



YOUR N.C. SIERRA CLUB AT WORK

It seems as though we say it every January: The coming year will be the most important yet for our environment, our families and our planet.

But it's true - especially in 2024. This year is forecast to be the next "hottest on record" as climate change continues its inexorable march. This year, we're learning even more about the widespread, long-term impact of pollution from microplastics, "forever chemicals," industrial farming, and many other threats. This year, we are already seeing partisan hostility reach feverish new levels ahead of critically important elections.

It can be daunting, even overwhelming. But the silver lining is there - and it's you.

Sierra Club members like you bring the hope, the ideas and the energy to face tests like these. When we work together, change can happen. A look back at 2023's accomplishments proves it. A look around at each other and our allies shows it can remain true in 2024 and for years to come.

For over 50 years, the North Carolina Chapter's volunteer leaders, staff, members and supporters have rallied to meet and overcome challenge after challenge. This year will be no different.

Together, we've got this – let's get to work.

Read more inside about our work in 2023 and ways YOU can get involved in 2024!



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

FROM THE CHAIR ...

HANNAH FURGUIELE,
Buncombe County

Happy 2024 to all our North Carolina Sierrans! We expect big changes this year, within our organization and without. One thing will remain constant: the passion and commitment of your N.C. Sierra Club's staff and volunteer leaders to **protect our environment and all who live in it.**



About the time you receive this report, the Chapter will be choosing a new chair, allowing me to balance my role on the executive committee with other responsibilities. Our former Conservation Program Director, Erin Carey, is serving as acting Chapter Director as we seek to fill the position permanently.

Outside our Chapter, much more dramatic shifts are under way. Our planet is changing in alarming ways - 2023 brought a summer of the most extreme weather on record. Wildfires, historic heat, and storms gave us a glimpse of what climate change has in store. In the United States, our politics bring a different kind of heat as we wade into the fray of a divisive, decisive election season - a battle for the future at every level of government.

In the face of all this, there is one essential truth: **Together, North Carolina's Sierrans will always stand as passionate advocates** for protecting our land, air, and water; our families and communities; and the unspoiled natural places so many living things call home.

I know that you, like me, have many important demands on your time. But we can each give something: handing out endorsement cards at polling places, calling or writing to elected leaders, making a donation, leading a hike, and so much more.

We're strongest when we stand together. Please join me with renewed energy as we "explore, enjoy and protect" North Carolina's environment in 2024!

WE SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

If you paid attention to our elected leaders and candidates in 2023, you might have had the urge to cover your eyes and ears.

Don't do that.

We're entering one of the most consequential election years in our collective memory. Sierrans must be informed and engaged to hold our local, state and federal leaders accountable for their words and actions. **What they're doing now, and what they plan to do after the election, will have repercussions for our environment and our communities long after their terms are over.**

At the N.C. General Assembly, 2023 saw a textbook demonstration of poor leadership and self-service. Power struggles gave way only to the forced passage of bills that imperil our wetlands and communities, fast-track a disastrous pipeline project, block local governments from enacting environmentally sound ordinances, and pose many other threats to our planet and our people.

As a parting shot, legislative leaders dropped another set of gerrymandered state and congressional district maps that seek to further suppress marginalized communities and cement power for those who have demonstrated that they do not deserve it.

At the federal level, Congress also focused on partisan power battles, spending far more time on show-pony investigations, budget brinkmanship, and "bloc" parties to stymie chamber leaders than on passing meaningful laws.



In 2024, we must act. From our towns and cities to our statehouse to the U.S. Capitol, North Carolina's Sierrans can stand with all Club members and allies to elect candidates who pledge to put our people and our planet first - and leave their self-promotional chaos at home.

Our shared voice matters: In 2023 local elections, the N.C. Sierra Club endorsed 34 candidates, all but one of whom won.

This year, let's demand honest answers about what they'll do to stall climate change, protect vulnerable people from polluters, and maintain the health of our air, water and land. Let's loudly and persistently hold them accountable for their actions in the chambers and in the back rooms.

True leaders put aside their egos, personal interests, and biases to govern on behalf of all those they represent. As Sierrans, we and our allies will make sure they do just that in 2024.

- ▶ Check our 2024 endorsements at sc.org/ncendorsements.
- ▶ Donate to the N.C. Chapter's political action committee at sc.org/ncpacdonate.
- ▶ Visit sc.org/ncleg for a report on the 2023 N.C. General Assembly.

ON THE FRONT BURNER

In 2023, your N.C. Sierra Club staff and volunteer leaders engaged on a wide range of issues affecting North Carolina's environment and communities. Visit sc.org/ncnews for more about our 2023 accomplishments and ongoing work.

NATIONAL FOREST & PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTION

We joined a coalition of conservation groups taking legal steps to push the U.S. Forest Service to fix glaring flaws in the Pisgah-Nantahala national forests management plan. We also supported lobbying efforts to permanently protect 18,000 acres of the Great Craggy Mountains as the Craggy National Scenic Area.

HAPPENING NOW: In December, the USFS proposed amending all of its 128 forest management plans to limit logging in existing old growth areas - something we and allies have been fighting for in North Carolina. We'll continue to work with USFS officials and allies to improve and clarify the proposal. We'll also keep pushing for protection for the Great Craggy Mountains.

SAYING FAREWELL TO 'FOREVER CHEMICALS'

North Carolina has been a focal point in the fight over toxic "forever chemicals," which Chemours has dumped into the Cape Fear River and spewed into the air from its Fayetteville plant. This fall, nearly 600 Sierra Club members and supporters signed a petition opposing an EPA plan to let Chemours import PFAS waste from Europe to North Carolina for disposal.

HAPPENING NOW: We shared our petition with EPA chief Michael Regan, a North Carolina native who has prioritized the fight against existing and emerging PFAS contamination threats. At the end of November, he reversed the agency's permission for Chemours' plan. The Chapter will continue working with allied groups to develop statewide strategies, and educate the public and each other on PFAS concerns.

KEEPING IT WILD

The Chapter and our allies spoke up on behalf of protecting wildlife on land and offshore. At our urging, more than 2,000 people sent comments opposing the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's proposal to use Lake Mattamuskeet, a National Wildlife Refuge in Hyde County, as a testing ground for a bird-toxic algaecide. The Chapter signed on to technical comments urging federal agencies to protect habitat for green sea turtles, and to set tighter standards for oceanic seismic surveys near calving grounds of the critically endangered right whale.

HAPPENING NOW: We await word from USFWS on its final plan for Lake Mattamuskeet. The algaecide testing plan was prompted by a budget allocation from the N.C. General Assembly, which we'll monitor during this year's "short session" for bills that threaten wildlife and the environment. The Chapter has joined a coalition of East Coast groups that seek to protect the right whale, and is working to make sure offshore wind development is as safe for wildlife as it is necessary for our clean energy future.

CAFOS: FRESH EYES ON A FOUL PROBLEM

Our work to fight hazards from factory-scale animal farms got fresh perspective and energy this year. Four students from UNC-Pembroke and Duke and Shaw universities teamed up to study the social and environmental impact of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOS), including a field trip to eastern N.C. factory hog facilities. The Chapter continued to fight for better protections for people, animals, and the environment, signing onto technical comments on the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's draft general swine permit, and publicizing public comment opportunities.

HAPPENING NOW: We're monitoring the CAFO general permit process and are ready to push back on weak policy when the final draft is released. Our summer fellows' work will help the Chapter elevate the CAFO issue to a national campaign priority for the Sierra Club. This status would bring more money and staffing to a critical fight that pits corporate greed and corruption against the health and well-being of our land, water and people.





SIERRA CLUB

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2024: STAND WITH US FOR OUR PLANET & OUR PEOPLE

Sierrans stepped up in 2023:

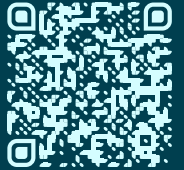
1,990+ gifts totaling nearly \$670,000 in donations to support our advocacy, public education and political activism.

4,000+ participants in action alerts ranging from calls for legislative vetoes to protection for wildlife at Lake Mattamuskeet, to our successful demand that EPA reverse itself on allowing PFAS waste imports.

13,200 followers and subscribers engaging with us across five social media platforms. Visit sc.org/nclinks for more!

Let's be even stronger this year:

Make a donation: We need to raise **\$700,000** this year to support the Chapter's advocacy, lobbying and educational work. Use the QR code or visit sc.org/ncdonate to give online, or mail your gift using the form below and enclosed reply envelope.



Get involved with your local Group: Plan and participate in outings and events. Help set priorities for our environmental advocacy, locally and statewide. Connect with like-minded community groups to help maximize our strength! Find your local Group at sc.org/nc-getinvolved.

Stay in the loop: Use the email sign-up form on any page of our website to get action alerts, newsletters and other announcements. Keep an eye on events statewide at sc.org/ncevents.



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

My Gift Amount:

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

Please bill my:

Visa MC Amex

Name on card: _____

Card #: _____ Exp: _____

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Contact Erin Carey (erin.carey@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 information about your membership, donations, contact preferences and more, use the online portal at myaccount.sierraclub.org or send an email to member.care@sierraclub.org.