



COVID-19 Crisis UP-DATE: Sierra Club Cancels in person Meetings, Programs & Outings Through July 4, 2021!

We urge our members to observe precautions from the Center for Disease Control (CDC): Avoid going out in public when possible, otherwise please wear a cloth mask over your mouth and nose and observe a minimum six foot “social distance” when in public, including periods of outdoor exercise.



Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Your Way Through Your 2021 Health Goals

Whether you’re out for a daily run or walk, trying a new home delivery meal kit, or working toward other health goals in 2021, there are easy things we can all do to help keep our environment healthy along the way.

Can I Pre-Cycle That?

PREvent waste before you **reCYCLE**. One of the main ways we can prevent waste while working toward wellness goals is through **pre-cycling**, which includes thinking about purchases and choosing options that generate less waste. **Pre-cycling** your way through your 2021 health goals is as easy as following these tips:

Reduce

- ★ **Drink concentrates.** Instead of individual bottles of sports drinks, try concentrates, powders, or a DIY electrolyte mix recipe.
- ★ **Meal plan and learn how to store produce** and other fresh foods to reduce wasted food.
- ★ **Choose options with less packaging** when possible.
- ★ **Compost.** Learn how you can compost your food scraps.
- ★ **Skip single use.** Getting takeout after a workout? Skip single use items like utensils and condiment packets, especially if eating at home.
- ★ **Choose equipment that uses rechargeable batteries.**
- ★ **Use what you have to get started.**

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New 2021 Goals with Team Leaders

Get RF-100 resolution approval by the Tampa City Council and Hillsborough County Commission. Leaders: Phil Compton, Tom Krumreich and Barbara Heineken

Protect local water quality: evaluate PURE and oppose dumping of wastewater into the aquifer. Nancy Stevens, Gary Gibbons, Tamara Pearson, and Ben Ochshorn.

Increase the number of active volunteers, Linda Hugues.

Protect the Urban Service Area: keep the existing area and increase urban density, prioritizing adaptive reuse. Karen Michalski and Shirley Denton.

Stop T-BARTA’s plan for a bus route from Wesley Chapel to St. Pete and support commuter line from Lutz to Tampa/USF/Clearwater on an existing rail line. Chris Gleason and Rocky Milburn.

Let us know if you would like to help with these important projects. Rocky Milburn



2021 Executive Committee

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2021 Legislative Session Is Here

During March and April, the Florida Legislature will be in session. Unfortunately, as Floridians who care deeply about the environment, that usually means a number of things that are not helpful to the environment, and so it is extremely important that our Legislators hear our voices loudly and clearly.

So, how can you help?

First and foremost, sign up for email alerts from the Sierra Club's lobbyist, **Dave Cullen**, who will alert Sierra Club members of dangerous bills that we need to oppose, as well as any bills that we should support. There may be times when there is an urgent call to action, and we need you! Please send Dave Cullen an email requesting to be added to his legislative email blast alerts cullenasea@gmail.com

Secondly, please communicate with your friends, family members, and neighbors about the email alerts that you receive from Sierra Club, and urge them to make phone calls to the Legislators who are sponsoring bills and those on committees who are voting to pass them onto the floor for votes. Phone calls work better than emails (which some legislators often have forwarded to another inbox that they don't always find time to read).

State Pre-emption of All Local Ordinances

More than a dozen cities in Florida have already enacted local ordinances to make their communities 100% Renewable Energy by a date certain (such as 2030 or 2035). The Sierra Club's



“Ready For 100” Campaign has been extremely successful nationwide, with more than 150 local governments adopting resolutions to begin transforming their communities to 100% renewable energy. These transformations are critical in combating Climate Change and sea level rise.

Regrettably, the American Petroleum Institute and other fossil fuel advocates have recently exerted their political muscle and are attempting to get legislation passed in Florida (and several other states) that will PROHIBIT local ordinances that deal with or may impact energy use or energy infrastructure.

Tallahassee has already flexed its muscle in pre-emption legislation that prohibits local regulation of guns, tree trimming, plastic bags, Styrofoam, and other things. Lawmakers in Tallahassee do not know what is best for our local communities, but they have been listening to (and accepting large donations from) these powerful forces who do not want to see us make progress with renewable energy.

SB 856 is a devastatingly bad bill that will completely undo all of the work that has been done during the last 5 years in those Florida cities who have adopted “Ready For 100” ordinances. Stopping this legislation from passing is Sierra Club's top legislative priority this year. Please help us defeat this unwarranted attack on local control.

Tampa Bay Sierra Club Political Chair, Gary A. Gibbons

Outings Update: As we all know, outings are cancelled at least through **July 4th**. We will be planning to get outings scheduled as soon as we can.

Conservation Committee Report: The Conservation Committee and Transportation, Water and Land Use Sub-Committees will meet **Mondays, March 8 and April 12 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.**

WATER: The City of Tampa has revived **TAP** and renamed it **PURE**. They reduced their funding request to \$650,000 to hire outside consultants to review their current documents including water contaminants and the current PURE design, and to do a more detailed alternatives analysis, including expanding reclaimed water. We are also monitoring a proposed state bill that could impact what the city can do. Stay tuned – we may ask for letters to stop the FL state bill.

TREES: We are supporting amendments to the **2019 Florida HB 1159**, which allows residents to remove trees if an arborist declares them “dangerous”. The goal is to better define when HB 1159 can be used - so that arborists can be held accountable if they misuse the state bill to remove healthy trees from the community - Trees that could otherwise be retained or replaced under the local tree ordinance.

Would you like to get involved in conservation? Have a topic you would like to discuss? Join our zoom meetings or ask to be included in the conservation mailing list. Contact me for further information.

Nancy Stevens, Tampa Bay Sierra Club, Conservation Committee Chair
813-380-1668, nancy.stevens@Florida.sierraclub.org



Continued from Front Page **Reuse:**

***Choose reusable beverage and food containers** for hydration and healthy meals/snacks.

***Try before you buy** and check out equipment rental programs if possible. If not, look for gently used fitness equipment, gear, and clothing.

***Trade in programs.** If you'd like to update a fitness tracker or similar device, check to see if trade in programs or refurbished options are available.

***Resell or donate.** Did a fitness activity or gadget turn out not to be your thing? Find friends, neighbors or donation locations for gear, equipment and clothing you no longer need.

Recycle:

You don't have to be an expert to recycle right in 2021. Know before you throw – check out www.Tamparecycles.org for a list of what's accepted and not accepted in your home recycling bin and for other recycling programs available in your community.



Sports Equipment: No sports equipment or gear, whether whole or in pieces, should go in your home recycling bin. There may be organizations or community groups in your area that accept used sports equipment.

Recyclable- but not at home: Many items like rechargeable batteries, workout clothing, flexible pouches and other film plastics may be recyclable through return-to-retail or other drop-off or mail-in programs, but they do not belong in your home recycling bin and cannot be recycled if placed there.

Taking even just a few of these simple steps into consideration not only helps with reaching fitness goals but helps the environment along the way – a New Year's resolution win-win!. **Barbara Heineken Recycling Chair**

Kent Bailey Honored The Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) honored Kent Bailey at their meeting on February 18, 2021. Kent's wife Cathy, and daughter Michelle participated in the ceremony, as did Tampa Bay Sierra Club Chair Rocky Milburn. EPC Chair, Commissioner Mariella Smith, presented the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, and County Commission Chair, Pat Kemp, presented a **Memoriam** from the Board of County Commissioners. It was an especially beautiful tribute as these awards were presented by local leaders who knew Kent well and had worked closely with him for years on environmental issues in our community. You can watch it on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/08X7TVLAshY?t=705>



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

March / April 2021



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Membership: Join today for just \$15.00 and receive a FREE Sierra Club 1892 style Rucksack at www.sierraclub.org



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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
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INTRODUCTORY	\$15	\$20
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LIFE	\$1000	\$1250
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LIMITED INCOME	\$25	\$35

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March & April "Virtual" General Membership Meetings

Wednesday March 10, & April 14, at 6:30 pm Online Social Time, Program at 7:00

Where: Online Via "Zoom" thru a computer or on your smart phone!

Program: To be Determined.

Stay tuned as we expand our technical skills to better manage our "virtual" membership meetings. Attending a "virtual" Zoom meeting is easy from either your computer, tablet or on your smart phone. The link to our meeting can be found either in our email newsletter, on our Meetup page and on the calendar of our Web Page. Simply "click" on the link and follow the online instructions.

To join by phone: dial number, enter the meeting ID followed by the # sign and the 6 digit passcode (also followed by the # sign). If you need any help or have any questions please email Rocky Milburn at rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org

Help get ICO kids reading!

Our group is creating a "Little Free Library" for our amazing Academy Prep Tampa partner. We are repurposing old Tampa Bay Times boxes that we hope to fill with nature related and young adult books. If you have books to donate, please contact volunteer Karen Kress at Kress_Loy@hotmail.com or 813-758-5901.

