



The Time Is Now For Utility Energy Efficiency

By Harry Alper

A wave of energy efficiency is sweeping across Missouri, and Sierra Club members are putting the effort to create this change. Although we still have much work cut out for us, Sierrans in some parts of the state are already enjoying the lower bills and cleaner air that comes from energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency means lower bills, cleaner air, and local jobs. It is the most affordable and most environmentally friendly energy resource available. Reducing energy usage through efficiency is much less expensive than building new power plants. Energy efficiency can allow utilities to retire dirty coal plants and meet the remaining energy needs with renewable sources, allowing us to enjoy cleaner air in Missouri. The work of increasing energy efficiency creates good jobs that can't be shipped overseas – jobs insulating homes, replacing windows, and installing energy efficient appliances.

For Sierrans in the Eastern part of the state, your utility Ameren has dramatically increased its energy efficiency programs, and is now investing \$50 Million a year in efficiency. Look for discounted CFL lightbulbs at the hardware store, and inserts in your bill announcing rebates for efficient appliances and energy retrofits.

This Spring members in Kansas City and around Southwest Missouri have moved forward our statewide campaign for energy efficiency. In Kansas City the utility, Kansas City



Harry Alper, Willy Crane and Jim Evans speaking to the press in Joplin about the shareholder energy efficiency resolution for Empire Electric.

Power & Light is only offering strong efficiency programs to half of its customers. Kansas City Sierrans have responded with The KCP&L Efficiency Now! Campaign, and we are within reach of our goal of 1000 petition signers for energy efficiency. At the end of May we will use the petition to focus media attention on Kansas City Power and Light, and pressure them to make a public commitment to invest in energy efficiency.

Empire Electric in Southwestern Missouri is also late to the game for energy efficiency. Republic, Missouri Sierran Jim Evans submitted a shareholder resolution to Empire advocating for increased investments in efficiency. Jim argued convincingly for efficiency from both the perspective of an environmentalist and the perspective of a shareholder – explaining that efficiency is a safer, smarter business move than building new power plants.

At the Empire Electric shareholder meeting we needed to win 3% of the

vote to be eligible to submit our resolution again – and we won 14%. Jim Evans, Joplin green builder Willy Crane, and I spoke with the media, and earned two TV stories, five newspaper stories, and a radio piece. Empire electric committed in the press to file their energy efficiency program with the Public Service Commission in the fall!

Our energy efficiency campaigns are helping the Missouri Sierra Club move our state beyond coal to clean energy. To get involved contact me, Harry Alper, at harry.alper@sierraclub.org.

Missouri Sierrans attend Green Jobs Conference

By John Hickey, Chapter Director

In January, President Obama won extension of the Production Tax Credit (PTC), which supports wind energy development in the US. This victory



In September of 2011 the Missouri Sierra Club toured the ABB plant. Directly across the river from the Capitol in Jefferson City, the ABB plant produces transformers for wind power. The clean energy jobs of tomorrow are here already in Missouri.

Green Jobs continued on page 5

Chair's Column

By James Turner, Missouri Chapter Chair



TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline through our Midwest would speed climate disruption. So Sierra Club, 350.org, and others organized the Forward on Climate rally on

Presidents' Day. Over forty thousand rallied beside the Washington Monument despite a cold blustery wind. Thirty Chapters organized trips to this rally. Some Missouri Chapter members chartered a bus, and forty-four of us (Sierrans and others, from Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois) rode it day and night, both coming and going. A snowstorm in the Appalachians slowed us but we arrived in time. Our riders are resolved to "Stay on the Bus" – to stay connected and tame the oil industry's greed!

Plenty of challenges loom. Enbridge wants to complete a pipeline through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma which would match the Keystone XL's capacity. Tar sands product (diluted bitumen) is abrasive and toxic; Missouri's waters will be at risk. Missouri Chapter staff and activists are attentive to developments and are organizing for ongoing action.

The Club's national staff is intent upon working more effectively with Chapters. I just returned from a first Chairs Assembly in San Francisco. In September our Delegate John Feldmann will attend the annual Council of Club Leaders there. Our Chapter Director John Hickey is one of six representatives actively communicating on behalf of the entire range of Chapter staffs. And all of this helps our Chapters work together increasingly well.

The Missouri Sierran is published four times a year by the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club. Annual dues of Sierra Club members pay for subscription to this publication. Non-members may subscribe for \$15 per year.

Items for publication: Contact our Chapter Office via E-mail at Missouri.Chapter@sierraclub.org or phone (314) 644-1011 or (800) 628-5333, prior to sending, for information on how to submit articles.

The editors reserve the right to edit articles! Material may be edited for length, content, or clarity. It is our job to help you communicate. If you have strong creative ownership of your writing, and wish to review your edited article before



publication, consider your deadline 10 days prior to the published deadline. With notice, we will be happy to work with you.

Reproduction quality photographs (prints) or artwork are dearly welcome. Please send us photos...

Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad.

All submissions must include name, E-mail or street address, and phone number of the author. Only your name will be printed in the newsletter. If you want your submission returned (including your CD), please include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope.

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Missouri Sierrans in St. Louis en route to the February 17 DC action against the Keystone XL pipeline

100 Days of Action on Climate

By Sara Edgar, Organizer

From Obama's January inauguration to last April's Earth Day, the Missouri Sierra Club took part in the national Sierra Club's 100 Days Campaign. The campaign was an effort to put pressure on Obama to act on climate change within the first 100 days of his second term. The campaign was a huge success, with over 1.7 million people across the country coming out in force to urge the president to address climate disruption. Here in the Show Me State, Missourians were a big part of the success, with hundreds of people heading to DC for the Forward on Climate Rally, signing petitions, and participating in local town halls, teach-ins, and meetings with our elected officials. Sierra Club members met with Congressman Lacy Clay, and Emanuel Cleaver, as well as an aide in Senator McCaskill's office, showing that Missourians want to see action on climate.



St. Louis Sierra Club members and staff met with Congressman William "Lacy" Clay who committed to work with the Sierra Club to address our region's air pollution issues. From left to right: Del Johnson, John Hickey, Caroline Pufalt, John Maxwell, Sara Edgar, Congressman William "Lacy" Clay, Ross Hunt, Sam Cummings



St. Louis area members met with Claire McCaskill's aide who committed to address our concerns with the Senator. From left to right: Ross Hunt, Sara Edgar, McCaskill Staffer Brendan Fahey, Juli Viel, Adam Haas, John Kissell



Kansas City area Sierra Club members met with Congressman Cleaver who committed to send a letter to Obama calling for action on climate change. From left to right: Claus Wawrzinek, Patty Brown, John Fish Kurmann, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, Anne McGregor, Rita Norton, Jim Turner

MISSOURI CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Eastern Missouri Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg>

June 22 (Sat) – Join our Stream Team when we will investigate a high quality stream in a wooded niche near expanding Eureka. Our stream team will monitor Fox Creek and send the data to the Dept. of Natural Resources. At two locations we will test for dissolved oxygen and other chemical parameters. We also will do visual surveys and measure stream flow if flow is adequate. In summer we will not net macro-invertebrates. Help with spring and fall nettings later. Please contact: Leslie Lihou (314) 726-2140 or Jim Rhodes (314) 821-7758, jarhodes@sbcglobal.net

June 26 (Wed) – McCully Heritage Project, Illinois. This is a five-mile hike on land just East of the Illinois River. This land, which was donated to the State of Illinois, contains forests, glades, spring and wetlands. Trekking through this mostly forested land should make for an interesting hike. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

July 10 (Wed) – Pere Marquette State Park, Illinois (Stinging Nettles, Fern Hollow, Hickory North, Hickory and Ravine Trails). This will be an outing on the East side of the Mississippi River by traveling on the Great River Road up to the park. We will be doing several trails within the park with some good overlooks on the surrounding countryside and the Illinois River. The trails should be moderate to easy due to the uphill climbs to the overlooks. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

July 20 (Sat) – Mid-summer one-day canoe float on the Courtois or Huzzah, or whatever has water. Jonathan Lehmann, (314) 791-3969 cell.

July 24 (Wed) – Horseshoe Lake State Park, Illinois - Walker's Island Trail. This 3.8 mile hike along the circumference of Walker's Island will be a good place for bird watching. This was once an island in the Mississippi River that became separat-

To participate in one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before the outing, please see:

<http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call (415) 977-5528.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40

ed from the river as the river moved westward within the Mississippi River basin. This will be an easy walk for a Wednesday in July. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

July 27 (Sat) – Afternoon/evening canoe trip on the Meramec River. Join us for a summer trip designed to enjoy the warm evening light and fewer people on the river as we put in late afternoon. We will have dinner on a gravel bar. We will take out before dark. No rental canoe will be available. Toni Armstrong and Richard Spener, (314) 434-2072.

Aug 7 (Wed) – Onondaga Cave State Park, Oak Ridge Trail and Deer Run Trail. This is a five-mile hike on two trails with some spectacular views of the Ozark countryside. The trail ends with a 100 foot overlook of the Meramec River. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Aug 21 (Wed) – Trail of Tears State Park, Peewah Trail. This will be a six-mile hike using the East Loop and part of the West Loop of the Peewah Trail. The trail goes through a maze of ravines and then ascends to a ridge to bluff path that overlooks the Mississippi River. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Aug 24 (Sat) – Operation Clean Stream, day canoe trip on the Meramec River. Join us as we scout for trash treasures from our canoes. A limited number of free rental canoes will be available. Optional picnic following the clean up. Toni Armstrong, (314) 434-2072, or Ann Eggebrecht, (314) 577-0805.

Aug 31-Sep 2 (Sat-Mon) – Canoe/kayak trip on the Mississippi. George Behrens, (314) 821-0247.

Thomas Hart Benton Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/thb/outings>

You can find last minute information and to sign-up on Meetup

<http://www.meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings/>

Jun 8 (Sat) Bike Ride to Powell Gardens, Kingsville, MO. Cycle 25 miles of rolling hills and rural settings from Blue Springs to Powell Gardens. We will lunch at Café Thyme, followed by a hike through the gardens. A trailer for bikes and car rides will be available for our return. \$5 donation requested. Paul Gross, 816 985-2339, wildwoodp@hotmail.com

Jun 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Overnight canoe/kayak trip. Join us on a less traveled stream within a 4-6 hour drive from KC. Enjoy the campfire as we camp along the river Saturday night. Some experience required. Canoe rental may be available, depending on the river. Water conditions at trip time will determine the river. Terry DeFrates, theerustbucket@aol.com, 913-385-7374 (texts are blocked).

Jun 15 (Sat) Lost Valley Fish Hatchery and Harry S Truman Lake State Park, Warsaw, MO. Tour Lost Valley Hatchery which is the largest warm water state-owned hatchery in Missouri and one of the ten largest in the nation. The hatchery building houses a visitor center which includes a 12,700 gallon aquarium. Bring a sack lunch to eat on the trail at the state park. \$5 donation requested. Eileen McManus, 816-523-7823, eileen4250@sbcglobal.net.

Osage Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/osage>

June 15 (Sat) 10am – Bike Ride on the Katy Trail - Start at McBaine trailhead at 10:00 a.m., ride to Rocheport and back for a total of 17 miles, or an additional 10 miles to Cooper's Landing for those who want to go further. Contact Tom Lata at 573-489-2302 (tlata@tranquility.net) for additional information or cancellations due to weather.

June 18 (Tues) 6pm – Osage Group Annual Picnic located in the Gordon Shelter at Stephens Lake Park (2001 E Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201). We'll begin at 6:00 p.m. Hotdogs and Brats, and lemonade will be provided; bring a side dish or desert to share, and your own place setting(s).

July 16 (Tues) 5:30pm outing is to Flat Branch Brewing (115 S 5th St, Columbia, MO 65201) for a happy hour get-together. Meet at Flat Branch Brewery.

White River Group

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/wrg>

The White River Group periodically offers outings, primarily hiking, to White River Group members. If you have ideas for an outing, contact Jennifer Ailor at 417-581-4018 or jailor65721@yahoo.com.

Green Jobs *continued from page 1*

was won thanks to strong involvement by Sierra Club members in Missouri and nationally. While 2012 was a record year for wind energy in the US, the potential loss of the PTC threatened to choke off that momentum.

Wind energy supports over 1,000 jobs in Missouri, according to the American Wind Energy Association, including manufacturing jobs at places like ABB in Jefferson City and CG Power Systems in Washington, as well as operations and maintenance jobs like those at the Lost Creek Wind Farm in King City.

I was one of six Missouri Sierra Club activists who attended the Good Jobs, Green Jobs conference in Washington D.C. in April to learn what our chapter can do to expand green jobs here, helping the economy while saving the environment. Other attendees included Ann McGregor from Kansas City, as well as St. Louisans Sam Cummings, Mark Ostendorf, and Ross Hunt. While there, we went to Capitol Hill to visit the Missouri Congressional delegation and make our case. Since the extension of the PTC is only for one year, Sierra Club members will need to keep the pressure on convince Congress to extend the PTC once again – we will need you!

Coal Ash: Missouri's Toxic Threat

By Sara Edgarr

With over 80% of our power coming from coal (double the national average), Missouri has a coal problem – and thus, a coal ash problem. Coal ash, the waste product from burning coal, is the second largest waste stream in the US and contains toxic heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, and mercury – yet it has even weaker regulations than household garbage!

Here in Missouri, coal ash is typically disposed of in un-lined and unmonitored waste ponds in our floodplains. These sites are a major threat to our rivers, our drinking water and public health. Coal ash that is not disposed of is “recycled” into other forms – this is termed “beneficial reuse.” Recently in Ste Genevieve, Ameren and Mississippi Lime found one such “beneficial reuse” – dumping coal ash into abandoned lime mines. A few years back, the Department of Natural Resources themselves said that the mines were highly permeable and unstable due to the large number of sink holes and caves in the topography. Now residents throughout the area are coming forward with concerns about water contamination. One resident even brought in his gray sludgy tap water from his well to show off to county officials and said that testing found unusually high levels of arsenic in his water.

You might say, yes but surely coal ash must be safe! That is exactly what the toxicologist that Ameren hired claimed – so safe that a child could consume it every day! But then again, she is on the Executive Committee of the American Coal Ash Association – so she has a conflict of interest. Physicians for Responsibility and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) both have issued reports about the detrimental health impacts of coal ash. The EPA found that living within a one mile radius of a coal ash pond and drinking contaminated water, was worse for health than smoking a pack of cigarettes a day!

The outrageous claims from Ameren's toxicologists are paving the way for the development of three new coal ash landfills in the St. Louis region. Since these Ameren executives seem to think coal ash is perfectly safe to consume, Sierra Club members from around these three sites came to Ameren's headquarters last month and offer up a tasty coal ash inspired breakfast buffet and demand groundwater monitoring at these sites to make sure that communities are protected from contamination. We delivered over 1,000 petitions and the media loved it! If you want to help us as we work to protect our families from this toxic threat, please email sara.edgarr@sierraclub.org.



Sierrans hold a “Coal Ash for Breakfast” event in front of Ameren headquarters in St. Louis

Passive House in Dogtown

By Dan Berg and Michelle Ong

We recently built a net-zero energy Passive House in the Dogtown neighborhood of St. Louis. The Passive House designation indicates adherence to very



Dan and Michelle's new passive house under construction.

strict guidelines regarding heating and cooling load, overall energy use, and air leakage. This is the first passive house in the state of Missouri.

Several features contribute to its efficiency:

Siting: the house is sited to take advantage of passive solar gain. The southern windows are relatively large while the northern windows are small. Awnings are sized to block out summer sun, but allow in low winter sun.

Insulation: The walls are built using insulated concrete forms. These are hard foam "legos" with hollow cores filled with cement. The roof is made of pre-fabricated structural insulated panels. These have particle board on either side and thick foam in the middle intermittently strengthened with wood. We also have two thick layers of insulation under the foundation. Foam under the foundation is important to prevent loss of energy to the ground surrounding the house. There is also very little air leakage. All areas with leaks were found using a smoke device, then sealed with foam. In order to maintain good air quality there is an energy

conservation air exchanger.

HVAC systems: The house uses a ground source heat pump for heating and cooling. Fluid runs through a loop of hose vertically buried 100 feet outside the

house. A heat pump takes advantage of the consistent 55 degree temperature of the fluid to heat and cool the house.

Energy systems: The house uses no gas, and is completely powered by a grid-tied 4 kw solar energy array.

Key participants have been Ralph Wafer, architect, Anthony Garavaglia of Trumpet, Gary Steps of Butterfly Energy Works and Greg Swetz of BRC Builders/ICF Missouri.

Dan and Michelle are longtime Sierra Club members.

Future newsletters will include other examples of Missouri members who are taking action in their personal lives to live more sustainably. Tell your story by emailing michael.berg@sierraclub.org, and be sure to include a picture!

April 2 Columbia Election encouraging

By Jan Dye



for the Third Ward against incumbent

The April 2 election in Columbia, Missouri was encouraging. The Sierra Club Osage Group backed progressive candidates Karl Skala

Gary Kespohl, and Ian Thomas in the Fourth Ward against Bill Weitkemper and incumbent Daryl Dudley. We were gladened when both of our selections won their respective races, despite both Dudley and Kespohl receiving the endorsement of the Chamber of Commerce. These victories were due in part to a dedicated group of citizens who convinced the council to rescind the blight designation.

Our own Linda Green was a member of the citizens group and helped bring to light the potential dangers of designating a large swath of Columbia as blighted. The council felt the blight designation was needed in order to qualify for a development tax incentive for businesses willing to settle in these areas. The citizens group maintained that this kind of economic development was not beneficial, that in fact, according to one of its members, "Columbia has the lowest unemployment rate in Missouri, is the hardest working town in the USA, and is among the top places in the country to live, work and raise a family and is far from blighted. Blight also opens the door for eminent domain abuse. . . there is no evidence that suggests that corporate welfare schemes create jobs." After this spotlight on the willingness of some council members to capitulate to the whims of the mayor and his big business cronies, it became much easier to get our progressives elected.

Not so in the mayor's race, however. We backed Sid Sullivan, another progressive, but Bob McDavid won his second term with 60.9% of the vote. One person at Sullivan's watch party summed it up nicely, "There's been so much good debate, so much conversation, so much brought to light on current challenges in the community. . . That's the most important thing about having a challenger."

All in all, we were mostly happy with the election results; city council is now populated with a progressive majority; enough to keep our pro-business mayor in check.

2013 Legislative Update

By Michael Berg, Chapter Staff

This year the Missouri Sierra Club increased our presence at the capitol in Jefferson City. At the heart of this effort were four different Lobby Days spaced roughly one month apart throughout the legislative session. In total, 61 Sierrans visited over 120 different legislators and executive officials in order to discuss pressing environmental concerns. Our membership came from throughout the state to advocate for greater energy efficiency, renewable energy, groundwater monitoring of coal ash, and other pressing issues.

In addition, over 2,000 Sierra Club members and supporters wrote to their Senators and Representatives in support of the renewable energy standard, in opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline, and in support of workplace rights.

Our Legislative Committee Chair Mike Diel and Chapter Director John Hickey regularly went the capitol to talk to lawmakers and testify before committees.

In addition to our efforts in Jefferson City, fifty Sierra Club members met in district with four State Senators and one Representative. More and more, our elected officials are hearing from the Sierra Club members that they represent.

This legislative program was carried out through the work of our Missouri Chapter Legislative Committee – Mike Diel, Ray Anderson, Patricia Schuba, Caroline

Pufalt, Ross Hunt, Julie Viel, Bob Klepper, Henry Robertson, Sam Cummings, Claus Wawrzinek, David Mitchell, Steve Mohler, Myra Scroggs and Jim Evans.

If you are interested in being part of our Legislative Committee for 2014, write to Michael Berg at Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org or call (314) 456-1954.



Missouri Sierra Club January 2013 EMG Group Lobby Day



Meeting between Senator Jamilah Nasheed and Sierra Club members



Missouri Sierra Club March 2013 Osage Group Lobby Day



Missouri Sierra Club April 2013 THB Group Lobby Day



Sierra Club members after meeting with Senator Scott Sifton



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Over 60 Sierrans holding a “Conversation on Climate” on March 27th in St. Louis County



Sierra Club activists meeting in Festus to plan for a proposed new coal ash landfill at the Rush Island power plant.

INSIDE

- The Time Is Now For Utility Energy Efficiency 1
- Missouri Sierrans attend Green Jobs Conference 1
- Chair’s Column 2
- 100 Days of Action on Climate 3
- Sierra Club outings 4, 5
- Coal Ash: Missouri’s Toxic Threat 5
- Passive House in Dogtown 6
- April 2 Columbia Election encouraging 6
- 2013 Legislative Update 7