Hello fellow SussexDE Sierrans and Supporters,

Check out the latest on the [Delaware Sierra Club website](#) for updates on issues, events, and more!

SussexDE relies on your interest, participation and planning for activities and events. We need ideas and help planning SussexDE events and activities. Please email [SierraSussexDE@gmail.com](mailto:SierraSussexDE@gmail.com).

**NEWS BRIEF**

**Huge Success -- thanks to you!!** On May 15th, the Sierra Club and our partner organizations and businesses had a highly successful lobby day to talk about renewable energy and increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). The RPS determines what percentage of your electricity comes from clean renewable energy instead of dirty fossil fuel. We had 35 participants, many of whom were from Sussex Co.! We met with 20 legislators and delivered informational packets to all members of the House and Senate. There was a lot of support to increase the RPS, but we still have some work to do in Sussex County!

Please contact your state legislators if you: 1) support increasing the RPS to improve our air quality and bring clean renewable energy jobs to Delaware; or 2) have or want solar panels. Please encourage farmers or businesses in Sussex Co., to contact their legislators to share positive experiences using solar or other renewable energy.

Plastics Free Delaware - HB 130 was introduced to: AMEND THE DELAWARE
CODE RELATING TO RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION. The bill expands upon the existing at-store recycling program regarding the use of single-use plastic bags. Stores will be limited from providing single-use plastic bags for only specific uses thereby encouraging a shift to reusable bags. The bill will help clean up Delaware’s communities and watersheds, reduce storm water and trash management costs, and promote the health and safety of watersheds, wildlife and humans, and the ecosystem’s food chain. It will be effective 1/1/21.

**Status:** The bill passed the House on May 14th and has been referred to the Senate Environmental & Natural Resources Committee. Click on [HB 130](#) to read the full bill and see the 21 sponsors with links to their emails. **Our focus turns to the Senate, so please contact Sussex County Senators to ask them to vote for HB130.**

**Offshore Drilling: Good News:** Interior Secretary David Bernhardt was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying that the drilling program was going to take a while, and possibly be “sidelined indefinitely.” It’s becoming more and more likely that we will see significant delays on the development of this drilling program. But – this administration is notoriously unpredictable and there are still battles to be fought. Just last week, the Trump administration finalized plans to weaken the Well Control Rule, a key offshore drilling safety measure created to address deficiencies in offshore safety identified in the aftermath of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster. For more on that, check out [this NPR article](#) and a new report from [Oceana](#) on offshore drilling safety. The administration continues their push to allow seismic airgun blasting off the Atlantic coast from Delaware through Florida.

**ACTION UPDATES**

1. Governor Carney has started a campaign to [Keep Delaware Litter Free](#). The campaign kick-off was held in Rehoboth Beach on April 30th and the Sierra Club was one of the speakers talking about the importance of keeping our coasts litter free!
2. There are still a number of critical bills that we are hoping will be introduced this session -- clean water and increasing the amount of renewable energy used in providing our electricity. Check our [website](#) and these emails for updates and action alerts. You can also follow [Delaware State Legislation](#).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **May 24 – 27, 2019 (Memorial Day Weekend).** The Town of Bethany Beach will host the 4th Annual Poseidon Festival. It is four fun-filled days of island-inspired entertainment at the beach, Bandstand, and Nature Center (807 Garfield Parkway) designed to celebrate the sea while helping the community prepare for potential coastal emergencies. [Click here for a sneak preview.](#)
- **June 8, 2019 (Saturday) 9am - 1pm EDT Annual Inland Bays Clean-Up.** Boats leave from Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp; Long Neck Rd,
Millsboro, DE. The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is seeking volunteers and participants with boats for the 14th Annual Inland Bays Clean-Up and will focus on the shores along Rehoboth and Indian River Bays. Advance registration is requested, as a light lunch and a reusable water bottle will be provided to participants. Additional boats are still needed! Sign up here to VOLUNTEER.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Carper, Senators Request 5 GAO Reports to Examine Federal Response and Planning for Climate Change Risks. Our U.S. Senator, Tom Carper, sent five letters asking the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct five separate studies examining the ways in which climate change poses a threat to the environment, human health and the federal government’s fiscal exposure. These nonpartisan, fact-based reports could eventually serve as the basis for additional committee oversight and legislation.

2. Earlier this year in its biennial High Risk List, the Government Accountability Office came to the stark conclusion that neither global or U.S. efforts to mitigate the causes of climate change, “approach the scales needed to avoid substantial damage to the U.S. economy, environment and human health over the coming decades.”

Your contribution will help sustain our efforts into 2019. We cannot do it without your generous support!

EXPLORE, ENJOY, PROTECT the planet!

SussexDE Section
of the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club