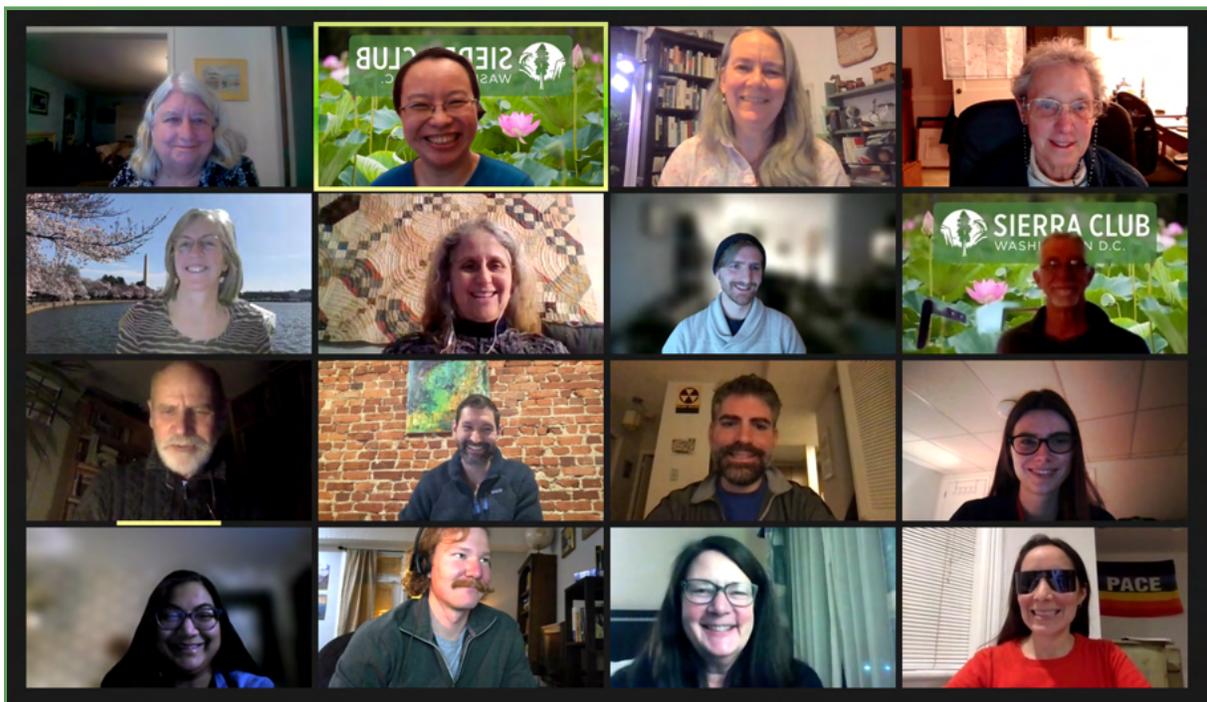




# Welcome to the Capital Sierran, newsletter of the Sierra Club DC Chapter

March 2022

- [New Executive Committee](#)
- [Nestle, PepsiCo, Cloverland Dairy, The Coca Cola Company and Costco's Bottles Found Polluting DC's Pope Branch Park](#)
- [Serve-on-Request Requirements Will Prevent Takeout Trash](#)
- [What is DC Doing to Get the Lead Out?](#)
- [Taking on Dangerous Methane Gas Pollution in DC](#)
- [Sierra Club Weighs in on Metro's Proposed Budget](#)
- [DC Chapter Endorses Proposal to Add 43 Miles of Trail in DC](#)
- [Have You Heard the Buzz? The use and sale of gasoline powered leaf blowers is now illegal in DC](#)
- [Sierra Club National Board of Directors Election](#)
- [A Successful Polar Bear Plunge!](#)
- [The Power of Monthly Giving](#)
- [New Volunteers and Activists Wanted](#)
- [DC Chapter Committee Meetings](#)
- [Thank You For Your Support!](#)



**New Executive Committee**

*By Matt Gravatt, Chapter Chair*

Friends— It is a true joy to write to you all as Chair of the DC Chapter of the Sierra Club and to introduce your DC Chapter board members for 2022: Larry Martin, Peter Quinn-Jacobs, Catherine Plume, Lara Levison, Mark Rodeffer, Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez, Barbara Briggs, and Anna LaCombe.

On behalf of our DC Chapter Executive Committee and staff, we are honored to serve the volunteers, members, and supporters of our DC Chapter. This community of activists and engaged volunteers is powerful together. And together, we have accomplished much to ensure the District is a more sustainable and healthier community for all DC residents. Already this year, DC Chapter advocates and volunteers have been testifying, advocating, and leading meaningful calls for environmental progress right here in our community.

The DC Chapter is people powered. Our volunteers and advocates are fearless, dedicated, and passionate changemakers. Across all of DC's wards, our DC Chapter community is engaging to advance clean energy, cut pollution, reduce waste, improve transit, and ensure that DC is a vibrant and thriving city that is a model for sustainability. All together, hundreds of volunteers and activists engage each month in our committees, advocacy, and local outings.

There is much to do this year, and we're counting on the continued support of our members and volunteers to be successful in this work. We hope this newsletter serves to inform you of our work, of the powerful community you are a part of, and how you can engage to help build a more sustainable future for DC. It's humbling to reflect on all that we have done this past year, and so too is it exciting to think about what we'll achieve together.

As we look to the year ahead of us, we're asking everyone in this community to link arms with us to advance bold action for a more sustainable DC. Here's what you can do:

- [Support our work](#): we count on our community to keep us going—make a gift if you can!
- [Attend an event](#): join us for a committee meeting, a hike or outing, or other event!
- Share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor—and ask them to [join](#) you as part of the Sierra Club DC Chapter!

On behalf of our DC Chapter Executive Committee and staff, thank you for all you do.

Let's go, fight, and win!

---



*Nestle, parent company of Deer Park, Number 1 plastic bottle polluter at cleanup collecting 11,000 lbs. of trash*

## **Nestle, PepsiCo, Cloverland Dairy, The Coca Cola Company and Costco's bottles found polluting DC's Pope Branch Park**

*By Catherine Plume and Susan Schorr, Zero Waste committee*

Do you ever wonder where DC's trash comes from—as in which companies' products are polluting our rivers, streams and parks? The Sierra Club's Zero Waste Committee has started conducting brand audits to answer this important question. On Saturday, January 22, 2022, volunteers with the Sierra Club's DC Chapter partnered with Anacostia Riverkeeper (ARK) on a three-hour trash pick up and brand audit at Pope Branch Park. During the Martin Luther King Day of Service cleanup<sup>[a]</sup>, ARK volunteers gathered over 11,000 pounds of trash, a muddy mix of tires, bottles, cans, and other trash, including 344 pounds of single-use plastic bottles and 1,167 pounds of glass bottles.

For too long, beverage producers have avoided responsibility for the full lifecycle of their products, foisting their responsibility on consumers, city solid waste management, and good-hearted cleanup volunteers. Brand audits document whose products wind up where. What did we find?

ARK's three-hour trash pick up rendered 1604 plastic bottles and 277 glass bottles<sup>[b]</sup>. While the labels had worn off of many of the bottles, the Sierra Club's survey identified the top 10 parent companies responsible for plastic bottle pollution and the top five companies responsible for glass pollution at Pope Branch. Who won the dubious distinction of being among the top 10 plastic polluters? Nestle, PepsiCo, Cloverland Dairy, the Coca-Cola Company, Costco, Keurig Dr Pepper, Trincherro Family Estates, Albertsons-Safeway, AriZona Beverages, and Giant. They were joined in the worst glass bottle polluters category by Corona, Luxe Belaire, Heineken, Everfresh, and D'Usse.

The Zero Waste Committee plans to conduct more brand audits this year with a range of organizations so community members can see for themselves whose products are defiling our neighborhoods, parks, and waterways. It's time for the beverage industry to own up to their role in creating this mess and take concerted and targeted action to address the issue. We all know that what gets thrown away,

never really goes away.

ARK Cleanup Pope Branch Park, January 22, 2022  
Top ten plastic polluter parent companies at MLK Day cleanup.

**Top plastic bottles at January 22, 2022 ARK Cleanup**

<b>Company</b>	<b># of Bottles Collected</b>
Nestle	336
PepsiCo	172
Cloverland Dairy	116
The Coca-Cola Company	104
CostCo	72
Keurig Dr Pepper	63
Trincherro Family Estates	32
Albertsons-Safeway	27
AriZona Beverages	26
Giant	23

**Top glass bottles at January 22, 2022 ARK Cleanup**

<b>Company</b>	<b># of Bottles Collected</b>
Corona	66
Luxe Belaire	53
Heineken	17
Everfresh	16
D'Usse	13

[a] <https://www.planetforward.org/service-anacostia-mlk>

[b] A group of George Washington University students in the Environmental Resources Policy Master's program audited the glass bottles

*To learn more about the DC Chapter's Zero Waste Committee, contact committee chair Susan Schorr at [zero.waste@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:zero.waste@dc.sierraclub.org).*

---



DOEE flyer displayed on DC restaurant front door

## Serve-on-Request Requirements Will Prevent Takeout Trash

*By Susan Schorr, Zero Waste Committee Chair*

Do you have a drawer full of plastic utensils, napkins, soy sauce packets and other unused items you don't know what to do with? Or have you just given up and thrown these non-recyclables in the trash? You are not alone! The U.S. uses some 561 billion disposable food service items each year, adding up to 4.9 million tons of waste, according to the "Skip the Stuff" campaign<sup>[c]</sup>. Fortunately, in DC, help is on the way, thanks to a provision of the 2020 Zero Waste Omnibus Amendment Act that went into effect in January and outreach by our DC Chapter's Zero Waste Single-Use Plastic subcommittee (SUP).

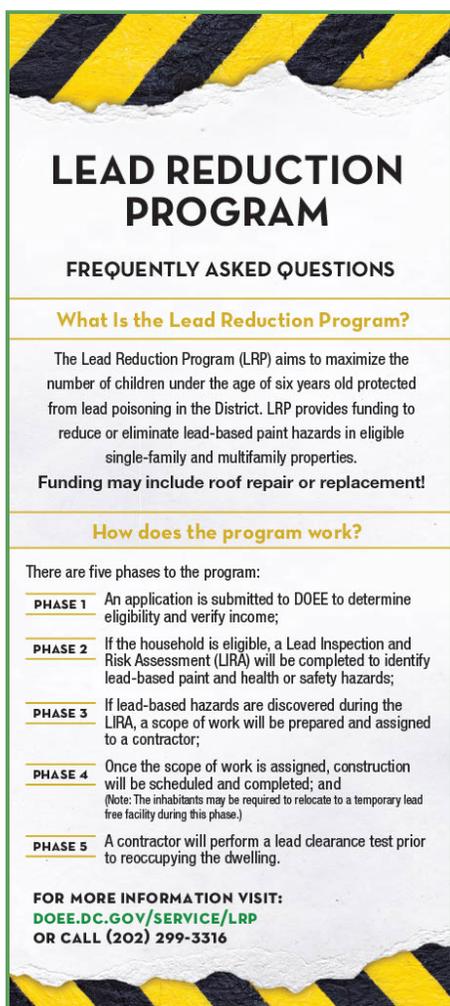
Per the amendment, as of January 1, 2022, District restaurants and other food service entities can no longer automatically include items like utensils in takeout orders. They should be included only if requested by a customer. The new rules apply to all orders—in person, by phone, or online. Third-party food ordering apps—think Caviar, DoorDash, and GrubHub—should have updated their platforms as of

July 1, 2021 to enable customers to opt-in and select only the specific items they need.

Our Chapter's SUP volunteers are distributing informational flyers produced by the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) to help raise awareness about the new law. While quite a few restaurants were introduced to the new requirements from our Chapter outreach, others already proudly display the flyer to help customers understand the new rules. With your help, we can reach more restaurants with more volunteers. Please contact [zero.waste@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:zero.waste@dc.sierraclub.org) to join this impactful volunteer activity. DOEE is giving restaurants a six-month grace period before enforcement begins. See <https://doee.dc.gov/service/utensils> for more details.

[c] <https://upstreamsolutions.org/skip-the-stuff>

To get involved with the DC Chapter's Single-Use Plastic subcommittee, contact committee chair Susan Schorr at [zero.waste@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:zero.waste@dc.sierraclub.org).



**LEAD REDUCTION PROGRAM**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What is the Lead Reduction Program?**

The Lead Reduction Program (LRP) aims to maximize the number of children under the age of six years old protected from lead poisoning in the District. LRP provides funding to reduce or eliminate lead-based paint hazards in eligible single-family and multifamily properties.

**Funding may include roof repair or replacement!**

**How does the program work?**

There are five phases to the program:

- PHASE 1** An application is submitted to DOEE to determine eligibility and verify income;
- PHASE 2** If the household is eligible, a Lead Inspection and Risk Assessment (LIRA) will be completed to identify lead-based paint and health or safety hazards;
- PHASE 3** If lead-based hazards are discovered during the LIRA, a scope of work will be prepared and assigned to a contractor;
- PHASE 4** Once the scope of work is assigned, construction will be scheduled and completed; and (Note: The inhabitants may be required to relocate to a temporary lead free facility during this phase.)
- PHASE 5** A contractor will perform a lead clearance test prior to reoccupying the dwelling.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**  
[DOEE.DC.GOV/SERVICE/LRP](https://doee.dc.gov/service/lrp)  
OR CALL (202) 299-3316



**Who is eligible for this program?**

- Property must have been built before 1978; and
- Property must be occupied by an income-eligible household

**Renters & homeowners welcome to apply!**  
Apply online at: [DOEE.DC.GOV/SERVICE/LRP](https://doee.dc.gov/service/lrp)



\*\*\* DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

### *Frequently Asked Questions About the Lead Reduction Program*

## **What is DC Doing to Get the Lead Out?**

*By Janice Kullman, Clean Water committee member*

What is the District of Columbia government doing to get lead out of our drinking water? As previously reported, several DC agencies are working on this issue. In

fact, there are so many different actors that the DC Council saw fit to pass a law ([DC Code 34-2162](#)) to coordinate the efforts to remove and replace all lead water service lines by 2030. The law also created a “Lead Service Line Planning Task Force” which is required to submit the plan to the Mayor and Council by June 23, 2022, a short timeline for a plan that is to include:

- the role of each District agency in the removal and replacement of all lead water service lines by 2030;
- the barriers to doing so, and proposed solutions to eliminate those barriers;
- opportunities for interagency coordination;
- an interagency spending proposal;
- recommended changes or clarifications to [DC Water's Lead Service Line Replacement Plan](#), released on June 14, 2021;
- a list of potential funding sources to support lead water service line replacements; and
- a list of legislative, regulatory, and policy changes to complete and fund lead line replacement work by 2030.

Representatives from the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), DC Water, Department of Transportation (DDOT), along with two representatives appointed by the DC Council with oversight of DC Water and DOEE are charged with developing this plan.

Among the issues the task force and DC Water face is determining which homes have lead pipes as there are still 14,700 homes with pipes of unknown content. DC Water has developed instructions and videos and sent mailers to 6,200 residents on how to identify lead pipes in their homes. To find out if your pipes have lead go to: <https://www.dewater.com/do-you-have-lead-pipes-let-us-help-you-find-out>

For known lead pipes, there is a Lead Partial Replacement Assistance Program where the District will pay 50-100% of the cost for replacing private side lead pipes. While DC Water has promoted the program through mailings, phone calls, emails, texts, yard signs, and other outreach, the participation rate is low. Even in blocks where DC is replacing public pipes, approximately 45% of residents did not return agreements for free private-side pipe replacement.

How does DC Water decide where to start replacing the over 10,000 known public lead pipes? There is a prioritization model with two factors—water quality and, for the first time, social impact. That means the model prioritizes underserved areas of the city as well as areas with children, like schools and day care facilities.

If all that sounds expensive, it is. However, monies from the recently passed federal government infrastructure bill will help. The District government is expecting \$28M per year over the next five years specifically to address lead pipe replacement. In addition, current grants related to lead include \$3.2M in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Funds for Lead Hazard Control; \$5M in American Rescue Plan State and Local COVID Relief Funds for the expansion of the Lead Hazard Control Program, and \$10M in American Rescue Plan State and Local COVID Relief Funds for the Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program.

For more information go to <https://doee.dc.gov/service/leadlinereplacement> or <https://www.dewater.com/replaclead>

*To get involved with the DC Chapter's Clean Water Committee, contact committee chair Larry Martin at [clean.water@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:clean.water@dc.sierraclub.org).*

---



*Grassroots investigators search for methane leaks in DC.*

## **Taking on Dangerous Methane Gas Pollution in DC**

*By Barbara Briggs, Beyond Gas subcommittee member*

For the last year, volunteers from the DC Chapter and District faith communities have been crisscrossing [all eight District Wards](#) to check for gas leaks. The results of this grassroots investigation have been powerful and demonstrated the clear need to move beyond methane gas. We're incredibly proud of this collaboration between Sierra Club and the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), and more recently with DC Interfaith Power and Light (IPL), and members of their affiliate churches, synagogues, and mosques across the District.

In late February, we released the results of our investigation. In about 25 hours of volunteer driven investigatory work with a utility grade methane detector, we found a total of **389 gas leaks** in the District—51 of them with methane concentrations greater than 2,000 parts per million, and **14 potentially hazardous leaks with methane concentrations greater than 50,000 ppm (5%)** at which methane can explode.

Methane, the primary component of “natural gas” is hardly natural—it is a climate super pollutant with 86x the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. What’s worse is that our investigation has confirmed that methane is leaking all throughout DC, driving the climate crisis right from our own backyard and communities. This is no surprise—methane gas distribution systems are leaky. All along the system, from the fracking well to the city gates to your kitchen stove or furnace, they’re releasing lots of climate disrupting pollution.

Our report also included information on the damaging health impact of exposure to methane gas emissions. When it is burned, methane gas releases many of the same pollutants as car exhaust—carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and formaldehyde—which may lead to serious health issues including: asthma and developmental problems in children, COPD, hypertension, and cancers.

See our [full report](#) here, and check out this page for [press coverage and testimonies](#) of DC residents who have been impacted by dangerous methane pollution.

On Wednesday, February 23, we made the report public and 19 Sierra Club, WIN, and IPL activists, including members of churches across DC, a rabbi, and a 14-year-old boy scout from Masjid Muhammad Mosque all gave testimony at the Public Service Commission's oversight hearing in the DC Council's Committee on Business & Economic Development.

This investigation was covered by [WAMU](#), [DCist](#), [ABC 7](#), [Washington Post](#), [Fox 5](#).

We look forward to building this very fruitful collaboration with Washington Interfaith Network, Interfaith Power & Light and DC's faith community.

*To learn more about the DC Chapter's Beyond Gas Subcommittee, contact committee chairs at [beyond.gas@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:beyond.gas@dc.sierraclub.org).*

---



## Sierra Club Weighs in on Metro's Proposed Budget

*By Mike Litt, Clean Energy & Smart Growth committee member*

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) recently proposed its [Fiscal Year 2023 \(FY23\) budget](#), totaling \$4.6 billion, split evenly between operating and capital expenses. In search of some light weekend reading, I decided to comb through all 331 pages of Metro's [proposed budget book](#) and submit suggestions on behalf of the DC Chapter.

Our region's ability to fully emerge from the pandemic, reverse global warming, and ensure a liveable community for all depends on Metro's continued success, which is what motivated me to provide feedback. Our three page [comment](#) focused on three recommendations, which are recapped below:

### **Increasing service frequency**

We support Metro's continuation of changes made during FY22, including fare discounts, increases to service, and equity improvements. We also recognize the fiscal challenges that Metro faces, including a budget shortfall and the end of significant sources of federal funding beyond FY23.

As WMATA noted in its [Bus Transformation Project Update](#) in November 2021, more frequent service was the top priority for current and potential customers.

We encouraged Metro to consider what it would take to increase service frequency in the future to at least every 10 minutes for all rail lines and bus routes. An increase of this kind would make riding Metro a more convenient

and appealing option for more people, increasing ridership and revenue and reducing global warming pollution. People would be more likely to choose Metro if there was an easy to remember, across-the-board schedule that truly felt frequent. This would help with marketing as well.

### **Improving transparency of spending on safety**

In light of the [removal](#) of the 7000-series trains from service following last October's derailment, and other known safety incidents at Metro, we asked for a specific section in the proposed budget about the different types of safety risks being addressed by Metro, such as collisions, COVID-19, crimes, derailments, fires, and injuries.

Many items related to safety are spread throughout the proposed budget and leave several questions unanswered. We suggested that consolidating all information related to safety spending and targets in one place within the document, as well as providing additional details, would improve transparency and public confidence in Metro's safety efforts.

### **Jumpstarting bus electrification and other sustainability goals**

We urged WMATA to frontload its electrification and sustainability goals. Metro's proposed FY23 budget allocates \$12.2 million for an electric bus pilot project, which will acquire approximately 12 electric buses in the nearterm. Meanwhile, more than twice that amount of money has been allocated for fossil fuel costs. WMATA's investment in electric buses also pales in comparison to funding allocated for the purchase of an additional 100 diesel and gas burning buses in FY23.

We made these recommendations with enormous gratitude to WMATA's entire workforce for keeping Metro running despite significant challenges over the past few years. Sierra Club will continue to work with WMATA so it can keep serving as the arteries of the Washington metropolitan area and so that public transportation in the district can take on a greater share of the trips that people make every day.

*To get involved with the DC Chapter's Clean Transportation subcommittee, contact chair Andrew Moiseff at [clean.transportation@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:clean.transportation@dc.sierraclub.org).*

---



*Bikers on the Metropolitan Branch Trail*

# DC Chapter Endorses Proposal to Add 43 Miles of Trail in DC

*By Brad Green, Smart Growth committee member*

The DC Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed the [DC portion](#) of the proposed Capital Trails Network, a network of bike and pedestrian trails that traverse metropolitan Washington. This vital network was developed by the Capital Trails Coalition, a metropolitan-wide organization whose members include government agencies, businesses, civic groups and advocacy organizations, including the Sierra Club.

If fully implemented in DC, the plan would add an additional 43 miles of trails to the existing 68 trail miles. Many of these planned trails are in underserved communities, and prioritizing their completion will advance equitable access to trails while promoting low and no carbon transportation. In addition to being places for recreation, these trails are important transportation corridors between home, work, and other destinations. These corridors, in turn, support local businesses, improve public health, and fight global warming.

Currently, the region has 469 miles of existing trails. The network proposal calls for an additional 408 miles of trails across the region.

Read the chapter's full [statement of support for the DC portion of the network](#).

*To learn more about the DC Chapter's Smart Growth Committee, contact committee chair Payton Chung at [smart.growth@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:smart.growth@dc.sierraclub.org).*

---



## Have You Heard the Buzz? The use and sale of gasoline powered leaf blowers is now illegal in DC.

*By Catherine Plume, Executive Committee member*

While some people love gasoline-powered leaf blowers for their efficiency, as many abhor them for high-pitched noise they produce. But did you know that gas-powered leaf blowers are also a major source of pollution and a health hazard?

As of January 1, 2022, DC's [Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act of 2017](#) prohibits the sale and use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in DC. The DC Chapter joined other environmental groups and concerned residents in advocating and [testifying](#) for the passage of this bill. Now, residents and landscape companies alike will need to abide by this law or be subject to a fine of up to \$500. To help make the transition to cleaner electric and battery-powered leaf blowers, the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU) is [offering \\$50 residential rebates for qualifying electric leaf blowers and \\$75 rebates for landscaping companies](#).

Why is this legislation important? The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that two-stroke gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment (including leaf blowers) produce high levels of hazardous air pollutants and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Two-stroke engines are light-weight as they combine oil and gas in a single chamber,

but they are also very loud and inefficient with as much as a third of the fuel spewed into the air as unburned aerosol. As testimony to the inefficiency of these machines, [a 2011 study](#) found that you'd have to drive a Ford F150 Raptor for 3,887 miles, or the distance from north Texas to Anchorage, Alaska to equal the amount of hydrocarbon emissions produced by a two stroke gas-powered leaf blower operated for only 30 minutes. Banning these machines from DC will help the District meet its 2050 commitment of eliminating fossil fuel combustion and achieving carbon neutrality. Meanwhile, people who operate these leaf-blowers breathe in these emissions. Landscaping company employees are at an even higher risk as they often operate these machines for hours each day and are exposed to much higher levels of pollution. Over time, these emissions can lead to a host of health issues ranging from cardiovascular disease, to strokes, and respiratory diseases. The noise they produce can lead to permanent hearing loss.

Electric and battery-powered leaf blowers are better for operator health and the environment, and they are quieter than gas-powered machines. [According to the New York Times](#), with technological improvements, nowadays, the best electric leaf-blowers are on a par with or better than many gas blowers.”

And if you really want to be carbon neutral and even get some exercise, remember, that rake will still work, too!

---



*DC is overlit as compared to surrounding jurisdictions*

## **Concerns about the District's New Streetlight Contract**

*by Wayne Savage, Ad Hoc Committee on Light Pollution member*

The pervasive use of outdoor light at night not only requires significant energy; it alters wildlife behavior, may harm human health, and is a suspected factor in collapsing insect populations. There's mixed news on the DC streetlight scene. The good news is that on February 1, the DC Council approved a 15-year, \$309-million contract for converting all the District's 75,000 streetlights to energy-efficient LEDs. In testimony and written comments to the council, the DC Chapter strongly supported the LED conversion project for its potential to reduce the District's carbon footprint and limit environmentally harmful light pollution.

The not-so-good news is that while the LEDs will reduce the total amount of light emitted from the District's streetlights, the Chapter had called for further steps to mitigate their environmental impacts to human and wildlife. Unfortunately, our recommendations were not adopted by the DC Council, which focused its attention on the conversion project's novel financing scheme, a public-private partnership. Under the approved contract, many DC streets will still have twice the amount of light sufficient for traffic safety according to nationally recognized standards, and some

streets will have nearly three times as much. This excessive light is especially concerning because LEDs emit more blue light than conventional streetlights, with a greater impact on the circadian rhythms of humans and wildlife. The ubiquitous Washington Globe and teardrop fixtures also will continue to emit light upward into the sky, a wasteful and environmentally harmful practice.

As the streetlight conversion project moves forward, the Chapter will explore options for further advocacy to mitigate the LEDs' environmental impacts. Fortunately, LED technology allows dimming of individual fixtures or shutting off streetlights in selected areas during off-peak hours if citizens are unhappy with the lighting in their neighborhood.

*If you're interested in learning more about the DC streetlight contract, contact Wayne Savage at [waysav@gmail.com](mailto:waysav@gmail.com).*

---

## **Sierra Club National Board of Directors Election**

The annual [Sierra Club Board of Directors Election](#) provides an opportunity for members to have a say in what the future of the Sierra Club looks like. Those eligible to vote in the election will receive a ballot in the mail (or by email if you previously chose the electronic delivery option) in early March. Voting will take only a few moments of your time, but the impact to our organization, our mission, and our planet will be far reaching. [Read more](#).

For candidate information, bios, statements, videos, a forum of the candidates answering important questions about their vision and goals, as well as all the info you need about how to cast your vote, visit the 2022 Board of Directors Election hub at <https://www.sierraclub.org/board-directors-election-2022>

Voting will end on 12:00 PM ET April 27, 2022. Make your vote count!

*To learn more about the Sierra Club Board of Directors and our 2022 Election please go to <https://www.sierraclub.org/board>. If you are not already a member, [join the Sierra Club](#) so that you may vote in future elections!*

---



*Sierra Club volunteers taking a dip in the Potomac at the Washington Canoe Club.*

## **A Successful Polar Bear Plunge!**

*By Peter Quinn-Jacobs, Executive Committee member and Plunge Captain*

On February 12th, 12 Sierra Club DC members participated in a Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for the chapter. It was a warm day, but the water was just under 40°F degrees. Karen Cordry took more of a plunge than she signed up for when she fell into the water, but we are pleased to report no injuries from the event! Thanks to Larry Martin and the Washington Canoe Club for providing the Sierra Club a location to take the plunge and for some lovely refreshments afterward.

So far, we raised over \$6,600! Haven't given yet? You can still continue to contribute to our [team's fundraiser here](#).

*To get involved with the DC Chapter's Fundraising Committee, contact committee chair Matt Gravatt at [fundraising@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:fundraising@dc.sierraclub.org).*

---



## The Power of Monthly Giving

One of the easiest and most impactful ways to support the DC Chapter is to join our community of monthly donors. Contributions from our growing team of monthly donors really add up to empower our local advocacy to tackle the climate crisis, advance clean energy, and protect our air and water from pollution.

Every pledge from our dedicated team of monthly sustaining donors makes a tremendous difference—and this team of monthly donors is growing! We're pushing to double our monthly donor contributions!

[What are you waiting for? Will you make a monthly pledge for \\$15, \\$20, or \\$50?](#)

Signing up is easy—a few minutes and you'll be part of this amazing team. It's secure, and you can use a credit card or set up contributions directly from your bank.

---

## New Volunteers and Activists wanted!

The DC Chapter is hard at work to advance clean energy, zero waste, clean water, and sustainable transportation. [Fill out our Volunteer Form to get involved.](#)

While our offices remain closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, our committee meetings have remained active and online. Circumstances permitting, we may be re-launching smaller in-person activities. Keep an eye on the [DC Chapter calendar](#) and be sure to RSVP for activities.

*We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in key roles listed below—let us know if you're interested!*

### **Membership & Social Events Captain**

We're looking for an awesome volunteer leader(s) to support and engage our incredible DC Chapter community. Are you someone who enjoys meeting people and going to social events? Are you a connector of people? Love putting together events that build community? This volunteer leader would engage new (and current) DC

Chapter members and volunteers, develop and drive social events, and ensure that people are welcomed and engaged in the DC Chapter.

For information, contact Matt Gravatt, Chair: [chair@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:chair@dc.sierraclub.org)

**Sierra Club 101 - Welcome and Orientation - Wednesday, March 30 at 6:00pm (online)**

Do you want to learn what the Sierra Club is all about? Have you wanted to get involved with the DC Chapter but weren't sure how to take the first step? Visit with DC Chapter leaders and our chapter coordinator for a fun Sierra Club 101 introduction for new and intermediate members. You'll discover volunteer opportunities and how you can engage on local environmental and climate issues, and get to meet some of your fellow neighbors and environmental activists! [RSVP here](#).

---

## DC Chapter Committee Meetings

*These and other events are always posted on our chapter calendar at [sierraclub.org/dc/calendar](http://sierraclub.org/dc/calendar)*

**Zero Waste Committee Meeting - Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30pm (online)**

Contact Susan Schorr ([zero.waste@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:zero.waste@dc.sierraclub.org)) for more information. [RSVP here](#).

**Smart Growth Committee Meeting - Wednesday, March 9 at 6:45pm (online)**

Contact Payton Chung ([smart.growth@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:smart.growth@dc.sierraclub.org)) for more information. [RSVP here](#).

**Clean Energy Committee Meeting - Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30pm (online)**

Contact Lara Levison ([clean.energy@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:clean.energy@dc.sierraclub.org)) for more information. [RSVP here](#).

**Clean Water Committee Meeting - Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30pm (online)**

Contact Larry Martin ([clean.water@dc.sierraclub.org](mailto:clean.water@dc.sierraclub.org)) for more information. [RSVP here](#).

**DC Chapter Executive Committee Meeting - Wednesday, March 23 at 6:30pm**

Dues-paying Sierra Club members can attend meetings of the Executive Committee which take place the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. For meeting details, please email [WashingtonDC.Chapter@SierraClub.org](mailto:WashingtonDC.Chapter@SierraClub.org) at least 48 hours in advance with the subject line: **ExCom meeting guest**.

Not sure if your membership is active? Join or renew here: <http://sc.org/JoinDC> or check your account here: <https://myaccount.sierraclub.org/MyAccountLogin>. You can also use this page to update your account and mail preferences.

---

## Thank you for your support!

As always, we couldn't do this without your support. Sign up to be a monthly donor to keep our campaigns, committees, and advocacy going. [Giving \\$5, \\$10, or \\$20](#) per month can greatly increase our effectiveness as we communicate with our members and activate our campaigns. Just check the box to make your gift monthly.

[Donate](#)

This email was sent to: [washingtondc.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:washingtondc.chapter@sierraclub.org)

This email was sent by the [Sierra Club Washington DC Chapter](#)  
50 F Street NW Washington, DC 20001

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Preferences](#) | [View as Web Page](#)