



“Give Fracking a Chance”? No. Here’s Why.

by Robert Withers

Fracking violates the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Drinking Water Act. These laws were established to protect the health and safety of yourself, your family and future generations. A special exemption for fracking was put in place under Dick Cheney’s Energy task force. Cheney is past president and CEO of Haliburton, the primary developers of current fracking techniques. Several weeks ago an opinion piece by Rolland Kidder (a former owner and CEO of a western New York natural gas exploration and production company) appeared in the *Democrat & Chronicle* calling upon us to “give fracking a chance”. The fracking industry has a PR budget of hundreds of millions of dollars. You can’t watch TV, listen to the radio or read the newspaper without hearing about the wonderful things it would do. Is it possible they and Kidder have left out a few salient facts, glossed over a few important points or outright deceived us about the true impact?

Fracking is an industrial operation. It turns our communities into 24 hour a day factories. Everything about fracking, from the initial operations to the disposal of the waste, takes its toll on the quality of life and the health and safety of our communities. Billions of gallons of water are polluted in the process. NONE of it is recycled into clean water. This water is forever lost to safe uses. Fracking fluid contains over 250 different chemicals, many are proven carcinogens and many others are known to be toxic. Millions of gallons of chemicals that arrive on site labeled “HAZARDOUS” are, by the miracle of deregulation, no longer considered hazardous after being mixed together and injected under extreme pressure into the wells. Although a small fraction of this water is returned to the surface it still adds up to huge quantities. Some areas have even allowed this toxic waste to be spread on roads because it comes up salty. It is radioactive too.

Millions of tons of drill cuttings must also be disposed of by an industry that has a long history of flaunting its compliance with the weak regulation it faces. Mr. Kidder says “There is no incentive for a natural gas production company to take ‘short-cuts’ on such rules.” Then why do they so often do it? “The protection of fresh water supplies benefits everyone” he says. MONEY is incentive enough to sacrifice the benefits of many for the sake of a few.

Is this the way fracking will “work” for some while others suffer the consequences and pay the bills.

Kidder would have us “give fracking a chance”. Many of the effects of fracking are irreversible. The damage cannot be undone. Kidder also makes many other statements that are misleading. He implies that the current practice of fracking has been used for 40 years when, in fact, current practices that allow extensive horizontal drilling from vertical wells is less than 15 years old and continually changing.

Who would fracking “work” for? And who would pay for the damage that might occur? If history has taught us anything, it is that it would be the public who picks up the tab for damages while the fracking companies grab the money and run. The bottom line for corporations is to generate money for their officers and shareholders. Money that must be diverted to safety, or preventing environmental damage decreases the profitability of their ventures. Our landscapes are dotted with toxic waste sites, mostly resulting from businesses that did not contain their pollution and left without cleaning up the damage. Is it smart to gamble with our own and our children’s health and safety? Is it ethical to “bet the farm” for future generations? The gas has been there for 100 million years. What is the hurry?

Fracking, like many issues, is complex and cannot be fully understood without a deeper analysis. Profiteers rely on the public’s inability to give this issue the proper attention. It is our moral duty to examine the long-term effects of this agenda and oppose it when it is unjust and unfair. There are many other problems with fracking too numerous to discuss here. To learn more and join the conversation, call the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club or email our Global Warming & Energy Committee (see back page for contact info).

We acknowledge our present use of natural gas, but this fossil fuel is limited and contributes significantly to climate change. We urge everyone to do everything possible to reduce their energy consumption and support conversion to renewable energy sources. The Sierra Club, the oldest conservation group in the United States, has made climate change its number one issue. We work every day to help educate people about how to live sustainably and preserve the planet for future generations.

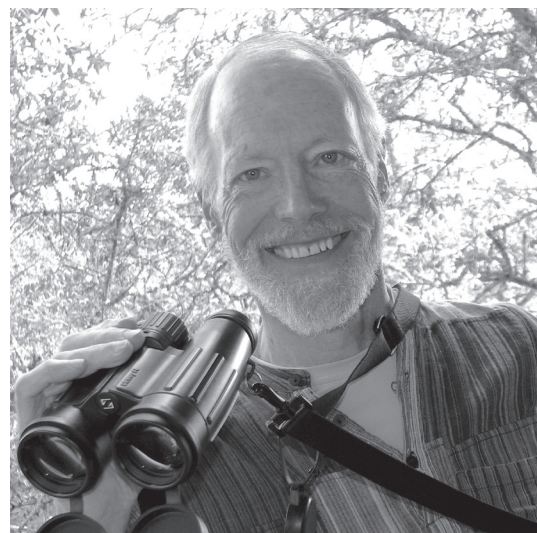


From the Chair: Thank You For Your Support As We Combat Climate Change

The past few months have offered us a refreshing change. Almost everywhere you turn, you now hear the words ‘climate change’ —on TV and radio, among scientists, and politicians and in the general public. The momentum of evidence from research on the oceans, the tundra, the tropics and the atmosphere is forcing recognition of the effects of climate change and acknowledgement of the challenges we are facing and will have to face in the future to prevent dire consequences. Even with the cool summer temperatures we have experienced, data is showing that this effect is offset by greater warming trends, especially toward the poles. This is causing more widespread thinking and discussion about options we have to lessen the impact of warmer temperatures on the planet.

As a member, I am sure you have noted the Sierra Club’s early recognition of the reality of climate change and its efforts to educate our citizens and others around the globe and advocate for regulation by the government to minimize future damage. We have provided you advance warning and information about destructive practices or dangerous activities such as fracking and transport of tar sands oil. Your membership and financial contributions support this work and help the Sierra Club to continue to be one of the most effective environmental organizations working for change to ensure a better future.

I thank you for your continued support and encourage you to call us to become more involved



in our actions – especially to join the rally on September 21 in New York City to highlight the seriousness of climate change. See p. 3 for details

Peter Debes,
Chair

Want to Know What’s in Your Food?

by Linda Isaacson Fedele

Ah, the wonders of technology. Medical care, entertainment, transportation and more—our quality of life today is better than ever before thanks to technology. Technological advances are also creeping into our food, as scientists try to make crops more pest and disease resistant. According to the Center for Food Safety, “more than 88 percent of U.S. corn is genetically modified; as are 93 percent of soybeans and 94 percent of cotton.” The Center for Food Safety also reports that approximately three-quarters of processed foods commonly found in supermarkets contain genetically modified material. These are sometimes called “GMO” for genetically modified organisms, or “GE” for genetically engineered.

Because GMO foods are a relatively new phenomenon,

there are no long term studies to determine their effects on people who eat them. The Sierra Club and many others think that people at least have the right to know whether a food product is genetically engineered or contains a GE ingredient in order to make an informed purchasing decision. Note that our effort is simply to ensure that information is shared with the public, not to eliminate GMO foods. We all have the right to know what we are putting in our bodies.

In the New York State Legislature, bills A3525/S3835 have been introduced, which would require GMO food labeling. If passed, the primary responsibility for labeling would be on food processors. Seed producers, farmers, and food retailers would see minimal impact. It would not require restaurants or other sellers of food for immediate consumption to

take any action. By definition, organic produce or processed foods cannot be genetically engineered, so it would have no impact on organic food suppliers.

We would like to raise awareness about this issue, and to enable people to show support for the mandatory GMO labeling bill. We’d like to circulate an existing Sierra Club New York state petition, screen the films *GMO OMG* and *The Future of Food*, and get a letter writing campaign started to let our elected officials know that we support the bill.

There are a few of us — but not enough — who want to work on this issue in the Rochester area. Please join us! To find out more about how you can help, please contact Erin Riddle: riddleriddle@gmail.com or 607-372-5503.

Huge Climate Change March to Influence World Leaders

by Linda Isaacson Fedele and Paul Sanders

Background: World leaders will be in New York City for a historic United Nations summit on climate change this September. Its purpose is to prepare for the next U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is meeting in Paris in December, 2015, and seeks a binding global treaty to dramatically reduce carbon emissions. This UNFCCC summit is critical because previous summits have failed miserably to achieve a global agreement and time is running out. The U.N. Secretary General invited not only heads of state, but also U.S. mayors of cities impacted by climate change, most notably Mayor de Blasio of New York City. The two met in June after de Blasio pledged to make NYC "green." In fact, NYC will have its own 2014 Climate Week, scheduled to coincide with the summit.

OK, what does that have to do with us? Everyday citizens are gearing up for the largest climate march ever! Tens of thousands will flood the streets of NYC on Sept. 21st in a unified demonstration urging our leaders to act on climate. The Sierra Club along with 350.org and over 650(!) other organizations are mobilizing volunteers all over the country to participate in the march in NYC. Learn more here: peoplesclimate.org/march/.

How about our area? We plan to send over 100 people to NYC! Our Rochester Regional Group has teamed up several local environmental groups and universities to send two buses to the march. National Sierra Club is provided funding, which enables us to sell bus tickets at a reduced rate.

If you are reading this before Sept. 21, there may still be bus tickets available. Join us!



WE ARE DONE WAITING

Now is the Time to Demand
CLIMATE JUSTICE

JOIN OR SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH Sept. 21, New York City

To join us on the bus, contact:
Charlotte4pcm@gmail.com

with subject line "Rochester People's Climate March Bus"

Bus Tickets:

Full Fare: \$48.47

Reduced Fare (students/low income): \$22.09

Ticket sales are on the "honor system." You know if you really need the reduced rate.

Plus, to the best of our ability, no one will be turned away for inability to pay. Everyone is welcome. Contact us and we'll work with you.

Buses leave the Rochester area late Sept. 20/very early Sept. 21 and will return 24+ hours later.

Want to join us? Have questions?

- See <http://peoplesclimate.org/westernny/>
- Contact charlotte4pcm@gmail.com
- Leave us a voicemail at 585-234-1056

Can't go, but want to enable others to go? Our Fundraising Goal is \$1,020, which would allow us to offer 20 "Reduced Fare" tickets and 10 free tickets.

To donate: peoplesclimate.org/westernny

Amtrak offers a 10% discount for riders to NYC between Sept. 15 and 24. Call 1 (800) 872-7245 and reference Convention Fare Code X22T-908 when making your reservation.



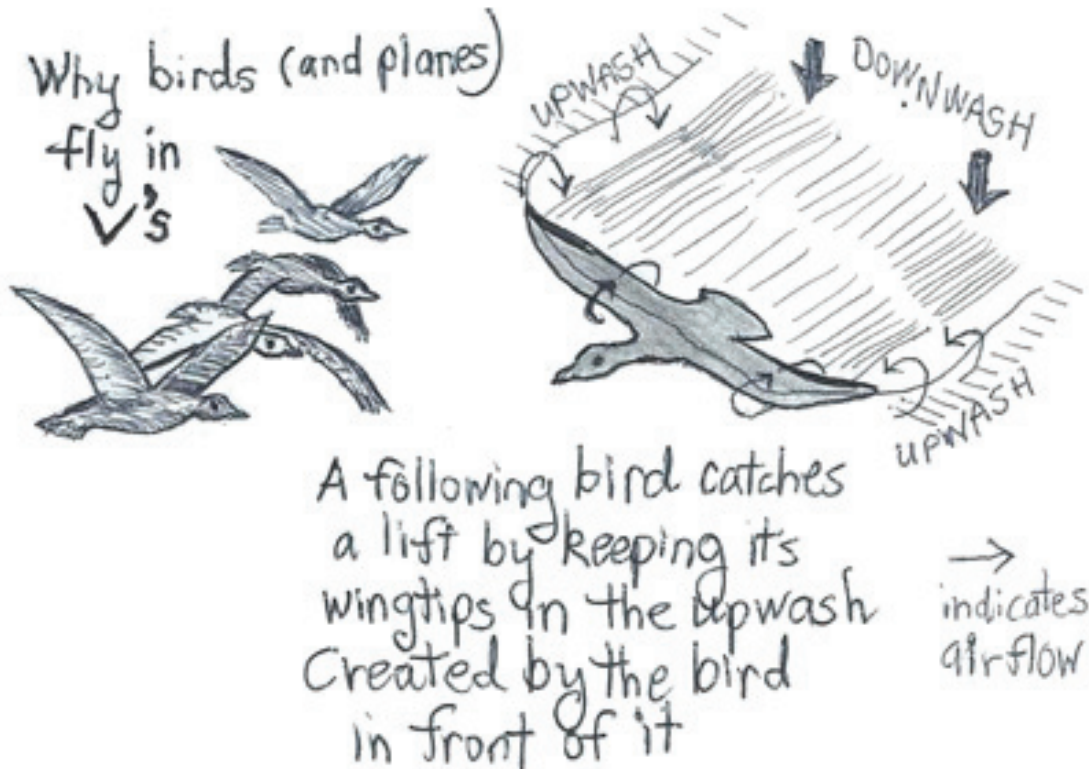
PEOPLE'S
CLIMATE
MARCH

NYC
9/21

Text 'PCM' to 97779 to join the biggest climate march in history.

PeoplesClimateMarch.org

NATURALIST'S CORNER Pete Debes



September Scenic Bike-Hike and Dinosaur Bar-B-Que Lunch!

Sunday, September 28, 11:15am

Hello Sierra Club Members! Come join us in our early fall bike ride/lunch at the Dinosaur BBQ Grill.

Riders will gather and start at the Clinton Ave South Canal Trail parking lot and have a mid-ride lunch stop at the Dinosaur Grill. (10 mile total ride)

Rochester has created an exciting bike-trail system particularly in the U of R and downtown area. We will ride the latest bike-trail bridge addition over the Genesee river (the former Lehigh Valley RR bridge).

This ride will be easy-going, scenic and is bound to be lots of fun! Riders of all skill levels, bike types and abilities are invited.

We will stop for lunch at the Dinosaur Grill (Court St Bridge) and return to Clinton Ave about 3 pm.

Please meet at S. Clinton Ave and Canal Parking lot at 11:15 AM, Depart at 11:30am sharp.

The alternate ride date in case of weather: Sunday October 5th.

Contact if you wish to be notified in case of postponement/cancellation at jeff.debes@gmail.com or (585) 678-1865.

Don't forget to bring lunch money. See you then!

Have You "Liked" Us on Facebook?

If you're on Facebook, be sure to "like" us at www.facebook.com/SierraROC. We post info on upcoming activities and events, and share news on environmental topics.

Connect with us to stay up-to-date on what we're doing and to link up with some like-minded people. Since Facebook displays pages' posts to a limited number of fans, be sure to check our page regularly, and please feel free to comment on our posts or message us with questions or requests. We love to hear from our members!

You can also keep up-to-date on water issues and the Great Lakes Committee's activities at www.facebook.com/GreatLakesRochester.

Climate Change and Energy: Responsibility Begins at Home

by Margie Campaigne

If you're like me, you're bombarded every day with requests to sign petitions, contact your representatives, donate to an environmental group, demonstrate, and so on against the onslaught of Big Energy initiatives. Fracking, Keystone XL, coal mines, coal plants, anti-wind power sentiment, etc. It's mind-boggling how much is going on, how many threats there are to our environment. We can do all of the above, yet the fact is, there is a market for all this energy, and as Pogo said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us." Who me?

Few of us are going to eschew our lifestyles, made possible by abundant energy, to live as we did 100 years ago. Do you realize, however, how much less energy you can use without changing much at all? Have you taken some energy-saving measures and seen a difference? Many lists exist of ways to cut back. For anyone interested in a document having low and no cost ways for your family to save, contact me at mcampaigne@hotmail.com and ask me to email you a copy of the "Green Irene Family Action Plan." It is designed for you and your family to sit down and go over each item and check off whether you are willing to adopt a new habit.

Another way to save energy now and for years into the future is to have a FREE energy audit (most NY residents qualify) and find

out what improvements to your home could make a big difference. You can see what programs are available at www.nyserda.ny.gov/residential. Click on the top tab, about making your home more energy efficient. You can ask me to come and take your application personally!



After comparing the audit results and recommendations of three different contractors in 2006, I chose one of the companies to complete the majority of work needed. The main contractor initiated the paperwork necessary for me to receive not only a \$6,000 Energy Star grant, but also a 4% low interest loan through NY-SERDA. Here is a list of the work performed:

1. Replaced original 1950's era gas furnace with new high efficiency model
2. Replaced nearly 20-year-old refrigerator with an Energy Star model
3. Replaced 1970's era (avocado anyone?) washer with Energy Star model
4. Replaced four ten-year-old low-quality vinyl windows with Energy Star windows (remainder of windows already replaced with triple-pane vinyl windows)
5. Replaced six single pane basement windows with glass block
6. Added AirKrete® insulation in all exterior walls: www.airkrete.com
7. Added foam insulation to rim joists, and under house wing over garage
8. Replaced rear and side exterior doors (front door already replaced) with steel-clad Energy Star doors
9. Finished installation of Hunter Cool-Vent™ panels on roof over vaulted ceilings: www.hpanels.com/pages/cool-vent_articles.html

I have a year's worth of data on the resulting energy savings. My gas usage in therms decreased by 25%. My electricity use in kWh decreased by 44%. Not too shabby, and I still have things to tweak! What are you waiting for?

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS: THE LESSER KNOWN FACTS

Your Rochester Regional Group is financially supported by the National Club with a portion of membership fees and by the donations that you send directly to us. Gifts to the "Sierra Club Foundation, Rochester Regional Group" are tax deductible and can be used to help us fund newsletter publications and educational programs. You will receive Foundation acknowledgement for the IRS.

Gifts made out simply to "Sierra Club, Rochester Regional Group" are not tax-deductible, but we can use them without restriction— that is, also for legislative advocacy. Please know that your donations, regardless of which type, enable us to make a difference for the environment right here at home. We have very low overhead compared to many organizations - 88.4% of your donation goes directly to the support of Sierra Club conservation programs. Your support is much appreciated.

Our address is: Sierra Club - Rochester Regional Group, P.O. Box 10518, Rochester, NY 14610-0518

Make Your Next Celebration Event GREEN With the Support of the Sierra Club

by Peter Debes

My spouse Kathy and I celebrated our wedding on July 19 with a commitment to contain trash to one large plastic bag, and we were successful. It was a large wedding with over 280 guests. To avoid plastic, we used recycled glass gallon jugs and wine bottles for water bottles, ordered inexpensive silverware for 280 place settings and used donated or purchased used napkins. We cleaned the silverware, and napkins and have donated these to the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club for a lending library for big events. These will be available for use by members with the provision they be returned or replaced in clean condition after the event. Please call us at (585) 234-1056 to use these items or consult on how to make your next event GREEN. Every little bit of effort we make counts towards creating a sustainable future.

They're Back!

by Sara Rubin

Well, at least a few. Though the iconic Monarch Butterfly population is in peril due to herbicide use on GMO crops, habitat loss due to development and deforestation of their overwintering site in Mexico, I had three sightings of Monarchs in our Brighton backyard habitat on July 31! This was late for an appearance here, which has usually been around the last week of June, but in spite of my excitement I was able to catch one female who was not nectaring but laying eggs on the underside of Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, leaves.

I put her in a large net cage with milkweed plants in it and she did lay 19 eggs on the plants. Then she was set free, to lay more at her own discretion. Those eggs, however, probably will not fare as well as the ones I raise here, as it is estimated that only 2-3% of eggs laid in the wild develop to full maturity!

The plants with the eggs were brought onto the screened porch, away from predators, and in about four days the nearly microscopic black caterpillars chewed their way out of the egg.

They grew and went through their first instar, i.e. shedding of their skin, and assumed their characteristic yellow, green and black stripes. It soon became evident that the smaller leaves of the Swamp Milkweed were not going



to provide enough food for this brood, so I brought in the much bigger and robust Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*, and they made the switch with no problem.

Two weeks later, and the caterpillars are almost ready to pupate. They will assume the "J" shape seen in the photo here, hanging by their tail end, and then this final skin will split and the beautiful mint green and metallic gold Monarch chrysalis will emerge.

Two weeks from now the adults should 'eclose', i.e. emerge, crawl out from, from the chrysalises, hang upside down to pump up and dry their wings, and display their awesome perfection!

As for me, I hope there is enough time to have these adults mate and lay eggs, so I can raise one more brood. This would be the generation that would be programmed to live 8-9 months, unlike the summer Monarchs who only live 2-6 weeks; they would be the ones to embark on the mag-

nificent migration to Mexico, and I would love to see some of them launch right from our porch here in NY!

Notes:

- Tim Fowler, Education Outreach Coordinator at the Seneca Park Zoo, says that he has seen more Monarchs this year, and at more normal times, than last year. Call Tim Fowler at (585) 336-7200 for information.

- The Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation Butterfly Beltway Project at the zoo will at no cost build Butterfly Gardens for institutions like schools, churches, nursing homes, or for corporate developers, town parks, libraries, etc., and even for individuals! Call Tim Fowler for information.

- For data on the status of the Monarch, see the monarchwatch.org blog of July 29, 2014.



2015 Sierra Club Calendars



Order Form

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Engagement Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00	_____	_____
Wilderness Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	\$16.00	_____	_____
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1 - 3 calendars: \$5.50			Shipping : _____
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6 or more: Call (585) 271-0544 for pricing			GRAND TOTAL : _____
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Who is Zephyr Teachout?

by John Kastner

Okay, how many of you Sierra Club members have heard of Zephyr Teachout? I hadn't until about a month ago when her name started coming up in the Atlantic Chapter Gas Drilling Taskforce email traffic.

You have to wonder why a Fordham University constitutional law professor who labored to obtain 45,000 signatures (three times the number required) to challenge Governor Cuomo for the Democratic Party gubernatorial nomination gets such little ink and media face time. Well, we know the answer to that. The media decides that she is not a "serious" candidate and then makes it true by preventing New Yorkers from learning about her in the press... much the same as it does for Howie Hawkins, the Green Party

nominee, who still pulled 60,000 votes in the last gubernatorial election.

Though Ms. Teachout's main issue is corruption in state government, her candidacy may be of interest to voters who oppose hydrofracking. In an interview in the Binghamton Press Sun Bulletin, Teachout declared, "If I'm elected governor, I will ban fracking my first day in office." The Green Party's Howie Hawkins promises the same, the Republican nominee, Rob Astorino, promises to open New York for fracking his first day in office, while Gov. Cuomo remains mum on the topic. He did, however, despite his commanding lead in the polls, challenge Teachout's residency qualifications, thereby finally giving her candidacy front page mention in the New York Times (online). A

court later ruled that she is indeed a qualified resident of New York and may run for governor.

Teachout goes on to say in the Sun Bulletin, "A top priority for my administration would be to identify how New York can move to 100% renewables," a position also endorsed by Hawkins.

It's shaping up to be a very interesting campaign season with three candidates offering two clear choices on hydrofracking and one keeping silent. It could become even more interesting should the poll leader come under federal indictment over the Moreland Commission fiasco. So, there you are. You pick your candidate, take your chances and may the best friend of a green New York win.



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Fall 2014 Calendar

All Committees are local volunteer groups of the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club

Date	Day	Time	Calendar/Event	Place
Sept. 4	Thursday	6:30-8:30pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Location TBD. Call (585) 234-1056 to receive notification of location.
Sept. 22	Monday	6:30-8:30pm	Global Warming & Energy Committee Meeting	First Unitarian Church, Room 201, 220 Winton Rd. S., Rochester, NY 14610
Sept. 23	Tuesday	7:00-9:00pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	Asbury First UMC 1010 East Ave. (smaller bldg. just west of main bldg.)
Sept. 28	Sunday	11:15am-3:00pm	September Scenic Bike-Hike and Dinosaur Bar-B-Que Lunch (see p. 4 for details)	Clinton Ave South Canal Trail parking lot See p. 4 for details
Oct. 7	Tuesday	6:30-8:30pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., 400 Andrews St., Ste 600
Oct. 27	Monday	6:30-8:30pm	Global Warming & Energy Committee Meeting	First Unitarian Church, Room 201, 220 Winton Rd. S., Rochester, NY 14610
Oct. 28	Tuesday	7:00-9:00pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	Asbury First UMC 1010 East Ave. (smaller bldg. just west of main bldg.)
Nov. 4	Tuesday	6:30-8:30pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., 400 Andrews St., Ste 600
Nov. 24	Monday	6:30-8:30pm	Global Warming & Energy Committee Meeting	First Unitarian Church, Room 201, 220 Winton Rd. S., Rochester, NY 14610
Nov. 25	Tuesday	7:00-9:00pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	Asbury First UMC 1010 East Ave. (smaller bldg. just west of main bldg.)

Executive Committee meetings are open to Sierra Club members. All other meetings are open to everyone.

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