



Sierra

MAY MEETING

**Tuesday,
May 27**

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

Sierra Club members and
non-members all welcome
Wheelchair accessible

Plastics & Pesticides: Their risk to human health

Presenter: Kathryn Lammers, Phd PHN RN, Associate Professor, Winona State University

Human health is intricately woven into the place where you live. Environmental threats are very different depending on a multiplicity of factors such as your age, dose, and length of exposure to toxins. Common products such as pesticides and plastics disrupt your body's delicate balance, which can lead to cancer, diabetes, obesity, and other diseases. In this presentation the audience will engage in methods to take action today on environmental risks.

As a nurse, Kathryn wants to promote best practices to prevent these diseases related to environmental choices. As a result, she has been active through her professional nurses' association to explain the risks through conferences and webinars. Kathy has been a practicing nurse for over 30 years and served on many environmental taskforce initiatives. **If you want to protect yourself and our future children, come join us.**



Save
June 24 for
our Summer
Picnic! Details
to come .

Coulee Region Group Solar Initiative

With the help of facilitators from the Madison John Muir chapter, a group of members has been working on our La Crosse Goes Solar initiative.

We encourage all members to consider signing up for a free H&H Solar assessment (See article to the right.) The assessment is free. If your site is suitable, H&H will provide a detailed proposal to those interested in installing a solar photovoltaic system on their homes.

We are also looking at the possibility of Community Solar Gardens (CSGs) in La Crosse similar to the very successful CSG recently introduced by Vernon Electric Co-op in Westby. We're working on a letter to Mayor Kabat and the La Crosse City Council to support Community Solar gardens.

Finally, we are seeking people who have renewable energy installations at their homes and/or businesses so we can get an idea of what's already being done in our community, start a directory (optional) of those with systems who might be able to provide. We'll soon have a survey accessible through our website and Facebook where you can sign in.

Sierra Club's Solar Homes in Wisconsin Program

H&H Solar of Madison is partnering with the Sierra Club with a goal of installing 26 more solar systems in Wisconsin in 2014. Even better, Sierra Club members and supporters who go solar through this program will get a discount on their system (a percentage based on system size and number of participants)! If you missed their presentation at last month's Sierra Club meeting, or if you did attend the program and want to sign up, you can find more details here: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/solarhomes.asp>



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Coulee Region Sierra Club



Coulee Region Sierra Club

Maureen Kinney
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La Crosse, WI 54601

Non-Profit Org.
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La Crosse, WI
Permit #814

Spring Highway Cleanup

Our adopted highway is River Valley Drive in the La Crosse River marsh. The first of 3 annual cleanups will be **Tuesday, May 13, at 6 p.m.** Meet at the city water well building near the intersection of County Highway B and River Valley Drive on the north side of La Crosse. Wear old clothes and bring work gloves. Orange vests and garbage bags are provided. We'll work for an hour to 90 minutes. There's a traditional stop at Rudy's Drive-in after the cleanup. For more information contact Maureen Kinney: 784-9324 or maureen@johnsflaherty.com.

Tar Sands Network in Wisconsin: Right under Our Noses

The Keystone Pipeline will pump 800,000 barrels of tar sands oil per day if permitted. Enbridge Energy has proposed expanding their pipeline, **the Alberta Clipper Pipeline or Enbridge Line 67**, which:

- Extends from Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin.
- Will be 36 inches in diameter
- If expanded, will double the capacity of the pipeline and pump 880,000 barrels of oil per day. (800,000 barrels will be toxic tar sands oil)
- Threatens Lake Superior

For more detailed information, go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Issues/Enbridge67.asp>

Until May 18, you can also urge the DNR to reject the permit and do a full environmental assessment. Click the **"Take Action"** button on the right to add your signature and comments.

Western's SwiPHt Homes Project

Over the next three years (2013-2015), Western faculty and students will work in partnership with Mayo Clinic Health System-Franciscan Healthcare, Hillview Urban Agriculture Center (HUAC), and the La Crosse Community Foundation to transform a residential pocket in La Crosse's 24th Street Neighborhood by constructing Passive Housing.



A Passive House utilizes a design and construction model that focuses on sustainability and energy efficiency. Utilizing the sun's energy, proper siting of the property, energy efficient building materials and techniques, and a quality ventilation system, homeowners can realize a 90 percent cost savings in their utilities. By using minimal renewable energy systems, such as photovoltaic or residential wind, passive homes can be easily converted to zero-energy homes.

Stay tuned for this exciting project's progress!

For more background on energy issues:

- **Throwing Shade:** <http://content.sierraclub.org/new/sierra/2014-3-may-june/feature/throwing-shade>
- **Power Failure:** How Climate Change Puts our Electricity at Risk and What We Can Do (Union of Concerned Scientists) <http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/Power-Failure-How-Climate-Change-Puts-Our-Electricity-at-Risk-and-What-We-Can-Do.pdf>
- **What is a Community Solar Garden?** <http://www.green-talk.com/what-is-a-community-solar-garden/>