



Program & General Meeting:

When: Wednesday March 13, April 10, 2019

6:30 pm: Social Time

7:00 pm: General Meeting and Program.

Location: Seminole Heights Public Library, 4711 Central Ave. Tampa (just south of Hillsborough Ave. and west of I-275, corner of W Osborne Ave.) All Tampa Bay Sierra Club meetings are free and open to the public. If the Library parking lot is full, park in the fenced lot next door on the south side.

For more information contact Kent Bailey at kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org

March 13 Program: Update on the Hillsborough County ELAPP Program.

Speaker: Ross Dickerson

Join us for an update from Ross Dickerson, Environmental Lands Manager for Hillsborough County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP). Ross will discuss upcoming changes to the ELAPP program, the



wildlife corridor study with University of Florida, the Carbon Mitigation area at Lower Green Swamp preserve and more. Our ELAPP program is the envy of almost every county in Florida. Come learn more about your public lands.

April 10 Program: Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF)



Speaker: Ann Vanek-Dasovich, Gulf Coast Regional Manager

Ann Vanek-Dasovich will talk about the highly successful program to fund critical cost effective energy improvements for families who would otherwise be trapped in homes that waste energy and money. The Solar and Energy Loan Fund is a not-for-profit program that helps moderate-to-low income communities reap the benefits of sustainable home improvements. By providing low-interest loans to homeowners who can't access traditional financing, SELF is driving adoption of sustainable technologies to the families that need them the most. Don't miss it!

What the Frack? - Public Service Commission Meeting March 11, 2019



Last October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that we have 12 years to cut carbon emissions by one-third if we are to avoid the worse-case-scenarios of global warming. Fortunately, we have the technology and just enough time; if we take climate change seriously. Xcel Energy, one of the biggest utilities in the US, is committed to going completely 100% carbon-free by 2050 (and 80% by 2030). Hawaii will be 100% renewable by 2045, Colorado's Platt River Power Authority by 2030. And Burlington, Vermont has been 100% renewable since 2015, with enough surplus renewable energy to sell a million dollars worth each year.

Yet TECO insists on a new fracked gas plant which, by their own numbers, will spew 3.3 million tons of CO2 *each year* for 40-60 years! Even as the largest utilities in America are moving to renewable energy, TECO seeks to double-down on fossil fuels. This billion dollar baby will be paid for by you, thru your TECO bill. There are no plans to pay for the damage from its carbon pollution.

But first they need the approval of Florida's Public Service Commission (PSC). At 6:00 pm on March 11, the PSC will hold a public hearing at the Hilton Garden Inn, 4328 Garden Vista Drive in Riverview. Bring your friends and neighbors to share with the PSC what TECO customers think of their fracking plan for our future. See you there!

2019 Executive Committee

Group Chairperson: Kent Bailey
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Stadium Recycling Initiative: Dave Varrieur (813) 503-6970
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ICO Webmaster: Bob Rice
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Volunteer Coordinator: (TBG & ICO) Sandra Duenas.

Social Media Coordinator: Rob Jordan.

Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813

Electric Vehicles – Ready for Primetime



For decades now, I asked the question “how do you get people out of cars?” Light rail – it works. Buses – they work, particularly in conjunction with a rail system. Walk-able communities, they work too. Telecommuting – fantastic. Having traveled the world, the practicality of each of these approaches became abundantly clear. In America, the adoption of any of these is fraught with politics and painfully slow to mature.

As a victim of the seduction, I understand the siren song of an 18” ring of plastic. Put one in your hands, and you can pretty much go anywhere, anytime. That melody is the reality which drives inane behaviors. What do you do to change any part of the tune?

EVs will not address issues of sprawl and choked transportation systems; they will reduce carbon footprint. We know that. The world resists. Not ready for prime time, no charging network, not enough range, and so on. Bunk. The current selection of EVs now have ranges more than 200 miles. Pop up your favorite mapping program. Draw a circle of 50 miles around your residence. Ask yourself “how many times have I driven outside that circle and for what reason?” The average commute is 37 miles a day; the average vehicle is driven 39.2 miles a day. So I am willing to bet that your answer will be 90% of the time or greater you never leave that circle. With a range of 200 miles or better, you can run circles around that circle. So, the range myth is just that, myth. If you are planning a long trip – it only takes a little more planning. The average vacation commute is 312 miles,

That brings us to the other myth, not enough infrastructure. Where is that charging network? 90% of the time, from the exercise above – you don't need it. Your residence is your charging infrastructure. Plug in at night. You are now ready the next morning to go anywhere within that circle. There is no need for charging stations on every corner. 90% of the time you are the charging infrastructure. There should be an availability of charging facilities; concentrated at destinations: parking garages, libraries, amusements, parks, places where individuals will spend some time once they arrive.

Improvements are needed. Charging times reduced, ranges improved, better amenities within the vehicles themselves. As to infrastructure, yes, not to the extent many people seem to need. Demand will drive price down.

Why this piece? To expose some myths around EVs. To give you talking points for conversations in which many will say “not ready for prime time,” and you can say “bunk.” **Bob Howell, Energy Chair, Tampa Bay Sierra Club**

EcoFest Our 10th Annual EcoFest will be held on Saturday, April 13th at the Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park 1001 North Boulevard Tampa, Florida. The event will be open to the public from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Admission & Parking to the event is Free. There will be live music, demonstrations, informational booths, green living products and services. Some local artists, green businesses, environmental organizations, alternative health practitioners, renewable energy specialists, organic farms and gardens with produce will be in attendance. EcoFest 2019 is a community event organized by Learning Gate Community School, the City of Tampa and USF Health

The Conservation Committee Report: The Conservation Committee and Transportation Sub-Committee will meet on Mondays, March 11, and April 8, at 6:30pm. Join us at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 5103 North Central Ave. Tampa. We meet in the Snyder Building directly behind the church.

CITY OF TAMPA:

Tampa Augmentation Project (TAP): We have questions about the safety of converting wastewater to drinking water, and whether the processes proposed will eliminate all harmful contaminants, including: pharmaceuticals, PFAs, pathogenic organisms, phosphorus, nitrogen, hydrocarbons, endocrine disruptors, microbes and organic waste.

Tree Ordinance: The Comprehensive Re-write of the Tampa Tree Code was approved by City Council and will go the City County Planning Commission on March 11. 1st and 2nd readings will be held in March and April, with the goal to have it approved before the new City Council comes in on May 1st. The changes retain Grand Tree protections for non-invasive trees, include a new tree category- Specimen Tree (>= 24" DBH)- with some protections, add more mitigation requirements and options, and lay out rules for removing trees for building that provide certainty for tree removal in some limited situations, while allowing for more flexibility to save trees in some situations.

REGIONAL: The Suncoast Sea Level Rise Collaborative Conference will be held **April 5-6** at St Petersburg College Seminole Campus Conference Center. The conference will bring together the business community, news media and government representatives and concerned citizens who will explore innovations in resiliency and mitigation.

NATIONAL: Congresswoman Kathy Castor is now Chair of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and championing actions to combat climate change. If you have a personal story about how Climate Change is affecting you, please send it to her.

Land Use: With continued growth in Hillsborough County, there are frequent requests to change the Land Use Plan to allow increased density or build on sensitive lands. Let us know if you see a request that impacts our environment. We are currently opposing:

Seffner Land Fill in a Flood Plain. RZ 18-0670 An RV Park owner has asked for rezoning in a 100 year flood plain to accommodate RV spaces plus a pool and clubhouse. Sierra Club has submitted a letter of opposition. The Zoning Hearing Meeting was remanded to **March 18. Please submit comments to: MonsantoI@hillsboroughcounty.org**

Transportation Sub-Committee: Christopher Gleason

Electric Buses: February HART Board Meeting, they approved the purchase of 8 new electric buses plus infrastructure. Moving forward all new buses should be electric, whether it is buses for expansion of bus system or replacements for retiring diesel or CNG buses. This is not a hard sell for HART, as economically and environmentally, they make more sense for HART, its ridership, and the general public.

Transportation Surtax: no money can be spent until January 1, 2020, but the plans for how the 1% sales tax will be used by the county, 3 cities, and HART is due September 30th for review by Independent Oversight Committee (IOC).

Walk/Bike Safety: most needed of added funds from surtax, as Hillsborough County is the worst in the whole country for deaths almost every year. Let your city and/or county know what is most needed in your community and make sure it's on the top of list in September!

ACTIONS:

★ Contact HART Board of Directors promoting electric buses, write to HART, 1201 East 7th Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33605; or by emailing HART Clerk of the Board at PetitL@gohart.org

★ Contact Hillsborough County MPO Board Members promoting walk/bike safety, mpo@plancom.org

Nancy Stevens, Conservation Chair / Christopher Gleason, Transportation Chair / Tampa Bay Sierra Club

Tampa Bay Recycles Trash the Tangles. Items such as plastic bags, cords, wires, tarps and hoses jam and damage sorting equipment used for recycling processing. Not only can this damage the equipment, but workers must manually remove them, a difficult, dirty, and potentially dangerous task. www.tampabayrecycles.org





SIERRA CLUB
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Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

March / April 2019



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STUDENT	\$25	\$35
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SIERRA CLUB
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Join our **Meetup Page** online where all outings are posted. Go to www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Groups-of-the-Greater-Tampa-Bay-Florida-Area

and click on Join Us! Receive notices when new outings are added.

Florida Seller of Travel Reference No. ST37115

To participate in the Sierra Club's Outings, you need to sign liability waiver, call: (415) 977-5630 or

www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/

Sat. March 9, Little Manatee River Paddle:

Shirley Denton, ecotypes@outlook.com, 813-625-5031

Sun. March 17, Brooker Creek Nature Preserve Hike:

Barbara Heineken, bjheineken@msn.com, 813.802.8036

April 6, Shell Key Preserve Paddle Trip (near Fort DeSoto):

Gary Gibbons, ggibbons@gibblaw.com, 813-785-2028

Sat. April 13, Earth Day River Cleanup. Lowry Park:

Barbara Heineken, bjheineken@msn.com, 813.802.8036 and Gary Gibbons, ggibbons@gibblaw.com, 813-785-2028

Sat. April 20, Ft Desoto, Migratory Bird Walk:

Rocky Milburn, tbico@live.com, 813-966-9785

Please **RSVP** and check details on these outings as well as others at <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay/outings>