

The Sierran



SIERRA CLUB CENTRAL OHIO GROUP NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

Spring is almost here! Keep these 6 eco-friendly spring cleaning ideas in mind.

1. Switch to reusable towels. Ditch the costly paper towels by reusing old t-shirts or cutting up old towels to use for cleaning! You'll be keeping waste out of the landfill.

2. Hang-dry your laundry. Drying laundry outside instead of using a drying machine can reduce the Carbon footprint of the average household by 2400 pounds per year! It also reduces wear on your clothes, reduces the risk of house fires and saves money.

3. Use less water. Make sure you do not leave any faucets running. Sweep often, so you can mop less. Place a door mat at entryways to reduce the need to sweep!

4. Start composting or donate unused food. If you have any unexpired canned or sealed foods, donate them to a local shelter. Compost any remaining foods that are too old to eat.

5. Get creative with your repurposing. If you have old cloths or towels, you could make a reusable cover for your Swiffer. If you have an old toothbrush, use it to scrub those stubborn corners of your shower. Use old shoeboxes for organization!

6. Switch to nontoxic / biodegradable cleaning products. Most stores offer some environmentally-friendly soaps, but make sure you check the ingredients list. Purchasing safe soaps is not only better for the environment; it's safer for you and your family, too! You can also make your own soaps and cleaning products at home. There are a number of great online guides with instructions.



Columbus and Cincy get Bloomberg Grant!

Columbus and Cincinnati have each been awarded Mike Bloomberg's American Cities Climate Challenge Grant! The two cities join 18 others across the nation as winners of Bloomberg Philanthropies's *American Cities Climate Challenge*. Each city will receive \$2.5 million for renewable energy generation (Cincinnati) and to reduce carbon emissions from buildings - municipal, commercial and residential (Columbus).

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Rise for Climate participants



Participants in *Ready for 100's* Earth Day aerial art event spell out the 1 in a giant "100" on Scioto Mile



"We put together dozens of people with hundreds of yards of fabric to spell out a huge "100%" on Scioto Mile...The experience was unique and unforgettable."



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Public hearing on renewable energy proposal

Becca Pollard

Ohioans want a clean energy future and an end to the high costs and pollution associated with fossil fuels. AEP has heard overwhelming support for renewable generation from its Ohio customers, who are even willing to pay more in order to get their electricity from clean sources.

Over the past six months Sierra Club members and supporters and our partners have made their voices heard. On Dec 4th the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) held a public hearing on AEP's renewable energy proposal in Columbus where

about 50 Ohioans testified in support, none against. Nearly 4,000 people have submitted comments to the PUCO supporting the approval of this initiative, which would make Ohio a leader in clean energy and create much needed jobs in Southern Ohio.

The Power Siting Board held public hearings in February and March for two solar farms associated with the proposal in Highland County, where supportive comments by far outweighed the opposition.

Governor DeWine just appointed Sam Randazzo, who has a history of being unfriendly to

renewables, to be the new chairman of the PUCO and he will take his seat in April, shortly before the PUCO comes to a decision on the need case for the proposal.

It's critical for the public to keep the pressure on the PUCO to make the right decision up to the last moment. You can support this effort by submitting comments to PUCO, writing letters to the editor in support of the proposal, and showing your support publicly on social media and tagging the agency. If you have questions or would like more information, please email Beyond Coal Associate Organizing Representative Becca Pollard at becca.pollard@sierraclub.org.

Ready for 100 Columbus ready to power the city to 100% renewable energy

Cathy Cowen Becker

Ready for 100 Columbus had a busy year in 2018 with even more activities planned for 2019 – and we need your help!

2018 saw several key developments in our cam-

aign to get the city to commit to 100% renewable energy. First, we kicked off in a very public way with an aerial art event in downtown Columbus to celebrate Earth Day. We put together dozens of people with hundreds of yards of fabric to spell out a huge "100%" on Scioto Mile, while a drone flying above the Scioto River took photos and video with the city skyline in the background. The experience was unique and unforgettable.



We also held a series of community events, including a projection art event at Flowers and Bread bakery in Clintonville, a screening of *Reinventing Power* and clean energy panel discussion in Upper Arlington, and an appearance at Josh Fox's performance of *The Truth Has Changed* at Wexner Center for the Arts.

In June we organized a statewide Ready for 100 training to kick off renewable energy campaigns in cities across Ohio. Energy and sustainability leaders from Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Oberlin spoke, and new campaigns began in at least five cities including Akron, Athens, and Toledo.

And in September we helped to organize the Rise for Climate, Jobs and Justice rally and march in Columbus. Despite pouring rain, more than 100

Participants in *Ready for 100's* Earth Day aerial art event spell out the 0 in a giant "100" on Scioto Mile in downtown Columbus.

Sierra Club Central Ohio Group

people and almost two dozen co-sponsoring organizations showed up to demand climate justice and 100% renewable energy.

Ready for 100: what's next?

As *Ready for 100 Columbus* heads into our second year, we have big plans for 2019.

First, our Grassroots team will be holding a series of listening sessions in neighborhoods identified by the Franklin County Energy Study as having unacceptably high energy burdens – meaning that people pay too much of their income for heating and electricity. We want to learn what they think of energy costs, renewable energy and climate change, and how we can help.

We will also be tabling at many more community festivals this year, as well as organizing our own community events, to let people know why Columbus should commit to 100% renewable energy.

Meanwhile, our Grasstops team will be reaching out to leaders in city businesses and government. Many large companies in Columbus have robust sustainability initiatives, with some already committed internally to 100% renewable energy. We want their help to convince the city to do it too.

We will also be meeting with members of city council along with staff from departments that

work on climate and energy. Columbus is making a lot of progress on climate and sustainability goals. Besides the Smart Columbus grant last year, the city recently won the Bloomberg Climate Challenge Grant, which will fund a climate advisor as well as provide technical and communications support.

Columbus has also recently hired a new energy manager as well as consultants on mitigation and renewable energy. They will be writing the city's next Green Memo environmental plan that goes into effect in 2020 – and we hope to get a goal of 100% renewable energy into that plan.

How you can help

That's where you come in. There's a lot you can do to help! We will need help tabling, entering data of petition signers, texting potential volunteers, setting up for events, running social media, and more.

HERE'S HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- Sign our AddUp petition asking the city to commit to 100% renewable energy at bit.ly/AddUp-RF100Columbus
- Sign up on our Volunteer Survey at bit.ly/RF100Columbus-Volunteer
- To keep up on the latest developments with Ready for 100 Columbus, please like and follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/>

Cleveland is Ready for 100!

Cleveland is the first city in Ohio to promise 100% clean, renewable and just energy by 2050! Cleveland and 88 other cities across the nation have committed to Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign, whose goal is to inspire leaders to envision and create healthier communities. Cleveland's Ready for 100 campaign coordinator, Jocelyn Travis, highlights the importance of community

engagement as Cleveland and similar cities make the shift to clean energy. She makes clear that cities must care for their disadvantaged and vulnerable inhabitants — those who might have to choose between an electric bill and groceries. In order to reach 100% clean, renewable, just energy, committed cities like Cleveland will need conversation with and educa-

tion and affirmation of all of their citizens.



Marchers dressed up as Mother Nature to protest in front of Sen. Rob Portman's office as part of *Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice* on September 8th



Columbus City Councilmember, Emmanuel Remy, head of the city's environmental committee, spoke at *Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice* on September 8th



Kassi Burnett, New COG Sierra Club Fellow

Kassi is a PhD candidate and a 5th year graduate student in the German Department at the Ohio State University. Her research focuses on the environmental humanities, examining intersections of environment and culture. While she usually focuses on the environment from a very

theoretical or literary perspective, she is very excited to join the dedicated members of Sierra Club Central Ohio Group to help protect and preserve Ohio's water and wetlands! She will be working with other members of the Conservation Committee to review Clean Wa-

ter Act 401 and 404 permits and Storm Water Variance Requests.

In her free time, Kassi spends time outdoors with her German Shepherd, Lawine (Lah-VEE-neh, German for avalanche).



Sierra Club display table — at [Scioto Audubon Metro Park](#).



The intrepid *Ready for 100 Columbus* team tabled at the Josh Fox performance of *The Truth has Changed* in August. Volunteers included Youcef Saidi, Michael Wang, Brittany Converse, and Mark Converse



What is a Green New Deal?

A Green New Deal is a bold plan to help us transition from an economy of low wages, toxic pollution, and systemic injustice to one driven by dignified work and 100% clean energy for all. Here are three things to know about a Green New Deal.

3 -- The Green New Deal is a massive economic stimulus with 3 essential pillars. There's a wide swath of popular policy ideas that would achieve all three pillars at once: 1. tackling the climate crisis and toxic pollution, 2. creating good, high-paying jobs, 3. fighting racial, economic, and gender inequity.

2 -- The Green New Deal takes aim at 2 of the biggest crises we face: climate change and inequity. These two crises

are joined at the hip. The climate crisis magnifies systemic injustices, as many of the same working class families and communities of color who have to grapple with low wages and toxic pollution are now also getting hit hardest by climate-related storms, wildfires, and flooding. We can't fully tackle climate change or inequity without addressing the other. A Green New Deal would take on both.

1 -- It's 1 big deal. A Green New Deal may sound really big. That's intentional. It's an invitation for solutions that match the scale of our problems. It's an opportunity to tackle the twin crises of inequity and climate change at the speed and scale that justice

Elissa Yoder Mann

and science demand.

If we lay the groundwork now, we can achieve implementation of a Green New Deal under a new administration. That means working to foster alignment behind the overall Green New Deal vision, fuel the current surge in Green New Deal momentum, amplify state and local policy wins that lay the groundwork for a national Green New Deal, and support a nationwide, inclusive process in which frontline communities and workers name specific Green New Deal policy ideas. Please join us!

Call your senators and support a Green New Deal! Call and we'll connect you: 855-980-2389.

Quarry Trails in development!

Quarry Trails is an exciting project currently in development by Franklin County Metro Parks. The land, once part of a 600+ acre quarry, has

been used unofficially for years as a landfill. Developers plan to clean up the area and repurpose it. 62 acres, 43% of the total land area, have been

Kassi Burnett

set aside for the development of the park. The rest of the land will be developed into private residence space.



Sierra Club Central Ohio Group

Quarry Trails in development (continued)

Metro Parks plans to create a park system fully equipped for hiking, biking, fishing, picnicking, and other traditional activities as well as more challenging activities like rock climbing and paddle boarding.

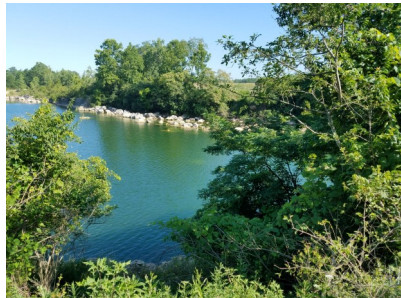
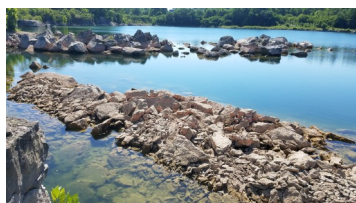
While the park is currently closed to the public because of safety concerns, it is believed that an observation deck with access to knee-deep water and view of a waterfall will be

open to visitors as early as this summer.

Sierra Club is reaching out to developers, asking them to adopt green practices and to include as much green space as possible, not just in the park, but in the private residence area as well.



These photos offer a sneak peak of the inactive quarry now owned and soon to be developed by Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks



View of the river in future Quarry Trails

“A thankful David Roseman (front) Sierra Club Central Ohio Group Chair, posing with Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners Greg Lashutka, J.B. Hadden, Jim McGregor, and Executive Director Tim Moloney following their monthly Board meeting on August 14 when they adopted a strong position statement against Columbus city destructive plans for Smith Farms Three Creeks Park.”



ORSANCO

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission's (ORSANCO) latest proposed Pollution Control Standard (PCS) recommendations are a thinly veiled effort to continue the push to eliminate these critical standards. These standards are necessary to protect the Ohio River, which 5 million people rely on for drinking water. ORSANCO's proposal would make subtle changes to the language that would have serious impacts and leave key pollution control standards on the cutting room floor.

The draft PCS would eliminate the current mandate for states to adopt the PCS, making these protections optional. Currently, we are able to use the Compact to pressure state Governors and the commissioners that they appoint to do the right thing and protect the Ohio River and the drinking water of 5 million people. If the Compact PCS become voluntary, our elected officials will be

able to point to the voluntary nature of the Compact to avoid discussions and actions to improve the health of the Ohio River.

A patchwork of standards will lead to confusion for businesses, and be less cost-effective. Standards maintained by one agency provide cost-effective management for the Ohio River States as well as providing clarity for businesses applying for permits to build along the river.

Reject the current PCS as Unacceptable and put forward the following guidelines for future PCS proposals.

1. States will continue to be required to adopt ORSANCO's standards.
2. States should be allowed to deviate from these standards for appropriate reasons. Any deviation should be made public and requires public

notice and input from ORSANCO and the public.

3. ORSANCO will be required to produce a report every 3 years to assess states standards and compare these standards to ORSANCO. This report will be available for the public to review.

4. The proposal should require ORSANCO to update PCS at least once every 3 years.

5. ORSANCO should continue to evaluate NPDES permits issued by states and develop an annual report to summarize the findings.



Reinventing Power panel discussion

About 50 people (below) attended *Ready for 100's* showing of Reinventing Power, with a panel discussion featuring (left to right) Randi Leppla, clean energy attorney at Ohio Environmental Council; Dale Arnold, energy policy director at the Ohio Farm Bureau; Jon-Paul d'Aversa, energy planner at Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission; and Suzanne Csejtey and David Dwyer of Design Energy Solar Power and Storage.



Members of the City and Staff Leadership Panel (above) discussed how they are increasing renewable energy in their cities and the challenges they face at the 100% Clean Energy for All Ohio Training in June. From left to right were Bryan Burgess, president of Oberlin City Council; Michael Forrester, energy manager in Cincinnati; and Erika Meschkat, sustainability manager in Cleveland.

Events/Outings

April

9th, 6-7:30 pm: COG Conservation Committee Meeting. This is the Sierra Club Central Ohio Group's monthly Conservation Committee meeting to discuss and update progress and goals for conservation issues in central Ohio. Come and learn about all the interesting projects we are talking about! For questions and/or comments please contact Michael Daly at: mjdbexley@gmail.com or 614-429-4444 . **Where:** Driving Park Library, 1422 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, OH 43205, USA

12th, 7 - 8:30pm: Walk - Audobon Park. Join us at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park for a 2-3 mile hike along the Scioto Greenway and park trails. There will be an optional dinner close by after the hike. **Where:** GPS Address is: 585 Maier Place, Columbus, OH 43215 (turn right on Maier Place - the road to the right just BEFORE the Audubon Nature Center building parking lot) - Meet in the parking lot ACROSS the street from the climbing wall.

13th 9am-1pm: Scioto River & Greenlawn Clean Up. HikeThe Scioto Greenway trail and rivers edge needs your help! This area is heavily used by commuters, recreational fishers, bikers, and hikers, but there is no neighborhood to help care for it. This area contains a large quantity of litter, partly due from trash traveling down stream which gets deposited along the river banks. We will be cleaning the area along the Lower Scioto Greenway Trail (just south of the dam) and focus on the west side of the Scioto River bank. We will meet at the top of the trail head

near the fire station and move down the trail from there. Look for signs to direct you to the location! Please dress appropriately, dress in layers and prepare for inclement weather, wear toe-covering boots/shoes, and/or items you don't mind getting dirty. Work gloves will be provided, but please bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated. **FREE LUNCH:** Falters Meats will generously provide bratwursts and Italian sausage to everyone helping with the event. Chips and snack bars will also be provided. Bring the family out for a great event and give back to the earth! This event is being sponsored by Friends of the Scioto River, Ohio Game Fishing, Ohio Chapter Sierra Club, and Falters Meats. Reserve your spot [HERE](#). Contact Elissa Yoder Mann for questions/concerns: elissa.yoder@sierraclub.org **Where:** 931 Scioto Blvd. North of Greenlawn Ave. (next to the Columbus Fire Station) Columbus, OH 43223

13th, 2 - 6pm: Otterbein Earth Festival.

Come see us at the Otterbein Earth Festival and sign our petition asking the city of Columbus to commit to 100% renewable energy! You can also sign it online here - bit.ly/AddUp-RF100Columbus **Where:** Otterbein University, 1 S Grove St, Westerville, OH 43081

14th, 9am - 12pm: Forest Restoration at Eakin Road. This piece of land was once slated for development, but a generous individual had the foresight to purchase the property to ensure the forested area remained untouched. But this land is need of some love and we need your help! This area contains a large quantity of litter and invasive plant species, and is in need of a lot of care. We will picking up trash, remov-

ing honeysuckle and planting trees.

Please dress appropriately, dress in layers and prepare for inclement weather, wear toe-covering boots/shoes, and/or items you don't mind getting dirty. Work gloves will be provided, but please bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated. Water and snacks will be provided. Reserve your spot [HERE](#). For questions/comments please contact Elissa Yoder Mann: elissa.yoder@sierraclub.org

14th, TBD, Sunday Hike. Details to be announced. Check the COG Sierra Club website for updates: <https://www.sierraclub.org/ohio/central-ohio/hiking-outings>

15th, 6:30 - 8pm: Ready for Columbus Conference Call.

This is a working call for Ready for 100 Columbus that occurs on the third Monday of every month. Contact becker.271@gmail.com to join.

19th, 7 - 8:30pm: Walk - Bexley.

Details to be announced. Check the COG Sierra Club website for updates: <https://www.sierraclub.org/ohio/central-ohio/hiking-outings>

20th, 12 - 8pm: Earth Day Celebration.

Join us rain or shine at Genoa Park (near the river by COSI) downtown for a day-long celebration featuring great local bands, family-friendly activities, eco-friendly artisans, an electric vehicle ride & drive, and Columbus' best food trucks. Sierra Club Central Ohio Group will be tabling at the event, if interested in tabling with us please contact Ann Marie Condo at amcondo@gmail.com Don't forget: - Please

Sierra Club Central Ohio Group

Events/Outings

bring good vibes and positive energy! (continued on next page)

Earth Day Celebration (continued). Please adhere to all parking rules and laws. Green Columbus is not responsible for lost or stolen property. Lost and Found located at Green Columbus' tent located next to the fountains at Genoa Park. - Outside food and outside beverages are not permitted within the cordoned area at Genoa Park for the duration of this zero-waste event. Please bring reusable water bottles and food containers. - Alcoholic beverages can only be purchased with a valid ID. Only two (2) drinks may be purchased at one time. Green Columbus event staff has the right to deny an alcoholic beverage to any guest at Genoa Park for any reason at any time. - Don't drink and (test) drive. If you sign up for a test drive have your beer after the ride. - Friendly pets permitted, but please mind environmental factors such as loud noises and young children. **Where:** Genoa Park, 303 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215

21st, Easter - No hike planned.

25th, 6:30 - 8pm: Ready for 100 Steering Committee Meeting. This is the standing monthly meeting

for the Ready for 100 campaign to ask the city of Columbus to transition to 100% renewable energy. **Where:** Mershon Center, 1501 Neil Ave, Columbus, OH 43201 **Location note:** The Mershon Center is at 1501 Neil Ave., the corner of Neil and Eighth on the campus of Ohio State University.

26th, 7 - 8:30pm: Walk - Hoffs Woods. Contact Deb or Juan for details.

27th, 11am - 1pm: Bexley Environmental Fair. Come see us at the Bexley Environmental Fair and sign our petition asking the city of Columbus to commit to 100% renewable energy! You can also sign it online here - bit.ly/AddUp-RF100Columbus **Where:** Maryland Elementary School, 2754 Maryland Ave, Bexley, OH 43209, USA

28th, 10am - 3pm: Hike - Granville (NOT Grandview).

We will hike 6 - 8 miles in the Dennison University biological preserve and the lovely town of Granville. This is a medium paced hike with some challenging hills. Bring lunch, water, and hiking boots. **Where:** 600 High St, Worthington, OH 43085 **Location Note:** We will meet at 10am in the parking lot on the South (RIGHT) side of the

Worthington United Methodist Church, 600 High St, Worthington, OH 43085 (on the East side of US-23 - about 2 blocks south of 161). **NOTE: MEETUP CHANGE** - no longer meeting in the Tim Hortons parking lot.

29th, 6:30 - 8pm: Ready for 100 Working Meeting.

This is a working meeting for Ready for 100 Columbus that occurs on the second Monday of every month. Contact beck-er.271@gmail.com to join. **Where:** Mershon Center, 1501 Neil Ave, Columbus, OH 43201

May

1st, 6:45 - 9pm: COG Ex-Com Meeting. Monthly Executive Committee meeting where the Central Ohio Group agenda, progress and goals are discussed and updated. **Where:** Unitarian Universalist Church, 93 W Weisheimer Rd, Room 7, Columbus, OH, 43214, United States

4th, 8am - 1pm: Green on the Green. Come see us at Green on the Green in Worthington and sign our petition asking the city of Columbus to commit to 100% renewable energy! You can also sign it online here - bit.ly/AddUp-RF100Columbus

Recurring Meetings

COG Executive Committee

1st Wednesday of every month, 6:45-9pm.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church 93 W. Weisheimer Rd. Columbus, OH 43214

Ready for 100 Columbus

4th Thursday of every month, 6-7:30 pm.

Where: Mershon Center 1501 Neil Ave. Columbus, OH 43201.

Conservation Committee

2nd Tuesday of every month, 6-7:30 pm.

Where: Driving Park Library 142 E. Livingston Ave. Columbus, OH 43205.

Note: All of above are subject to change. Stay tuned to COG Facebook for any updates.

