

News from the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

WAYPOINTS

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Kaw Point Park, Kansas City
Photo | Eliese Holt

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Take Action:

Tell Kansas Legislators We Need Solar Energy!

Let's work together to expand solar access and development across Kansas by reducing regulatory and cost barriers.

SIGN THE STATEWIDE PETITION NOW



Our Energy Committee's plan to making solar accessible in Kansas

1. Legalize and popularize Plug & Play / "Balcony" solar.
2. Ease restrictions on Community Solar.
3. Remove unreasonable HOA restrictions on rooftop solar.
4. Encourage localities to adopt SolarApp+ for instant solar permitting.
5. Help small businesses claim 100% bonus depreciation for new solar.
6. Continue support for utility-scale solar and battery energy storage.

[Join the Energy Committee](#) to help us achieve these solar goals in Kansas.

Southwind members: The Metropolitan Planning Commission **APPROVED both solar projects**

Now the decision goes to Sedgwick County Commissioners on [August 5th](#).

This is the time to show up.

[Rally with us at the Sedgwick County Commission hearing on August 5th](#) to demonstrate support for clean energy development in our neighborhood. Wear our t-shirt and button to show support for our position. We'll help you prepare to testify with talking points that make a clear and convincing statement.

This is the final step to seeing some solar in Sedgwick County!



Send a letter to Sedgwick County Commissioners NOW

As a reminder, TWO solar farm projects are proposed for Sedgwick County.

- 260 MW Galena Solar and Storage project
- 130 MW Branch Line Solar and Storage project

Of course, both solar projects would help to stabilize energy prices, support landowners and their property rights, and generate millions in tax revenue to fund community needs like roads, bridges, and local schools. Yet, as current county regulations likely allow the permit for only one of these projects, we suggest the bigger project with storage capabilities - Galena - would be our preference. [Sign our petition to show your support for solar.](#)

The 2026 ExCom Application is
NOW OPEN

Help Shape the Future of Sierra Club in Kansas

Yvonne Cather, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Chair

Whether it's protecting our air and water, expanding clean energy, preserving

public lands, advocating before the Kansas Legislature, supporting local Groups and Networks, or strengthening our Chapter for the future, none of this happens by chance. It happens because dedicated volunteers choose to serve.

Today, we are inviting members from across Kansas to consider becoming part of the leadership team that guides our Chapter.



April ExCom meeting in Manhattan | Photo Gerry Snyder

What is the Chapter Executive Committee?

The Executive Committee (ExCom) serves as the governing board of the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club. It's responsible for establishing the Chapter's

strategic direction, overseeing finances, supporting our staff, ensuring responsible governance, and helping build a strong and sustainable organization that can continue protecting Kansas for generations to come.

Serving on ExCom is an opportunity to make a meaningful difference—not just on one issue, but across the entire spectrum of the Chapter's work.



Gathering after February Chapter ExCom Meeting | Photo Gerry Snyder

Who should consider serving?

You don't have to be an expert on every (or any) environmental issue. You simply need a commitment to **Sierra Club's mission** and a willingness to work

collaboratively with others.

We welcome members who bring a variety of experiences and perspective. We encourage members from every region of the state, every stage of life, and every background to consider serving.

What is the commitment?

ExCom members are expected to:

- Attend regular, bimonthly Executive Committee meetings.
- Serve on at least one additional Chapter Committee or working group.
- Participate respectfully in discussions and decision-making, virtually and in-person.
- Review and respond to emails, policy documents, and club inquiries.
- Participate in Sierra Club training to learn the rules and tools which support our work.
- Support Chapter events and fundraising whenever possible.

While the role requires time and energy, it's also one of the most rewarding ways to contribute to Sierra Club's mission.

It's time to apply!

- **July 1** - Candidate Application Period is NOW OPEN. [Fill out the application here.](#)
- **August 18** (midnight) - Candidate Application Deadline.
- **September 2** - Official Nominees Announced.

[More dates and details listed on the website.](#)

Want to get involved, but not ready to join an Executive Committee? [Start HERE.](#)

Fill out [this form](#) to set up an introductory meeting with our Chapter Leaders.

We want to hear about your interests, experience, and availability!



Kanza Network June Walk & Talk, Cedar Niles Trail, Olathe | Photos Eliese Holt

Tracking Kansas Turtle Racing this Summer



Severy, KS Turtle Race Labor Day Weekend 2025 | Photos Felix Revello

Our Turtle Conservation Team is attending turtle races this Summer to document what's happening and deliver their findings to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. These are a few things they'll be noting:

- how many turtles are present
- turtle treatment and living conditions
- temperature of the air and ground



If you find yourself at a fair this summer that's hosting turtle racing, please help us by noting what you can and taking pictures.

We're also looking for folks willing to come to events with us, so we can be effective data collectors. These are the races we're currently planning on attending:

- July 4 - [El Dorado](#)
- July 4 - [Garden Plain](#)
- July 18 - [Grinnell](#)
- August 8 - [Halstead](#)

We're a small, but mighty team that could use your help! [Contact our Team Leader, Felix](#) with your individual data or interest in joining the turtle team.

Don't forget to [send a letter](#) to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks urging them to ban turtle racing across the state of Kansas.

Downstream from Dirty Data Centers

Zack Pistora, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Director

From Gardner to Garden City, at least a dozen data center proposals have been sprung upon our Kansas communities this year, and with likely more to come from the back rooms of your county economic development office or local utility.



Sierra Club is not “anti-data center.” We understand that massive changes in how computers and their systems can be used may have benefits for society, and might even help to solve our environmental challenges, but whether that

happens depends on the type of data centers built and how artificial intelligence is applied. Right now we're seeing **“dirty” data centers**; hyperscale data centers that consume fossil fuels, drain our water supplies, use diesel generators that pollute our air, and which do not receive community support. Although potential mitigation of harmful environmental impact is possible, for now we're looking at serious negative impacts from data centers.

Sierra Club stands ready to support local communities as they face the prospect of data centers.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Happy Eating **A Kansas Guide to Eating Local the Right Way**

Over the past 30 years, the Kansas Chapter has been fighting animal factories, officially called Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) that produce the vast majority of meat, dairy and eggs in the U.S. and in Kansas. The

industry is supported by a regulatory system that does not prioritize the health and quality of life of rural citizens and does not prevent pollution of the state's waters that affects all of us.

You can **personally take action** in support of the Kansas Chapter's anti-CAFO Campaign by consciously avoiding the purchase of food produced by CAFOs.

[See our online guide](#) to find more sustainably and humanely produced meat, dairy and eggs in your area of the state. *Happy eating!*



Family Farm in Lawrence, KS | Photo Eliese Holt



June Kaw River Clean Up | Photo Zack Pistora

Take Action!

- [State-Wide Petition: Save Turtles, End Turtle Racing in Kansas](#)
- [Send a Letter to Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks: Ban Turtle Racing!](#)
- [State-Wide Petition: Kansas Needs Solar! Prioritizing Access & Development.](#)



what is a **WAYPOINT?**

Waypoint: *noun.* A stopping place on a journey; an endpoint of the leg of a course, especially one whose coordinates have been generated by a computer.

Submit Waypoints **Content**

Waypoints is the monthly newsletter of the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter.

Articles are edited for style and content and may be rejected at the discretion of the editors.

**Events
Calendar**

**Go on an
Outing**

**Join Sierra
Club Kansas**

**Donate
Today**

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