

Oklahoma Sierran

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NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB ADOPTS ENERGY POLICY *by Sierra Club Board of Directors*

After months of deliberation and input from all levels of the club, the national Sierra Club Board of Directors adopted an energy policy for the club. You can read it on the Sierra Club website at www.sierraclub.org, the direct link is: <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/energy.asp>. The introduction of this 17 page document follows:

Our society now faces a fundamental challenge greater than any in history. Dependence on fossil fuels is causing global warming, the depletion of energy resources, and severe damage to human health and the environment. The impacts of burning fossil fuels threaten the security of our nation, the survival of species, and the Earth's very capacity to sustain life.

Converging events, including rising energy prices, increasingly powerful hurricanes and melting glaciers have raised growing concerns, and our national fossil fuel addiction leaves us dependent on imports from unstable regions of the world.

Responding to these changes before they overwhelm us is often described as requiring sacrifice and hardship. Instead, the Sierra Club believes the most effective response will rely on determination, forward thinking, and hard but rewarding work to achieve a stable global climate and a sustainable energy system. The Sierra Club's strategy reduces all forms of pollution, not just greenhouse gases, and promotes species protection, environmental justice and security.

Guided by the conservation ethic, the Sierra Club has crafted this comprehensive Energy Resources Policy to promote a positive vision of a sustainable energy future. The Sierra Club's clean energy strategy will wean us from oil, coal and other fossil fuels, eliminate energy waste, work in harmony with natural systems, and define the technologies and smart energy solu-

tions that will meet our nation's energy needs.

As these changes unfold, other important benefits will follow. For example, bringing home and work closer together through better land-use planning will not only save energy, but also build a greater sense of community and allow us more time to enjoy it.

The path to a sustainable energy future starts by promoting energy conservation, tapping the enormous resource of energy efficiency, directly reducing dependence on non-renewable fuels and maximizing the benefits of renewable energy. At the same time, energy efficiency and renewable energy will be the engine of new economic growth, saving money and creating jobs. The result will be lasting improvements for our economy and our environment, more livable communities, more productive manufacturing, less wasteful use of materials, and less pressure on the natural systems of the Earth that sustain us.

Increased conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable resources will not happen through new laws and policy alone. While those are necessary, there also must be a fundamental shift in awareness, attitudes and values that connects directly to experience, learning and thoughtful consideration of a better way to live on our planet.

The Sierra Club's ranking of energy resources set forth in this policy provides initial guidance, but this roadmap is only a first step. The journey cannot be perfectly mapped out before we begin moving forward. The Sierra Club's strategy incorporates the best "no regrets" strategies for the economy and the environment, whether fossil fuel depletion and global climate change advance rapidly or not as quickly as expected.

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View from the Chair

Help Wanted . . . by David Franklin, Chapter Chair



Last issue, I asked you to seize the day. I truly believe that we are on the cusp of yet another wave of environmentalism. As I write this, it is before the election, I realize that you will be reading it after the election. Regardless of who wins the majority in the House and Senate the war dominates the national conversation. But environmentalism is busting out all over the nation at the local level. I read today about a town in the northeast that is giving financial incentives to employees who buy hybrids. In central Oklahoma, the University of Central Oklahoma is 100% wind power, and Oklahoma City University will soon be following their lead. Compact fluorescent light bulbs are the first thing you see when entering Lowe's or Home Depot. The largest homebuilder in central Oklahoma is listed on the government's energy star website and most appliances sold today are energy star.

But there is danger in this as well. When all politics are local, then all campaigns become local. In a case of "Live together, die alone" we must be careful to not splinter our efforts too much. There is a balance to creating a group to battle the local Wal-Mart plan or the Coal Plant down the street versus working within a larger organization, like the Sierra Club. When it comes time to speak to the legislature, the local planning board, the local mayor, etc, it is usually better to have a stronger voice of thousands of members behind you than just a dozen local residents.

We need your help to make sure that the club remains

relevant and engaged with its members on issues that matter to them, but we also need your help by being an active member of the club. From global warming to water quality, from outings to the annual banquet, there is a part for you to play in the club. Will you seize the day? Email one of the leaders below to learn more.

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Although this document often refers to the United States, the challenge we face is a genuinely global one, and confronting it requires efforts on an international scale. The Sierra Club will promote energy conservation and efficiency and the development of appropriate energy production alternatives described in this policy in a manner that builds a humane global society, honors human rights and dignity, and restores and protects the natural environment. All persons require safe and affordable sources of energy at levels sufficient to provide for human needs and sustainable livelihoods. This policy supports that goal with effective action.

WEBSITE: WWW.OKLAHOMA.SIERRACLUB.ORG

The Sierra Club finds that:

- Fossil fuel use is increasing greenhouse gas emissions
- The current use of fossil fuels causes serious damage to public health.
- Significant environmental damage will result from greenhouse gas emissions already in the atmosphere.
- Global average temperature increases must be limited to not more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels to minimize the possibility of dangerous climate change.
- With less than 5% of the world's population, the United States produces 25% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Our nation has an obligation to lead

Chapter Elections by Tom Libby

The Oklahoma Chapter Executive Committee has selected a Nominating Committee for Executive Committee elections. November 30, 2003 has been set as the closing date for the election.

Executive Committee members whose terms expire this year are Olivia Waldkoeter and Esther Houser. Nominating Committee members are: Tom Libby, Chair, David Franklin, and Kathy Cunningham.

Members are encouraged to submit names for consideration by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee's selection will be announced on November 30, 2006 on the Chapter Web Site.

The name of any member of the chapter may be placed in nomination with a written petition signed by 15 members of the Chapter along with a letter of consent by the nominee. Any petitions and letters of consent must be presented to Chapter Secretary on or before December 15, 2006, to be included on the ballot. Ballots will be mailed on December 31, 2006. The election will be closed and the ballots counted at midnight January 31, 2007.

The Nominating Committee can be contacted by e-mailing the committee chair at tomlibby@yahoo.com or by calling 405/615-6390 or by writing to Nominating Committee, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 60644, Oklahoma City, OK 73146.