

# EDUCATIONAL FORUM

Connecticut's Energy Policy and Fracking

**Date:** Wednesday November 11th

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Location:** [Guilford Free Library, 67 Park Street, Guilford, CT](#)

*\*See related article, November 2015 Community Pipeline Roundup*

**Subject:** The challenge to meet energy needs with methane has created controversy over extraction and transportation methods of this greenhouse gas, the most common in the atmosphere. Representatives from three different statewide organizations will present their research. **Martha Klein** of Sierra Club CT Chapter will discuss the state's energy policy and the expansion of intrastate and interstate shale gas infrastructure in the state and region for transport and use; **Jen Siskind** of Food and Water Watch will show the connection between fracking and the energy policy and **Ben Martin**, a member of 350CT, will describe the dangers of transport and use of fracked fuels, and the safe and available alternatives.



**Current issue:** The Algonquin pipeline expansion project has started construction in Guilford and surrounding towns, yet many Connecticut residents are unaware of the costs associated with this and other shale gas projects in the state.

**The forum will focus on answering the following questions:**

1. How will pipeline expansions affect my town and neighborhood?
2. How will the cost of these new projects affect my energy bill?
3. Is methane, or fracked, natural gas, really a bridge fuel?
4. What are the health and safety impacts for local residents?
5. What is the effect on the environment of piping fracked gas under rivers, through wetlands, and across sensitive ecosystems?
6. How does leaked methane impact climate change?
7. More gas = more fracking = more toxic, radioactive fracking waste. What does this mean for CT?

*There is significant concern about the effects of these construction projects on the economy, environment, health and safety of the citizens of Connecticut, and development of renewable energy alternatives.*

**Advocates:**

- Food and Water Watch
- 350CT
- The Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter

**Hosts:** The Shoreline Group of the Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter and Guilford Free Library  
*Free and Open to the public*

**Contact:** Patricia Baldwin [pbaldwin@guilfordfreelibrary.org](mailto:pbaldwin@guilfordfreelibrary.org)

Please register on library's website, [www.guilfordfreelibrary.org](http://www.guilfordfreelibrary.org), by telephone, [203-453-8282](tel:203-453-8282) or in person at the library's Reference.

# RALLY

100% Renewable Energy for 100% of the People

**Date:** Saturday, November 21st

**Time:** 12:00 noon

**Location:** [The Connecticut State Capitol, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford](#)

**Contact:** Connecticut Sierra Club

**Telephone:** [860-236-4405](tel:860-236-4405)

**Email:** [Connecticut.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:Connecticut.chapter@sierraclub.org)

**Purpose:** Tell Governor Malloy we demand clean, renewable energy controlled by the community. Challenge the Governor's support for more fracked gas pipelines through our state.

Connecticut needs an immediate plan to transition to renewable energy, and a halt to all shale gas expansion projects. Call on the governor and your legislators to implement the following initiatives:

- *Repeal of financial and political support for all fossil fuels, including fracked gas infrastructure;*
- *Implement a comprehensive federal and state plan for a rapid transition to 100% renewable energy with guaranteed green jobs for fossil fuel workers and a focus on career opportunities for low-income communities;*
- *Put an end to environmentally racist policies that put the burden of pollution on disadvantaged neighborhoods.*

*\*See related article, November 2015 Community Pipeline Roundup.*

---

## GROUP MEETINGS

### Green Drinks Hartford

Green Drinks Hartford is a monthly happy hour for environmentally conscious people to connect, network and have fun.

**Brief Talk Speaker and Subject:** **Debbie Hoak**, founder of the "Hartford Minimalists," will share ways you can simplify the holidays for less stress and more joy. Join us and learn how you can have a happier and more planet-friendly holiday!



**Date:** Wednesday, November 11th

**Time:** 6:00pm-8:00pm

**Brief Talk:** 7:00pm

**Location:** Red Rock Tavern, This neighborhood restaurant has been around for over 80 years! ~ [369 Capitol Avenue, Hartford](#)

**Menu:** There are plenty of vegetarian options. Check out the menu at: <http://www.redrocktavern.com/>

Follow the group at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/172357563108659/>

*Green Drinks Hartford meets every second Wednesday of the month at different venues around Hartford. Join us and bring your friends!*

---

## Sierra Club - Greater Hartford Group



November Meeting and Presentation

**Presentation:** "The Farmington River"

**Speaker:** **Eileen Fielding**, Executive Director, Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA)

**Date:** Thursday, November 12th

**Time:** 7:30pm. Doors open at 7:00pm for refreshments and letter writing

**Location:** [Westmoor Park, 119 Flagg Road, West Hartford](#)

**Questions:** Renee at [mchawigirl@yahoo.com](mailto:mchawigirl@yahoo.com)

Eileen will present a combined program on the history of the river and its current cleanliness status. She will also discuss legal/cleanup efforts this year.

FRWA is a citizen-based, non-profit 501(c)3 organization. It was founded by concerned local residents in 1953 to address the critical water quality problems of that time. Today, FRWA still leads in addressing Farmington River issues such as water quality, water allocation, habitat restoration, recreation, open space and wetland and floodplain protection. They work with federal, state and local governments, business and industry and with the people in the watershed's 33 communities to protect the river and its surrounding landscape.

Ms. Fielding came to FRWA in 2008 from her position as Executive Director of the Hoosic River Watershed Association in Williamstown, MA. She holds a doctorate in ecology from the University of Connecticut, where she studied the impacts of population crashes on the ecology and genetics of freshwater fishes. She has taught conservation, ecology, watershed management and other subjects at several colleges including Trinity College, St. Joseph College, Wesleyan University and the University of Chicago. In addition, she has many years of experience in managing and leading environmental organizations, including positions at CT Audubon, the Eastern CT Conservation District and the Science Center of Connecticut.

*A small donation is requested.*

## SOCIAL EVENT

### Sierra Club Pizza Night

Join your fellow Sierra Club members for a relaxing dinner in a casual atmosphere.

**Date:** Wednesday, November 18th

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Location:** [Mystic Pizza, 56 West Main Street, Mystic, CT](#)

**Menu:** pizza, burgers, salads and more

**Web site:** [www.mysticpizza.com](http://www.mysticpizza.com)

**Contact:** Aimee Gresham - [aimiewrites@juno.com](mailto:aimiewrites@juno.com)

---

## HIKES

### North Madison Lithic Stone Hike - **Cancelled**

**Date:** Saturday, November 7th

**Time:** 10:30am

*Hike will be rescheduled.*

### Historic Mine Hill in Roxbury, CT

**Date:** Sunday, November 15th

**Time:** 10:00am

**Trail:** Mine Hill houses remnants of a 19th century iron-making complex listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The setting is of breathtaking natural beauty on a nature preserve. You will be able to view a restored blast furnace and roasting ovens, a granite quarry, mine shafts (now home to bats), donkey paths and farm fields along the Shepaug River.



**Length of hike:** 3.5 miles

**Difficulty:** Moderate over hilly terrain at a fast pace.

**Site exploration:** Time will be given at the hike's end to explore the historic site.

**Meet:** Roxbury Town Hall parking lot, [29 North St. Roxbury, CT](#) for shuttling to trailhead.

**Questions/carpooling:** [amanda.kenyon@sierraclub.org](mailto:amanda.kenyon@sierraclub.org)

### Free

- *Non-members welcome*
- *No dogs*

- *Wear sturdy hiking shoes*
- *Bring lunch, snacks and water*
- *Steady rain cancels.*

**Facebook event:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1511950819128649/>

**Note:** *All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please contact the hike leader.*

## Penwood State Park, Simsbury, CT

**Date:** Saturday, November 21st

**Time:** 12 Noon

**Difficulty:** Easy hiking on rolling terrain

**Meet:** Parking lot just off the Rte. 185 park entrance

**RSVP:** YES only, by 11/27 to [mchawigirl@yahoo.com](mailto:mchawigirl@yahoo.com)

**Note:** *If you say YES and change your mind, please let me know so I can hike nearer home instead.*

**Directions:** Rte. 91 to exit 35B, Rte. 218 west. Take 218 until you reach Rte. 189 north in Bloomfield. Turn right onto Rte. 189 and continue north to Rte. 178. Turn left onto 178 and proceed to end where it intersects with Rte.185. Turn right onto Rte.185. Ahead about a mile on the right is park entrance.

**GPS:** You can mapquest/GPS Stafford Street and Hartford Road intersection in Simsbury, CT for a site close to park entrance.

**Dogs:** Friendly dogs are welcome but must be leashed as others approach. Messes on the trail must be removed.

*All hikers, adults and children over 10 years of age, with or without dogs are welcome as long as they refrain from cell phone use and smoking and can tolerate our dogs.*

**RAIN THAT DAY CANCELS**

---

# OUR VOICE

Yale SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

## DIVERSE VOICES

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Aaron Mair, President, Sierra Club, Lectures at Yale

The Yale University lecture series, "Diverse Voices: Environmental Leaders on Climate Change and the Environment" featured Sierra Club President, Aaron Mair on Tuesday, October 27th. The series is presented by the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

According to [environment.yale.edu](http://environment.yale.edu), Mair is one of a "group of diverse environmental leaders tackling environmental challenges through advocacy, policy making, academic research and business" who are presenting in the lecture series. They are discussing "the movement to solve climate change and achieve a more sustainable economy in the 21st century."

Yale notes the movement "will require the work of a broad range of people working across many different fronts." In addition to the lectures, students will be asked to "reflect on the widening range of voices engaging in these challenges across the U.S., and how the environmental movement can better reflect all parts of American society."



### Aaron Mair

Sierra Club, President

Aaron Mair is the Sierra Club's 57th president. Mair became a Sierra Club member in 1999 after leading a decade-long battle to shut down a polluting solid waste incinerator in an inner-city community in Albany, N.Y. His efforts ultimately led to a commitment by the state to shut down the facility and a \$1.6 million settlement award to that community. Mair was also a key figure in securing the Sierra Club's participation in the Clean Up the Hudson campaign, which resulted in a settlement between the U.S. EPA and General Electric to dredge toxic PCB sediments from the Upper Hudson River. He has held more than three-dozen leadership positions within the Sierra Club's Hudson Mohawk Group and Atlantic Chapter. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to grassroots action, environmental justice, and transforming the culture of the Sierra Club to make it — in his words — "a more welcoming environment to all people, regardless of their race or socio-economic status."

# YOUR GEN VOICES

## Electric Vehicles Initiative in CT

My name is Jameelah Muhammad and I am the new Senior Organizing Representative working in both CT and MA on the Electric Vehicles Initiative (EVI) for the Sierra Club. I work directly with National Staff on this initiative and I have been busy since my hire in September identifying and organizing outcomes for an active and engaging Electric Vehicles Campaign in CT.

In September, Sierra Club celebrated National Drive Electric Week and in partnership with other organizations across the state we were able to promote several "ride and drive" events and other educational opportunities for people to learn about the variety of electric vehicles available for purchase. Nationwide over 130,000 people turned out to 196 pro-EV events in 187 cities and 9,000+ test drives took place.

Sierra Club CT Chapter has been engaged in this work for quite some time and has been an active member of the Electric Vehicle Coalition in CT (<http://www.ctenvironment.org/#!ct-electric-vehicle-coalition/c13ul>). Through work with the coalition, the Sierra Club CT Chapter has been instrumental in working with policy makers to ensure that Electric Vehicles are a priority and that incentives are established to make it easier to purchase and use EVs across the state.

The Sierra Club, Acadia Center, and Conservation Law Foundation are excited to announce that we are soon releasing a report titled, "Charging Up: The Role of States, Utilities, and the Auto Industry in Dramatically Accelerating Electric Vehicle Adoption in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States." In this report we will be able to compare CT to other states to see how we are implementing related EV policies. The report will also highlight a series of recommendations for policy makers and advocates related to a variety of EV related issues.

Shortly after the report's release there will be a webinar and opportunities to talk to our local policy makers and partners about the report findings. If you are interested in helping with outreach related to the report, send an e-mail to me at [Jameelah.muhammad@sierraclub.org](mailto:Jameelah.muhammad@sierraclub.org).

Please check the CT Sierra Club website and newsletter for important updates and opportunities to get involved with the Electric Vehicle Initiative. I look forward to meeting and speaking with members of the chapter in the future.

For more information about the EV Initiative you can visit the Sierra Club's EV Guide:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/evguide>

---

# FRACKING

November 2015 Pipeline Roundup

by *Martha Klein*

Fourteen months ago, the Connecticut Chapter launched the Beyond Gas Campaign, with our allies 350CT and Food and Water Watch. We undertook to educate residents, the media and political and regulatory leaders about the growing opposition to expanded shale gas transport and use. Although it's been a grueling fight at times, a few signs of progress have emerged.

In October, the **West Hartford** Town Council passed a unanimous resolution questioning the safety of and need for the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) project, a Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline project to increase exponentially the amount of gas carried in enlarged, high pressure lines. The **Hartford** Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) had expressed concerns about Kinder Morgan's plan to construct the pipeline through Class I and II lands of the watershed, which are under specific protections of the state Department of Health designed to preserve drinking water standards.

According to Scott Jellison, CEO of the MDC, *"It appears to the MDC that the initial environmental review process is deficient, that potential impacts to these vital waters resources are not being addressed in any manner and that more public input is essential."* Now we wait for the next stage in the federal approval process of the NED, which will be the release of an Environmental Impact Statement from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Because NED will cross many states, it is approved at the federal level by FERC.

The approval by the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) of an 805 MegaWatt gas powered plant to be built in **Oxford** provoked the town of **Middlebury** and 16 other plaintiffs to bring a law suit against CSC, who approved the new plant under a 15 year old permit that was issued for a facility of half the size. Oxford is a small town and cannot use the massive increase in power that will be produced there; the power is expected to be sent to other parts of New England.

Connecticut's Department of Energy (DEEP) has become a big promoter of shale gas infrastructure expansion. DEEP is approving 900 miles of brand new gas pipeline that is being built within the state. It is referred to as "intrastate" pipeline, and since these pipelines don't pass out of Connecticut, there is no federal oversight. In fact, these approvals are occurring secretly, as residents must send Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to DEEP to learn where new intrastate pipeline is being built. An oil distributor trade group in the state, Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (CEMA), brought a law suit against DEEP based on the issue of permits for new shale gas pipeline without any environmental impact statements, a process often standard at the federal level. Although the suit was dismissed in court, CEMA is appealing.

## Public Distrust

Further evidence of the growing distrust the public feels for fracked methane gas, is the movement by towns to pass local resolutions against shale gas pipeline expansion and bans on fracking waste. So far, **Washington**, **Mansfield** and **Coventry** have passed resolutions or bans against pipelines and/or fracking waste, and numerous other towns are drafting their own



resolutions. Although towns may not have authority to stop interstate pipeline, they can block the importation of fracking waste, a radioactive and toxic substance that is produced during fracking.

Gas pipeline construction is driven by the glut of gas on the market caused by fracking and the need of gas distributors to reach new markets. Disposing of the toxic waste could have a chilling effect on the fracking industry. Currently, at least half the methane gas piped into Connecticut comes from fracking fields, and that percentage is expected to rise to close to 100% in the coming years.

### **Five Interstate Pipelines Connecticut is Confronting**

1. **Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM).** This Spectra Energy project has been approved by FERC and has received its state air and water permits from DEEP. It has begun construction from **Willimantic to Danbury** and towns in between. Primarily this phase of construction is to "upgrade" regulation stations and a few compressor stations, in preparation for stages two and three of the Algonquin pipeline expansion. Upgrading means more power can flow through the infrastructure, so they are expansions although Spectra avoids that word.
2. **Atlantic Bridge.** This Spectra Energy is AIM project 2.0. The proposed project runs along an identical pipeline route, but expands pipeline in different areas and adds more horse power to some compressor stations that will already be "upgraded" under AIM. This proposal is beginning the application process.
3. **Access Northeast.** Spectra Energy proposal, AIM 3.0, runs along the identical map, but this time, adds many (hard to count on the maps but looks like at least half a dozen) gas powered plants to the project. This proposal has been introduced but has not yet formally applied for FERC permission.
4. **CT Expansion.** A Kinder Morgan project impacts mostly **Hartford county** up to **Suffield** and into **Massachusetts**. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was released on October 23rd by FERC. An EA is a shorter, less comprehensive report than an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the fact that FERC used an EA supports the idea that they are making it easy to get CT Expansion approved. This project is phase one of the expansion of this 50 year old pipeline, for the purpose of "expanded capacity" for transport. Kinder Morgan needs this infrastructure construction to complete the NED. The projects fall on the identical route.
5. **Northeast Energy Direct.** The NED pipeline expansion is the Kinder Morgan project discussed at the West Hartford community meeting. NED is an enormous expansion that will put clean water at risk in the Class I and II lands in the **Hartford** watershed and do at least as much damage in other states. Right now, Kinder Morgan is trying to take public protected land in **Sandisfield, MA**. Of interest is the fact that a **Hingham, MA** representative (former pipeline employee) made that legislative proposal. NED is a "capacity" enlarging and transport project. The project does include some laterals, which is to say, smaller offshoots of pipeline that can be used to deliver gas to local areas. But it would be built to deliver more fracked gas to the north for the purpose of export to Canada and overseas.

The excuse for these projects is to increase pipeline capacity." Capacity implies the ability to transport larger amounts. We have known for a year that the purpose of these projects is export. We learned that from the US Department of Energy, who approved the application of Pieridae Energy, a Canadian corporation, to export domestically fracked methane gas from Maine to

Canada for the purpose of overseas export. Pieridae will rely on supply from both AIM and NED for its LNG and export facility, now undergoing approval by Canadian regulators.

A DOE document dated October 24, 2014, for docket No. 14-179-LNG is an "*application...to export natural gas into Canada for consumption and through Canada to Free Trade and Non Free Trade Countries after conversion into LNG by Pieridae...*" The DOE states on page 90 of this document that gas for this export scheme will be provided by "*a proposed expansion of the Algonquin pipeline system and the M&N pipeline connecting abundant North American natural gas supplies in the Marcellus and Utica regions with markets in the...Maritime provinces.*"

With regard to the NED, the DOE wrote, "*The anticipated reversal of the primary flow direction of the Joint Facilities will enable the project to access more New England customers in New Hampshire and Maine and in the Atlantic Canada region....Potential Atlantic Canada customers include...liquified natural gas export projects.*"

## **Deception**

Although we know the **interstate** pipelines are being built primarily for export, the argument is made that more methane gas is needed locally. We know this is a fabrication, because the Green Bank has been forced to scale back their rate of conversions of new customers to gas from oil or other forms of home heating. The state has a goal to convert 280,000 new homes and businesses to use of methane gas, which justifies the construction of 900 miles of new **intrastate** pipeline to create access for these thousands of new customers. But the price of oil has dropped concurrently with the price of methane gas, and for the same reason (fracking). There is no economic benefit at this time to converting to shale gas, although our legislature voted to make us subsidize the conversions. Quite simply, the people of Connecticut don't need all the extra gas or the extra power, but the power companies, including Eversource which owns pipeline, need new and more lucrative markets to deliver gas to.

## **Challenge the Status Quo**

The public money extracted from ratepayers for fracked gas infrastructure expansion should be used to build an efficient and renewable energy economy. The governor and our legislature have burdened us with the economic and environmental costs of increased fossil fuel use and transport, and have denied us access to affordable and safe technology like community shared solar. It appears that many politicians in Connecticut are more responsive to the wishes of their corporate funders than they are to the will of their constituents. We live in interesting times when people are tiring of corporations and politicians enriching themselves at the expense of our natural resources. The Connecticut Chapter has plans to challenge the status quo and we are working to bring forward a clean and renewable energy plan that will work for everyone in the state.

---

## **Call to Action**

Attend Connecticut's Energy Policy and Fracking Symposium, Wednesday November 11th at 7:00pm at the Guilford Free Library, 67 Park Street, Guilford, CT.

See more under [Educational Forum](#) in this issue.

---

## HELP WANTED

### Website Administrator Volunteer Needed

Are you a member of CT Sierra Club, have skills developing websites and want to give back to help the environment? We are looking for a website administrator who can keep our website up to date and make it more user friendly. The time commitment is about four hours per month.

Please respond to Martha at [martha.klein@sierraclub.org](mailto:martha.klein@sierraclub.org) if you have an interest. Thank you!

**WE NEED YOU**

