

SIERRA CLUB BARRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

JANUARY 2002

Energy bill is Club's first priority of new year

By John Barry

Office of Volunteer and Activist Services

New Year's celebrations are past. Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa leftovers have been eaten. Thanksgiving and Halloween are distant memories. The holiday season is finally over. The new year, with all its new uncertainties, begins in earnest.

First out of the chute, the U.S. Senate will be turning its attention to America's energy needs, with a critical vote on a Senate energy bill expected as early as mid-February.

The Senate energy debate will swirl around the bill introduced in December by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.). The National Energy Security Bill, S. 1766, is a huge improvement over the plan proposed by President Bush and

the bill passed by the House of Representatives in August.

The Daschle bill is on the right track because it recognizes that our energy policy must protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other special places, plus help curb global warming and reduce America's oil dependence. The bill creates a strong framework to accomplish these key things, and move us to a cleaner, safer, more secure energy future.

However, some key elements have been left blank, to be filled in later.

For example, the bill calls for improvements in automobile fuel economy, but doesn't say how much of an improvement should be made. We need to make sure that there is a loud chorus of support for a Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standard of 40 mpg for cars, light trucks, and SUVs by 2010.

Another fill-in-the-blank deals with

tax subsidies for new energy technologies. The bill doesn't say yet how much or which technologies and industries will benefit. We need to make sure our tax dollars support clean, renewable technologies like solar and wind power, and don't subsidize nuclear power or so-called "clean coal," which is anything but.

The Senate bill calls for 10 percent of our electricity to be provided by new renewable energy sources by 2020, but studies by the Union of Concerned Scientists show that we can achieve 20 percent.

And please be sure to tell your senators to reject any and all amendments to drill the Arctic Refuge.

Clearly, our voices are needed now. Please take a minute to write a letter to your senators. You can use the sample letter below as a starting point.

Or go to the Club's new Take Action

Please see SUPPORT, Page 6

Four elected to ExCom by vote of the membership

Two veterans and two rookies were elected to fill vacancies in the Fort Worth Group Executive Committee.

Elected for a second term on the ExCom by the membership were Tolbert Greenwood, current Group chairman, and Jenny Lehman, who heads up the Sierra Singles for both Fort Worth and Dallas as well as being the vice chair of the Group.

Newcomers to the Groups's governing body are Don Callaway and James Moody.

Greenwood has been a Sierra Club member for more than 25 years and has served on the ExCom for the past two years. He feels the local outings program is strong, but would like to see more volunteers take part in conservation programs in the upcoming year.

Lehman has also served on the board for the past two years. One of her areas of expertise is helping people in the club and the community get plugged in to outings and conservation

programs that fit their interests.

Callaway's background is in environmental protection and has worked for over 25 years in that field. He has also served in various volunteer capacities in Austin and other cities prior to moving to this area two years ago.

Moody, a longtime journalist, has been a Sierra Club member for 10 years, serving as Group newsletter editor for the past five years. He leads national service projects as well as group backpacking trips.



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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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All the following numbers are Area Code 817 unless otherwise noted

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Treasurer	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
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	Paula Thomson	860-4441
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	Dan Smith	410-2955

Campaign Coordinators

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Clean Air	Earl Burnam	244-2328
Clean Water	Bob Scott	282-1372

Outings Contacts

Chair	Claudia Blalock	924-6242
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Bicycle	Don Bowles	571-9778
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Ad director	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
Circulation dir.	Steve Turner	457-7131



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Sierra Club National Hotline 202-675-2394

Web Pages

Fort Worth Group <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tw/fortworth/index.html>

National, Lone Star www.sierraclub.org

Lone Star Chapter www.texas.sierraclub.org

The Planet www.sierraclub.org/planet

Political page www.sierraclub.org/politics

Action Alert

To subscribe, send message to: majordomo@igc.apc.org with the following command in the body of your e-mail message: subscribe sc-action

Sierra Club welcomes new hybrid

The Sierra Club welcomed Honda's newest fuel-saving car, the Civic Hybrid. As the nation debates national energy security and the need to reduce dependence on oil, Honda's second hybrid vehicle shows how technology can help cut oil consumption, save consumers at the pump, and curb global warming.

"The biggest single step we can take to save oil is to make cars, SUVs and other light trucks go farther on a gallon of gas," said Daniel Becker, Director of the Sierra Club's Global Warming and Energy Program. "Honda's new Civic Hybrid will get 50 miles per gallon. At a time when we must strive to save oil, this car proves we can."

Cars, SUVs and other light trucks now consume eight million barrels of oil every day -- 40 percent of the oil used in the U.S. The Sierra Club advocates raising Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for all vehicles to 40 miles per gallon over the next ten years. This will put the U.S. on the road to saving nearly four million barrels of oil every day -- more than we import from the Persian Gulf and could extract from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge combined.

Honda's new Civic Hybrid, like the Honda Insight, combines attributes of electric and gasoline motors. The Civic Hybrid's highly efficient gas-powered engine, refillable at any gas station,

powers the vehicle and also generates electricity for the electric motor, which helps provide power. The Civic additionally captures the energy typically lost in braking, directing it to recharge the batteries. Unlike pure electric vehicles, a hybrid does not need to be plugged in. Because the Civic runs on both gasoline and clean electricity, it achieves fuel economy of 50 mpg and therefore emits much less global warming and air pollution than other vehicles.

The average car emits about 70 tons of heat-trapping gas carbon dioxide over its lifetime- the average SUV emits around 100 tons. Honda's Insight hybrid produces only about 27 tons of carbon dioxide over the same lifetime.

Including Toyota's Prius, there are now three hybrid vehicles sold in the U.S. Other auto companies are touting prototypes for cleaner vehicles.

Ford Motor Company recently went back on its pledge to produce hybrid Explorers, while it does plan to produce a hybrid Escape SUV in 2003. GM and DaimlerChrysler also say they will make hybrids in the future.

Meanwhile, automakers are producing more gas guzzling SUVs: General Motors alone is launching eight new SUVs for 2002.

A foreign automaker is once again
Please see CAFE, Page 6

January-February

Fort Worth Sierra Club

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
14	15	16 General Meeting 7 p.m. Newsletter deadline	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Cabin Weekend at Beavers Bend State Park	26	27
28	29 Conservation Committee meeting	30	31	Feb. 1	2	3 Trinity Trail Dog Walk
4 Newsletter folding/labeling party 6 p.m.	5	6	7	8	9	10 Beginner Backpack seminar
11	12	13	14 ExCom meeting 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17

Greater Fort Worth Group Sierra Club Outings

Fort Worth Sierra Club outings are open to members and nonmembers. Trip leaders serve in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of organizing the trip. If you have special needs or medical requirements, notify the leader prior to the trip. All outings officially begin at the trailhead. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing. Many outings require advance reservations at the trip designation as well as from the participant. Notify the trip leader promptly if you must cancel. Donations of \$3 per person and \$5/family are requested for overnight trips to be used for conservation efforts of the club. Any park and/or camping fees are the responsibility of the participant. In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.

January 12, Saturday

Dayhike at Lake Ray Roberts State Park Join Jim and Jane Nelson on Saturday, January 12, for an invigorating winter hike along the Greenbelt at Ray Roberts Lake State Park near Denton. We will meet at 10 a.m. at the parking lot of the south trailhead off U.S. Hwy 380, and shuttle to the midpoint of the Greenbelt Trail at FM 428. From there we will hike 6.5 miles back to Hwy 380. Bring water and snacks for the trail. To see a map of the Greenbelt, go to the Ray Roberts Lake State Park website and click on Greenbelt Corridor Map. No need to contact leader if you want to come. Just show up. The walk will be cancelled in the event of bad weather. Trip leaders: Jim and Jane Nelsom, 817-379-5723 or you can email them at jfnelson1@charter.net.

January 25-27, Friday-Sunday

Cabin Weekend at Beavers Bend State Park. Shake of those winter blues. Beavers Bend State Park is a 5,135-acre park situated along the Mountain Fork River just South of Broken Bow Reservoir in Southeast Oklahoma. Total drive is about 200 miles. The park has cabins of various size accommodating 2 ñ 6 persons. All cabins have kitchens and some are available with fireplaces. We plan to spend Friday and Saturday nights in the cabins and day hike part of the David Boren Trail. The winter rates are \$58 - \$115 per night. For cabin information and registration call: 580 494-6300. Please make your own cabin reservations. This is a beautiful park and should be quiet this time of year. You might get to see a bald eagle. Leader: Wendy Lambert 817-251-0016 (H) or: w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org.

February 3, Sunday

Bring your favorite canine on a short hike along the paved Trinity Trail for approximately three miles. Meet at 3 p.m. at the parking lot just south of the Hoffbrau Steak House on University Drive in Fort Worth, approximately a mile south of I-30. Bring water for yourself and your pet and wear appropriate clothing. In the event of rain, the hike will be cancelled. Leader: Claudia Blalock, cpblalock@msn.com or claudia.blalock@alconlabs.com or call her at 817-924-6242.

February 10, Saturday

Beginner Backpacking Seminar at Fort Worth Nature Center 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Learn how to set up a tent, plan a trip, select the right clothing and the equipment, pack, and enjoy the outdoors in a low impact camping or backpacking style. The Sierra Club Outings Committee, which has a combined experience of over 60 years of camping and hiking, teaches the class. Bring a bag lunch, but beverages are provided. Cost: \$15 per person. Contact person: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. Preregistration and payment required in advance with minimum of 10 persons to hold class. Mail checks to Claudia Blalock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd. For Worth, Texas 76109.

February 22-25, Friday-Monday

Car camp in the Chisos Basin Campground of Big Bend National Park. February is the perfect time to see this grand park. Day hikes may include Santa Elena Canyon, Boquillas Canyon, Cattail Falls, Ernst Tinaja, and others. Sunday night will be at the Gage Hotel in Marathon. Call now to reserve a room at 915-386-4205. The trip was originally to be led by John Parker, who died in December. For more information, contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 or email cpblalock@msn.com and claudia.blalock@alconlabs.com. Trip size: 10 participants.

March 16, Saturday

Trail maintenance at the Fort Worth Nature Center. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Hardwicke Interpretative Center for light brush clearing and trail maintenance. Wear sturdy shoes and old clothing suitable for working outdoors. Bring work gloves, small handtools, and water. We will work about four hours and

then go to lunch afterwards.

March 16- 17 Saturday- Sunday

Backpack the Piney Woods of the Davy Crockett National Forest. The 4 C's Trail is flat and heavily wooded. We will car camp at Ratcliff Recreational Area Friday night or meet on Saturday morning at the trailhead. Call Tolbert Greenwood at 877-2842 (w) or 346-3140 (h) for more details or email him at tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com.

March 23-24 Saturday-Sunday

Beginners Backpack at Inks Lake State Park. The Inks Lake area is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Texas because of the scenic diversity and wealth of minerals, water, and wildlife. We will backpack three miles to a primitive camping area Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon we will day hike four-five miles. There's also a possible two-mile day hike Sunday at Longhorn Caverns. Leader: Wendy Lambert (817) 251-0016 (H) or w Lambert@concrete-pipe.org.

April 5-7, Friday-Sunday

Car camp at Caprock Canyon State Park and bicycle the Caprock Canyons Trailway. Arrive at the state park on Friday evening for a two-night camp. Saturday morning we will shuttle to the west end of the Caprock Canyons Trailway for a 25-30 mile ride back to the state park. The trailway is a converted rail trail, and the west to east trek is mostly downhill, though the grade is very gentle. It is extremely scenic, traversing red rock canyons over several railway trestles and through the Clarity Tunnel with its population of Brazilian Free-tailed bats. Fat tired bikes are necessary for this trip due to conditions of the railbed. Sunday will be dayhikes in the park. Contact Dan Smith at 817-410-2955 for more information or email RiverdogDan@aol.com.

Bring aluminum cans to meeting

Don't forget to bring your aluminum cans to the general meeting.

Newsletter editor James Moody will pick up the cans and take them to the recycling center with the proceeds going to the Fort Worth Group.

You can't miss his red Explorer with University of Texas license plates and Longhorn stickers strategically located on virtually every window.

Coming Events

January 10, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at LaMadeleine's Restaurant, 305 Main St. For more information, contact Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

January 16, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting. See box at right for details.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail, email, or on Iomega Zip disks accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings or other club activities are particularly encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Please do

General Meeting

Wednesday, January 16

7:00 Main Auditorium, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north about a mile to Camp Bowie).

Program: John Darling of the Arlington Master Composters will be our next speaker. He will present a program on composting

not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@aol.com.

Sierra Singles Events

For information about Sierra Singles events for the Fort Worth and Dallas Groups, contact Jenny Lehman, 263-1357.

February 4, Monday

Newsletter folding party, Smoky's Ribs, 6 p.m., 5300 E. Lancaster. Eat, or have the beverage of your choice, while working with other Sierrans to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

Support our printer

Alpha and Omega Graphics reduces our newsletter print cost by 10% of every job we refer to them. If you, or someone you refer, spend \$100 on printing, we save \$10 on the newsletter.

Owner Mark Shippey is one of the few printers in this area who actively encourages the use of recycled paper and soy-based inks. This newsletter is always printed on some type of environmentally-friendly paper.

Alpha and Omega is located at 2705 Eighth Ave., Fort Worth. For more information, call 921-3670.

Administration sets precedent on logging

Former timber lobbyist decides to ignore public appeals

In December, the nation's number two forest official issued a precedent-setting decision that could greatly impact America's National Forests. Agriculture Department Undersecretary Mark Rey, a former top timber industry lobbyist, approved logging on 46,000 acres of forest on Montana's Bitterroot National Forest, threatening prime habitat for the imperiled bull trout and other wildlife. By signing off on the proposed timber sale the Undersecretary removed the ability of citizens to file appeals on the project and insures that the Forest Service will be taken to court.

"The Bush Administration is chopping away at the basic laws that protect our National Forests from unchecked logging and other development," said Melanie Griffin, director of the Sierra Club's Land Protection Program. "We call on Undersecretary Mark Rey to listen to the American public and protect our National Forests for future generations, not sacrifice them for short term industry profit."

The "Burned Area Recovery" timber sale, the largest salvage logging project in the history of the Forest Service, is designed to log portions of the Bitterroot National Forest that were burned

in the summer of 2000. The Forest Service wants to log more than 181 million board feet from the burnt forest despite opposition from local citizens and scientific evidence that shows logging increases sediment in streams. Downed and burned trees reduce ero-

sion, enrich the soil and provide habitat for woodpeckers and other wildlife. A significant portion of the timber sale is planned for previously unroaded areas that provide habitat for the threatened bull trout. Also, allowing natural

Please See ROAD, Page 5



SINGLES TRIP: The Sierra Singles enjoyed a recent outing to Daingerfield State park in East Texas.

Road construction particularly damaging

Continued from Page 4

processes in burnt forests increases the ability of the forest to recover.

"This project will cause impacts that affect the forest for years to come and ignores the 4400 citizen comments that opposed the timber sale," said Jennifer Ferenstein, President of the Sierra Club and a Montanan. "This decision gives the concerned citizen no other alternative than to take the Forest Service to court."

In another recent move, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth issued a directive to unravel protections for our undeveloped wild areas in National Forests, allowing new, destructive development and logging in 58.5 million acres of unspoiled forests.

In recent months, the Forest Service has released a series of policy changes that severely undermine protections for National Forests. Recent directives have opened the door to logging in roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest, the largest remaining temperate rainforest on earth and home to grizzly bears and wild salmon. Another recent proposal would make it easier for the Forest Service to use a

loophole called "categorical exclusions" to fast-track destructive logging projects even if the logging will harm endangered species or spoil a wild forest roadless area.

Road construction is particularly damaging to forests. Of the 440,000 miles of roads in the National Forest System, only 20 percent of these receive regular maintenance. These roads dump sediment into streams,

cause damage to fish and wildlife habitat and increase the cost of water filtration for towns.

"Instead of listening to the two million public comments in favor of fully protecting wild forests, the Forest Service is opening the door to the timber industry to trash our nation's forests for private profit," said Griffin. "The least it could do is protect these last wild areas of our National Forests."

Membership

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

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The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Mission Statement

Return Service requested

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Support more secure energy future

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Web site at <http://whistler.sierraclub.org/action/actionindex.jsp> and send an email or fax alert to your senators.

Add your voice to the growing chorus for a cleaner, safer, more secure energy future.

Sample letter

Dear Senator _____

The Senate's energy bill, introduced in December by Sens. Daschle and Bingaman, is a significant improvement to the backward-looking bill passed by the House.

The Senate bill would increase federal research and development for energy efficiency to more than \$1 billion per year by 2006, and mandate higher efficiency for appliances. It also recognizes that a sound energy policy must protect special places like the Arctic Refuge and help curb global warming.

This bill is a strong framework. However, more is needed. The Senate bill requires that 10 percent of our electric-

ity be provided by clean, renewable energy by 2020, but studies show that we can achieve 20 percent. It also calls for improved fuel economy and tax benefits for energy technologies, but does not yet specify how much. The Senate should require a CAFE standard of 40 mpg for cars, light trucks and SUVs by

2010, and should support clean renewable energy, not nuclear power or fossil fuels.

And please reject any amendments to drill the Arctic Refuge.

Sincerely,
Your Name

CAFE saves three million barrels of oil per day, but could do much more

Continued from Page 3

beating the Big Three in bringing a highly efficient vehicle to the U.S. market. We need Congress to set new CAFE standards to push Detroit to take technologies off the shelves and start putting them to work," continued Becker.

The Senate is in the midst of setting national energy policy, including debating raising fuel economy standards. Our elected officials should update CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Econ-

omy) standards to require automakers to make cleaner cars and SUVs. When CAFE law was first passed in 1975, Detroit responded with more efficient cars, and now CAFE saves the U.S. three million barrels of oil per day.

Raising CAFE to an average of 40 miles per gallon over the next 10 years will save an additional two million barrels of oil every day in 2012 and nearly four million barrels per day by the end of the next decade.