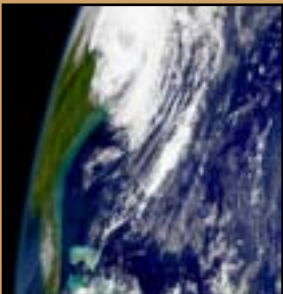




Explore, enjoy and protect Kansas



Sierra Club... A clear voice for a sustainable Kansas



Global Warming



Smart Energy



Water Resources



Wild Legacy



Safe Communities

Since the Sierra Club was founded by John Muir in 1892, our volunteer members have held core values of a deep sense of responsibility to protect nature and wild places, and to insure that we leave a clean, healthy, and safe planet to our children and grandchildren.

Here in Kansas, we believe that the time has come for all our citizens to become fully aware of the opportunities and challenges that now present themselves. We must take responsibility for the lasting impact that today's choices and ways of life will have on current and future generations.

For the Sierra Club in Kansas to play a vital role in this movement of the heart and mind, we must establish a fully-funded program of new environmental, education, and conservation initiatives.

Too often in Kansas, our efforts have been an exercise in stopping something bad. With new opportunities looking Kansas squarely in the eye, we have a rare window to move our state to become the leader in new energy technologies vital to the nation's ability to achieve energy independence and cut our dangerous reliance on foreign sources of oil.

However, we must still be vigilant and continue the fight to protect our sacred resources of water, air, and habitat. We will not forget the miracle of nature's balance. We will remind Kansans what many have forgotten - that mankind is indeed the steward of the Planet. With careless leadership, we will squander our resources and plunder what is essential for our children's quality of life. With responsible leadership, we can wisely use our Planet's gifts and leave behind our most precious of legacies - a sustainable Planet for generations.

These can be the times of changes to come - changes that will lead us into a safe, clean, and renewable future. We have only but to see the future clearly, to understand our choices, and to choose wisely. The Sierra Club in Kansas stands ready to play a key role in this exciting transition, but we need your help. We need your leadership.

If we are to accomplish our goals,



Photo by Jim Griggs - wind farm near Montezuma, Kansas

our Sierra Club volunteers must:

1. Have support staff who are experts in outreach to the public and to policy makers through effective media and organizational campaigns.
2. Build strong alliances and coalitions with old and new partners.
3. Insure that environmental quality benefits all our citizens, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or economic standing.

We stand ready. The Sierra Club in Kansas has chosen five areas of focus, or campaigns, around which we will create our new environmental, education and conservation initiatives.

Smart Energy Solutions

Nothing threatens the Planet's future, our security, or the health of our air, water, and wildlands more than how we produce and consume energy. For the first time, National Sierra Club has made the push for **Smart Energy Solutions** their highest priority over the next decade. Continuing down the same old energy path is no longer an option. We must begin now to

make smart choices about the ways we produce and consume energy.

Vision: Kansas has become a leader in renewable energy production and plays an important role in moving the nation past its dependency on fossil fuels.

Action: The Smart Energy Solutions Campaign will promote the following initiatives:

- Advocate for energy conservation and efficiency through direct education of the public, business, and civic leaders. We will motivate people through their desire for better health and financial security to consume less energy at home, at work, and in their transportation choices.
- Promote clean, renewable energy alternatives through public education to increase demand for wind, solar, hydrogen, and biofuels, all using sustainable production methods.
- Create and support legislation that achieves energy conservation and efficiency including Renewable Portfolio Standards and Community Wind.
- Promote energy independence by

- focusing on the economic and job growth benefits of reducing energy imports and increasing clean renewable energy production and exports.
- Promote healthy and safe communities by focusing attention on the health benefits of clean air and water and healthier food that result when we extract and burn less coal, gas, oil, and radioactive fuels. Property values will increase as communities become more desirable.
- Eliminate the “environmental prejudice” in the siting of energy facilities.

Stop Global Warming

The damage done by global warming is now indisputable and spreading. Melting polar ice caps, intensified Atlantic storms, drought, and coral reef bleaching all warn us we are borrowing heavily from the future. We will focus our efforts on activating the large majority of Kansans who know the time has come to act.

Vision: Kansans are well on their way towards reducing fossil fuel consumption. Kansas is an example of how to reduce GHGs (greenhouse gases) exhausted into the atmosphere.

Action: The Stop Global Warming Campaign will work “hand-in-glove” with the Smart Energy Solutions Campaign and will include the following initiatives:

- Promote energy conservation and efficiency for our homes, and commercial and industrial buildings. Less fossil fuel burned means less GHGs. **The cleanest energy is the energy we never consume!**
- Stop the construction of new coal-fired power plants – one of the largest sources of GHGs. Effective conservation and efficiency programs mean these new plants are not needed.
- Increase vehicle fuel efficiency and reduce overall transportation miles driven. Develop vehicles with greater fuel-efficiency that run on clean, renewable fuels. Purchase local food and products. All will help reduce GHGs, increase demand for renewable fuels, reduce the need for imported oil, and

leave the air cleaner for everyone.

- Promote clean and renewable energy sources, showing the link to economic growth.

Protect Water Resources

Water resources and issues take many shapes in Kansas. From the quality of surface water, to protection of river and wetland habitat, to sustaining subsurface rivers and aquifers, Sierra Club has its hands full protecting our water resources. It's time we begin to value water as if every drop counts.

Vision: Kansans recognize the vital role water plays in their social, economic, and environmental security; and have insured the protection of water resources for future generations.

Action: The Protect Water Resources Campaign will promote the following initiatives:

- Enforce the Clean Water Act and protect all waters in Kansas, whether navigable or non-navigable.
- Conserve and protect surface and ground water from depletion by agriculture, utilities, and industry.
- Prevent and remove pollution sources such as non-point sources, landfills, manufacturing, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), and sewage overflow, which threaten surface water and groundwater resources.
- Increase the safety of our waters for recreation for our children and grandchildren to play in.
- Promote conservation at home, at the office, and in public buildings, including the use of low-flow fixtures, sensible irrigation, native landscaping, and xeriscaping.

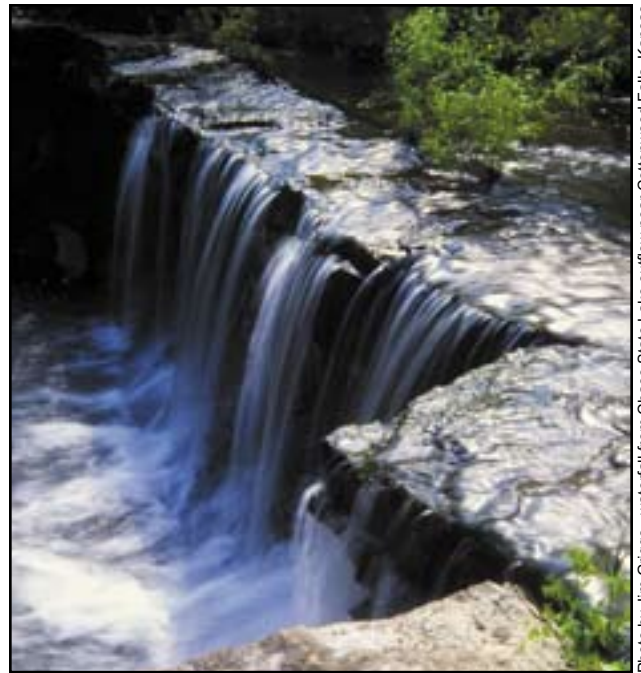


Photo by Jim Griggs - waterfall from Chase State Lake outflow near Cottonwood Falls, Kansas

- Reduce mercury pollution in water by stopping the construction of coal-fired power plants. This will reduce the mercury contamination of fish, which has made eating fish from some Kansas waters hazardous.

Kansas Wild Legacy

Public lands and special wild places are a treasure for all citizens to enjoy and hold dear. Sierra Club will oppose threats to these treasures created by suburban sprawl, abusive recreation, commercial development, and overgrazing.

Vision: Kansans appreciate and cherish their wild and natural places as valuable habitat to protect and respectfully enjoy.



Photo by Kyle Gersner - Least Bittern hiding at Haskell Baker Wetlands

Action: The Kansas Wild Legacy Campaign will promote the following initiatives:

- Protect wildlife and habitat by preserving existing and creating new wildlife refuges, wetlands, nature preserves, parks, and other protected sanctuaries.
- Support the positions outlined in our Flint Hills Position Statement and the Joint Environmental Group Statement on Power Plant Siting.
- Support plans that encourage urban revitalization rather than suburban sprawl and greenfield developments.
- Promote the economic value of natural beauty. **Nature is the ultimate infrastructure that sustains everything we do.** Recognize its value now for the enjoyment by all in the future.

Safe & Healthy Communities

Healthy communities can only exist when clean water, clean air, and freedom from toxic chemicals are available to all citizens, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or economic standing. The Sierra Club will work to insure that all Kansas communities share these values as fundamental rights.

Vision: Kansas communities are free from poisoned air and water, benefit from renewable energy, have safe local food sources, and are healthy places to raise our children.

Action: The Safe and Healthy Communities Campaign will promote the following initiatives:

- Advocate for the enforcement of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts and challenge major pollution sources, such as power plants, refineries, and chemical plants, to install the best available pollution controls when they build new or expand existing facilities. We can no longer assume that the EPA and other government agencies will be vigilant about levels of harmful toxins in the air or water.



Photo by Rachel Voss - June 15th Celebration, KCK

- Stop coal-fired power plants. There is nothing clean about coal. Coal-fired power plants are the country's largest unregulated source of mercury pollution. Mercury exposure can result in birth defects, brain damage, and learning problems. The environmental scars from coal mining are permanent.

- Support "Smart Growth," urban revitalization, mass transit systems, locally grown food, and locally manufactured products. This will reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita and cut energy usage, pollution, and global warming emissions. These approaches also mean vital services will remain within reach for all urban residents.
- Promote the health benefits of thriving natural environments, in particular the addition of natural environments in urban centers where the citizens cannot otherwise access places of natural beauty and biodiversity due to social and economic circumstances.
- Support solid and toxic waste reduction and recycling programs. Require rigorous criteria for landfill sitings.
- Oppose the establishment or expansion of CAFOs. These operations pollute air and water resources and harm the economies of the local communities they invade.

Your leadership is needed

If you believe in these Campaigns, and if you believe that Sierra Club in Kansas will provide the needed energy and commitment to move Kansans toward a better and more sustainable future, now is the time to act. In whatever way you can, commit your energy and resources. Get behind the Sierra Club's efforts. **Today is the time to make a difference.**

Cover Photo by Jim Griggs - Meadowlark near Cassoday, KS

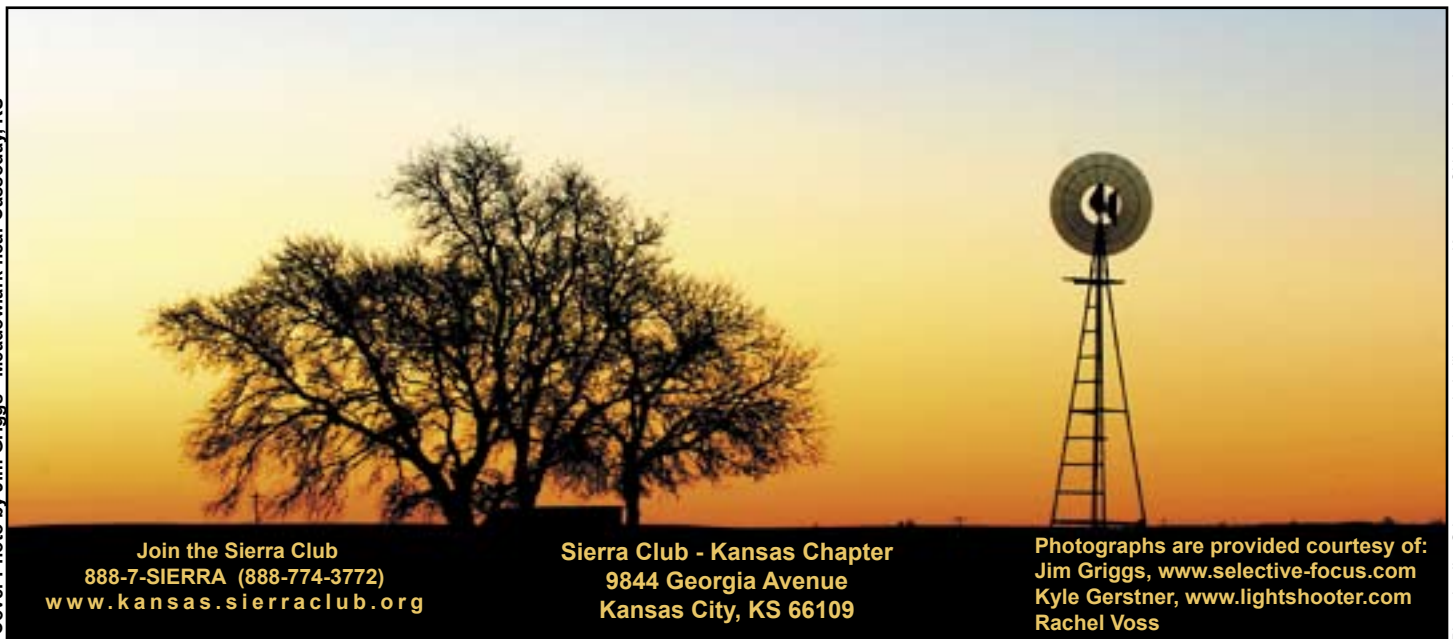


Photo by Jim Griggs - operating windmill and tree near Kansas - Oklahoma border

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Photographs are provided courtesy of:
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