

YOUR N.C. SIERRA CLUB AT WORK



SIERRA CLUB
NORTH CAROLINA

We're well into a new year in North Carolina. Soon, it will be time for spring ephemerals to peek out of the ground, migratory birds to head back our way, black bears to begin awakening from hibernation, and buds to appear on dogwood and serviceberry trees.

It's also time for Sierrans to take a last look at 2022, to build on our successes, learn from our challenges, and plan our next steps in ongoing campaigns. It's time for us to welcome new and returning leaders for our local Groups and our Chapter: incoming Chair Hannah Furguele and Vice Chair Katie Tomberlin, and returning Secretary Pat Carstensen.

The volunteer leaders and staff of your North Carolina Sierra Club are grateful to each and every member for making us one of our state's most influential environmental organizations. Thanks to you, we've got the power and the voice to demand meaningful actions to protect our land, air, water, wildlife and people - this year, and for generations to come.

Read more inside about our work in 2022 and ways YOU can get involved in 2023!



For regular updates on the N.C. Sierra Club's work, visit sc.org/nc to read blog posts and subscribe to email news and action alerts.

FROM OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERS ...

NICOLE GAINES,
Chapter Chair,
2021-2022:

We've made major strides toward our goals for clean energy and clean transportation, and are fortunate to have so many allies who share our vision for a healthy, prosperous future that includes all North Carolinians. As I hand off the Chapter leadership, I'm filled with gratitude for all that our volunteers and staff were able to accomplish over the past year and during my full two-year tenure as Chapter chair.



As I hand off the Chapter leadership, I'm filled with gratitude...

HANNAH FURGUIELE,
Chapter Chair, 2023:

We're going to be busy in 2023!

The state has a new Carbon Plan and is finalizing its Clean Transportation Plan, and the U.S. Forest Service has released its final management plan for the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests. Other environmental harms - and the communities most vulnerable to them - will also, undoubtedly, demand our attention.



Thank you for letting me share this quest with you, and for the opportunity to be your guide. I'm happy to know that, in 2023 and for years to come, Sierrans like you and me will stand in strength and unity to assure that the planet we inhabit is a beautiful, safe place for all living things.

AT THE LEGISLATURE:

Now that the General Assembly is in the thick of its 2023-24 session, we're prepared to champion good environmental bills that protect our air and water, and that advance our state's clean energy goals. We're also on the lookout for bad proposals that would undermine the environmental rule-making process, block local governments from taking their own measures to fight climate change, or use grid security as an excuse to perpetuate our reliance on fossil fuels. We'll also have on our hit list any bills that undermine the state's newly approved carbon planning process or that weaken our ability to regulate toxins, build out new clean transportation infrastructure, or advance social justice. Though we miss our longtime government relations director, Cassie Gavin, who joined the N.C. Sustainable Energy Association this fall, State Director Cynthia Satterfield is working with lobbyist and legislative veteran Laura DeVivo and our allied groups to stay as vigilant as ever.



For updates on our legislative advocacy and a recap of the 2022 session, visit our N.C. Legislature webpage: sc.org/ncleg.

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2022

3,200+ people who directly contacted N.C. lawmakers and agencies on issues ranging from clean energy to hog farm biogas.

2,500 people petitioned, called and wrote to ask Governor Cooper to prioritize N.C.'s membership in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

13,190+ followers and subscribers across five social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn). Visit sc.org/nc for links to our channels!

1,310+ gifts totaling **\$709,000**. Your donations to the N.C. Sierra Club supported legislative and conservation advocacy, public education, and political activism.

In the 2022 election, we:

- Endorsed **118** candidates, of which **57** won
- Made direct contributions to **56** races
- Gave **36** hours of volunteer / staff support to endorsees
- Sent **6,974** get-out-the-vote text messages to NC Sierrans



ON THE FRONT BURNER

One light bulb at a time. One EV at a time. One solar panel, one wind turbine.

It seems as though we're only inching toward the clean energy future that Sierrans dream of - one that will help us clear our air, strengthen our economy, provide for our families, protect our vulnerable neighbors and combat climate change. **But we're getting there, with YOUR support!** Be sure to keep an eye on our monthly e-newsletter, social media and website for updates on the following issues.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Chapter and national Club staff have engaged in an extensive stakeholder process and provided independent modeling and analysis on North Carolina's electric vehicle charging infrastructure needs, all to help our state's Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and other agencies develop a Clean Transportation Plan to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles.

HAPPENING NOW: NCDOT released the draft plan and held public information sessions in early March. We've been urging our members to speak out and weigh in online during the public comment period ending March 15 to make sure North Carolina fulfills its promise to become the "Green Roads State." The final plan, mandated under Executive Order 246, will be delivered to Governor Cooper in early April.



N.C. CARBON PLAN

The Sierra Club was deeply involved as regulators and Duke Energy worked out a state Carbon Plan last year. Regrettably, the final plan released in December lacks the urgency needed to address climate change and its disparate impacts on North Carolina's most vulnerable citizens. It also leans too heavily on speculative technologies like small modular nuclear instead of proven renewables and storage. Bottom line: It falls short of targets set by state leaders to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation to 70% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve "net zero" emissions by 2050.

HAPPENING NOW: We'll continue to push Duke Energy to shift away from dirty fossil fuels, increase investments in proven solar and wind power, and engage impacted communities in their planning. A months-long stakeholder process to update the Carbon Plan will begin anew in September and you can be sure you will hear from us about opportunities to weigh in.


OFFSHORE WIND

We have long fought offshore drilling and supported the development of wind energy off North Carolina's coast, a move that not only will improve our environment, but holds major potential for economic growth and job creation to benefit all North Carolinians.

HAPPENING NOW: As part of the Offshore Wind for North Carolina coalition of business, energy, and environmental advocates, the Chapter will continue working to protect wildlife and ensure environmental justice as two offshore wind energy leases, Carolina Long Bay and Kitty Hawk, are developed. Keep up with the latest by following the coalition at osw4nc.org.



Visit sc.org/ncnews for a recap of our 2022 accomplishments, to read updates on our current work, and to sign up for email updates so you can take an active role in 2023!

 **Yes! I'm 100% in for North Carolina!**

Getting more environmental champions elected is just the beginning. We need to raise \$700,000 this year to educate our state and local officials on the issues, then keep up the pressure.

My Gift Amount:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000
 \$2500 \$5000 Donor Choice \$ _____

Please bill my:

Visa MC Amex

Name on card: _____

Card #: _____ **Exp:** _____

General contributions to the NC Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our advocacy and lobbying efforts. Financial information and a copy of this organization's license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at (888) 830-4989. The License is not an endorsement by the state.

Contact cynthia.satterfield@sierraclub.org to donate securities, make a distribution from your retirement account, designate an estate gift, or make a tax-deductible contribution to support our work in North Carolina. For questions regarding your membership, contact member.care@sierraclub.org.



SIERRA CLUB

NORTH CAROLINA

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IT'S YOUR TURN!

How can YOU help “explore, enjoy and protect” North Carolina’s environment and all who live in it? What expertise, time, passion or muscle can you contribute? What’s your vision for a clean, green state, and how do you see us getting there?

By getting active with your local Group, you can help set priorities for our environmental advocacy, locally and statewide. You’ll be tuned into the latest ways you can help protect our communities, our public lands, and our air and water. You can be a leading voice in our work to promote clean energy and clean transportation development. You can stand up with your neighbors who are threatened by industrial and agricultural pollution.



To connect with your local Group, visit sc.org/nc-getinvolved.

Check the statewide calendar of events at sc.org/ncevents.

And use the **email sign-up form** on any page for news and activism updates!