

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2024

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612 ♦ hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org

HOI Group Meetings

WED
Nov 20

Meet your Conservationists

Forest Park Nature Center, 6:30 p.m.

Come and meet two of our community's top conservation professionals and find out how they are educating the public and helping residents and landowners while working to protect our natural resources. Find out what resources are available and what you can do to ensure that their work continues.

Josh Joseph is a Conservation Specialist with the Peoria County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Pete Fandel is Professor of Agriculture at Illinois Central College, a researcher studying water quality and a farmer who spent 18 years with the University of Illinois Extension Service working with crop production, soil and soil fertility, integrated pest management, and global positioning systems.

Please join us on November 20th to learn more about conservation efforts, research and testing, and resources available through your local soil and water conservation district.

This presentation will also be live-streamed on Zoom. Go to the HOI Group website at www.sierraclub.org/illinois/heart-illinois to register and receive a Zoom link.

Inside . . .



**Bird Seed
Order Form**



**HOI Group
Excom Ballots**

ACTION ALERT! Let Your County Board Members Know You Support Wind Energy!

Major Anti-Wind Forces Are Threats to Clean Energy Projects We All Need

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Peoria and Stark counties could have the many benefits of wind farms for decades ahead, including large annual local tax payments for schools and other services, and clean energy power for tens of thousands of homes. Property owners who wish to lease land for wind farms will gain reliable annual payments to boost their income. Land owners should have freedom to farm wind.

Please phone and email your Peoria or Stark County board members as soon as possible. Let them know that you support wind energy and how essential wind farms are for providing clean and renewable energy, greatly reduced carbon emis-

sions, and annual economic benefits to property owners and local governments.

The Peoria County Board web page has a link to search your address and find your county commissioner or phone the county clerk to ask at (309) 672-6059. Stark County lists board members on their web page but to find what district you are in and contact information for your board members call the Stark County Clerk at (309) 286-5911.

Greenhouse gas concentrations are at record levels. We are not reducing greenhouse gasses enough to keep ocean currents and weather patterns from failing. We all need to act and help however we can NOW. Your call to leave a message, or sending an email, is easy and takes only minutes to do.

We need your help because over 200 people turned out to a September meeting
(See *Wind Energy*, page 2)



Rail Splitter Wind Farm in Tazewell County near Delavan. The **Four Creeks Wind Project** by Connect Gen/Repsol is in the information gathering phase and would be in western Peoria County. The **Goldrush Apple Wind Project** by Apex would be in northwestern Peoria and southwestern Stark Counties and is collecting meteorological data and may have county applications in 2025. Photo: John Wosik



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

ADM CO2 Sequestration Deep Injection Monitoring Wells Fail: Your Comments to U.S. EPA and Illinois DNR Needed

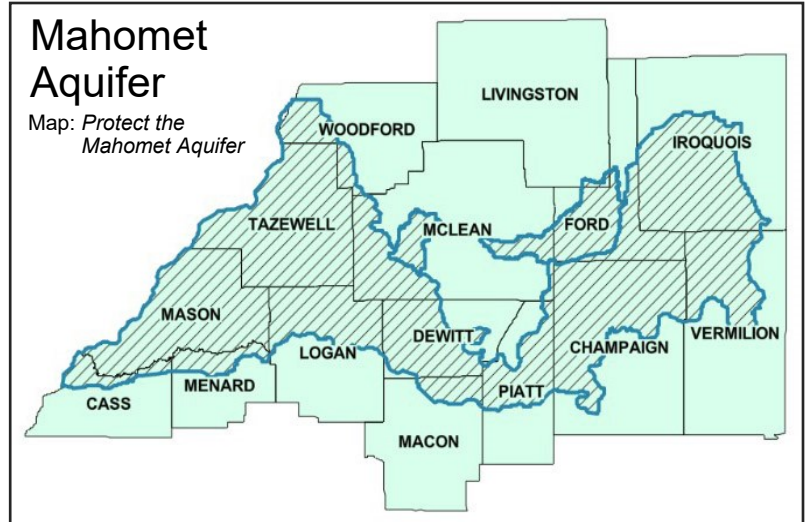
Ask for a Ban on Any New CO2 Injection Wells Until Full Information and Solutions Found at ADM

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) knew in 2022 that they had a carbon dioxide monitoring well problem but they did not inform EPA. The public first learned of this when U.S. EPA issued a violation notice to ADM September 13th, 2024, due to a leaking monitoring well that allowed the movement of injected carbon dioxide and formation fluids containing chemicals, wastewater or other substances, into unauthorized zones deep underground. The company indicated corrosion was the leak cause at the base of the monitoring well where the first leak was detected. Then, in a September 27th letter to EPA, ADM stated the company is stopping all CO2 underground injection due to failures found in their remaining monitoring well.

The second leak is still under investigation, but concerns include this leak may be from a hole in the CO2 storage reservoir meaning the ground layers stated to permanently keep the CO2 deep underground are not perfect. Repeated claims by carbon dioxide sequestration and injection proponents that ground layers will keep the CO2 from moving are now fully in question. Until these incidences, ADM was the nationally leading success story for carbon capture and sequestration.

Please send your personal letter, email, or phone your U.S. Representative and Senators. Ask they support a freeze on all Carbon Dioxide Deep Well Injection permits until ADM has made public why their monitoring wells leaked, how they are preventing the escaped CO2 and formation fluids from migrating further, and how these problems will be prevented in the future. 22 new CO2 injection deep well permits are pending in Illinois. We urgently need a Hold on any new permits and a Ban on any CO2 injection where aquifers are at risk. If you are online, please go to the Prairie Rivers Network webpage or the Protect the Mahomet Aquifer website and sign their petition pages to ban CO2 sequestration under the Mahomet.

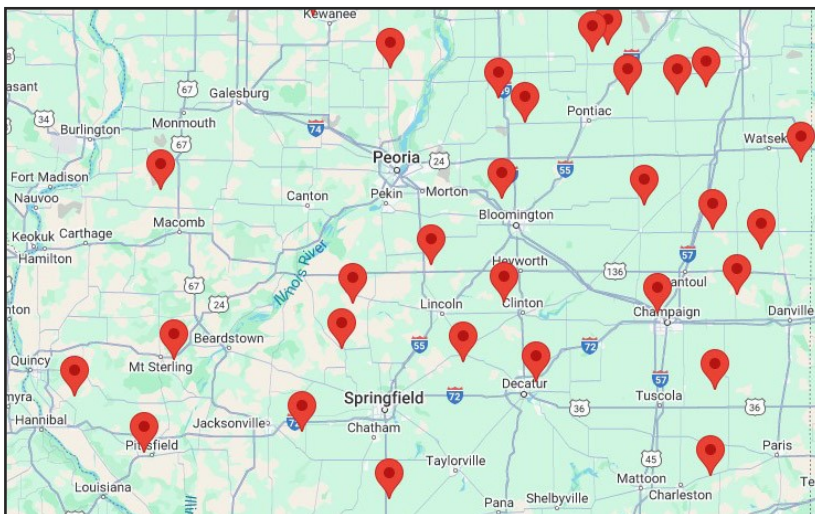


(Wind Energy, from page 1)

to oppose these wind projects and opponents are attending county meetings and sharing their anti-wind views. This is before the companies have even filed applications to the counties.

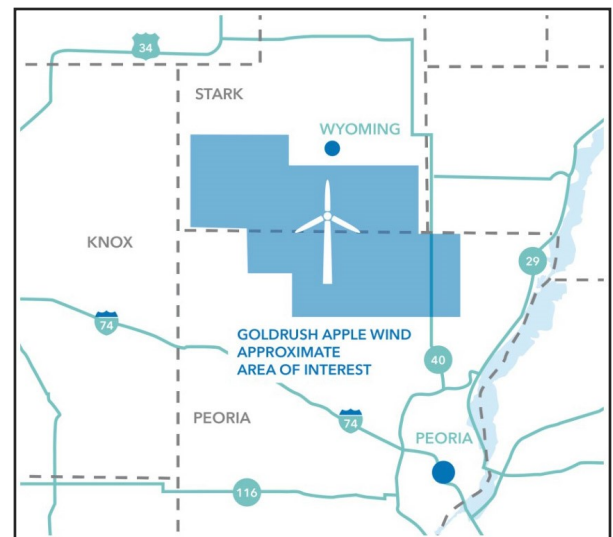
The Four Creeks Wind Project by Connect Gen/Repsol is in the information gathering phase and would be in western Peoria County. The Goldrush Apple Wind project by Apex would be in northwestern Peoria and southwestern Stark Counties and is collecting meteorological data and may have county applications in 2025. For more information or if you can help by giving a local public comment in support of wind, please phone Joyce at 309-688-0950 and leave a message.

Wind Energy Projects in Central Illinois



Wind energy projects in Central Illinois. Note the absence of wind projects in Peoria County. Map by Clean Grid Alliance. Data provided by American Clean Power Association.

Goldrush Apple Wind Project



Map of proposed Goldrush Apple Wind in northern Peoria and southern Stark counties. Map: Apex Clean Energy



Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

Holiday Bird Seed Sale



Support your local Heart of Illinois Sierra Club and stock up on bird seed to get you through the winter! All seed is from Kelly Seed Company. All sales must be pre-paid by the order deadline. Call 309-634-1381 for more information.

Order Deadline: December 5, 2024

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 7, 2024, 9 to 11 a.m.

Pickup Location: Kelly Seed and Hardware Parking Lot, 202 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria

Optional Delivery: Free delivery within 15 miles of Peoria. Delivery is on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Or take advantage of our Early Bird Delivery to get your seed before December 7.

Reminder: I purchased _____ bags of _____ _____ bags of _____ **For** Pickup
 _____ bags of _____ _____ bags of _____ Delivery

✂----- Mail bottom with check ----- Keep top -----

Seed	Size	Price	QTY	Subtotal
Black Oil Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 15.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 25.00		
Striped Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 20.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 37.00		
Sunflower Hearts	10 lbs	\$ 15.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 30.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 56.00		
Wild Bird Mix <small>cracked corn, black oil sunflower, red milo, white milo, white millet</small>	25 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 20.00		
Songbird Mix <small>black oil sunflower, striped sunflower, sunflower hearts, safflower, white millet</small>	20 lbs	\$ 18.00		
	35 lbs	\$ 29.00		
Nyjer (Thistle)	10 lbs	\$ 15.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 34.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 63.00		
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 26.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 46.00		
No Waste Mix <small>sunflower hearts, cracked corn, red millet, white millet</small>	20 lbs	\$ 19.00		
	40 lbs	\$ 34.00		

Seed	Size	Price	QTY	Subtotal
White Millet	10 lbs	\$ 6.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 22.00		
Peanuts in Shell	5 lbs	\$ 9.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 40.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 75.00		
Peanuts No Shell	10 lbs	\$ 15.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 34.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 64.00		
Cracked Corn	20 lbs	\$ 7.00		
	40 lbs	\$ 13.00		
Shelled Corn	25 lbs	\$ 8.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 14.00		
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 16.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 28.00		
Fruit and Nut Mix <small>black oil sunflower, striped sunflower, sunflower hearts, peanuts (no shell), raisins</small>	10 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	20 lbs	\$ 23.00		
Suet Cakes	Bird's Blend 1 dozen	\$ 20.00		
	Peanut Crunch 1 dozen	\$ 20.00		

Check one: Pick-up Delivery (Dec. 7) Early Bird Delivery **Total Amount Due** \$ _____

Early Bird Delivery!

As soon as we receive your order and payment, we will contact you to schedule your bird seed delivery anytime before Dec. 7.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Mail order form and check for amount due to:

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61612

Optional: Send me an email reminder on December 5 to pick up my birdseed.

EMAIL _____

**Thank you for supporting the
 Heart of Illinois Sierra Club!**

2024 HOI Excom Election: **Ballots Due December 18** Rules and Procedures

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for up to 3 candidates for a 2025-2026 term to the Heart of Illinois Group Executive Committee.
3. Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2.
4. Mail ballot(s) to: Heart of Illinois Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61612
5. Write the name of the voting member(s) on the outside of the envelope containing the ballot.
6. Ballots must arrive at the Sierra Club's mailbox by Dec. 18.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 18.

Clark Abraham

I would like to continue working with the HOI ExCom board for another term. The good work done by this board to spur our community into action fighting the good fight to protect our environment is of vital importance. And I would like to serve another term to help my friends and neighbors live a better life through the environmental work done by this board.

Bob Jorgensen

There are always opportunities and challenges in the environmental arena. After serving on the HOI Excom for over 10 years I'm proud of all the club has done. I have been only a small part of these accomplishments, but I have been thrilled to be a help to those more environmentally savvy than myself. I would encourage you all to get involved with HOI or other groups to help preserve our planet for the seventh generation coming after you. I appreciate your support in continuing to

2024 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

___ Clark Abraham
___ Bob Jorgensen
___ John Wosik

2024 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

___ Clark Abraham
___ Bob Jorgensen
___ John Wosik

work with this great Excom group of environmentalists. We need more active members to support environmental actions HOI believes will help the planet.

John Wosik

As a member of the Executive Committee, I will continue as webmaster and newsletter editor to focus on improving communications with our members and the general public. We need to do more to encourage our members to participate in club activities and to work together with other club members in educating the public on environmental issues. We need to make all our members feel that it is of value to be a part of our group, and that their participation is needed and welcome. Whether one's area of interest is conservation, outings, or politics, we all share an enjoyment of nature, and a desire to see it preserved and protected.

Community Conversations on Climate: Shaping Policy on Clean Energy

BY ROBERT ROWE

The HOI Group of the Sierra Club joined with the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition and its partners to promote an ambitious environmental agenda that includes shaping policy on clean energy, clean buildings and clean transportation. This fall, the HOI Sierra Group held two community conversations on climate; in September we held a forum on Clean Energy at the Peoria Universalist Unitarian Church, and in October, a forum on Clean and Safe Buildings at the Carver Center in downtown Peoria.

“Watts Up with Clean Energy” opened with remarks by Reverend Innis, Senator Dave Koehler, and Alisha Granderson, followed by an information-packed presentation from Andrew Rehn, Director of Climate Policy at the Prairie Rivers Network. These were followed by lively questions and discussion. Senator Koehler summarized a forward-looking energy and environmental legislative agenda, Andrew Rehn succinctly laid out what we have accomplished in moving toward a clean and sustainable energy grid and what still needs to be done, and Alisha Granderson delivered an impassioned and poignant argument for environmental justice drawn from personal experience. We had 42 people in attendance and many stayed for discussion afterward.

Our second Community Conversation on Climate was held at the Carver Center in downtown Peoria in October. The main presentation, delivered by Scott Allen, Energy Policy Specialist with the Citizens Utility Board, focused on how to affordably and equitably transition away from fossil fuel appliances in homes and apartments. The continued use of gas appliances indoors can result in dangerous benzene and nitrogen dioxide levels that have been shown to result in increased childhood asthma and other respiratory illnesses. This disproportionately affects black, brown and lower-income neighborhoods with older homes and apartments. Reverend Marvin Hightower, president of the Peoria NAACP and Alisha Granderson, of the HOI Sierra Club, both delivered poignant remarks on the effects of historic environmental injustice on urban communities of color.

We are grateful to the assistance of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition and its partners, which include the Citizens Utility Board, the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Prairie Rivers Network, Faith in Place, the Illinois Healthy Community Alliance, and the Peoria NAACP. These events, that involved public comment and surveys, are intended, in part, to let policymakers like the Illinois Commerce Commission know that citizens and voters support clean energy initiatives and to counter the disproportionate influence of the fossil fuel industry and their lobbyists. For more photos and information on our upcoming meetings, visit our website (www.sierraclub.org/illinois/heart-illinois/) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HOISierraClub).



Reverend Marvin Hightower, president of the Peoria NAACP, speaks about the impact of pollution on the Peoria community. Photo: Robert Rowe

