a healthier, greener community. Contributions may go to a single group or any number of groups in the community. Last year \$175,000 was raised for two dozen local environmental groups. The 2016 goal is \$200,000.

New Haven ICO is in its 20th year of working with four local partners (schools and after school programs) to take kids on a variety of outdoor related adventures including hiking, swimming, rollerblading, canoeing, rafting, camping and visits to nature centers and natural history museums. ICO promotes youth leadership and stewardship while having fun. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.rocktorock.org or contact Melinda.tuhus@gmail.com or call her at 203.623.2186.

Register: Sign up to donate and/or ride with our New Haven ICO team at:
<http://rocktorock.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=5169>

*ICO was formerly known as Inner City Outings.

Fairfield's EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

April 30, 2016

10AM – 4PM

**Fairfield Warde High School
755 Melville Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06825**

Fairfield's Earth Day Celebration – Make Every Day Earth Day

by Peter McKnight, Fairfield County

Fairfield's Earth Day Celebration will be held Saturday, April 30th, from 10:00am to 4:00pm at Fairfield Warde High School, 755 Melville Ave in Fairfield.

The Town of Fairfield's Earth Day Committee has held an annual event for the past 18 years celebrating the environmentally friendly and financially sound initiatives in Fairfield by the town and its residents.

The 2016 event features an array of exhibitors from local residents and organizations to businesses that lead and support green initiatives. These are the folks laying the ground work to create a green infrastructure in Fairfield.

Visitors attending Fairfield's Earth Day Celebration will have an opportunity to get a broad view of the many services and products available to them in and near Fairfield. Town departments, schools, organizations and businesses will all be represented. There will be family entertainment throughout the day featuring music and magic.

Chair Emeritus, Larry Kaley welcomes you, "We are looking forward to this fun and important celebration that highlights the people and projects that are making an environmental difference in Fairfield. We encourage the entire town to participate."

Peter McKnight is co-chair of the CT Chapter Executive Committee

What's Your Environmental Concern?

Protection of Native Plants | Recycling |
Scientific Research | Ecotourism | Recreation |
Habitat Protection | Advocacy | Clean Air & Water |
Education | Coalition Building | Land Preservation



If it is any of the above or, even, something else, it's likely that EarthShare New England (ESNE) shares it with you. And ESNE is doing something about it.

For 20 years EarthShare and its affiliates have worked with national and local environmentally oriented nonprofits to focus attention and funding on those issues. ESNE offers employers and employees an easy and effective way to contribute to its 83 member organizations that work every day as stewards of our planet. We do it through employee charitable giving campaigns, where employees voluntarily donate through payroll deductions - the easiest and most-cost effective ways of raising money for favorite **native plant conservation organization**.

About half of ESNE members are national organizations; the remaining half are based in New England - maybe even in your local community. Some are huge; some are very small. Some work primarily in the international arena; some work on the rivers, trails, forests, or wetlands in your backyard. Some educate the next generation of environmentalists; some work with legislators to find ways to develop sustainable, responsible public policy. Donating through a workplace giving campaign is a simple, effective way to help them with their work.

Does it sound like a good idea... a sensible way to care for our environment? If you are currently involved with a workplace campaign that does not include ESNE and its members, ESNE can help you add it to your list of giving opportunities. If you are in the position of helping ESNE grow and expand into new corporate or public sector employers, send us a contact name and we can take it from there! It's that simple. The Sierra Club will thank you for it. Make something happen. Your assistance is critically important.

For more information, contact Jessica Wozniak, Managing Director, at Jessica@earthshare.org.

EarthShare New England: One Environment...One simple way to care for it.

POEM

Sunny Sparrow Roost

While whittling away,
Household tasks today,
Sparrows peacefully perched by my window,
Sunning on golden Cyprus, as they will [tomorrow](#).

Betwixt birdfeeder flights,
They absorb warmth of sunlight,
Until seed needs lead to silly squabbles,
Luckily the extent of their troubles.

Back and forth the tiny flock follows its leader.
A chilly day makes them eager.

Lo, one perches on the window ledge,
Peeking inside to check me out.
Disappointed, for I'm only dashing about.

Oh, what idyllic days they spend,
Better than I, for all my good intent!

M. Renee Taylor



The Q is brought to you by:

Martha Klein, Communications Chair
Helen Applebaum, Editor
Heather Fronczek, Graphic Designer
Dennis Desmarais, IT
John Calandrelli, Website, Program Manager

Comments, letters to the editor and written and graphic contributions may be sent to ctsierraq3@gmail.com for future newsletter inclusion. All decisions regarding use are made by the communications committee.

SOLAR POWER

Have you ever considered going solar?

If so, **now is the time** because it's cheaper and easier than ever. Here's the proof: A new study just found that in 42 out of 50 of the largest U.S. cities, a typically-sized, \$0-down home solar system costs less than the energy purchased from a residential customer's local utility.*

Join more than 1,100 Sierra Club supporters in making the switch to clean energy.

With flexible financing through different Sungevity Energy Plans, you can get an efficient solar system without emptying your pockets. Plus you'll lock in your electricity rate for years to come! It sounds too good to be true, but it's not!

Now is the time to go solar.

Join the clean-energy movement today!

Check it out at: www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes



Solar energy lifts life on earth



GIFT PLANNING

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create a Lasting Legacy

By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come.

For confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org
(800) 932-4270



... Your lasting legacy...

CREATE YOUR LEGACY

To create your legacy go to: sierraclubfoundation.org
or email: gift.planning@sierraclub.org