

# Oklahoma Sierran

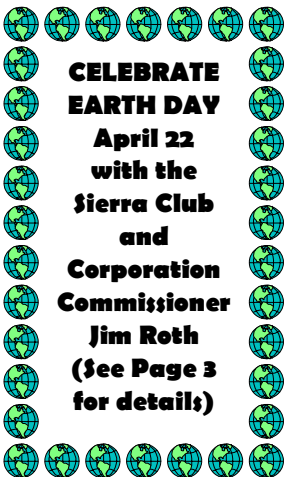
Volume 8 Issue 2

April-June, 2008



### Inside this issue:

Jim Roth's Energy Vision for Oklahoma	2
Earth Day Event Invitation	3
SC Legislative Committee Needs YOU!	3
Chapter Executive Committee Ballot	3
Sierra Student Coalition Training	4
GOOD-BYE!	4
Chapter Directory	4



**CELEBRATE EARTH DAY April 22 with the Sierra Club and Corporation Commissioner Jim Roth (See Page 3 for details)**

## Sierra Club Endorses State Senator Andrew Rice in U.S. Senate Race

by Charles Wesner, Political Chair

The Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club recently announced its endorsement of State Senator Andrew Rice for United States Senate election.

"We are very pleased to announce today that the Sierra Club has officially endorsed Andrew Rice for U.S. Senate," said Charles Wesner, Chapter Political Chair. "We are confident that he will continue work to protect Oklahoma's environment, for our families and for our future."



restore and protect our wildlife and their habitat."

"We are deeply grateful to Rice for his work to improve the state's vehicle fleet fuel efficiency and encourage the use of alternative fuels and vehicles and energy efficient buildings," said Tom Libby, Oklahoma Chapter Chair. "He is a true environmental champion who not only votes correctly on environmental issues, but also leads the fight to protect Oklahoma's clean air, clean water and special places."

Since taking office in the Oklahoma State Senate, Rice has introduced several energy conservation bills that would reduce pollution and greenhouse gases, make our country less dependent on foreign oil and save the state millions of dollars. He has opposed bills that would weaken laws that protect Oklahoma's air and water from pollution by confined animal feeding operations.

"I am proud to have the endorsement of the Oklahoma Sierra Club," State Senator Rice said. "We share a genuine interest in promoting responsible use of earth's natural resources. I look forward to working with all Oklahomans to

Along with the endorsement, the Sierra Club will lend its volunteer strength to Andrew Rice's campaign. **(Note: We need YOUR help!! Sign up to help with Andrew's campaign.**

"We pledge to do all we can to help ensure Senator Rice is elected," Wesner said. "Scores of Sierra Club volunteers will contact voters on his behalf and we will speak to the public as often as possible about his exemplary environmental record. We look forward to a victory party for the environment on election night and to many more years of Andrew Rice fighting for the environment as a U.S. Senator."

## Jim Roth Endorsed for Corporation Commission

In mid-May 2007, Governor Henry appointed two-term Oklahoma County Commissioner Jim Roth to the State Corporation Commission in the spot vacated by Denise Bode. The Corporation Commission regulates oil and gas drilling, utilities and telecommunications in Oklahoma.

Now, Jim is running a statewide campaign for the remaining two years of the original term and he needs our help! Following his visit to our ExCom meeting in February, the Oklahoma Chapter Executive Committee unanimously endorsed Jim's candidacy. His energy vision for Oklahoma is unequalled by any other Oklahoma politician we have ever interviewed.

Jim hit the ground running when he took office, leading the charge to stop OCC's ap-

proval of the permit for the proposed huge Red Rock coal-fired power plant. He has been a proponent of demand-side management policies in Oklahoma, working to promote conservation as an energy initiative in Oklahoma.

Governor Henry proudly announced Jim's appointment, saying "Jim Roth has the intellect, the integrity and the dedication to public service needed to be an outstanding Corporation Commissioner ... and he was right!

Please read Jim's energy efficiency vision on Page 2. If you're inspired to help with Jim's election or make a donation, you can sign-up, and even donate, on his website: [www.roth2008.com](http://www.roth2008.com) or attend his Earth Day fundraiser (see Page 3). You may also contact Sierra Club Political Chair, Charles Wesner, at: [c.wesner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c.wesner@sbcglobal.net) or 405.321.2204.

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY – A FUEL EVERY OKLAHOMAN OWNS

By Jim Roth, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner

We live in a time of serious concern about Energy and its costs. There is no doubt we have witnessed growing impacts on every Oklahoman's life and budget. Supplies are considered scarce and demand is considered on the rise. All across our country the search has now begun for an American future where energy independence can safeguard our national safety and our quality of life. Some have termed our dilemma an 'impending energy crisis.' Yet, a big part of the solution may be cheaper and easier than we think, in the form of energy efficiencies.

You see, the cheapest form of power and energy is that kilowatt saved and never generated. Call it conservation, call it fiscal discipline, call it a cleaner America, but whatever you call it be sure to call it Cheap. In fact, Energy Efficiency programs, at work in many states, have been implemented at a cost of only 3 ¢ per kilowatt hour, as opposed to the nearly 8¢ per kilowatt hour paid today by Oklahomans for electricity.

The "Fifth Fuel," energy efficiency is unlike: coal, nuclear, natural gas or wind power, because it's something every single citizen owns and controls. And it's time that this citizen-owned fuel becomes a greater resource for Oklahoma's energy future.

So what is energy efficiency, what does that mean for you and me, and how can it help?

## What is Energy Efficiency?

Energy efficiency refers to products or systems using less energy to do the same or better job than conventional products or systems. In today's world, there are many efficient products, homes, and buildings. They include efficient appliances for the kitchen, heating and cooling equipment, home electronics, and other products to weatherize our homes and improve the efficiency of buildings and industrial facilities.

If Americans took advantage of these more efficient products and took steps to improve the efficiency of their homes and buildings, they could save 10 to 30 percent on their energy bills, cost-effectively. It could help prevent

or delay the need for building dozens of new power plants or other new energy infrastructure. In addition, it can help create jobs, keep energy prices reasonable, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

With energy efficiency programs, you can benefit from lower energy bills, but the benefits are not limited to just your pocket-book. The benefits of Energy Efficiency can:

- Reduce customer energy bills.
- Give customers greater control over energy costs.
- Perform at a lower cost than new energy supply from new power plants in many cases
- Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases.
- Can create jobs and improve state economies

## What it means for utilities

Energy efficiency offers an alternative to utilities as well. When energy providers use energy efficiency to help their customers reduce the amount of energy required, instead of investing in new energy supplies to meet the growing need for energy services, it provides many other benefits while not requiring a lot of money up front. The energy provider also benefits by reducing the costs of meeting its customers' needs. Because energy efficiency often costs less than building or buying most new supplies, this can prevent greater rate increases for the electricity and natural gas that you buy.

Studies show that energy efficiency helps the local economy. Instead of importing natural gas and electricity supply from outside of your community, energy efficiency relies on domestic and local companies and retailers to provide energy management



services and energy-saving products. Energy efficiency programs also provide customers with home improvements that enhance home comfort and increase property values for homeowners and businesses.

You can also feel good that you are doing something for the environment by supporting energy efficiency investments. Power plants and natural gas use are currently responsible for about 50 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, which

contribute to the risks of global climate change. In fact, the energy use in the typical home contributes twice the greenhouse gas emissions as a typical vehicle in a year's time. By reducing your own energy use, you can help reduce these emissions, as well as air pollution, water use, and the amount of natural resources (fossil fuels) being extracted from the earth. All of these actions help protect human health and our environment.

Energy efficiency also helps protect national energy security. Using less energy protects the economy and consumers from possible price fluctuations and from energy service disruptions due to natural causes.

## How it helps

Energy efficiency would help to address our growing energy needs and rising energy costs. The amount of electricity and gas used in the United States is expected to rise over the next 25 years, putting stress on current systems and driving up energy costs. The increasing demand for electricity and natural gas requires your utility to find new supplies of energy. Most new supply options require a great deal of money up front, which increases your utility bills.

Read additional thoughts from Jim on biofuels, wind and oil & gas on his website: <http://www.roth2008.com>.

Oklahoma Sierra Club  
is one of the sponsors for a big  
Earth Day Event  
for Jim Roth  
April 22

"A New Energy for Oklahoma"  
Oscar J. Boldt Construction Co.  
101 W. Hefner Road  
(off Broadway Extension)  
Oklahoma City

5:30-7:30 pm

Environmental exhibits will be  
featurzd, along with Oklahoma  
snacks and wine.

Please join us to celebrate Earth Day with a  
great environmental candidate!

Everyone is welcome ... bring your friends  
and family! Donations not required,  
but will be greatly appreciated!

## Capitol Action Network Needs YOU!

—By Susie Shields, Legislative Committee

The Sierra Club's Oklahoma Capitol Action Network is a group of members and friends who are dedicated to passing good environmental legislation and fending off the bad. This is a project of your Oklahoma Chapter Legislative Committee chaired by Charles Wesner, Norman.

Starting in January each year, the committee meets regularly to discuss all bills that are environmentally-related, deciding whether to SUPPORT, OPPOSE or just WATCH. A bill tracking list is kept, with many bills dropping off the agenda early in the session. Fact sheets are prepared and delivered to all legislators by Billie Brown, our dedicated lobbyist.

With a membership of over 3,000, we should have many more of you on our Action Alert list serv! We will ask you to contact (by phone, e-mail or snail mail) your legislators about voting for or against certain bills. Please e-mail me at [sshields@cox.net](mailto:sshields@cox.net) to join or sign-up on the web: [www.oklahoma.sierraclub.org](http://www.oklahoma.sierraclub.org). (Click on "Get Connected" and sign-up for list #3 Oklahoma-Alerts.) You are not obligated to take action every single time, but we hope our Capitol Action Network members pay attention and act when we have an urgent vote on a bill.

This year, we are keeping our Big Bill List (top priority bills we oppose or support) on the website, along with important action alerts, so you can also find this information there. However, since the action we need is often needed within a very short timeframe, signing up for the alert list would be better.

We are currently seeking support for HB 3394 requiring LEED high-performance building standards to be implemented in new Oklahoma State buildings. Please check the website when you receive this newsletter to see what is going on with this important bill and others.

---

## Executive Committee Ballot

We have two spots open on the Oklahoma Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) this year and three candidates (listed below) who have agreed to run. **Please put a check mark next to no more than two candidates** of your choice and mail within 30 days from the date you received it to: Oklahoma Chapter Election Committee, P.O. Box 180, OKC, OK 73101-0180. Two boxes are provided for dual household memberships. Thank you for voting!

**David Franklin**

I'm David Franklin and I'm running for another term on the Chapter ExCom. I have been a member since 1992 and have served in various capacities within the club. I am currently the chapter webmaster and chapter treasurer. In the past, I have been chapter chair, vice-chair and outings chair.

**Jody Harlan**

Should you elect me to a leadership position on the Sierra Club Oklahoma Chapter Executive Committee, I will use my experience as a writer and public relations director to challenge public misconceptions and promote Sierra Club as the most effective grassroots environmental organization in Oklahoma and the country. I have been a continuous member in the Cimarron Group since 1999 and have taken on various projects as an active member of the state Legislative and Political Committees for four years. Our friend and former lobbyist Keith Smith, now deceased, asked me to get more active in Sierra Club. I have been fortunate to work on Building Environmental Communities (BEC), Earth Day and many special legislative projects with several longtime Club leaders and our current lobbyist, Billie Brown. There is much more to learn and accomplish. With your support, I am ready for the next step as a member of your Executive Committee.

**Tom Libby**

Tom, who is a former Chapter Chair, recently stepped into the position again upon the resignation of Larry Edmison. His volunteer work for Sierra Club are very well-known by National Sierra Club leaders, as well as throughout Oklahoma.



**Explore,  
enjoy  
and  
protect  
the  
planet**

**Oklahoma Chapter  
P.O. Box 60644  
Okla. City, OK 73046-0644**



CHAPTER LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY	
CHAPTER CHAIR OUTINGS CHAIR	Tom Libby, 405/722-2367 tomlibby@yahoo.com
SECRETARY	Nancy Smart, 405/329-8904, nsmart1@yahoo.com
TREASURER WEBMASTER AWARDS CHAIR	David Franklin, 405/293-9399, dfranklin@ussok.com
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	Martha Holland, 405/946-4962, marthaholland@sbcglobal.net
POLITICAL CHAIR LEGISLATIVE CHAIR	Charles Wesner, 405/321-2204 c.wesner@sbcglobal.net
CONSERVATION CHAIR: Esther Houser, 405/282-8074, eehouser@hotmail.com	
BEC CONSERVATION ORGANIZER STATE LOBBYIST	Billie Brown, 405/ 521-0345, Billie.Brown@Sierraclub.org
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CHAIR NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Susie Shields, 405/297-0179 sshields@cox.net
TRAINING COORDINATOR:	VACANT

**SIERRA STUDENT COALITION SUMMER 2008  
BE A FORCE FOR CHANGE ...  
Attend Student Environmental Leadership  
Training Programs**

**APPLY NOW online at:**  
<http://www.ssc.org/sprog>  
for week-long training sessions in organizing skills led by the nation's top student organizers.

**LEARN:**

- Campaign Planning--Learn how to plan and run an effective campaign to make a tangible difference in your school or community.
- Communication Skills--Learn how to define your message, work with the media, and communicate persuasively.
- Organizing 101--Learn how to start a group, recruit and develop new leaders, facilitate effective meetings, etc.
- Guest Speakers--You'll hear from engaging speakers from the climate and environmental movement from your area.

**COST:**

The subsidized cost of the program is set up on a sliding scale, from \$150-200\* (please pay what you can afford). This covers tuition, room and board, local transportation to and from the site, and all the benefits of membership in the Sierra Club. Don't let money concerns keep you from applying and attending; the SSC is committed to justice and anti-

oppression and will work with you to make sure you can attend if you want to, either through helping you request funds from your school or local Sierra Club chapter, or you can also apply for a need-based fee waiver from the SSC. Travel scholarships are also available. [\*note there is no cost for the PR, CA, or NM programs, though these two programs give preference to local and/or minority students]

**DATES & DETAILS:**

- **Puerto Rico:** July 7-14 Cabanas El Rucio (Trainings are all in Spanish)
- **California** (Los Angeles): June 22-29 Loyola Marymount College Virginia: June 29-July 6 Prince William Forest Park
- **New Hampshire:** July 6-13 The Meeting School
- **Minnesota:** July 17-24 Head of the Rapids, St Croix State Park
- **New Mexico:** July 6-13 Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu
- **Texas:** July 21-28 Bastrop State Park
- **Georgia:** July 27-Aug. 3 Cloudlands Canyon Lodge
- **Oregon:** Aug. 10-17 Camp Cooper
- **Pennsylvania:** Aug. 10-17 Camp Anawanna

**Questions? Call 1(888) JOIN-SSC**

**Good-bye!**

**This is the final issue of the Oklahoma Sierran.**

**Please check our website**  
**<www.oklahoma.sierraclub.org>**  
**in the future for statewide issues and event postings.**

*Susie Shields*  
**Editor (8 years)**