

## Clean Power Plan Hearings Recap



Approximately 150 people turned out in Atlanta to support the Clean Power Plan (CPP) and a strong Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) on Thursday. The day started at the Sam Nunn Federal Building, where doctors, scientists, clean energy business owners, parents, faith leaders and more dominated the morning session, with only one testifier in opposition. At the lunch break, our supporters jumped on a bus over

to Morehouse College, where we were joined by more than 50 student activists from Morehouse, Spelman College, and Clark Atlanta University.

Our press conference lineup was phenomenal! Rev. Raphael Warnock, Senior Pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church kicked us off, lifted up the health and economic benefits of the CPP, particularly for communities of color disproportionately affected by burning fossil fuels. Other speakers included National Bar Association President Ben Crump (who represented the families of both Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown), Mothers & Others for Clean Air founder Laura Turner Seydel, Rev. William Flippin of the Georgia NAACP, Morehouse student and COP21 HBCU delegate Kaylon Paterson, Spelman College activist Kayla Hunter, local pediatrician Dr. Yolanda Whyte and White House Champion of Change Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley.



After Rev. Dr. Durley rallied the crowd in usual fashion, our Beyond Coal Organizer, Ian Karra, and Georgia Chapter Director, Colleen Kiernan, joined him, Mr. Crump, and Rev. Flippin for an impromptu meeting with Morehouse President John Wilson. Dr. Wilson shared his vision for working with the Atlanta University Center presidents to make their institutions HBCU climate leaders, and Colleen pitched our Cool Schools rankings. Back at the Federal Building, Southern Company and the Heartland Institute turned out to the afternoon session, but it was Montessori School third-graders Katy and Harper who stole the show asking EPA to clean up our air and protect our common home.

After the hearings wrapped up, 40 of us unwound at our climate-themed variety show, "The Climate Denier Variety Hour." Atlanta's best improv troupes



harpooned utility heads, special interests, "not-scientist" politicians, and our own environmental advocates. The highlight was definitely [Dad's Garage Theatre extolling the cutting edge renewable technology of "Moon Power."](#)

As of our latest count for the afternoon session on Friday, 62 people spoke in favor of the CPP and a strong FIP, and 14 spoke in opposition. As the final numbers are tallied, it seems that Atlanta will beat out Denver and Pittsburgh for the second-highest number of testimonies! We will give an update on the final numbers in our next Footnotes issue.

Our work is not done! This local show of support for clean energy only adds momentum to the growing global climate movement as the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) approaches. You can help keep it up by taking one of the following actions:

1. [Submit a comment on the EPA Clean Power Plan here.](#)
2. [Attend the Atlanta Climate Rally on November 29th.](#)

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## Help Stop Clear Cutting at Cooper Creek

In the previous Footnotes issue, we shared that the Cooper Creek clear cutting project had made the [Georgia Water Coalition's 2015 Dirty Dozen](#). This project threatens to cut 3,500 acres of trees in the Cooper Creek, Coosa Creek, and Youngcane Creek watersheds in Union County, Georgia. The proposal also includes building new roads, which could damage the surrounding areas due to pollution runoff from heavy rains, and the application of a dangerous herbicide for stump treatment, which has been found as a cause of cancer in some scientific studies.



We are continuing to spread the word about this project as we await the release of the Forest Service's Draft Environmental Assessment. If you have already signed the petition asking the Forest Service to stop the project, please share this with a friend or family member to help us reach our goal of 3,000 signatures!

**Take Action!**

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## Sierra Club Meetings

**RAIL Committee, Monday, November 23, 7 p.m.**

Contact [Brionté McCorkle](#)

**Smart Energy Solutions Committee, Monday, December 7, 7 p.m.**

Contact [Cecilia Harris](#)

**Wildlands & Wildlife Committee, Monday, December 21, 7 p.m.**

Contact [William Tomlin](#)

*Don't live in Atlanta? Check out our [Local Groups](#).*

## Other Events



### **November 23 - Atlanta Solar News Conference -**

Please join Mayor Kasim Reed and the Office of Sustainability for a news conference on SolarAtlanta in the City Hall Atrium (55 Trinity Ave SW, Atlanta, GA 30303) at 11 a.m. SolarAtlanta will propel the City toward its goal of becoming a top-tier city for sustainability. By installing solar panels on some the community's most utilized recreation centers and fire stations, Atlanta will launch its solar program which will promote clean energy, save money on utility bills, and reduce our carbon footprint.

**November 29 - Atlanta People's Climate March -** As the United Nations Paris Climate Conference approaches, it is critical that people everywhere come together to demand protection for our climate. The People's Climate March in Atlanta is intended to be a peaceful, yet forceful demonstration of Atlanta's commitment to the global climate movement. We hope to bring together people of all different backgrounds and interests to show that climate change is a mainstream issue, and that we demand action from our world leaders on climate. [Click here to get involved!](#)



**December 10 - Georgia Chapter Holiday Open House -** Save the date! Come help us celebrate a great year at the Sierra Club at our 4th Annual Holiday Open House! Meet fellow Sierrans and our coalition partners, view a slideshow of highlights of the year and enjoy some holiday cheer! Our Open House will be from 4:30-8:30 at the Chapter Office. Please email [Yeou Jih](#) or [visit us on Facebook](#) to register.

*Looking for more? Check out our [Meetup Group](#) for even more events!*



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