

SIERRA

Indiana

Chapter Works Hard for Environmental Legislation

The session ended as the *Sierran* was going to press, and here are brief highlights of the 2007 Indiana General Assembly.

Funding

The two-year budget has \$4 million for the Indiana Heritage Trust and \$1 million for Clean Water Indiana. These are increases from the last budget cycle, which saw \$2 million for IHT and zero funding for CWI, but less than the \$6 million and \$5 million proposed for this session. The IHT buys land from willing sellers to protect Indiana's natural heritage for wildlife habitat and recreation. The mission of CWI is to conserve and enhance our land, lakes, and rivers by reducing polluted stormwater runoff that reaches Indiana's water resources. This is accomplished by strengthening local soil and water conservation districts' ability to provide technical, coordination, and financial assistance to urban and rural landowners.

Renewable Electricity

The Indiana Coalition for Renewable Energy and Economic Development, which includes environmental, wind manufacturing, consumer advocacy, and local government representatives, worked hard to promote passage of a renewable energy standard. While negotiations continued until the final hour, a compromise with the strong utility lobby could not be reached.

The Sierra Club worked until the end. Stating in a last-minute press release with others in the coalition, "A Renewable Electricity Standard that is restricted to clean resources will benefit all parts of the state in terms of economic development, cleaner air, and a pro-active commitment to tackling global warming," said Carey Hamilton, who represents the Sierra Club. "Let's make a clean, Hoosier Homegrown Renewable Electricity Standard happen." While we did not make progress this year, Sierra Club and a coalition will continue to grow support and awareness about this important issue in the months ahead.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations

Legislators and rural community activists spent months debating various legislative proposals to protect communities from the public health concerns related to confined animal feeding operations. Legislators discussed increased fees for CAFO operators to help pay for more inspections (currently these occur as infrequently as every 7 years), minimum municipal and school setback requirements for siting new facilities, and a manure applicator certification program. In the end, the House and Senate could not agree on what makes the most sense for communities, and none of several proposals survived.

In Closing

It may not have been the greatest year for us in the legislature, but because of the dedicated work by many, it could have been much worse!

The Full Story

For the full legislative report, go to <http://hoosier.sierraclub.org/>. Please check it out! Special thanks to Hazel Stevens and her crew for reinvigorating the legislative information and the rest of the Hoosier Chapter home page. ○

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 (see above)

Alternate: Bill Hayden (see above)

Wilderness First Aid Training

A 16-hour Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training session will be held in Louisville on July 14-15 for outdoor leaders and others who desire WFA capability. This course is ideal for long-outings leaders, overnight leaders, outdoor enthusiasts, and individuals in remote locations. The two-day, hands-on course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel in the outdoors. This course does not include CPR. No prior first aid experience or certification is necessary.

This Outdoor Activities Training Program will take place at the Louisville Nature Center on the trails of the Beargrass Creek State Nature Preserve. The course will be led by professional instructors certified by the Wilderness Medicine Institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School.

For more information, email the Hoosier Chapter outings leaders chair at maryfritz@hoosier.sierraclub.org or go to <http://www.sierra-club.org/outings/training>.


Save the Planet Fun Facts

Q: How much do you know about driving in order to maximize fuel efficiency? Fill in the blanks:

1) Aggressive driving can lower your gas mileage by _____ percent at highway speeds.

2) Use of an air conditioner on a hot summer day can decrease mileage by _____ percent.

A: 1) Aggressive driving can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds (and by 5 percent around town). 2) Use of an air conditioner on a hot summer day can decrease mileage by 21 percent. Whenever possible, use a flow-through air vent instead.



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR

Hoosiers “Step It Up” to Support Global Warming Solutions

Copyright 2007 by Peter J. Fritz, Ph.D., Hoosier Chapter Energy Task Force Chair

Throughout the nation, Sierra Club staff, volunteers and friends participated in a “Step It Up” event to demonstrate just how many Americans support global warming solutions. Calling on the nation and our leaders to “Step It Up” and cut carbon dioxide pollution by 80%—about 2% a year—by 2050, activists staged 1,451 grassroots events in all 50 states.

Started by author Bill McKibben and six friends, “Step It Up” allowed many large environmental organizations, including the National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and Greenpeace—to break through organizational walls and come together along with some much smaller groups in support of a common goal.

Fifteen SIU reported events were held in Indiana. Bloomington staged a rally with eight political speakers, music, and demonstrations. Fort Wayne recycled 72,000 plastic bags. Tell City staged a 95-mile Planet Adventure race. Students marched from Ball State to Muncie. Lafayette and West Lafayette mayors got together to speak about energy efficiency and hybrid buses. Three groups of people gathered on the steps of Monument Circle and at other locations in Indianapolis. People with banners met in Fort Wayne and Terre Haute. Sierra Club members sang songs and demonstrated conservation at Notre Dame.

In Evansville, I gave a speech on the Sierra

Club Cool Cities program and existing energy technologies. John Blair, president of Valley Watch, which organized the Evansville SIU march against coal, spoke out against a proposed power plant in Indiana. As a result of the Evansville rally, the area electrical provider promised to purchase 30 MW of renewable wind energy in Indiana.

In New York City, a “sea” of 1,200 people gathered where the water would rise if the Greenland ice melted. On Capitol Hill in Washington, the people arranged themselves into a postcard aerial shot, to be shown to the Congress.

Carl Pope, Sierra Club executive director, notes, “Driven by increasing concern over our changing climate and a national need to change the way we produce and consume energy, growing numbers of Americans—many of them unlikely allies—are taking and demanding action to cut global warming pollution, protect the planet, and strengthen the economy.”

“Now the real battle is to see if Congress is ever going to do anything about climate change. They’ve literally done nothing for 20 years,” said McKibben. McKibben testified on April 17 before a congressional panel about climate change and the SIU events.

“Step It Up” emphasized that everyone—individuals, businesses, and governments—have a role in stabilizing the earth’s climate.



Peter Fritz and John Blair address the crowd at a Step It Up event.

INTEREST IN WIND POWER GROWS

Copyright by Peter J. Fritz, Ph.D., Hoosier Chapter Energy Task Force Chair

I reviewed all my newspaper clippings on wind-farm progress for electricity generation in Indiana. The wind rush is on! There is activity in Benton, White, Wayne, Hamilton, Allen, Saint Joseph, Jay, Randolph, Stake and Marshall counties. These counties constitute about 5,000 square miles of area. If we populated these acreages with wind farms tomorrow, we could deliver 40,000 MW of wind power into the Hoosier electrical grid.

But, Indiana is only using 20,000 MW of electrical power today. We really do not need to fill these counties with wind turbines. What do we need?

My vision for Indiana is a photovoltaic (PV) panel on every roof and a wind farm in every county. To reduce our dependence on fossil fuel by 80 percent before 2050, we will need to generate about 10,000 MW from wind and 10,000 MW from PV in Indiana. Each wind turbine will produce 1 MW, so we will need about 10,000 wind turbines scattered among the 92 counties of Indiana, or approximately one wind farm with 100 wind turbines per county.

What percentage of the state will need to be covered with wind farms? The wind turbines require a fair amount of distance from each other. If there were two wind farms in each of 50 counties, the area of the farms would be 5% percent of each county. The ground can continue to be farmed for crops around the towers. The footprint of the wind turbines, or area around the tower base at the ground level, would be 0.01 percent of the land space (30 acres) in

each of these 50 counties.

Each wind turbine will generate half of the needed electricity for 200 homes. The other half will be provided by the PV panels on their roofs. No greenhouse gases will be produced. For every wind turbine commissioned, we will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by one ton every hour! By replacing fossil fuels with wind turbines and PV panels, we would reduce our greenhouse gas output by 10,000 tons per hour, or 100 million tons per year in Indiana alone.

Who is looking at wind turbines? These towers appear to cost about a million dollars each. I see utilities, corporations, schools, city sewer departments, commercial groups, and residents surveying the value. Most forecast a payback of 7 to 10 years.

What started the wind rush? Last year, a study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory established "tall tower" data, which determined Indiana has 200,000 MW of wind energy available at 80 to 100 m. The winds blow steady at these heights, are generally 25 mph, and are active 40 percent of the time.

Where are we with wind energy now? We currently consume about 20,000 MW of coal-powered electricity in Indiana. The world currently harnesses 75,000 MW of electricity through wind turbines. The U.S. harnesses 11,000 MW of electricity through wind turbines. By 2050, Indiana will need to be harnessing 10,000 MW of wind power. Let the wind rush begin! ☉

Sierra Club Takes Action to Protect Children from Lead Exposure

In a settlement with the Sierra Club and Improving Kids' Environment (IKE), the EPA has agreed to take the first critical steps to safeguard children from toxic toys.

One of the initial actions taken by the EPA will be to provide more stringent enforcement of laws requiring companies to immediately notify the agency of substantial health risks from their products. This may affect up to 120 companies that have violated this law by failing to notify EPA about risks that may require a product to be recalled. The agency will also tighten safeguards and take steps to require importers and manufacturers of children's products to provide health and safety studies on the possible presence of lead in their products.

Tom Neltner, Sierra Hoosier Executive Committee member and Director of IKE, led the national Sierra Club effort to push the EPA toward a proactive system to lessen children's exposure to lead in toys and jewelry.

Lead can affect the brain development of young children and has been directly linked to a wide range of learning disorders. While lead paint in older homes is the major cause of childhood lead poisoning, many children are also being exposed to toxic lead through the toys they love and the products they use. More than 300,000 American

children have blood levels high enough to cause irreversible damage, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Tips on keeping children safe from lead toys can be found at <http://www.sierraclub.org/healthycommunities/lead/>.

After a child in Minnesota died as a result of eating a pendant containing lead on a pair of Reebok shoes last year, the Sierra Club petitioned both EPA and the Consumer Product Safety Commission urging preventative action. The commission granted the petition and has taken steps to ban lead in toy jewelry, and now the EPA is taking action as well.

In Indiana we have a special opportunity to focus on the broader issue of controlling the impact of lead on children. Dr. Judith A. Monroe, the Indiana State Health commissioner, has declared a special effort on this problem. Please contact your local health department for more information as the program unfolds. For information on the existing Indiana State Department of Health program, go to http://www.in.gov/isdh/about/about_shc.htm.

For more information, visit www.sierraclub.org/lead. To read the settlement agreement, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/lawsuits/docs/2007-04-12-EPASierraKESettlement.pdf>. ☉

Students Do Service Projects for a Better World

Members of the Pike High School Sierra Club in Indianapolis are committed to making a difference in their school, their community, and their world. One of the group's most impressive accomplishments this year was a major recycling effort that yielded four \$500 scholarships.

Pike students secured a vendor, Abitibi Recycling, to accept newspaper, junk mail, magazines, and office paper, and then placed more than 160 bins throughout the school. Members collected paper from class bins on a weekly basis. The students also collected aluminum cans for recycling. To give readers an idea of the work involved in raising \$2,000 of scholarship monies, the current rate for paper is \$20 a ton! However, with dedicated commitment, these students demonstrated that recycling does indeed pay.

The group, founded by Adam Shoemaker eight years ago, has a history of successful recycling programs. In 2005, the club won fourth prize from Abitibi Recycling and a check for \$125 on the Great Paper Drive. In 2006, they won second prize and \$300, and in 2007 the Pike Sierra Club was awarded \$500.

Pike students attend the Heartlands Group monthly meetings and this year joined the group in the Indianapolis Earth Day exhibit and celebration. (Thanks to Sarah Pluckebaum, Lauren Tuttle, Emma Olson, and Jenny Ransberger.)

The Pike Sierra Club stays active in their community and has completed service projects for Indy Parks for the last three years, including tree planting at 46th and Dandy Trail, tree tagging near Eagle's Crest, annual Eagle Creek Reservoir canoe cleanups (usually in the spring), and occasionally trail trash picks. For the past two years they have camped at Whitewater State Park in Liberty, Indiana, where they collected a large dumpster of trash.

In an effort to make a difference on a national level, the group donated \$1,000 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

This group, which is open to all Pike students at no charge, meets on weekly. Hours donated by students are recorded as they work on projects related to larger world issues like reducing the nation's oil dependency, cleaning the environment, and strengthening recycling programs. The club is student-managed with the support and supervision of their sponsor, Frank Drumwright of the Hoosier Executive Committee. By working with the Sierra Club, this group connects to an organization committed to exploring, preserving, and protecting the planet. In return, The Sierra Club launches tomorrow's leaders into the future with a concern to protect, conserve and enhance our world. ○

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
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REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968



Pike High School Sierra Club members clean up Eagle Creek Reservoir.

Join Us on Summer Outings

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 7-9. Indiana Rivers Rally. Participate in the first-ever Indiana Rivers Rally, a landmark event for citizens and organizations interested in the health and recreation of rivers in their communities. The purpose of the rally in West Lafayette is to enhance our collective understanding and appreciation of Indiana's rivers, streams, lakes, and watersheds. Hands-on workshops, educational field trips, and presentations designed to increase your knowledge, skills, and understanding of Indiana's water resources. To learn more, go to www.indianariversrally.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9. 8 a.m. Long hike in Hobart Prairie Grove with botanist Sandy O'Brien to see the results of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore stewardship in this former oak savanna on clay soil. Meet at the Robinson Lake city park/Oak Savanna Trail parking lot at about 5200 S. Liverpool Rd. in Hobart. Sandy, (219) 942-2956, <mailto:ecorealm@msn.com>.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16. 8 a.m. Adopt a Highway roadside cleanup service outing along Rt. 12 in the Dunes. Meet at the Inland Marsh parking lot between Ogden Dunes and County Line Road. Dave Ellis, (219) 730-7913, <mailto:ellis012@gmail.com>.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23. Botany of the Bog, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Hike the Cowles Bog trail of the Indiana Lakeshore with PhD botanist Joy Marburger who conducts research in the area. Marburger will provide interpretation of one of the most diverse plant communities in the United States. The 3-mile trail stretches through wetlands and woods and ends at a remote Lake Michigan beach. Bring a sack lunch. We will meet at 11 a.m. Bring your swimsuit for a dip in the lake if the weather is warm enough and time allows. \$3. Sponsored by Illinois Sierra Club. Leader Barbara Bell, (847) 367-4253.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24. Cycling in Porter County. Join us on a 40-mile early summer ride along the country roads of Porter County. The route will pass through picturesque countryside that includes lakes farmland, meadows, parks, and small towns. Discover why the Midwest is considered the breadbasket of the world. Limit 15. \$3. Sponsored by Illinois Sierra Club. Leader Mark Ginger. Assistant leader Steve Carrow. To sign up, call Mark at (847) 699-0329.

THURSDAY, JULY 26. 7 p.m. Evening beach walk. Meet at the Kemil Road parking lot near Lake Michigan in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Porter County. Learn about Indiana Dunes conservation issues. Sandy O'Brien, (219) 942-2956, <mailto:ecorealm@msn.com>.

SUNDAY, AUG. 5. Morning Glory ride. Sponsored by the Miami, Ohio, Group of the Sierra Club, this event is a fun family activity, with emphasis on safety. It begins in the early morning quiet at 5 a.m. at Sawyer Point Park along downtown Cincinnati's riverfront. It ends with a hearty breakfast served along the Serpentine Wall under a brilliant sunrise—Mother Nature permitting. 2,000 riders have share in this early dawn experience, making it one of the area's most popular rides. The cost is \$35. Visit www.morninggloryride.org.

SATURDAY, AUG. 11. 7 a.m. Breakfast with the birds. Enjoy the Lake Michigan beach in the cool morning and meet kindred souls. Meet at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore pavilion on Lake Michigan, just west of Broadway in Beverly Shores. Ruth Bieknese, (219) 464-4821.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15. 6 p.m. Family and friends potluck picnic at Robinson Lake City Park at about 5200 S. Liverpool Rd. in Hobart. Bring a dish to share and chairs to sit on. Sandy O'Brien, (219) 942-2956, ecorealm@msn.com.

SATURDAY AUG. 18. 8 a.m. Adopt a Highway roadside cleanup service outing along Rt. 12 in the Dunes. Meet at the Inland Marsh parking lot between Ogden Dunes and County Line Road. Dave Ellis, (219) 730-7913, ellis012@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 22. 9 a.m. Knobstone Trail hike. Co-sponsored by the Winding Waters Group and the Cumberland Chapter of Louisville. Leaders: Charlie Mitch (cmitch01@comcast.net) and Joe Bina (stirsitup@gmail.com). We will hike a 9-mile section of the Knobstone Trail starting at the Leota Trailhead and ending at the New Chapel Trailhead. From the Indiana Department of Natural Resources: "The trail crosses several steep ridges as it heads south from the Leota Trailhead through the Clark backcountry area. It then drops into the lush North Branch Valley, one of the most scenic areas along the trail (abundant ferns, wildflowers and very large trees), before winding its way up a very steep slope. The trail then traverses rolling to rugged terrain again, past a few wildlife ponds, to the New Chapel Trailhead." Strenuous hike with steep hills. Directions to Leota Trailhead: From Interstate I-65 take exit 29, Scottsburg, IN. Go west on Hwy 56 for 4.1 miles and turn left on Zion road. Go 1 mile and turn right on Stagecoach road. Go 1.1 mile and turn right on Leota road. Go 1.3 miles to top of knobs and turn right on Saylor road. Go 100 yards. And turn right on to gravel trailhead entrance road.

FOR OUTINGS UPDATES

Check the Hoosier Chapter Outings Web site at <http://hoosier.sierraclub.org/outings> for updates.

To sign up for the Hoosier Outings e-mail list, send a message with the following:

To line: hoosier-outings-subscribe-request@lists.sierraclub.org

Subject line and message body may be left blank.

This is a very low-volume list from which you will receive announcements of new outings as they are added, reminders of outings that are coming up, and announcements of other special events or trainings of interest to people who are interested in outings. The outings chair is the only one who is able to post to the list, and any replies go only to the chair, so your inbox is guaranteed not to be overwhelmed if you sign on.

ATTEND GROUP MEETINGS

The Five Rivers Group is centered in Delaware and surrounding counties. The group has shifted from a meeting model to a project model, with the Living Lightly Sustainability Festival as the main focus, along with water quality and habitat restoration. All projects entail partnerships with sister groups and organizations. To get involved, contact Jon Creek at jcreek34@yahoo.com or sign up for our listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/5RiversSierra>.

The Winding Waters Group covers Bartholomew, Brown, Decatur, Jackson, and Jennings Counties. Winding Waters general membership meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Bartholomew County Library. The Winding Waters Group executive committee meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Bartholomew County Library or at a member's home; please phone Art Hopkins or any of our officers for the next executive committee meeting location. Art Hopkins, (812) 372-2862.

The Dunelands Group covers Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, and Starke Counties. Dunelands Group general membership meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at Krull Tower, 206 Main St. in downtown Hobart, at 7 p.m. Sandy O'Brien, (219) 942-2956.

The Heartlands Committee is centered in Marion County. From October to June, the Heartlands Group general membership meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6349 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. For information on meetings in the other months, contact Leslie Fite, (317) 299-5930, landkvo@juno.com, or Teresa Morehead, (317) 884-3831, hikesalot@sbcglobal.net. The Heartlands Group Executive Committee meets the first Monday of the month, 6 p.m., Hoosier Chapter Office, 1915 W. 18th St., Indianapolis. Leslie Fite, (317) 299-5930, landkvo@juno.com.

The Michiana Group includes Saint Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, and Kosciusko Counties. General membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Res Nature Center, 13950 Scout Lane, Mishawaka. The group's executive committee meets in January, March, May, July, September, and November at 6 p.m. at the Res. Christine Fiordalis, (574) 287-1621.

The Wildcat Committee is centered in Tippecanoe County. Wildcat general membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., at The Other Pub, 3000 S. 9th St., Lafayette. Marcia Daehler, (765) 743-1894.

JOIN US AT CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee manages the affairs and activities of the chapter, including financial management, membership services, production of publications, conservation, outings, and political programs. Our meetings are held in the Sierra Club office at 1915 W. 18th St., Suite D, Indianapolis, on the second Saturday of the odd months of the year. The next meeting is July 14. For an agenda or additional information, call (812) 320-7371 or e-mail haydenb@bloomington.in.us



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INDIANA SIERRAN

The *Indiana Sierran* is the official publication of the Hoosier Chapter of the Sierra Club. It is published four times a year. Deadlines are as follows: spring issue, Jan. 31; summer issue, April 30; fall issue, July 31; winter issue, Oct. 31.

Annual club dues are \$39; \$1 is for a subscription to the *Indiana Sierran*. Membership dues are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. The *Indiana Sierran* subscription rate to nonmembers is \$10 per year. Send address changes for members to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.

All articles should be sent to the *Indiana Sierran* newsletter editor: Stephanie Paritz, srp@writtenadvantage.com.

Advertisements are accepted for goods and services that are relevant to our members' needs. The *Indiana Sierran's* policy is to publish news concerning environmental issues and events. Publication does not necessarily constitute endorsement, but is for information only.



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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Printed on recycled stock with soy inks.

