



The Pinchot Papers

Newsletter of the Governor Pinchot Group of the Sierra Club
Visit us online at pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot

Fall 2013

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The GVP Executive
Committee meets
the last Tuesday of
every month at
6:30 p.m. Call
Robin at
717-221-8590 for
the location.

Cleanups a Huge Success

The GVP Group picks up trash on the highway leading to Harrisburg International Airport three times a year. This time we found all the pieces of a computer smashed along the road. Some of us can relate to wanting to throw a computer out the window, can you?

This year's Susquehanna River Cleanup was a huge success. Volunteers cleared trash from the river and enjoyed a beautiful day.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who spend their time helping to make our corner of the world a better place. We couldn't hold these cleanups without you!

We look forward to working together in 2014 and beyond.



Join Us for a Holiday Party

You're invited to our Holiday Party on Friday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Gilligan's on Eisenhower Boulevard. Come for a fun event and mingle with other members of our local GVP Group of Sierra Club.

If you order a calendar (see page 3), you can pick it up at the party. We look forward to seeing you there!



Efforts to Increase Renewable Energy Blocked by Corbett Administration by Justina Wasicek



In early October, the Corbett Administration quietly released one of its more remarkable documents: the Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Update. The report was required by law but ended up being 18 months late. It finds that temperatures in Pennsylvania are indeed rising. One expert who worked on the report said that the “evidence is very strong that Pennsylvania’s climate is going to change significantly.”

Greenhouse gases are released when we burn coal, oil, and natural gas. We need alternatives.

Despite this confirmation of the threat of climate change here in Pennsylvania, the Corbett Administration has sought to downplay the report’s findings. Instead of taking action to support the use of renewable energy sources that do not contribute to climate change, the Administration took an opposite tack. In April 2013, DEP staff had introduced a plan to the

Climate Change Advisory Committee (“CCAC”) that considered a modest increase in Tier I renewable energy, from the existing 8 percent standard to a 10.5 percent standard by the year 2020. The draft work plan noted that, “While Pennsylvania was one of the first states to have an alternative energy portfolio standard, it has since been passed by other states which now have more robust requirements for the purchase of renewable and/or alternative energy credits.” This work plan was not long-lived. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) later withdrew the plan for internal review. Subsequently, DEP then informed the CCAC that DEP would not even consider a recommendation from the CCAC on the plan to increase renewable energy.

By withdrawing this plan, the DEP effectively prevented the CCAC from even debating or

voting on a proposal to increase the State’s renewable energy incentives under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Law (AEPS).

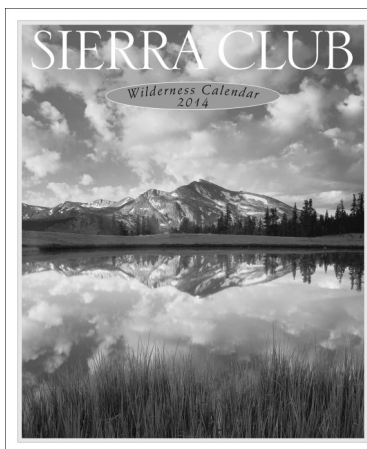
Furthermore, the DEP stated that it would not be including information about how the existing AEPS law reduces electricity prices for consumers in Pennsylvania’s next Climate Action Plan. The DEP also removed a detailed “price suppression” analysis describing how existing renewable energy requirements can reduce electricity prices for consumers.

In response, Christina Simeone, director of the PennFuture Energy Center and Chair of the CCAC, said: “While other states in the region and around the country recognize the multiple benefits of renewable energy and have increased the requirements in their state portfolios, DEP is telling us upfront that



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Order the Perfect Holiday Gift - Sierra Club Calendars



GVP is selling calendars at below retail prices - \$12 for the 2014 Wilderness Calendar and \$13 for the Engagement Calendar. Price includes sales tax. In addition, you can save postage and pick-up your orders at our holiday party or the Chapter office. We'll assume you plan to pick-up the calendars if the shipping cost on the order form is left blank. Support GVP by ordering your calendars from us, and consider giving them as gifts. Contact Rich at 458-5323 with questions. **Mail completed order form and payment to: Rich Gordon, 744 Allenview Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**



Make check payable to Sierra Club	Item	Cost	Qty	Total
Ship to:	Wilderness	\$12	_____	_____
Name _____	Engagement	\$13	_____	_____
Address _____			Subtotal	_____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____			Shipping (\$3 first, .50 additional)	_____
Phone (____) _____			Sales tax	_____
E-mail _____			Grand total	_____
Gift? Please check if yes: <input type="checkbox"/>				

2013/2014 Executive Committee Elections

Please vote for your Executive Committee Members. The following members' two-year terms expire this year and are seeking re-election. Space is provided for write-in candidates from the membership at large who might be interested in serving. Please vote for a total of 4 candidates. **Please return the ballot, by December 31, 2013, to Robin Broderick, 3244 Green Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110**

GVP Sierra Club Executive Committee Ballot		
Membership type:	Individual	Joint
Wendy Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Au	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justina Wasicek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amy Fox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-in _____	_____	_____
Write-in _____	_____	_____



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Efforts to Increase Renewable Energy, continued from page 2

they won't consider the idea of increasing renewable energy in Pennsylvania. This administration chooses to ignore the benefits renewable energy offers, including greenhouse gas reductions, cost reductions for electricity customers, and economic development opportunities."

In order to address climate change, we must decrease greenhouse gas emissions, which result from burning fossil fuels. We do have clean, but underutilized, sources of energy—wind power, solar power, and other renewables.

These technologies are good for the environment and good for our economy, bringing in new jobs in their manufacture and installation. In 2012, Pennsylvania added about 550 MegaWatts of wind power, a significant portion of which was developed by Pennsylvania companies using turbines manufactured in Pennsylvania. Additionally, last year Pennsylvania installed 54 MW of solar electric capacity, ranking us 11th nationally.

There are proposals in the Pennsylvania General Assembly which would increase the

proportion of clean, renewable energy in our State's energy mix — House Bill 100, sponsored by Representative Greg Vitali, and a companion Senate Bill, sponsored by Senator Daylin Leach. These bills are constructive responses to the problems of climate change here in Pennsylvania.

Please ask your State Representatives and Senators in Harrisburg to support increasing our use of renewable energy sources under the AEPS law!