

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

October 4, 2017

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beudet, Ken Hemphill, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, JimWylie

Attending by Phone: Alexa Manning

ExCom Members Absent: Gerald Brown, John Butler, Mathew Himmelein, Margaret Nersten, Dennis Winters

Other Members Attending: Albert Accooe, John Camella, Emily Davis, Sue Edwards, Jim Kaff, Karen Melton

The Meeting was called to order by Jim Wylie at 6:15 with the following [agenda](#).

Secretary: Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer:

C3 Balance = **\$6739.45**

C4 Beginning Balance **\$7,331**

Expenditures: \$1019

RF100; 200 Bike Water Bottles	\$278
RF100; Celebration Venue Rental	\$143
DSM Info Packs - Signs	\$34
Website Domain	\$26
Services for film series	\$30
Fact Sheet Printing & Mounting	\$25
DSM Posters	\$80
CityCoHo/ Rent - October	\$200
Printing - RF100 Brochures	\$203

Income: \$5,385

Chapter Annual C4 Allocation	\$3,075
Climate March Sponsorships	\$150
Graham Hudgings Memorial	\$160
National Grant - M4CE award	\$2,000

C4 Ending Balance **\$11,697**

A Don't Spray Me (DSM) tab has been added to the spread sheet

Treasurers report was accepted

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie)

Ready for 100 grant: Ken moved that we allocate \$500 of the grant to the Chester County team. (The Philly team applied for \$1000 and received \$2000). The motion was passed.

Middletown Coalition: Alexa has had no follow up from the Middletown group. She reported that the group is now part of a coalition of 6 Delaware and Chester County groups. A petition has been created and they ask us to help in pushing it. They also have a letter writing campaign. The hope is to halt the Mariner 2 pipeline due to safety concerns. Ken will set something up.

Green Justice Philly: Jim and Pratima signed on to a [letter](#) from Green Justice Philly to the Office of Sustainability. Jim moved and Ken seconded that we sign on to the Green Justice Philly letter. The motion passed. See Dave's [report](#)

Political Committee: (Karen Melton)

Endorsements will be included in newsletter and are listed on the website.

Newsletter/Communications: (Ken Hemphill)

The deadline for the newsletter is the 10th. Articles are still needed. One article received was a poem and he asked if that was appropriate. The group decided it was. It will be sent mid-month.

We can send 3 email blasts each month. Sending a blast to just part of the list counts as a blast, so blasts need to be planned and coordinated.

Education Committee: (Karen Melton)

The turnout was low for the last program. Karen will survey people who have attended in the past to see why they have not been coming.

Fall lecture series:

Oct 16, 6:45, Community College of Phila, Business & Industry Building, Room C2-28. A River Again: The Story of the Schuylkill River Project, with Chari Towne from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. A River Again tells the story of how the Schuylkill was allowed to become so polluted and details the efforts of those who worked to restore the health of the river.

Nov 13th, 6:45, Community College of Philadelphia, Business & Industry Building, Room C2-28. Everything You Need to Know to Save Energy (and \$\$) at Home. Experts from the Philadelphia Energy Coordinating Agency will walk us through and answer questions about the many ways we can retrofit your homes to save energy and money.

Other Educational Programs include:

Mini-program - Oct 10 - Why we need biodiversity - Rep Steve McCarter

WCU - Oct 12 - "Circle of Poison" - film viewing

Mini-program - Oct 17 - Genetically Modified Organisms - Annemarie Cantrell

Mini-program - Oct 24 - Gardening - Karen Melton

Phoenixville Film - Nov 30 - "Tomorrow" (w/ Judy Wicks)

Nomination Committee: (Alexa Manning)

Jim Kaff is running for a seat on ExCom and has submitted his statement. Others are asked to get their statements in. The election will be on-line with the URL sent on an email and a postcard with the URL sent to those for whom we do not have emails. Our postcard will be tagged on the chapter's postcard

Old Business

County Reports:

Bucks: [see attached](#)

Delaware: [see attached](#)

Chester: Fund raiser "Paint Chester County is November 4 from 12 to 6.

New Business

Wild Horses (Karen)

Karen passed out a flyer describing the problem. She asked us to call our congressmen and ask them not to fund the slaughter of healthy wild horses. She will put an article in the newsletter.

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Approval** of [September minutes](#)
- **Announcements**, agenda updates
- **Introducing Zakia Elliot and Mabari Byrd** (when/if they arrive)
- **Treasurers Report** – [spreadsheet here](#) (only ExCom members can see)
- **Middletown Coalition**
 - No update on our questions to Middletown Coalition?
- **Wild Horses**
 - The effort currently underway by BLM to slaughter thousands of wild horses in the west
- **Green Justice Philly** – supporting local solar in municipal PPA deal
 - GJP asked for a sign-on from SPG (we are already a part of this coalition) and RF100/PHL. Pratima and Jim signed after speaking with Matt Walker. [Letter to OOS](#)
- **ExCom NomCom**
 - 1 new nominee + 5 sitting members (Jim, Dennis, John, Sgt Brown, Prasad) running for 5 seats
 - Plan to tag onto chapter ballot postcard. We will need to build an online voting site.
- **Volunteer Leaders**
 - [Spreadsheet](#) just a few major holes:
 - Social events: picnic, holiday
 - Fundraising
 - Political Chair, Montco Pol Leader
- **Politics**
 - Endorsement email sent, web updated.
- **Member Engagement**
 - Welcome New Members Letter – ~300 since Sep 1 reported
- **Communications**
 - Fall Newsletter
 - Call for articles
 - Submission deadline – Oct 10
 - Send date
 - Social Media
- **Educational Programs**
 - CCP – Oct 16 – A River Again – Chari Towne
 - CCP – Nov 13 – Everything You Need to Know to Save Energy (and \$\$) at Home
 - WCU – Oct 12 – “Circle of Poison” – film viewing

- Mini-program – Oct 10 – Why we need biodiversity – Rep Steve McCarter
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- **Outreach**
 - Tabling Coordinator – Emily

 - Phoenixville Green Earth Fair - Jim

 - Greenfest – [Jim's Video](#)

- **Outings**
 - Outings Calendar
 - Oct 15 – [Valley Forge Hike](#)

- **Ready For 100**
 - Philadelphia – Launch Event
 - [Plan Philly Article](#)
 - [Photos](#) from Bryan Crenshaw
 - Speakers from Mayor’s Office, councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, Solar industry president, Sierra Club
 - 75 attendees. Lots of volunteers. Great kick-off
 - Chester County - RF100 Resolutions – First in PA!!
 - [Phoenixville and West Chester](#) become first towns in PA to pass RF100 resolutions!!!
 - Energy transition leadership conference kickoff on Oct 3

- **Conservation Committees**
 - No reports received

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letter



September 25, 2017

Via Electronic Mail

Christine Knapp, Director of the Office of Sustainability
Adam Agalloco, Energy Manager, Office of Energy
One Parkway Building
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

**Re: Green Justice Philly Comments on City of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability
Power Purchase Agreement**

Dear Ms. Knapp and Mr. Agalloco,

Green Justice Philly submits these comments regarding the Philadelphia Energy Authority's intent to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a power purchase agreement (PPA) for renewable energy. Green Justice Philly has previously written to the City about our *Solar Justice Philly* campaign and our Coalition's support for actions taken by the City to transition Philadelphia from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The *Solar Justice Philly* campaign calls for a commitment by the City of Philadelphia to secure 100% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, generating at least 30% of the electricity used in government-owned buildings, departments and street lights from solar projects in the 5-county region, including installations on City-owned buildings and property and on properties in under-resourced neighborhoods.

Our coalition urges the Office of Sustainability to finalize (by mid-2019) a 20 year PPA for 40 MW of renewable energy sourced from the 5-county Philadelphia region that requires a diverse workforce that matches the racial demographics of the city and provides fair wages under union conditions. Building solar in the 5-county region will result in a lot more direct and indirect economic activity in the region than there would be if solar were installed outside the area.

A commitment to regional energy sources for Philadelphia and a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with locally generated renewable energy sources would create jobs for Philadelphia residents and would create wealth in the City's neighborhoods.

Green Justice Philly urges the Office of Sustainability to incorporate the following recommendations into its power purchase agreement request for proposals.

1. Give strong preference to suppliers that are 1) headquartered in Philadelphia or the 5-county region, 2) contract with installers headquartered in the 5-county region and/or 3) proposals to build *new* renewable infrastructure in the 5-county region to generate electricity for the PPA. Applicants should provide information to adequately assess the local nature of the project. The Office of Sustainability should make every effort to communicate with companies interested in building projects in the 5-county region to make sure they are aware of the opportunity.
2. The RFP should send a strong signal that the City of Philadelphia is ready to invest in renewable energy through this rare opportunity, and that in order for the highly-preferred local projects to win the contract, they need to be as cost-competitive with other bids from outside the region as possible, even if they are ultimately more expensive.
3. Give strong preference to suppliers proposing to install new solar generating capacity, rather than sell electricity from existing projects in the region or the state.
4. Give strong preference to solar projects over wind as solar projects are more likely to be sited in the 5-county region than wind projects.
5. Give strong preference to projects that incorporate 1) government-owned buildings and properties and 2) properties not owned by the City in under-resourced neighborhoods, including residential rooftops.
6. The RFP should include detailed site information about the government-owned building roof types and roof types or conditions of properties in under-resourced neighborhoods used by the PPA supplier. The RFP should include a GIS analysis of all City-owned roof space and other properties in the region available for siting solar.
7. The RFP should include specific evaluation criteria for assessing proposal responses. In order to properly assess the responses, the RFP should provide clear instructions about what type of information is needed to uniformly assess and score the applications.

8. The RFP should require the use of local union labor for installations for installation projects. This will help increase local expertise, provide opportunities for training and advancement for residents in need of family-supporting employment and potentially lower costs for subsequent solar installations within the region. It will also build real and measurable wealth in neighborhoods.
9. The RFP should require the PPA supplier to commit, and be held accountable to, specific diversity goals such as those set in the Rebuild Philadelphia July 2017 RFQ. In addition, Green Justice Philly believes that the City should commit to contracting with a specific percentage of minority-owned and women-owned businesses. The RFP should ask for specific diversity goals and evaluation methods.
10. In addition, the Office of Sustainability should consider incorporating recommendations from *Solar Power Purchase Agreements - A Toolkit for Local Governments*, (by Interstate Renewable Energy Council) into the design of its solar RFP.
11. When evaluating the costs and benefits of PPA proposals, especially between on-site versus remotely-sited solar, the Office of Sustainability should include potential cost savings for energy, but also reduction of demand charges (and other non-energy charges for transmission or capacity).

Justification for Green Justice Philly's Recommendations:

Local solar projects can create more local jobs. Typically, a 1-megawatt solar project creates about 20 jobs (direct and indirect jobs, but not induced). About half of these jobs are in construction and the other half are in related sectors (trade, legal, professional services). A 40-megawatt PPA, as Green Justice Philly is advocating for, could result in approximately 800 jobs. Using local labor for these projects will help increase local expertise and potentially lower costs for subsequent solar installations within the region.

Local solar projects would distribute economic benefits more locally. In addition to using City-owned building roof space, Green Justice Philly is advocating for the Office of Sustainability to analyze the use of properties not owned by the City and residential rooftops in under-resourced neighborhoods in order to bring some of the economic benefits of the PPA to low and moderate-income residents and neighborhoods. While not an exact comparison to a Philadelphia PPA, the Arizona Public Service Company, Arizona's largest electric utility, paid \$30/month for a roof rental fee for its residential program, which had an average solar array size of about 7 kilowatts. If this model could be applied to a Philadelphia PPA, the money paid to homeowners would likely get re-spent in the local economy. In addition, for every megawatt of

solar installed, about \$500,000 is paid in wages for installation labor and another \$11,000 per year in maintenance. For local projects, the local workforce would reap those economic impacts rather than workers from another area.

Local solar projects capture more local economic growth. Many states and cities have local purchasing preferences (e.g. from locally owned businesses) because the jurisdiction will enjoy significantly higher economic benefits from local purchases. For example, a study conducted for the City of Phoenix, AZ, found that for "a one-year, \$5 million contract for office supplies, with the local company, an additional \$1 million would stay in the area economy. With the national company, just \$580,000 of that \$5 million would recirculate locally."

Local solar generation could reduce the amount of energy that the City of Philadelphia needs to purchase from PJM, and could reduce electric bills and associated demand charges. Additionally, local solar can incorporate behind-the-meter battery storage, providing local resiliency and increasing demand charge savings through an effective demand-management strategy. As with solar, battery storage costs have experienced a rapid decline over the past few years and are projected to prompt a reduction in demand charge rates. Demand charges (based on the peak energy use of a facility in any interval, typically 15 minutes, in a billing cycle) can represent 30-70% of a building's energy bill.

Designing a large enough solar PPA closer to load could provide economies of scale that reduce the cost per unit of electricity generated. According to a large dataset from SunShot and Berkeley Lab, the sweet spot for obtaining a low cost of electricity solar projects is between 5-100 megawatts - a plus for the 40 megawatt PPA Green Justice Philly is advocating for.

Thank you for your consideration of Green Justice Philly's *Solar Justice Philly* campaign and our specific recommendations for provisions to be included in a RFP for a city power purchase agreement.

Sincerely,

Green Justice Philly Steering Committee:

Clean Air Council: Matt Walker, Community Outreach Director (mwalker@cleanair.org)

Delaware Riverkeeper Network: Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director

(tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org)

Food & Water Watch: Sam Rubin (srubin@fwwatch.org)

Interfaith Power and Light: Rabbi Mordechai Liebling (Lieblingm@gmail.com)

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Bucks County

DRBC Hearing by Sharon Furlong

On September 13th, I commented along with many others, at the DRBC business meeting held at Bucks County Community College. The theme of all the commenters orchestrated by the Delaware Riverkeepers Network, was why is the Delaware River important to me and to end the speech with a call to ban Fracking now and forever throughout the Basin. Unfortunately, we all were given only two minutes to speak. In addition, the week before, the DEBC released a news bulletin outlining its intention to use the meeting to vote to begin the process of a) examining the issue of involving a permanent moratorium on Fracking and b) the creation of rules regarding the safe removal, transport, containment and discharge of already fracked water in and around the Basin. Due to this announcement, each speaker tried to address the seemingly contradictory stances of the two goals in the small time allotted. Foe contradictory on the surface it is: if you are going to ban Fracking, why the need for rules such as these? Here are two potential answers: because the DRBC is either not going to ban Fracking and it's practices everywhere, or it is going to ban Fracking itself but allow other Fracking related practices, such as the use of Watershed water and the lands of the Basin and giving back a toxic brew for discharge. However, we all must wait for the rules to be released. And since the announced time for release is somewhere around this November, a scant two months from this meeting, I believe it is safe to say these rules have already been formulated long before this announcement. So what had started as something to celebrate, is mostly likely going to be something to fight. Stay tuned.

Film showing by Tom Wells

The documentary *The Burden* will be shown at Fallsington Friends Meeting on Friday November 10. The film is 40 long. Dessert will be served 6:30-7:15pm. Film starts at 7:15 with discussion to follow. *The Burden* is about the military's desire to move away from the use of fossil fuels, as a national security imperative.

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Delaware County – Jim Wylie

Held re-kickoff meeting with Delco volunteers in Swarthmore and Media. There is interest in building an organization. Several people that showed up are active with Indivisible and the Delco Green Party. So they may be interested in political organizing next year. And also interest in RF100 organizing focused on Swarthmore, Media and Chester.

Stay tuned for more action here.

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Future Energy Committee – Dave Moscatello

Future Energy - Conservation Subcommittee Report October 2017 – DKM

New York's buildings emit most of its greenhouse gases. The mayor has a plan to change that.

By Brady Dennis and Kayla Epstein *The Washington Post* September 13, 2017

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/13/new-yorks-buildings-emit-most-of-its-greenhouse-gases-the-mayor-has-a-plan-to-change-that/?utm_term=.64ff72bb816f&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

The initiative would mandate that owners of existing buildings larger than 25,000 square feet invest in more efficient heating and cooling systems, insulation and hot-water heaters in the years ahead.

Alberta anticipates oil sands production boom

At \$1.6 billion, an expansion in Fort McMurray is one of the larger investments ever made in the province.

By Daniel J. Graeber Follow @dan_graeber Contact the Author | Sept. 14, 2017 at 6:49 AM

<https://www.upi.com/Energy-News/2017/09/14/Alberta-anticipates-oil-sands-production-boom/9771505384127/>

Sept. 14 (UPI) -- Alberta Premier Rachel Notley was on hand for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the start of a \$1.6 billion (USD) expansion project led by Japan Canada Oil Sands Ltd. At its Hangingstone project in Fort McMurray, the expansion will use steam to help improve oil production from the current rate of 1,000 barrels per day to 20,000 bpd by the middle of next year.

A conservative-leaning court just issued a surprise ruling on climate change and coal mining

In a rebuke to Trump, the federal court said greenhouse gas emissions need to be considered in lease approvals.

Updated by Umair Irfan Sep 19, 2017, 3:10pm EDT

<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2017/9/19/16332952/court-ruling-coal-climate-change>

The surprising decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, which has jurisdiction in Colorado, Kansas, Utah, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wyoming, told the Bureau of Land Management to redo its math on greenhouse gas emissions from coal leases and sent the approval of these leases back to a lower court.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, federal agencies have to consider how a given proposal both affects climate change and is affected by climate change.

Report: Missouri sees strong growth in 'clean energy' jobs

By Bryce Gray St. Louis Post-Dispatch St. Louis Post-Dispatch Sep 10, 2017

http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/report-missouri-sees-strong-growth-in-clean-energy-jobs/article_9cdbccb8-b6d4-5ee0-8bdc-a057aed128a5.html

Coal is still king in Missouri, accounting for nearly 80 percent of electricity generation statewide, but a newly released jobs report shows the galloping momentum of clean-energy jobs in the state, and throughout the Midwest. Employment in renewable energy, energy efficiency and related fields now exceeds 55,500 people in the Show-Me state and grew by 5.3 percent between 2015 and 2016 — more than three times faster than Missouri's economy overall, according to an analysis unveiled Thursday by the Clean Energy Trust and the nonpartisan business organization, Environmental Entrepreneurs.

Among the state's main urban areas, the St. Louis area topped Kansas City and Springfield as the home of the most clean-energy jobs, with its 25,200 positions representing more than double the totals of the other two cities combined.

UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR

DOE Officially Marks SunShot's \$1 per Watt Goal for Utility-Scale Solar

Now even Kansas City has cheap solar.

by Julia Pyper Greentech Media September 12, 2017

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/doe-officially-hits-sunshot-1-per-watt-goal-for-utility-scale-solar>

It's official. The solar industry has met the 2020 utility-scale solar cost target set by the Energy Department's SunShot Initiative -- three years early. The DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory

(NREL) released new research today that shows the average price of utility-scale solar is now under \$1 per watt and below 6 cents per kilowatt-hour.

PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGY

GE Unveils a Bigger, Better Onshore Turbine Aimed at European Customers

It's a rare 4-megawatt onshore machine. But it probably won't be rare for long.

by Emma Foehringer Merchant Greentech Media September 13, 2017

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/ge-unveils-a-bigger-better-turbine-aimed-at-european-customers>

General Electric's latest turbine release reaffirms the wind industry's leading trend: the bigger the turbine, the better. On Tuesday the company unveiled its 4.8-megawatt turbine, with a rotor diameter of 158 meters, the length of a Boeing-747. The turbine will be among the largest on the market, but likely not for long.

California lawmakers consider plan for regional power grid
Environmental groups oppose measure

By LOUIS HANSEN | lhansen@bayareanewsgroup.com and KATY MURPHY | kmurphy@bayareanewsgroup.com |

Bay Area News Group PUBLISHED: September 11, 2017 at 5:23 pm | UPDATED: September 12, 2017 at 5:18 am

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/09/11/lawmakers-consider-plan-for-regional-power-grid/>

SACRAMENTO – A pair of late-hour bills would pave the way for California to make a sweeping change to its power grid, linking it to other states and allowing new electricity exports and imports. ...

Environmental groups have lined up against the measure, saying the process is rushed and could force clean energy generators to unfairly compete with cheaper coal and gas power plants. ... But supporters, including Gov. Jerry Brown, argue that a regional power grid will bring costs down for consumers and promote the growth of renewable energy across the West. The idea is to make it easier for California to import wind energy from western states like Wyoming, and to export excess solar energy.

“The goal of regionalizing the grid,” said Evan Westrup, a spokesman for Brown, “is to lower consumer costs and greenhouse gas emissions and improve electricity reliability and renewable energy development.”

Corporations With 100% Renewable Energy Goals Now Account for 150 Terawatt-Hours per Year

Big companies vow to take the lead during Climate Week in New York City.

by Emma Foehringer Merchant Greentech Media September 21, 2017

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/corporations-with-100-percent-renewables-goals-make-up-150-terawatt-hours>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Proterra's Electric Bus Breaks a World Record for Range—1,100 Miles on a Single Charge

Proterra and LG Chem step up their battery game.

by Katie Fehrenbacher Greentech Media September 19, 2017

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/proterras-electric-bus-breaks-a-world-record-for-range>

If you think Tesla's 300-plus-mile battery range for its electric cars is a big deal, here's a new world record that triples that figure. On Tuesday, electric-bus startup Proterra announced a world record by test driving an electric bus for a whopping 1,100 miles on a single charge. The previous world record for electric vehicle range was 632 miles for an electric bus and 1,013 for an electric car.

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Drumpfs of the Month:

The Energy 202: Trump could punish China over solar panels. But the U.S. solar industry might suffer too. By Dino Grandoni The Washington Post September 25, 2017 at 8:53 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2017/09/25/the-energy-202-trump-could-punish-china-over-solar-panels-but-the-u-s-solar-industry-might-suffer-too/59c80ffa30fb0468cea81b0b/?nid&utm_term=.eaa24ddc6786

The Energy 202: Climate change terms altered in another corner of EPA's website

By Dino Grandoni The Washington Post September 22, 2017

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2017/09/22/the-energy-202-climate-change-terms-altered-in-another-corner-of-epa-s-website/59c42c3b30fb0468cea81a77/?utm_term=.83b005ee4c74