

News from the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

WAYPOINTS

SIERRACLUB.ORG / KANSAS

Maxwell Wildlife Refuge
Photo | Eliese Holt

OCT 2026
VOLUME 9
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Sierra Club Kansas Internal Elections

VOTING NOW OPEN

It's time again for you to VOTE for the next at-large members of the Kansas Chapter Executive Committee. Those elected will start their two-year term in January 2027. If applicable, you will also cast votes for your Group's Executive Committee elections.

Sierra Club, the nation's largest and oldest grassroots environmental organization, is proudly democratic and member-driven.

HOW TO VOTE

To vote online, go to your [Sierra Club member portal](https://myaccount.sierraclub.org/) (<https://myaccount.sierraclub.org/>).

*If you've never used the member portal before, you can create an account using your name, email, and zip code. [Use these](#)

Any issues with creating a Sierra Club account, or submitting your electronic ballot, [please contact Yvonne, Chair of the Nominating Committee.](#)

Yvonne's Cell: (316) 204 - 8920

All electronic ballots must be submitted by

[instructions to create a MyAccount with Sierra Club.](#)

November 5, 2026 at midnight.

PLEASE VOTE FOR OUR NEXT KANSAS CHAPTER LEADERS



April ExCom Meeting in Manhattan, KS | Photo Gerry Snyder

Kansas Chapter Announces 2026 Candidate Endorsements!

VIEW THE COMPLETE 2026 SIERRA CLUB ENDORSEMENT LIST



Photo | cindyforkansas.com

Yvonne Cather, Political Chair, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

After weeks of work reviewing candidate questionnaires, environmental voting records, and races across the state, the Kansas Chapter has announced a growing slate of [endorsements for the Kansas House of Representatives and Johnson County Commission.](#)

Our endorsement process focused on issues important to Sierra Club members and Kansas communities, including clean and affordable energy, water quantity and quality, clean air, conservation of our lands and wildlife, environmental justice, responsible development, and the environmental impacts of emerging industries and growing energy demand.

Take some time to learn more about the endorsed candidates in your community, make sure your voter registration is current, talk with family and friends about the environmental issues that matter to you, and **VOTE**.

[Consider donating to our Kansas Chapter PAC.](#) *Sierra Club volunteers work to elect strong environmental leaders. Your PAC contribution will amplify these efforts.*

DID YOU SEE THIS?

2026 Legislative Scorecard

Do Your Legislators Vote For or Against the Environment?

Our Legislative Scorecards rate legislators based on whether they vote for or against environmental legislation we support.

Is "advocate for the environment" on your bingo card?

We're starting to strategize for the 2027 Legislative session!

Join SierraKan

Help us expand the Club's capacity to influence decision-making on environmental policy and provide leadership for member engagement in targeted efforts with state Legislators.

Data Centers and the **Dirty Truth** about Evergy's Fossil Fuel Energy Burden



Photo | iStock

Ty Gorman, Senior Strategist, Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign

Last month, Trump said "The only reason that communities throughout the U.S.A. should not want Data Centers is if they want to end up being backwards and poor. If they want to be successful and rich...let Data Reign." Many conservatives in Kansas seem to disagree, and have spoken up at County Commission meetings around Kansas. They agree with Sierra Club and our allied

organizations: [data centers need strong guardrails before they should be allowed in to our communities.](#)

Sierra Club and our allies have been working for over a year to educate about **data center impacts on utility bills and the environment**, and have turned that education into advocacy in the form of public hearing testimony, media, and numerous legislative contacts.

[Dirty Truth 2026 report.](#)

Please reach out (ty.gorman@sierraclub.org) if you have any questions or would like to get involved fighting for clean energy in Kansas.

[Read full article here.](#)

SIGN THE PETITION DATA CENTER MORATORIUM NOW

Pass a moratorium on new large-scale data center projects until significant guardrails to improve transparency, local control, and responsible oversight can be implemented.

[SIGN THE PETITION NOW.](#)

KANSAS DOESN'T WANT DIRTY DATA CENTERS

Zack Pistora, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Director

Unfortunately, data center developers are infringing on dozens of communities across Kansas, courtesy of Senate Bill 98 and the State Legislature's tax handout to lure rich Big Tech companies to build their A.I. data centers here.

The Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club, who led the opposition to SB 98 in 2025, inspiring over 4,000 calls to legislators, is continuing to advocate for community needs and appropriate environmental guardrails across the state as new data centers proposals pop up.

[*Watch Zack Pistora provide comment at the Leavenworth County Commission hearing about the proposed data center in Tonganoxie.](#)



Zack Pistora
Sierra Club Kansas Director
Speaks at County Commission hearing
Tonganoxie data center
& gas plant proposal

***longtime Leavenworth
County resident***



Kansas Chapter first ARTivism meeting in Lawrence Sept 20, 2026 | Photo Eliese Holt

The Kansas Chapter is working on a coordinated, collective strategy to come before the Legislature in 2027. If you're advocating in your local community and want to work together on a state strategy and share best practices, please join our [Data Center Community Action Team](#).

JOIN THE DATA CENTER ACTION TEAM

RSVP for this upcoming event in Wichita about data centers:

- [October 9 at 6:30 PM Views from the Field - Data Centers \(Southwind Group\)](#)

**OCT 22 WEBINAR: HOW YOU CAN HELP
EXPAND ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE SOLAR**

Kansans should have more choices in how they produce and benefit from electricity. But today, barriers can prevent many people from accessing solar- whether it's an HOA restriction, the cost and complexity of traditional rooftop solar, or simply not having a roof that's right for solar.

Join us for a [public webinar on October 22](#) to learn about three policies we're working to advance during the 2027 Kansas legislative session:

- **Homeowner Associations (HOA) Solar Freedom**
- **Plug-In Solar**
- **Community Solar**

We'll talk about how these policies could give Kansas consumers more options to produce their own electricity, participate in solar, and

potentially manage their energy costs. Kansas can create more pathways for consumers to participate in solar and **we need Kansans to speak up to make it happen.**



The Kansas Chapter Energy Committee has been busy implementing their plan to making solar more accessible across the state.

[Read more about the Kansas Solar Access initiative here.](#)

Check out our newly published pamphlet detailing the initiative, below. [Download the pamphlet \(PDF\) here.](#)

Why is Solar Important?

Kansans deserve affordable energy that doesn't pollute our air or water.

When paired with energy storage systems, solar energy is one of the lowest-cost, most reliable electricity forms that will create local jobs – without the negative impacts on our air and water.

Why Kansas?

Kansas is considered a top 10 state for sunny days, yet we're in the bottom 10 for solar power production. ^(SEIA)

Unique topographical and geographical attributes give us the potential to generate abundant affordable, clean energy right here in Kansas!

sc.org/solkarsinitiative

JOIN OUR CLUB!

Become a member of the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter



sc.org/joinkansas

DONATE NOW

Support our renewable energy work in Kansas!



sc.org/ksdonate

July 2026
Contributors:
Bill Roush, Energy Committee Chair
Eliese Holt, Kansas Chapter Coordinator
Kansas Chapter Energy Committee Members



Kansas Solar Access Initiative

Sign our statewide petition to support reducing regulatory and cost barriers to solar energy!



sc.org/solarforkansas



Types of Solar

- Rooftop Solar**
Solar panels mounted on rooftops of individual residences.
- Plug & Play Solar**
Small, portable systems that plug into a regular wall outlet to partially offset the energy needed from a utility provider.
- Commercial Solar**
Large solar systems installed on commercial properties to meet the energy needs of a business.
- Community Solar**
A solar facility shared by community members who "subscribe" for energy credit, separate from their primary utility.
- Utility-Scale Solar**
Large-scale solar installations that feed power directly onto the energy grid.

Our Solutions For Residential Solar Accessibility

- HOA Solar Freedom**
Remove unreasonable HOA restrictions on rooftop solar
Kansans should have the right to produce their own power, but right now HOAs can block your ability to install a solar system. We're supporting legislation that gives rights back to homeowners who want to install solar.
- Instant Solar Permitting**
Encourage localities to adopt SolarApp+ program
We're working with the SolarApp+ Foundation to encourage local governments to adopt a platform that can cut weeks off the process for permitting residential rooftop solar.
- Plug & Play Solar**
Legalize and popularize Plug-in/ "Balcony" solar
Several states have already modernized laws to allow households to offset power bills with these easy and affordable plug-in systems. We're supporting legislation here in Kansas to do the same!

Our Solutions For Commercial Solar Accessibility

- Local Business Investment**
Help businesses claim 100% bonus depreciation for solar
New federal rules allow for businesses to deduct up to 100% of a solar project's costs from their taxable income in the first year. We're spreading the word about this great opportunity for businesses to reduce their long-term energy costs!
- Community Solar**
Ease restrictions with suitable state legislation
Community solar programs could allow more people and businesses to participate in the benefits of affordable solar energy. We're supporting legislation that permits the development of community solar programs.
- Utility-Scale Solar**
Continue support for utility-scale solar & battery storage
Increasing utility-scale solar is an opportunity for Kansas to become more energy independent and produce affordable, clean energy. We support these installations by lending our voice and expertise at the local level.

Pamphlet Design | Eliese Holt & Sarah Cain

Want to help make solar more accessible in

SIGN THE PETITION:
Tell Kansas Legislators

Kansas?

[Join the Energy Committee](#)

We Need Solar Energy!

[Sign the statewide petition](#)



Sierra Club Flint Hills meets with K-State Students for Environmental Action Sept 29, 2026 | Photo Lauren Seybold

Want to volunteer with the Kansas Chapter? **[Let us know 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!



Southwind Group outing at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge September 12, 2026 | Photo Courtesy of Eliese Holt

It's that time of year!

Time to **EXPLORE** and **ENJOY** the outdoors with cooler weather and vibrant autumn colors.

- [Forest Bathing \(Edgerton, KS\) Oct 24 11:00AM](#)



Kanza Network Walk & Talk at Wyandotte Lake | Photo Clare Mosko

Can you help us with Flint Hills air monitoring?

Gerry Snyder, Air Quality Committee, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter



Photo | The Science of Spring Burning, K-State Today

With your permission, our Chapter air quality team would install a small, unobtrusive air quality monitor on your property. By doing so, you can have a positive impact on the public health of your community.

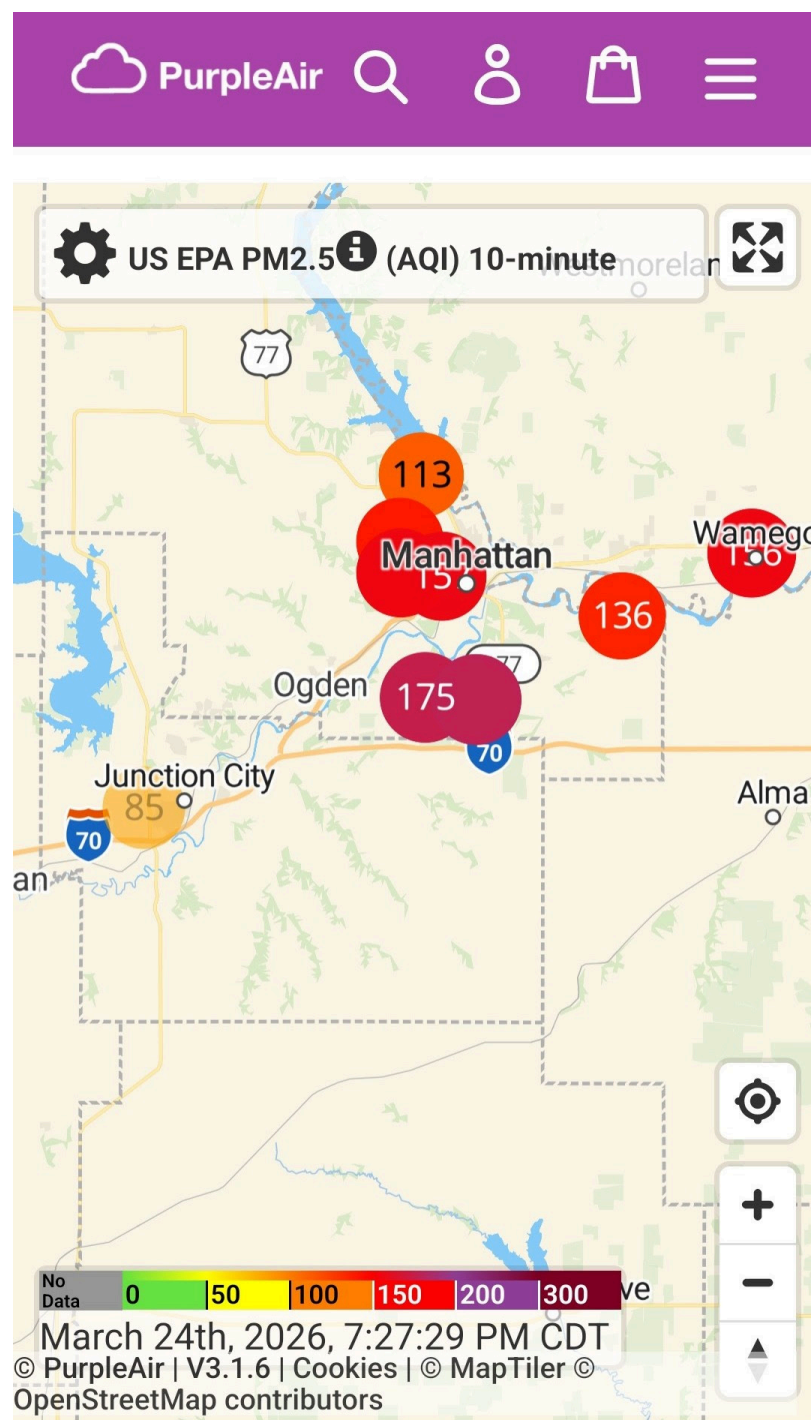
Do you live or know someone in one of these cities?

- Cottonwood Falls
- Matfield Green
- Strong City
- El Dorado

We're working to expand a public alert system that identifies poor air quality conditions within the Flint Hills. For the past two years, we've installed [PurpleAir monitors](#) in and around the Manhattan area (see map below).

These monitors are part of a global citizen-science **network that helps alert the public to poor and potentially hazardous air quality**. The PurpleAir network has helped people make informed decisions about outdoor activities during the annual spring prairie-burning season. This information is particularly important for people with asthma, older adults, and children with respiratory conditions.

PurpleAir quality monitor | Photo Gerry Snyder





All that's required is access to:

- an AC power outlet
- internet connection

I'll schedule a convenient time to visit and install the small monitor. **For more information or to volunteer your location, please [contact me, Gerry.](#)**

October Events Coming Up!

Friday, October 9

6:30 P.M. (Wichita)

[Views from the Field - Data Centers](#)

We'll watch the KRC recording together to hear from Lindsay Hamilton with Climate + Energy Project and Ty Gorman, Senior Strategist with Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign discuss the state of data centers in Kansas and how community members may engage their local representatives.

Wednesday, Oct 14

7:00 P.M. (Manhattan)

[How to Ban Single-Use Plastic Bags](#)

Learn about the successful effort to ban single-use plastic bags in Lawrence and discuss ideas for bringing a similar effort to Manhattan.

Thursday, October 15

7:00 P.M. (Topeka)

[Topeka Network Presents: Dianna "Snow Eagle" Henry](#)

The Topeka Network welcomes Dianna "Snow Eagle" Henry, heirloom seed saver, sacred corn carrier, co-founder of Central Prairie Seed Exchange and Kaw Valley Seeds Project, and author of *Whispering Ancestors: The Wisdom of the Corn*.

Tuesday, October 20

6:30 P.M. (Kansas City)

[Talking Sustainability with Brian Alferman](#)

Brian Alferman with Johnson County Sustainability Coalition will present on the County's Sustainability Program—it's accomplishments and goals—and what residents can do to support local sustainability.

Thursday, October 22

7:00 P.M. (virtual webinar)

Solar Freedom in Kansas: How You Can Help Expand Access to Affordable Solar

Learn about three solar policies we're working to advance during the 2027 state legislative session and how you can help build support for solar freedom in Kansas before the legislature returns.

Saturday, October 24

11:00 A.M. (Edgerton)

Forest Bathing

Join Sarah Cain, Certified Forest Therapy Guide and Sierra Club volunteer for a morning of Forest Bathing. In a guided forest therapy experience, you'll be led through a series of simple activities to help you experience the natural world with all of your senses.

Monday, October 26

7:00 P.M. (Leavenworth)

Beers, BESS, and Boo! Trivia Night!

Looking for a fun, spooky night out with good drinks and great company? We're serving up quick, entertaining rounds of trivia covering spooky Halloween lore, local Kansas facts, and BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems).

Tuesday, October 27

7:00 P.M. (Lawrence)

[The Microplastic Problem: Talk & Social](#)

The Wakarusa Group is hosting a talk on the toxic effects of microplastics, how to lessen your exposure, and policy that could reduce production of more single-use plastics.



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.

Editors: Eliese Holt and Mimi Moffat.

[Events Calendar](#)

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Kansas](#)

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