



Clean Energy and Green Jobs

One of the coal industry's claims is "jobs creation." But especially in Wisconsin, those claims fall short. When Cassville lobbied for the Alliant Energy coal plant in 2008, it proclaimed the jobs it would bring. But with two coal power plants already, their economy was suffering – along with the health of its residents.

Coal mining increasingly utilizes big equipment and mountaintop removal. Wisconsin has no coal, which means that all of our coal is shipped in from out of state. After it's burned, we're left with dirty air, contaminated waters, and hazardous coal waste dumps. With the need to drastically reduce greenhouse gases to resolve global warming, coal is not a viable option.

Buildings are the primary energy user, with transportation second. Generally the most cost effective means of managing building energy demands are efficiency measures such as lighting, insulation, and energy control devices. While not all building products are locally produced, on site installation creates many good paying skilled jobs. Newer buildings can also be designed with negligible carbon source require-

ments. (<http://www.passivehouse.us/passiveHouse/PassiveHouseInfo.html>) Retrofitting older buildings with efficiency upgrades also creates jobs that can't be outsourced.

Renewable energy, especially wind and solar, provides clean power – and green jobs. While much equipment is imported (US manufacturers could increase their market share), the installation, service and maintenance of the equipment creates many good technical jobs. Other forms of renewable energy such as biofuels or anaerobic digestion can also provide employment opportunities.

Most gas and other oil products that produce global warming emissions in Wisconsin are imported from Canada and other countries. That is money and jobs sent elsewhere while we first pay the price of the fuels and then later on deal with the effects of pollution. In most places, mass transit costs are less than using cars, and pollution levels decrease. Mass transit and rail freight also cause less damage to roadways which are built of

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CHAIR'S CORNER

The Colors of our World

This time of year, our area of the world is already covered with a thick blanket of white. But it's really only a veneer masking what's underneath. Inspection would reveal much is brown and dormant; as is appropriate in nature's cycles.

As Sierrans, we hear a lot about, and spend considerable effort trying to be "green." The Club examines environmental issues in depth and helps guide our actions towards truly exploring, enjoying and protecting the planet. But we also frequently hear claims that when examined, like our snow cover, are only a thin veneer covering inactivity and lack of substantive action underneath. Too often, references to "green" have more to do with what goes into a wallet than what benefits the environment.

How else can you explain clean coal? (Doesn't exist.) Why can't we pass a strong American Clean Energy and Security Act in Congress when we're faced with such dire threats from global warming? Why didn't the world community come up with substantive agreements in Copenhagen?

In 2010, we'll continue to be faced with claims made by businesses about being green, by candidates for office who run on green platforms, or that legislation will be

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SIERRA CLUB
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Cruisin' for Cuisine

We're welcoming back Cruisin' for Cuisine, an informal social dinner and discussion group, very popular over the past many years.

Cruisin' occurs the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or (608) 274-7870 will take RSVPs (at least 2 days prior) and make reservations.

Join us Tuesday, February 9 at Jac's (www.jacsofmadison.com) a tasty new place on Monroe Street, and Tuesday, March 9, at the scrumptious Green Owl Café (www.greenowlcafe.com), a vegetarian restaurant on Atwood. Check the web site under "outings."



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Communities on the Move

Communities on the Move is a project of the John Muir Chapter's Global Warming Solutions Team. This group helps Sierra Club members and their neighbors review the existing transportation system and articulate what a future transportation system that is accessible, affordable and convenient would look like. This is a neighborhood-by-neighborhood, community-by-community effort. If you are interested in participating or helping to conduct a meeting, please contact Liz Wessel at lizard59sc@yahoo.com, or call (608) 238-9934.

The next meeting of Communities on the Move will be held on January 11, at 7 p.m. at the Atwood Goodman Community Center. Another meeting will also likely be scheduled for the village of Oregon later in the winter. Please come join the effort to improve transit options that will strengthen local economies, create jobs and reduce vehicle mileage and emissions. ■

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concrete – another significant source of greenhouse gases.

The Governor's Task Force on Global Warming is recommending a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions 75% by 2050. Steps we can take to accomplish this include:

- Creating a statewide energy efficiency standard (requiring that we reduce electricity and natural gas use by 2% and 1% per year respectively by 2015) that will reduce the amount of energy wasted and save ratepayers money.
- Increasing Wisconsin's investment in clean, renewable energy like solar, wind, geothermal and biomass to 25% by 2025.
- Investing in smarter transportation policies that reduce pollution and connect people with jobs, businesses, and recreational opportunities.
- Having Wisconsin participate in a national or regional cap and trade program that will create market incen-

tives for industries to move toward cleaner, safer and more affordable forms of energy.

These steps would move us towards energy independence, reduce global warming emissions, create green jobs, and stimulate Wisconsin's economy. We should also be aware that pollution acts like a hidden tax by adding to our health care costs. As weather events become more variable and severe, we also bear the burden of floods, droughts, and other changes that can cost us dearly.

These issues will be the focus of the Four Lakes Group program on Wednesday, January 20th. The Muir Chapter's Global Warming team has been working hard on these issues, and we encourage you to learn the facts, get involved, and speak up to protect Wisconsin's environment and economy. For more info on the issues and what you can do, go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Issues/warming.asp>. ■

Monthly Educational Programs

All programs are held at the Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa St., in the Bolz A meeting room on the third Wednesday of the month. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. with the program starting at 7 p.m. Snacks and refreshments provided. Contact Don Ferber at (608) 222-9376 or d_ferber@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Clean Energy and Jobs – Wednesday, January 20

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy are great, but what does it mean for jobs as well as the environment? Can we reduce global warming emissions AND stimulate the economy? The Wisconsin Clean Energy Jobs Act addresses these issues. Our special guests will be State Representative Spencer Black, and Tia Nelson, co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming. Come learn what this means for our energy future and how this can enhance our economy and lead to energy independence. Please come prepared to participate and ask questions of our special guests.

Protecting our Water Resources – Wednesday, February 17

Do you know what's in your water, or what future threats you may be facing? The Great Lakes Compact now helps protect the water in our Great Lakes, but what about other lakes, rivers and streams and groundwater? How concerned should we be about Confined Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs)? Hear from members of the Wisconsin Muir Chapter's water team about their activities.

Keeping your Travels Green – Wednesday, March 17

Every time you step out of your door to take a trip, you can choose to be green. Whether it is the mode of travel, the place you stay, where you eat or buy your picnic lunch and what you do for fun. Supporting the local economy while respecting local culture and the environment form the core of green or sustainable travel. Join Liz Wessel, owner of Green Concierge Travel to explore green travel options and to share your ideas.

Greening your Home – Wednesday, April 21

Much of our global warming impacts come from buildings. While some corrective measures can be simple, others are more complex and effectiveness and payback times can vary considerably. What should you do first and where are there tradeoffs to consider? What are others doing and what programs are in place to assist you with greening your home? Come learn from Sierra and other experts how to make your home greener by reducing global warming emissions — and keep more green in your pocket. ■

Four Lakes Group Outings

Contact information is listed after the outings. Please contact the leader to RSVP or with questions. Wear weather and activity appropriate clothing, shoes, and other gear, and bring fluids and snacks or other food. Events are open to the public and free unless noted. See page 2 for Cruisin' for Cuisine info. Please go to our 4lakes.org web site for updates and more details.

Saturday, January 9 – Restoration – Prairie Moraine County Park

Celebrate the new year by burning brush – and holiday calories! We'll join the Dane County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail to continue restoration efforts on the terminal moraine by removing invasives and burning previously cut brush piles. A hot time is guaranteed! Meet at 9 a.m. at the Park parking lot on Cty PB, 7 mile south of Hwy 18/151 exit 79. Bring fluids and wear layered work clothes (preferably non-synthetic) and work gloves. Brats and hotdogs will be provided – other items are encouraged. **RSVP: Don Ferber.**

Sunday, January 10 – X Country Ski, Snowshoe, and Hike at the Brooklyn State Wildlife Area

This outing at this scenic wildlife area will be with the Dane Ice Age Trail chapter. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Brooklyn State Wildlife Area. Take Fish Hatchery Rd (Cty. D) ~ 15 miles south of Madison, turn left onto Cty. DD and go .8 mile south to the Brooklyn Wildlife Area parking lot on left. **RSVP: Kathy Mulbrandon.**

Sunday, January 24 – Family Sledding – Indian Lake County Park

Bring the kids and sleds and join us for an all-ages family outing at Indian Lake County Park. We'll start by sledding a gentle slope suitable for all ages and then warm up with hot chocolate and snacks in the warming cabin. We'll finish with a fun and educational activity. Bundle the kids for conditions. Meet at 1 p.m. in the Indian Lake County Park parking lot. Take Hwy 12 northwest of Middleton; turn left on Hwy 19 for 2 miles to Indian Lake Park. Sledding is free, but a \$7 pass is required for anyone 16 or older for skiing. **RSVP: Kathy Mulbrandon.**

Saturday, February 6 - Winter Camping and Candlelight Ski – Blue Mounds

We'll join the Friends of Blue Mound State Park for a candlelight ski/snowshoe hike at the Park. Meet in the campground parking lot at 4 p.m. to select campsites and set up tents (walk-in sites only). A bonfire will follow

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Outings *from page 3*

with spicy chili provided for the evening meal, but please bring a dish to pass and your own beverage. Hot beverages are available from the Friends. Bring your own Sunday morning breakfast food. We'll ski, snowshoe, and/or hike on Sunday after breakfast. Vehicles must have a State Park sticker. Camping fees are \$10.00 - \$14.00 per campsite. **RSVP by January 28 to Bill Fenske.**

Saturday, February 6 – Candlelight Ski – Blue Mound State Park

Or come for just the candlelight ski/hike/snowshoe at Blue Mound State Park and learn to identify planets, stars and constellations. After enjoying the trails and heavens, sit at warm fire with a cup of hot chocolate. Meet at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot by the hay bales at the fire pit. Auto park sticker required. Carpooling available from the Military Ridge Trail parking lot on Hwy. PB off Hwy 18/151 exit 79 at 6 p.m. **RSVP: Kathy Mulbrandon.**

Saturday, February 20 – Restoration – Prairie Moraine County Park

We'll return to Prairie Moraine Park to enjoy great views from terminal moraine and continue burning brush piles and restoring native plant communities. See info from January 9 outing.

Saturday, February 27 – Snowshoe/hike – Pope Farm Park

Enjoy a pleasant day of snowshoeing or hiking at Pope Farm Park, located on Old Sauk Road outside the Town of Middleton (2 miles west of Beltline). Meet in the parking lot near the trailhead at 10 a.m. and snowshoe or hike for about 2 hours. Pope Farm Park has about 7 miles of trails with variety for novices to experienced snowshoers. Families welcome. Snowshoes can be rented at REI and Rutabaga. **RSVP: Bill Fenske.**

Tuesday, March 30 – Moonlight Hike – Ice Age Trail Junction

Meet at the Hwy. PD Ice Age Trail trailhead at 7 p.m. Stroll through prairies, admire old oaks, and learn about native landscapes and wild flowers. This segment is about 2.5 miles. Bring a light, water and a snack to enjoy while watching the moon. This hike will be with members of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Take Verona Rd. to Cty. PD. Turn right for ~ 2 miles just past the High Point Rd stoplight. Turn left into the parking lot by the sheds. **RSVP: Kathy Mulbrandon.**

Saturday, April 3 – Spring Hike – New Glarus Woods State Park

Join us for a 4 – 5 mile spring hike through prairies and

forests at New Glarus Woods State Park. The hike is moderate with rolling hills and ravines. Meet at the parking lot off State Hwy. 69, 2 miles south of New Glarus at 10 a.m. Carpooling from Madison meets at 9 a.m. at the western Hill Farms State office parking lot, 4802 Sheboygan Ave. State Park sticker is required for cars. Bring water and a snack. Lunch option at a local Swiss restaurant afterward if interested. **RSVP: David Smith.**

Saturday, April 17 – John Muir/Earth Day Hike – John Muir Park

Celebrate Earth Day and learn about the legacy of John Muir with an easy hike at John Muir Park in Marquette County near the site of Sierra Club co-founder John Muir's boyhood home. Afterwards we'll visit the Aldo Leopold Preserve, and the "shack" where Leopold wrote his famous Sand County Almanac. Wear walking shoes and bring water and lunch. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the John Muir Park parking lot on County Hwy. F in Marquette County, 11 miles north of Portage. Madison carpool leaves at 9:30 a.m. from the south parking lot at Olin Park, off John Nolen Dr. **RSVP: Kathy Mulbrandon.**

Sunday, April 18 – Oak Rescue – Table Bluff segment, Ice Age Trail

Celebrate Earth week by rescuing native oaks on this popular section of the Ice Age Trail in the driftless area west of Cross Plains. It has fine prairies and woodlands, but needs more TLC to remove woody invasives and rescue the native plants. We'll join the Dane County Chapter of the Trail on this outing. Meet at 9 a.m. Take Hwy 14 just west of Cross Plains to Cty KP. Go north ~ 2 miles to Table Bluff Rd. Go left for .3 miles to parking area. Bring fluids and snack or lunch if staying into the afternoon. Wear work clothes and sturdy shoes and gloves. **RSVP: Don Ferber.**

Saturday, May 1 – Trail repair/install puncheon – Verona segment, Ice Age Trail

Join the Dane County Trail chapter to improve a chronically wet section of the Trail and make it more passable and enjoyable for hikers. Show off your skills with a hammer as we assemble and place puncheons on the Trail. Meet at 9 a.m. Take Hwy 18/151 to Verona exit 81. Go ~ 1 mile to Lincoln St and turn left and go to the end. Bring water and a snack or lunch if staying into the afternoon. Wear work clothes and sturdy shoes and gloves. **Contact: Don Ferber.**

Saturday, May 15 – Remnant Prairie Tour and Invasives Removal – Indian Lake County Park

A great opportunity to learn about prairie remnants and

Continued next page

elections

Running for Election to a Two Year Term:

Steve Books: Since growing up in the Indianhead Region of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, I've had a deep respect for the environment. More so now with global warming concerns, and concerns about the burden that's put on our air, land and water resources. I'm interested in renewable aspects of energy especially wind and solar, and ways to save energy with conservation and efficiency measures. Since becoming a Sierra Club member in 2001, I've learned more about our environment, and have been on the Four Lakes Conservation Committee for the past few years and the excom for one year. I would like to continue helping the Four Lakes Group add activities and actions that will build membership. I'm also interested in rain gardens and water quality issues.

Don Ferber: I am a lifetime member of the Sierra Club and have served on the Four Lakes excom for several years including the last year as chair. My primary interests are in energy issues including ending coal use and moving to clean energy solutions. I very much enjoy the outdoors, leading outings and doing restoration work. I wish to continue to work with our volunteers and do outreach to help the Four Lakes Group continue to show leadership on energy issues, have an impact on sustainable growth, and influence public policy through our advocacy and support.

Four Lakes Group 2010 Executive Committee Election Ballot

Please read the candidate's statements for election to the Executive Committee and mark the appropriate box. If you receive the newsletter electronically, please print a copy of the ballot and send it to the address listed below with member(s) name, address and member number (if known).

Voter 1:	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Books	<input type="checkbox"/> Don Ferber	<input type="checkbox"/> Write In
Voter 2:	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Books	<input type="checkbox"/> Don Ferber	<input type="checkbox"/> Write In
Mail to: Lacinda Athen 4909 Sherwood Rd. Madison, WI 53711		Ballots must be received by February 13, 2010	

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invasive management from experts, including local caretaker, Denny Connor. Our park tour will include some rarely seen prairie remnants and we'll learn about native plants and management techniques. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Indian Lake parking lot on Hwy 19, 2 miles west of Hwy 12. Bring fluids and a snack or lunch if staying into the afternoon. Wear work clothes with sturdy shoes and gloves. **Contact: Don Ferber.** ■

Contact Information

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CHAIR Continued from page 1

effective in combating global warming. It is incumbent on us to look below the surface of claims to determine if it's the type of green that will help the planet flourish – or someone's bank account. We must examine if claims are truly green, or if the last letter should be changed to "d".

Other colors are also of concern for a clean and safe world. With air advisories here in Wisconsin, is it any wonder that the sky sometimes appears to be a grayish blue, or that "murky" is often a better description of the waters of many lakes and streams rather than "clear" or "blue." Is it a wonder with the ever-present concerns over runoff from lawns, construction, and factory farms, that we can't safely eat the fish from many of our lakes.

Even Kermit the Frog knew that being green isn't always easy. But as Sierrans, we ask you to look beneath the veneer, to see the true colors underneath. The Four Lakes Group and Sierra Club will continue to provide information and take actions to keep our world clean and green (or blue). Our scheduled monthly programs in this newsletter all relate to this. But your vigilance and taking action on issues of import to you are also needed in order that we have a healthy planet for generations to come. Not being attentive to being green could leave us all feeling pretty blue.

Wishing you a happy white, green and blue 2010. ■



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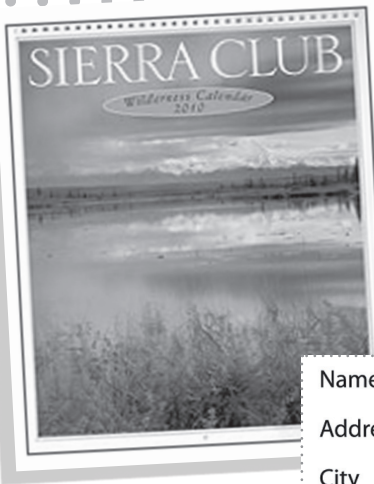
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- 4700 Allis Ave, Madison WI 53716
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- By email to d_ferber@sbcglobal.net or contactus@4lakes.org



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