

Program & General Meeting:

When: Wednesday May 8, June 12, 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

May 8, Program: United Solar Neighbors Co-Op/ Speaker: Julia Herbst

Julia Herbst serves as co-op coordinator in the Gulf coast of Florida for Solar United Neighbors, a D.C. based nonprofit dedicated to expanding rooftop solar. She facilitates regional solar co-ops: community driven initiatives helping people make informed decisions about going solar as a group. United Solar Neighbors is kicking off their third launch in Hillsborough County this month. Interested in solar? Don't miss this meeting!



June 12, Program: Bird Monitoring & Stewardship Speaker: Holley Short, Audubon Project Manager



During the spring and summer months, shorebirds and seabirds are breeding along the coasts of Florida. They build cryptic nests on beaches using sand and shell to lay their well-camouflaged eggs. These species have one big problem in common – they are losing this critical habitat that is required for nesting and raising their young. Audubon Florida's Holley Short is part of the organization's Coastal Program that focuses on the monitoring and management of shorebirds, seabirds, and wading birds along the Florida coast. Her work involves interacting with the public and private landowners to promote awareness of beach-nesting bird species. Holley also manages the area's bird stewardship program, which brings volunteers out onto the beaches to provide education and outreach to the public. In her presentation, Holley will discuss habitat loss, management, and stewardship of shorebirds in the Tampa Bay region.



The People's Shareholder Meeting - Stop TECO's Disastrous Fracked Gas and Coal Plan

Location: TBD Tampa Electric Company (TECO) CEO Nancy Tower will go to Canada on May 15th to report to the corporate shareholders of TECO's parent company, Emera. Meanwhile, in Tampa, Nancy Tower is hiding the truth that TECO plans to burn *more coal and climate-altering fracked gas at the Big Bend Power Station. This plan is the exact opposite of climate action.*

We need to remind Nancy Tower that we are all shareholders who are invested in Florida's air, water, and climate, which TECO is threatening.

The community of concerned people like you has exposed the truth about TECO's disastrous plan and hurt Nancy Tower's reputation. Now, we're ready to talk directly to her and ask her to abandon TECO's current plan, replacing it with a true plan for clean, renewable energy.

Join us on **Saturday, May 25th** at 1-3PM p.m. for the People's Shareholder Meeting where we will tell TECO's CEO Nancy Tower that Floridians want clean energy solutions, not more pollution from coal and fracked gas.



2019 Executive Committee

Group Chairperson: Kent Bailey
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Co-Treasurer: Karen Michalski
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Transportation Chair: Christopher Gleason

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Energy Chair: Bob Howell
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Ex-Com: Pat Kemp
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Webmaster: Marcia Biggs
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Recycling Chair: Barbara Heineken

Stadium Recycling Initiative: Dave Varrieur (813) 503-6970
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ICO Webmaster: Bob Rice
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Social Media Coordinator: Rob Jordan.

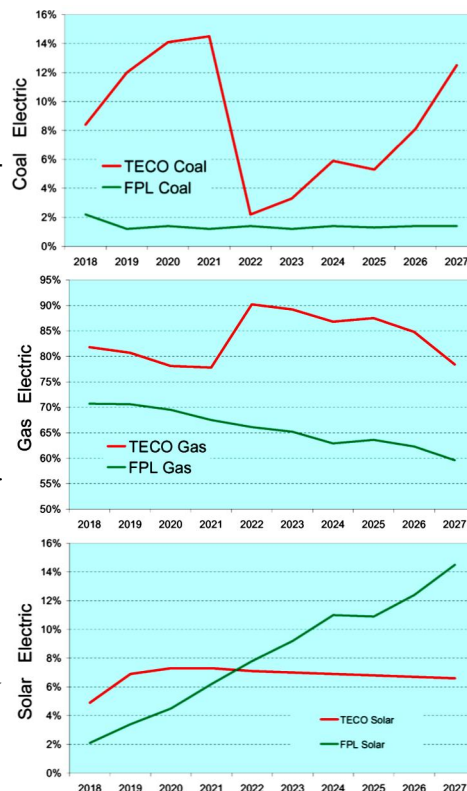
Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813

TECO vs Florida Power & Light Future Fuels

TECO has plans to build a 1090 MW fossil fuel plant at Big Bend, committing rate payers for 30+ years of paying for a polluting fracked gas plant. When powered by fracked gas, the plant will be just as polluting as the coal plant it replaces, continuing to contribute to climate change. We rate payers will pay not only for the plant, but also for the gas to run it, including absorbing any gas price increases.

TECO should take advantage of our natural resource and the robust technologies now available: use clean, solar power to replace coal in Big Bend Power Plant. TECO has announced plans for solar – but for only 7% of their electricity generation.

This is much too low for the Sunshine State! Solar and storage technologies are already cost competitive and will continue to improve and come down in price, and now is the time for TECO to more aggressively deploy these modern, non-polluting technologies. Replacing coal with gas was a great solution in the past, but now solar is a better choice for the future.



Recycling is not Dead!

By now, you've read or heard the sad tales about the end of recycling. The New York Times and the Atlantic magazine has reported it, so it must be true? No, it is definitely not true. Yes, it is true that China has stopped taking recyclables from the United States, but China was never the only market for our recyclables. Yes, it is also true that a few communities have stopped their programs, and some are taking their recyclables to landfill or waste to energy facilities (including some in Tampa Bay). They are doing this because they are hoping for the markets to improve, and know if they stop recycling programs, it will be very difficult to get residents back on board.

Why did China stop taking our recyclables? Americans it turns out, are not very good recyclers. They put a lot of non-recyclable items in their carts. Please look at Tampabayrecycles.org and know what you can and cannot recycle and only recycle what you can. That will help a lot.

We have always had paper, plastic mills and other material recycling facilities in the US, Mexico and other Asian countries who have accepted our recyclables, and these markets are continuing to grow. New mills are opening in the US for paper, and US plastic recyclers cannot get enough material to feed their facilities. Recycling facilities are improving their equipment with new state of the art technology, including robotics. A state-of-the-art recycling facility in Sarasota is installing 3 robots next month, which helps sorting at his facility. The recycling industry generated hundreds of billions of dollars to the US economy. It is not going anywhere. It starts with you recycling right.



The Conservation Committee Report: The Conservation Committee and Transportation Sub-Committee will meet on Mondays, May 13, and June 10, 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.

ELAPP: Do you know of a natural space in Hillsborough County that should be protected? Hillsborough's Environmental Lands Protections and Acquisition Program (ELAPP) will be taking nominations from the public until June 30. Call 813-672-7876 for more info.

WATER: Tampa Augmentation Project (TAP) – Benjamin Ochshorn, Water sub-committee chair. Thank you to everyone who contacted Tampa Bay Water Board: they voted to delay action on the MOU for TAP until June 2020 to allow Tampa time to conduct feasibility studies. The Project is a potable reuse program - the City sewage plant's effluent would be sent through a freshwater aquifer to its drinking water plant. Please contact us with any questions/concerns.

TREES: The City of Tampa passed the updated tree ordinance!

TECO - Kent Bailey: We will continue to pressure TECO to not increase its fossil fuel plant to 1100 MW at its Big Bend location next to the hurricane impact zone area.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY LAND USE:

WIMAMA: 528 Rural acres requesting rezoning to PD (Planned Development) to allow 1,056 single family homes outside the urban service area. Remanded to the **Zoning Hearing Master on May 13.**

Upper Tampa Bay Trail – developer still trying to cross trail to access proposed development, resulting in 1000 cars per day crossing popular Hillsborough trail. Developer has proposed a 17 foot high trail walkway over driveway. Please let Commissioner Pat Kemp know you are opposed.

Seffner RV Zoning request in Flood Plain. RZ 18-0670. RV Park wants rezoning to accommodate 245 RV spaces in Baker Creek area. **BOCC meeting at 9AM on May 7.**

PLASTICS: Karen Michalski: Go to <https://www.reduceyourusetampabay.org/> to take the pledge to reduce single use plastics! Plastics negatively affect our waters and food system and increase your absorption of phthalates. Some facts:

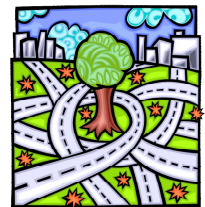
- ★ At the 2017 International Coastal Cleanup: 21,000 volunteers removed 173,552 pounds of trash from state beaches and waterways (McManus, 2018)
- ★ For one plastic: Once ingested by marine life, chemicals break down and become toxic. "Several thousand distinct additives are used, including plasticizers, flame retardants, pigments, antimicrobial agents, heat stabilizers, UV stabilizers, fillers, and flame retardants such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers." Additives are about 4% microplastics weight (Smith, Love, Rochman, and Neff. 2018.)
- ★ Florida leads the US in economics of marine recreational fisheries. Florida saltwater recreational and commercial fishing in 2016-17 sold over 1.75 million licenses for \$31.7M. (FFWCC, 2018).

TRANSPORTATION – Christopher Gleason, Transportation Sub-Committee Chair. Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): Public Hearing June 11th at 6pm. County Center 2nd floor, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa: The MPO Board will consider adoption of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a list of Hillsborough County transportation projects to be funded over five years plus list of priorities for any additional funding.

The projects we want prioritized take cars off the road to reduce pollution: expanded bus service by HART, expanded ferry service by investment from BOCC, and sidewalk/bike lane expansion /improvement to facilitate the public's trust in safety. What we didn't want is expansion of roads, added travel lanes, by the County or State (FDOT).

Please participate in TIP Public Hearing:

- ★ Speak in person June 11: sign up 4pm-8pm in the first-floor lobby of County Center.
- ★ Attend online: Live streaming broadcast on Hillsborough County's YouTube page
- ★ Email comments in advance to: mpo@plancom.org
- ★ Leave a voicemail message in advance at: 813/273-3774 x369
- ★ Leave comments on Facebook in advance on: [Facebook.com/HillsboroughMPO](https://www.facebook.com/HillsboroughMPO)



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



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May / June 2019



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STUDENT	\$25	\$35
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TAMPA BAY



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/

Sun. May 19, Kayak Rattlesnake Key:

Albert Tillson, altillson@yahoo.com, 813.832.3961 (Tampa Bay)

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

Great American Clean Up at Westshore Audubon Sanctuary

Join us at the Westshore Audubon Sanctuary Saturday morning, **May 25 from 9:00 to 11:30 am.**

Directions to Site: From 1-275, take Westshore Blvd. exit and head south on Westshore. Turn right at W. San Jose Street until you reach an S-shaped curve. The Sanctuary is located on the right.

Volunteers, please wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, hat, and sunglasses and bring your own reusable water bottle. Be prepared to get wet and muddy. Gloves, trash bags, water and a snack will be provided. Tampa Bay Sierra Club and Tampa Audubon Society volunteers will partner to clean up the Sanctuary, a mangrove forest in a residential neighborhood, which serves as critical habitat for many wading birds and marine life. Please RSVP to Bev Griffiths at bevgriffiths@verizon.net or call/text 813-210-4850