



Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group

FEBRUARY 2015

FEBRUARY MEETING

**Tuesday,
February 24**

7pm at the
**HoChunk
Three Rivers House
at 8th & Main**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Tools for YOU to Save Energy

**Speaker: Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator
Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter**

Join us to get the first look at the Coulee Region Goes Solar!'s new resource for energy efficiency resources whether you're a homeowner, landlord, or renter. Add your thoughts, tools and resources as we test-ride and walk-through the resources that allow you to save energy, save money, and reduce your carbon footprint.

RSVP in advance to get an electronic version of the toolkit with live-links. To RSVP or for more information or to help finalize the toolkit, contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org or (608) 256-0565.



Coulee Region Transportation Challenges

There are two upcoming transportation studies that will be seeking public input, and Sierra Club members are encouraged to make use of any opportunities to provide input to the decision making and prioritization process. Having two studies proceed concurrently may be confusing, so here's a brief explanation.

WisDOT Coulee Region Transportation Study

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has begun a new study of how to solve transportation issues between I-90 and downtown La Crosse. This study, called the Coulee Region Transportation Study, has an aggressive schedule and will be looking for public input fairly soon. The first Public Involvement Meetings will be held:

- **Wednesday, March 11, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**, La Crosse Central High School, or
- **Thursday, March 12, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**, Eagle Bluff Elementary School

I encourage Coulee Region Sierra Club members to participate in these public meetings to advocate that the result achieves the transportation goals of the Sierra Club, which is to minimize greenhouse gas and other pollutant emissions while efficiently and safely moving people and freight to desired destinations.

continued on reverse side





Coulee Region Sierra Club

Maureen Kinney
620 South 23rd Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
La Crosse, WI
Permit #814

Coulee Region Transportation Challenges, *continued*

Transportation systems should promote healthy communities and protect environmental systems by valuing transit, bicycle, and pedestrian modes in addition to motor vehicles; by encouraging dense, mixed-use infill development to shorten trips to jobs, markets, and recreation.

The Sierra Club supports the Complete Streets concept, which creates a network of protected bikeways & walkways, while calming traffic, to encourage walking and cycling as safe and attractive alternatives to driving.

City of La Crosse Transportation Study

In addition to the WisDOT study, the City of La Crosse is conducting its own study on how to resolve transportation issues in La Crosse. This study is on a fast track,

to be completed in time to feed into the WisDOT study. The La Crosse study also involves extensive public input, with the first public input meetings **tentatively scheduled for the week of February 23**. Watch for notices of these meetings, and please attend them to further encourage the Complete Streets approach.

The La Crosse City Council has passed a resolution calling for our transportation challenges to be met by improvements to mass transit, bike and pedestrian facilities, along with repair and improvement of existing roads, without building any new roads through the marsh or neighborhoods. It would be good to support this approach.

—Pat Wilson

Interesting facts from PlanetPals.com:

Did you know?

- The garbage in a landfill stays for about 30 years.
- Each person throws away about four pounds of garbage every day.
- More than 1/3 of all energy is used by people at home
- Most families throw away about 88 pounds of plastic every year
- Approximately 5 million tons of oil produced in the world each year ends up in the ocean.
- The energy we save when we recycle one glass bottle is enough to light a traditional light bulb for four hours
- 14 billion pounds of trash is dumped into the ocean every year
- It takes 90% less energy to recycle aluminum cans than to make new ones