Kansas City Sierra Club Members Demand Clean Air for All

By Gretchen Waddell Barwick, Chapter Staff

“Clean air is important to me because we all breathe. Every single one of us in this room is breathing right now,” stated Cymone Turner. Cymone is a student and Sierra Club member who attended the Missouri Air Conservation Commission (MACC) meeting in Kansas City on September 25. Activists turned in more than 250 petitions asking for the MACC to take action immediately on toxic Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) Air Pollution.

SO2 causes breathing problems in as few as five minutes, is particularly dangerous to older adults, children and asthmatics. Downtown Kansas City has been designated as a non-attainment area, an area having hazardous high levels of SO2 air pollution, by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency. KC is already seeing the effects of SO2 pollution—Jackson County has one of the highest rates of asthma-related Emergency Room visits and hospitalizations in the state. However, some populations feel these effects more than others. The majority of people living in the non-attainment area are people of color. Black and Hispanic populations experience shocking health disparities in our state, particularly asthma and heart disease which are associated with SO2 air pollution.

Cymone is right: We all deserve clean air. We all breathe. The time to act is now.

Sierra Club members drop off 250 petitions demanding clean air for Kansas City. From left to right: Bob Ludlow, Cymone Turner, Sara Campell, Jim Turner, Gretchen Waddell Barwick, Kimberley Hose (Not Pictured: Claus Wawrzinek) Photo: Claus Wawrzinek

To volunteer or learn more about SO2 pollution, contact Gretchen Waddell Barwick (800) 628-5333 or by email at gretchen.waddellbarwick@sierraclub.org.

Clean Power Plan Tackles Power Plant Carbon Pollution

By Andy Knott, Beyond Coal Campaign Representative

In June, as part of the President’s Climate Action Plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the first-ever carbon pollution standards for existing power plants, known as the Clean Power Plan (CPP), signaling an end to the era of power plants dumping unlimited amounts of carbon pollution into our atmosphere.

The standards create a strong framework for states as they move towards renewable energy and energy efficiency. States have been put in the driver’s seat and allowed great flexibility to create plans to limit carbon pollution, and local leadership is now more important than ever.

The CPP would reduce carbon pollution from power plants by 30% nationwide by 2030 and the target for reductions in Missouri would be 21%. EPA took public comment on the proposal through December 1 and will issue a final rule in June 2015. Missouri DNR will then have until June 2016, with possible extensions, to develop its own state plan.

Missouri is already well on its way towards meeting its carbon reduction goal. In addition to phasing out the oldest and dirtiest power plants, Missouri is already taking climate action with a growing clean energy sector. EPA projects an increase in Missouri’s use of clean energy to reduce reliance on high-carbon energy sources. Missouri is actually poised to exceed EPA’s projection with smart investments in energy efficiency, wind, and solar.

Clean energy creates jobs right here in Missouri as well as saves ratepayer dollars. According to the Solar Foundation’s 2013 Solar Job Census, Missouri is ranked 12th in the nation with 2,800 Missourians currently working in the solar field. In January 2014, Kansas City Power & Light announced its new investment in 400 MW of wind power would save its customers hundreds of millions of dollars.
I was among forty-three Missourians who traveled by bus and vans to New York City for the People’s Climate March (see picture below), with thirty-some Kansans, Nebraskans and Oklahomans. We slept overnight on the moving vehicles and slept overnight near Allentown PA. Our diverse 300,000-plus throng expressed the importance of phasing out of fossil fuels.

Due to the vigorous policy engagement of our Beyond Coal Campaign team, I’m among fifty-five members of a Steering Committee that Governor Nixon has appointed to form a Comprehensive Energy Plan for Missouri. In seven public meetings at various cities in October, we heard and discussed a broad range of feasible technology and the regulatory challenges. Now Working Groups will dig into details, for reports that Missouri’s Energy Department will consolidate for announcement in early summer 2015.

World-wide progress toward smart energy, while delayed by coal’s and oil’s greed and disinformation, is inevitable – if we persist in organizing!
Saving Money While Saving the Planet: Sierra Club Members Share Stories of Energy Efficiency

By Laura Neuman-Howe (Sierra Club Member since 1986)

We had a relatively old AC unit that had needed servicing repeatedly for several seasons. There were times when we couldn’t keep the house cool. We saw buying a new AC and furnace as a long term investment that would pay off in terms of lower costs with noticeably improved comfort. Our gas and electricity bills have been lower but beyond that, the comfort levels in our home are much better—this is particularly important in our household since my husband, Jeff, works from home so the house has to stay comfortable at all times.

What would I tell others considering this process? It was worth it and the rebates really helped.

By Michael Honigfort (Sierra Club Member since 1989)

My air conditioner was about 20 years old and needed to be replaced so last year I invested in a new AC and programmable thermostat. I was interested in energy efficiency and the $250 Ameren rebate was an incentive to not waste anymore time.

I love my new system. My new air conditioning is better, nicer and more reliable. My old AC had an EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio) of 8.5 and my new system is a 14.5 so I am saving 30-50%—I have already saved a few hundred dollars this year. My thermostat is great because I can control my home’s temperature through an app on my phone. Now I can have more control over how much energy I use and can still keep the house comfortable.

What would I tell others considering this process? The rebate system is fast and easy. Do it!

If you are interested in learning more about rebates in your area, visit Kansas City Power and Light’s website http://www.kcpl.com/save-energy-and-money or Ameren’s website https://www.ameren.com/missouri/uefficiency/ for more information.

Independence there are no energy efficiency building codes at all. Now is the time to make a change. The future of our communities depends on it.

To learn more about building codes and how you can help, contact Michael Berg at (314) 644-1011 or by email at michael.berg@sierraclub.org.
Sierra Club Outings are open to the public. A dollar per person donation is requested. No guns or pets are allowed on trips. Use of audible electronics must be approved by the leader. Participants must sign a liability release. Outings Leaders are volunteers. Outings officially start at the trailhead or river access. Carpooling is encouraged but not the responsibility of the Leader. For more information contact the Leader of a particular Outing or for general information contact Mike Bollinger at 636) 938-6594.

Dec 17 (Wed) Queeny Park. It is four miles around the perimeter and options for some of the inner trails. There are woods, prairie, and fancy houses. Some hills. Contact Tina Mathes treasurehunt22@sbcglobal.net.

Dec 19 (Fri) Day hike, 7-10 miles. For more information, location and starting time, contact Suzanne Smith at thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or Margot Kindley at margot107@charter.net

Dec 20 (Sat) Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring in Fox Creek. Come help our group do water testing in the Fox Creek watershed near Eureka. Fox Creek is a high quality creek and we have been monitoring it to help ensure that it remains in good condition. Call Jim Rhodes at (314) 821-7758 for more information.

Dec 24 (Wed) Walk in Forest Park. We will be starting at the Visitor and Education Center and hike around the circumference of the park ending with lunch at the Boat House restaurant. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Dec 26 (Fri) Day hike, 7-10 miles. For more information, location and starting time, contact Suzanne Smith at thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or Margot Kindley at margot107@charter.net

Dec 31 (Wed) New Years Eve 3 mile hike, Fort Bellefontaine. Enjoy views of forest, prairie, Coldwater Creek and the Mississippi River. There are also many historical sites. This is where Lewis and Clark camped or their way west, one of the earliest forts was built, and where the rich and famous came to play. Contact Tina Mathes treasurehunt22@sbcglobal.net.

Jan 1 (Thu) News Year’s Day, Meramec State Park. This hike is about 4 miles. The hike will be all cross country and cold weather gear is required. Paul Stupperich (314) 429-4352, lonebuffalo@earthlink.net

Jan 1 (Thu) New Year’s Day (tentative) we will either bicycle if the weather is decent or walk on the St. Louis riverfront. For more information; Tim Pekarek, (314) 445-9058, or tapekarek@gmail.com.

Jan 2 (Fri) Start the year with a 7-9 mile hike. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Jan 7 (Wed) Forest Park, Contact Tina Mathes treasurehunt22@sbcglobal.net

Jan 9 (Fri) Join our hike group for the weekly hike to be led by Suzanne thisissuzanne@yahoo.com or one of our new leaders.

Jan 10-11 (Sat-Sun) Winter backpack. In the tradition established by Bob Gestel, if the weather cooperates, there will be a short 4-8 mile backpack. It will be within 100 miles of St. Louis in a place where fires are permitted. Some cross country will be involved. Exact destination to be determined later. George Behrens (314) 821-0247.

Jan 14 (Wed) Mark Twain State Park, Monroe County, Missouri, will be a very scenic hike along the lake of the same name. We will be accessing all of the trails to make for a varied 7 mile hike. Plan to end up at the Mark Twain Birthplace museum to see where Samuel Clemens began his life. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jan 16 (Fri) TBA day hike. For more info contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com
Jan 18 (Sun) St. Charles County day hike. Join us for a 5 plus mile hike. Contact Toni Armstrong, (314) 434-2072, toniarmstrong1@aol.com, or Nancy Carrol, (636) 394-6265, n-carrol47@sbcglobal.net, for more details.

Jan 23 (Fri) For this week’s hike contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com


Jan 28 (Wed) Paddy Creek Wilderness Area, Texas County, MO will be our 4th Wilderness Area to explore here in Missouri. With scenic overlooks and walking through forests, you will enjoy the hike as we walk along the Southern Loop of the Big Piney Trail. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Jan 30 (Fri) Hike close to St Louis. For more info contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Feb 4 (Wed) Al Foster, Contact Tina Mathes treasurehunt22@sbcglobal.net

Feb 6 (Fri) A snowy hike?? Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com for more info.

Feb 7 (Sat) 7-9p.m. Thirteenth Annual Winter Sing Along. A group of musically dubious Sierrans fulfill their musical destiny. Linda and Betsey have agreed to give it all they have on guitar and harmonica. Songs range from early Dylan to old Stephen Foster. Attendees are welcome to bring refreshments. At the NEW Sierra Club office at 2818 Sutton Blvd. in Maplewood. For more information or in case of inclement weather (snow or ice) cancelation call George Behrens at (314) 821-0247.

Feb 11 (Wed) McCully Heritage Project, IL. This is a five mile hike on land just East of the Illinois River. This land, which was donated to the State of Illinois, contains forests, glades, springs and wetlands. Trekking through this mostly forested land should make for an interesting hike. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.

Feb 13 (Fri) Valentine Day hike. Hopefully good weather. Contact thisissuzanne@yahoo.com

Feb 21-22 (Sat-Sun) Day hikes and camping. Two one day hikes with campground camping Sat night. Hikes will be 6-10 miles each. Destination will be within 110 miles of St. Louis. George Behrens (314) 821-0247.

Feb 25 (Wed) Trail of Tears State Park, Peewah Trail. This will be a 6 mile hike using the East Loop and part of the West Loop of the Peewah Trail. The trail goes through a maze of ravines and then ascends to a ridge to bluff path that overlooks the Mississippi River. Contact Doug Melville, (636) 288-1055 or douglas.k.melville@gmail.com for further information.


Dec 13 (Sat) Hike at Clifty Creek Conservation Area The area includes a 2.5 miles long hiking trail and a 40 foot natural bridge. The area is located one hour south of Jefferson City. Turn off of Hwy 63 south on Hwy 28 south of Vienna. Go 14 miles and turn left on W between Vienna and Dixon. Should transition to gravel and turn into Maries Road 511. Parking lot should be on the left. Carpool from Columbia leaving at 8:30 a.m. or meet at Missouri Department of Conservation Parking lot at Clifty Creek around 10:15. Call Tom Lata at 573-489-2302 for more information.

Jan 10 (Sat) Hike at Rocheport and Chili Cookoff: Leisurely walk along the river at Rocheport (easy); or take a short, but steep hike in Dianna Bend Conservation area to a bluff overlooking the Missouri River (steep but short hike). Meet at the parking lot in front of the Depot (Ranger Station) at 3 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., return to Tom and Julie Lata’s house at 6901 W. Charlene Chili and a potluck. Potluck will begin at 6:00 p.m. Bring Chili to be judged by all. Contact Tom Lata at (573) 489-2302 or email tlata@tranquility.net for more information and directions.

The Thomas Hart Benton Group has all their outings on Meetup.com. You can find the latest scheduled outings at Meetup.com/KC-Sierra-Club-Outings/

The White River Group currently has no outings listed. Please check the website for the latest updates.
Missouri Sierran                December 2014 – May 2015

Annual Missouri Chapter Sierra Club Ballot
Executive Committee Ballot Profiles

Mike Diel
I’m very proud of the Sierra Club. But in particular I’m proud of the Missouri Chapter. and what we’ve been able to accomplish in the last few years. The club is a testament to what volunteers can do with the right leadership.

I would like to be part of the executive committee going forward. I like to think my cynical out of the box thinking gives the committee a different view point. I am a landlord, a Christmas tree farmer, a Stream Teamer, an Occupyer, and a citizen lobbyist, and I would appreciate your vote.

John Feldmann
I’m running again for the Missouri Chapter Executive Committee. I really enjoy the Sierra Club and the positive work that the SC performs to keep pressure on our elected representatives and other decision makers to make positive decisions to protect our Missouri environment. I would really like to work toward expanding our membership and bringing more members forward to become active on behalf of SC. We need to tap the energy our members can bring toward endeavors from social to environmental goals. I want to see more folks involved in the Missouri Chapter.

Anne McGregor
I feel very honored to be asked to run for the state executive committee of the Sierra Club. In addition to the Club’s history and mission, the impact that it has on policy can be seen practically every day due to its involvement in policy-making around the state.

Since 1982 I have worked in the energy industry so my interest falls primarily in the energy policy side of things that the Sierra Club does and is what brought me to the club in the first place. I was involved in gathering signatures during the campaign to put the renewable fuel standard on the ballot in Missouri. And last year I worked on getting Kansas City Power and Light to sign on to the Missouri energy efficiency standard, MIIEA. Which they eventually did.

In addition to that, I also independently lobbied the City of Kansas City to enact an energy benchmarking resolution using the Energy Star Portfolio Manager. They ended up passing a voluntary resolution and successfully lobbied some of the city’s largest companies to sign on to it.

The state of Missouri is currently undergoing an overhaul of its energy policy that I would love to be a part of. My background in energy will be very helpful to this endeavor. And with the reputation of the Sierra Club behind me, I think I could be very effective. I have also participated in lobby days in Jefferson City with the Sierra Club. Today’s climate gives the Sierra Club ample opportunity to affect change in energy policy.

Jim Rhodes
I’ve been a member of the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter for over 20 years and was actively involved on the Chapter Executive committee as well as political committee during those years. Then we had kids and I became actively involved in home life and raising those kids. Two years ago I ran for the Chapter Excom and am serving on the committee again as well as the role of Chapter political committee chair.

We have a great opportunity and a responsibility to protect Missouri’s wild places and to help protect our environment from those that would misuse it. Missouri has a long way to go to improve our renewable energy generation usage compared to the rest of the country. I believe that we can do better than just burn coal and build wildly expensive nuclear plants that we do not need. I would like the Missouri chapter to push practical solutions to change the energy generation equation in Missouri and help create renewable energy jobs in this state for the long term. I want to help make this happen over the next couple of years.

I believe the chapter needs to activate younger members throughout the state to create a vibrant energized group to take over leadership in the future. We need to focus our energy to reach these members and get them involved.

BALLOT
Missouri Chapter ExCom Ballot

Household voter 1
( ) Mike Diel
( ) John Feldmann
( ) Anne McGregor
( ) Jim Rhodes
( ) ........................................
(writeln-in candidate above)

Household voter 2
( ) Mike Diel
( ) John Feldmann
( ) Anne McGregor
( ) Jim Rhodes
( ) ........................................
(writeln-in candidate above)
Missouri Chapter Executive Committee election

By Caroline Pufalt

The Sierra Club in Missouri is organized in a state-wide chapter, and in four “groups” which cover the state but are centered around Columbia (Osage Group), Kansas City (Thomas Hart Benton Group), Springfield (White River Group) and St. Louis (Eastern Missouri Group). The chapter is managed by a volunteer Executive Committee (or “ExCom”), nine of whose members are elected at large - meaning chosen in an election in which members across the state can participate. The ExCom makes important decisions for the Missouri chapter about financial and conservation issues.

Please read the statements of the candidates who are running for the ExCom, and then use the ballot in this newsletter to cast your vote. Please mail it so that it arrives at our St. Louis office by the December 31 deadline.

Missouri Chapter ExCom
Ballot instructions:

Carefully read ALL instructions before completing or mailing your ballot.

Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 2015 in order to be counted.

1) You must use this ballot with your address label attached to the back. The ballot portion will be detached from the label portion before counting. Ballots without address labels will not be counted.

2) Vote for up to four (4) candidates. Indicate your choices by marking an X through the box to the left of the candidate’s name. If yours is a joint membership, two (2) members may vote, each in their own column.

3) Put the ballot into an envelope, write BALLOT on the outside, and mail it to:
   Elections Committee
   Sierra Club
   2818 Sutton Boulevard
   St. Louis, MO 63143

4) For questions, including the date, time, and place of ballot counting, please call the Sierra Club office at 314-644-1011 or 800-628-5333.

2014 State and National Elections

By John Feldmann, Political Chair and Michael Berg, Chapter Staff

The Missouri Sierra Club mobilized for elections in August and November, gaining some important victories.

This year the Sierra Club had an increased presence in Missouri elections, endorsing 47 candidates and opposing two ballot initiatives. On August 5, the Sierra Club helped defeat Constitutional Amendment 7, which would have used a regressive sales tax to fund highway-centered transportation projects, with little going to public transportation. Unfortunately voters narrowly approved the deceptively worded Amendment 1, which hurts organic farmers and communities trying to protect themselves from factory farms.

On November 4, Sierra Club support was key to narrow victories in the Missouri House of Representatives for environmental champions Bill Otto, Deb Lavender and Charlie Norr, and in the Missouri Senate for Jill Schupp. Sierra Club support for Steve Stenger for St. Louis County Executive helped stop anti-environmental extremist Rick Stream from capturing the leadership of Missouri’s most populous county.

Members in the White River Group put in a tremendous amount of effort into the spirited (but unsuccessful) campaigns of fellow Sierra Club members Jim Evans for the United States House and Angie Filbeck for Missouri House.

This year we sent out over 12,000 election postcards to members and delivered over 20,000 emails to members and supporters. A number of people volunteered to go door to door throughout the state in support of our endorsed candidates and made thousands of calls to members.

The make-up of the Missouri legislature may not bode well for environmental policy the next couple of years. We’ll continue to work for pro environmental legislation in the state legislature and to support the folks that work toward that goal.

2014 White River Group Executive Committee Election

If you are a member of the White River Group you are eligible to vote in the Executive Committee election. All White River Group members have the word “WRG” on their mailing address label. This election will be held online – you can learn about the candidates at this link: https://missouri2.sierraclub.org/content/white-river-group-2014-executive-committee-candidate-

Anne Charles calls members about Sierra Club endorse candidates

Shawn Sheu and Chloe Ames worked this summer to stop Amendment 7

2014 Missouri Sierran
December 2014 – May 2015
Missouri Sierra Club’s New Office

The Sierra Club in Missouri has moved to our new office at 2818 Sutton Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63143. This new office has space to accommodate state, local and national staff, host membership meetings and trainings, and store maintenance tools. If you have a chance, come see for yourself!

Pictured above (from left to right): Anne Charles, John DeLurey, Sara Edgar, Sue King, Michael Berg