



www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward • www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra
<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/>

The Evils of Meat

Max Goldstein, *Broward Sierra Club Executive Committee*

Dear Broward Sierrans,

Well, we didn't have our Sierra Club annual picnic at Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park, where I give my annual lecture about the evils of meat, so I'll include it in this issue of our newsletter.

Yes, no one (outside of vegetarians and vegans) wants to hear about what's wrong with (let's call it what it is) dead animal flesh. Forget manufacturing, tourism, or any of the business giants. The number one industry in the world is the food industry. No one can do without it, and since we decide our food choices, we should examine the result of what we choose.

Scientists agree Earth's temperature is rising from a host of human activities. Fossil fuels emit roughly three-quarters of global heat-trapping gases. Beef, responsible for roughly 18% of greenhouse gas emissions, is the single biggest food factor when it comes to climate change, according to *Livestock's Long Shadow* a United Nations [report](#), released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The two biggest drivers of beef's climate footprint, per that report:

- Cows emit methane (23 times more powerful a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide), a potent greenhouse gas, when they burp and, to a much lesser extent, pass gas. This accounts for nearly half of beef's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Feed and land use: This includes cattle manure that emits a greenhouse gas called nitrous oxide (190 times more powerful than carbon dioxide), how cattle graze on pastures and deforestation, particularly in Brazil.

Global beef demand is projected to nearly double by 2050 driven by population growth in China and India. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has cited an increased numbers of birds raised for eggs and meat and the escalating confinement of pigs and dairy cows as catalysts for rising emissions of powerful greenhouse gases.

The meat industry has a record of egregious water pollution. Because animals are so densely packed at today's industrial farms, they produce more manure than can be absorbed by the land as fertilizer. In fact, animal excrement and other agricultural runoff from large-scale farms have polluted nearly one-third of rivers in the U.S.

In many places, animals raised for food are depleting topsoil and destroying natural vegetation, including important habitats, at an alarming rate. This poses a serious problem for wildlife, including species already threatened or endangered. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, reducing meat consumption is one of the best ways to save endangered species.

The amount of water both consumed directly by farmed animals and used to grow crops to feed them makes animal agriculture an incredibly thirsty industry. Animal agriculture uses a whopping 56% of the water in the U.S. In fact, just one hamburger requires 660 gallons of water to produce—the equivalent of two months' worth of showers.

Raising animals for food (including land for grazing and growing feed crops) now uses over one-third of Earth's landmass, with animal agriculture culpable for nearly 91 percent of Amazon rainforest destruction, according to the World Bank.

As you may have heard, we are having an algae problem in South Florida. A lot of this is phosphorus and nitrogen run-off from farm fields. Why do we have so many dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico? From agricultural run-off from farm waste draining into the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers, which in turn drains into the Gulf.



Broward Sierra News



You've probably noticed, there have been a lot more wildfires in the news lately.

Consider all the extra manure produced by livestock. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that roughly 335 million tons of manure (measured in dry weight) is produced by livestock in the United States each year. And if a farm doesn't have a treatment system in place to handle that waste, the nutrients from this manure can end up in ground water or surface water, only to flow into and accumulate in a lake or ocean. That is a ton of extra nutrients in the water! Actually, that's 335 million tons of extra nutrients. And remember that when you and I go to the bathroom, our waste goes through a sewage treatment system. Animals? Right into the ground.

Speaking of animals, we're all familiar with the forest fires we've been having around the world, most recently the California fires which have burned more than 3 million acres so far (twice the size of the Everglades). Australia is having a hard time as well, with more than 3 billion animals killed by their infernos, according to the [BBC](#). This sounds like a staggering number, until you realize that an estimated 50 billion chickens are slaughtered every year for food, according to the [Economist](#). Add to that 1.5 billion pigs, half a billion sheep, 1.5 billion cows, and 150 million tons of seafood (you can keep track [here](#)).

It isn't just the animals and the waste they produce. To clear land for all these land animals, we bulldoze thousands of acres every year to clear the land for livestock, especially [beef](#). If I heard we were losing a football field every minute, I would have thought there was some sort of out-of-control forest fire in South America, but it's for beef (and soy production, which gets turned into livestock feed). Trees are the lungs of the earth; we need these forests to change our carbon dioxide back into oxygen. And it's more than just not having the trees there. Trees are carbon-neutral; they spend their lives absorbing carbon dioxide and when they die, all that stored CO₂ is released back into the atmosphere. Trees cool the earth, and we need that more than ever these days. For example, millions of drought-stressed trees in California were low on sap, which is their natural defense against the bark beetle. So the bark beetles kill the tree (160 million of them) and turn them into kindling.

So, what do we do about this? EAT LESS MEAT! You think in the U.S., we would be healthier with our higher standard of living, but it's many other second and third world countries who are doing better, as they have grains, fruits and vegetables as the main course, and animal protein as the garnish (the opposite of many dinner plates here). So, why not designate one day a week where you don't eat any animal products (like "meatless Monday")? Are you worried about protein? There are many sources of non-animal proteins out there. Can't do without your steak and chicken wings and ham and bacon? Just watch "Forks over Knives" or "Diet for a New America." These animals are not roaming the plains before slaughter, just look up concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) to see the truth.

The Sierra Club is not a vegetarian/vegan society, but we are an environmental and conservation organization. Do your part by eating less meat: the earth will appreciate it, same for the humans having to live here, and the animals (who don't have a voice in all this) will be hugely grateful.

Broward Sierra is always looking for volunteers. Which of these committees would be of interest to you?

- ◆ ExCom - Broward Sierra's Board. For more information, e-mail irtopper2000@cs.com, kip.fisher@icloud.com, and/or susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com
- ◆ Membership - New Member Welcome and Youth Alliance. For more information, e-mail susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com
- ◆ Conservation - Community Garden, Fern Forest Beautification, and Development. For more information, e-mail susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com
- ◆ Political - Candidate Endorsement and Legislation tracking. For more information, e-mail susan0725@icloud.com
- ◆ Communications - Social Media and Newsletter. For more information, e-mail kip.fisher@icloud.com.



Broward Sierra News



Broward Sierra Club October General Meeting

Time: October 1, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Join our meeting:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q00001b3DLAAY&mapLinkHref=>

Our speaker for October is Laura Tellez.

Laura is passionate about sustainability. She is excited to expand solar energy in South Florida. She has more than a decade of experience in environmental and field education. Laura has worked with various non-profit organizations and government agencies. Her work has stretched from Panama to Alaska. She has worked with thousands of students and educators in the classroom and in the field. Together, they've explored environmental issues and solutions.

Laura has a B.S. in Environmental Sciences. She holds a M.S. in Ecological Leadership and Education. She has an Occupational Endorsement in Sustainable Energy as well.

Laura Tellez is also the South Florida Program Coordinator for Solar United Neighbors.

Solar United Neighbors is a national organization dedicated to representing the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters, helping people go solar, join together, and fight for their energy rights since 2007.

Learn from Solar United Neighbors, a vendor-neutral non-profit about how solar can work for your home or small business, the economics behind solar, the incentives available to you and the Broward Solar Co-op. You will also hear about how to participate in the upcoming October event:

<https://www.nationalsolartour.org/>



Congratulations to Phil Busey on winning the solar-powered phone charger at our September General meeting. Please join us in October where the prize will be a rechargeable solar tent camping fan. Want to know more about solar power? Please go to page 4.



Broward Sierra News








Let the Sunshine in and let it Pay your Electric Bill!

We have great news! Broward Sierra has teamed up with Broward County and Solar United Neighbors to bring you the Broward Solar Co-op.

By joining, you'll learn how solar works and what it takes to go solar. Then, you'll have the opportunity to go solar at the group rate, alongside your neighbors!

The co-op is free to join! Learn more and sign up at SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward

| | |
|---|---|
| <h1>Want to Go Solar?</h1> |  <p>SAVE MONEY ON THE COST OF GOING SOLAR</p> |
| <p>JOIN THE SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS BROWARD CO-OP</p> |  <p>GET UNBIASED, EXPERT HELP THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS</p> |
| <p>JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION ONLINE</p> <p>Tuesday, August 4 at 12:00 pm Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00 pm Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 pm Thursday, September 17 at 6:00 pm Tuesday, October 6 at 6pm</p> |  <p>WE'RE A NON-PROFIT THAT HELPS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE GO SOLAR EACH YEAR</p> |
| <p>REGISTER & MORE INFO SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward/Events</p> <p>JOIN THE CO-OP SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward</p> |  |
|  <p style="text-align: right;">SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS</p> | |

SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward | QUESTIONS? email: fiteam@solarunitedneighbors.org



Broward Sierra News



Handy Links for Info Sessions

National Solar Tour. <https://www.nationalsolartour.org/> September 28- October 4

Solar Congress <https://www.solarcongress.org/> October 5-31

Co-ops

solarunitedneighbors.org/broward

solarunitedneighbors.org/hillsborough

solarunitedneighbors.org/lake

solarunitedneighbors.org/miami

solarunitedneighbors.org/keys

solarunitedneighbors.org/sarasota

solarunitedneighbors.org/spacecoast

<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/florida/events/>

Info Session Handout

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5q3yfmunbh6ow8d/Info%20session%20handout%20-%20September%202020%20FL%20Co-ops.pdf?dl=0>

Paying For Your Panels

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4rm4v0y7fl3lm9n/PAYING%20FOR%20YOUR%20PANELS.pdf?dl=0>

Membership and Listserv

www.solarunitedneighbors.org/membership/basic/

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SolarUnitedNeighborsOfFlorida/>

Storage

www.solarunitedneighbors.org/storage/

Hurricanes

<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/news/solar-and-storms/>

HOA

<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/learn-the-issues/homeowners-associations-and-solar-access/hoa-solar-action-guide/>

Selling Homes

<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/sellingsolarhomes/>

Net Metering

<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/learn-the-issues/net-metering/>



Broward Sierra News



Broward Sierra's
Political Corner
2020 ELECTION EDITION



SIERRA
CLUB

IS PROUD TO ENDORSE THESE CANDIDATES
NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GET THEM ELECTED!

Florida State House of Representatives:

Dist. 92 - Patricia Williams

Dist. 93 - Linda Thompson Gonzalez

Dist. 101 - Marie Woodson

Dist. 103 - Cindy Polo

Dist. 104 - Robin Barteman

Paid electioneering communication paid for by the Sierra Club Florida PAC,
1990 Central Ave, St Petersburg, FL 33712 independently of any candidate.

Sierra is also proud to have endorsed the following candidates who will remain in office:

Florida State Senator Perry Thurston - Dist. 33

Florida State Representatives:

Bobby Dubose - Dist. 94, Mike Gottlieb - Dist. 98, and Evan Jenne - Dist. 99

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer for a specific candidate. **Click on a candidate** above for the link to their campaign website or Facebook page

Donate to the Florida Chapter PAC. Click **here** to help fund our work.

E-mail BrowardSierraPC@gmail.com if you have other ways you'd like to help and/or to join the Broward Sierra Political Committee

VOTE AND MAKE SURE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY VOTE TOO !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Broward Sierra News



Broward Sierra's
Political Corner
LOCAL CITY ELECTION EDITION



SIERRA CLUB

IS PROUD TO ENDORSE THESE CANDIDATES
HELP US GET THEM ELECTED!

Coral Springs: Seat 3 - Nancy Metayer Seat 5 - Joy Carter

Fort Lauderdale: Mayor - Dean Trantalis District 2 - Steve Glassman

Hollywood: District 2 - Linda Hill Anderson District 4 - Adam Gruber
District 6 - Linda Sherwood

Lauderhill: Seat 1 - Mae Smith Seat 2 - Melissa Dunn Seat 3 - S. Ray Martin

Oakland Park: 3 Open Commission Seats:
Aisha Gordon, Mitch Rosenwald & Matthew Sparks

Plantation: Group 3 - Jennifer Andreu Group 4 - Marie Siobhan Edwards
Group 5 - Nick Sortal

Weston: Seat 1 - Jason Zauder Seat 2 - Kim Schnitzius

Wilton Manors: Mayor - Julie Carson
Two open commission seats: Doug Blevins & Chris Caputo

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer for a specific candidate. **Click on a candidate** above for the link to their campaign website or Facebook page

Donate to the Florida Chapter PAC. Click [here](#) to help fund our work.

E-mail BrowardSierraPC@gmail.com if you have other ways you'd like to help and/or to join the Broward Sierra Political Committee

VOTE AND MAKE SURE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY VOTE TOO !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!