A note from Erin, Kansas Sierra Club Communications IC

**Big PKU! Changes on the Horizon!**

As you might have heard, Kansas Sierra Club is going digital! With this exciting transition to email-based communications, starting in March you can expect to see a completely new *Planet Kansas Update*, which means a **new name**, a clean, **phone-friendly layout** and a larger focus on individual Sierra Club members like you.

The time-honored *Planet Kansas* is a critical and well-loved publication, and the spirit and purpose of it will remain. Our goal in forging this new path is simply to honor the work of our reporters and members by recharging our identity and giving you easier, faster access to the Kansas Sierra Club news you care about. Thank you for your dedication as we make this transition---I'm sure you'll like what you see.

For the planet,

Erin DeGroot

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**Coming Soon: Kansas Chapter Biennial Statewide Conference!**

The Kansas Chapter's biennial statewide conference is set for **Saturday, March 24, 2018**, at the [Baker Wetlands Discovery Center in Lawrence, Kan.](#) This year's theme: "There Is No More Normal!" Keynote speaker Dr. Johannes Feddema, University of Victoria, B.C., served on the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Bring your walking shoes! We plan to get outdoors at this great nature preserve. [Check here for more details and to register!](#)

**Kansas Sierra Club Education Grants**

Applications are now being accepted for Sierra Club Environmental Grants for Kansas Primary and Secondary Teachers. The Kansas Chapter will award a limited number of grants up to $1,000 to Kansas K-12 educators who are teaching their students about climate change and its effects. **Deadline:** April 6, 2018. [More info here.](#)

**Corporate Buyers Lead Increase in Demand for US Wind and Solar Energy**

*by Craig Volland* | A new report from the Wind Energy Federation (WEF) identifies rapidly increasing demand for wind and solar energy purchased directly by large institutional buyers, including Fortune 500 corporations. The planned purchases are so large that the WEF predicts that transmission capacity may be inadequate. [Read More](#)
Midwest EPA Listening Session in KC | Feb 21, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
On February 21, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., EPA is hosting a Midwest "Listening Session" in KC, MO on the Trump Administration's proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan. Sierra Club, with other major environmental groups, is organizing a local effort to bring in lots of comments in defense of the CPP from across the Midwest. We need to step up and tell our personal stories; RSVP here | See also Kanza Group plans to host a pre-listening session "how-to" workshop on February 13 -- Be seen, be heard, be effective!

More info about the hearing is on our Kansas Sierra Club Calendar and our Facebook Event Page.

>> Key EPA links:
Primary resource links
News Release, including background and justification
Fact sheet
Instructions on how to submit comments

WEALTH Day at the Capitol | March 15, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Topeka, KS
Join Kansans to learn about and advocate for Water, Energy, Air, Land, Transportation, and Health in Kansas. Get up-to-date on current environmental advocacy; Visit the Solutions Showcase; Enjoy the Local Foods Luncheon; Sample new ideas at the Cookies & Conservation Conversation; Meet with your legislators. Click HERE to read about the event!

Kanza Group | Kansas City Area

EPA "Listening Session" Learning Session | Tues. Feb 13, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
On February 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., Kanza Group will host a "Learning Session" workshop for anyone interested in participating in the EPA "Listening Session" on February 21 in KC, MO. President Trump's EPA is proposing to repeal the Clean Power Plan, the key to reducing emissions from our existing coal plants and to slowing climate change. Learn the basis for the proposed repeal and details about the hearing. Get Sierra Club talking points, prepare for providing comments at the hearing and/or submit a letter.
New Location: Colonial UCC Church, 7039 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS.
Details on Kansas Sierra Club Calendar: http://kansas.sierraclub.org/calendar/

Southwind Group | Wichita Area

State Legislature Update with Zack | Fri. Feb 9, 6:30 p.m.
Potluck - Bring a dish to share. Please bring your own dinnerware. 7:30 p.m. - Zack Pistora, Legislative Director for the Kansas Chapter Sierra Club, will inform us about the legislative assault to our environment. He will also tell what must be done to protect our precious resources from these attacks. Find all the details HERE.

Keep Plastic Bags Out of Wichita!
Help with Boomerang Bags-Wichita Chapter! Bag Free Wichita & Firefly Farm are partnering to replace single-use plastic bags at the Old Town Farmers' Market this year! We need LOTS of bags before April 1st! Can you help? Contact Lori if you can sew or if you have fabric bags to donate, no plastic or vinyl, please. Get all the info HERE.

SIERRA CLUB IN HUTCHINSON! | Sat. Mar 17, 1 p.m.
Wear green! Meet at the new Kansas Buffet Company, 1526 E. 17th for lunch and to tell us what you want from Sierra Club. All are welcome! You don't have to be a member to attend. Buy lunch and support a local business! The cost is $12.99/adults | $10.99/60+. Want more info or have questions? Here you go!

Native Plant School | March 29, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Dyck Arboretum, 177 W. Hickory St, Hesston | For those who want to learn more about native plants, this class will introduce you to soil types, prairie ecology, native plant communities, and why native plants are important. The concepts of conservation, preservation, and stewardship are important components of this class. Cost is $10/non-member or $8/member. See it all HERE.
Know Your Farmer! Eat Local and Organic Farmers’ Expo | Sat. Mar. 31, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Experience the 19th Annual Eat Local and Organic Farmers’ Expo at the Johnson Co. Community College Gym, 12345 College Blvd, in Overland Park, Kan. Early spring produce, garden plants, free-range animal products will be available from 40-50 local farmers. Free admission and parking.
MORE INFO HERE

Topeka Group | Topeka Area

Topeka Group February General Meeting | Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st St., Topeka on February 13 at 7 p.m. Our speaker will be Kansas Chapter lobbyist Zack Pistora, who will give us a Legislative Update on the status of environmental issues in the Kansas Legislature. Everyone invited! Find out what you can do and learn.

Topeka Group March General meeting | Mar. 13, 7 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Topeka, 4775 SW 21st St., Topeka on March 13 at 7 p.m. Our speaker will be Professor Ian Smith from Washburn University. He will speak on "A Moral Philosopher's View of Climate Change." Everyone invited! Come and learn and invite a friend.

Wakarusa Group | Lawrence Area

Wakarusa Spring Vegan Potluck
Watch this space for details on our Spring vegan potluck! Please come, everyone is welcome! You don't have to be vegan! (But please bring a plant-based dish to share.) If you'd like to host a future vegan potluck, please contact Karin Pagel-Meiners, kpagelmeiners@earthlink.net.

Pictured Right: Wakarusa Winter Vegan Potluck - Vicki, from Delaware Commons, talks about living in a co-housing community.

First Presbyterian Earth Care Forums
Sundays, 9:40 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
The First Presbyterian Eco-Team invites us to its 2018 Earth Care Forum. Presentations are held in the Fireside Room, 2415 Clinton Parkway, Lawrence, Sunday mornings, 9:40 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Increasing Engagement of Youth in Appreciation of the Outdoors | Feb. 4th (Last Presentation)
Marty Birrelll, Director of Prairie Park Nature Center. How can we increase youth being involved in the outdoors and nurture a sense of connection with the environment?

Sunrise Garden Project
The Kansas Chapter Executive Committee has approved funding allowing us to partner a second year with the Sunrise Project's Community Garden! Yay! Watch for more details and a tour of last year's garden on the Chapter's Website: kansas.sierraclub.org. If you'd like to volunteer or would just like updates, please email Karin Pagel-Meiners.

Getting Outside
Need some inspiration for enjoying the outdoors in winter? Check out Ken Lassman's Kaw Valley Almanac.

If you missed it...
"Natural and Unnatural Earthquake Hazard in the Heartland: Facts and Fictions"
If you missed Susan Hough's lecture at the Linda Hall Library, it is available online. See more information on Hough's work here.

"Passive but not Aggressive: How Climate Change can Lead to Extinction"
If you missed Ray Pierotti's lecture, it's online at the Kansas Sierra Club website.

"Here, There, Everywhere: Drilling Down Kansas"
If you missed the community forum with Amy Adamson (“A Rural Neighborhood Story of Oil Drilling and Property Rights in Baldwin”), Gil Zemansky (“Eudora-Area Injection Wells”), and Elexa Dawson (“Adventures with the Kansas Corporation Commission”) it's online at the Kansas Sierra Club website.

**But where’s Planet Kansas?**
We’re going digital! The Kansas Chapter is transforming its communications to online media. We will no longer be mailing hard-copy issues of *Planet Kansas*. Over the coming months, updates will continue to the website, calendar events, email alerts, and next year, online voting for our annual election of officers. *Planet Kansas Update!* and its new iteration will now be delivered to your inbox monthly.

*Important: We don’t want to lose touch with you, so please update your email address and revisit your preferences for communications from the Sierra Club. Down below, click "Manage Preferences" to choose what info you’d like to receive.*

*Planet Kansas Update!* delivers brief, concise Kansas Chapter news and action items to your inbox. Contact Erin DeGroot at sckscommunication@gmail.com

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