

Explore,
Enjoy,
and
Protect the
Planet

Sierra Sentinel

The Greater
Fort Worth
Group of the
Sierra Club
July-August
2008

Get set for a day of appreciation

The Fort Worth Group has planned a day of fun and activities for the entire family at Lake Arlington

You know we love and value all our members, but if you think we don't show it enough, how about a day of fun-filled activities just for you?

Please join the Fort Worth Sierra Club for a day of FUN at Lake Arlington especially for our members and other Sierrans who can make it.

WHO: Sierra Club members (of any group or chapter) their families, and guests.

WHAT: Member Appreciation Day for all day fun. See schedule below.

WHEN: Sunday, August 10 from 10 a.m. until dark.

WHERE: Lake Arlington Park, lodge, boat and fishing docks – 6300 Arkansas Ln, Arlington, at the far west end of Arkansas.

In a tree-shaded park on the shores of Lake Arlington, the lodge is a large air-conditioned building complete with restrooms and kitchen with microwaves and fridge. The park area has picnic tables with two fishing docks and a boat dock.

See permit information below. There is no swimming but we might have some water games if the park allows it so prepare younger children to get wet.

SCHEDULE

10 am: Lodge is open and fun begins.

Noonish: Bring your own picnic lunch.

Afternoon: Bring your own lawn chairs, beverages, board games, outdoor games, boats, fishing gear – whatever is fun to you indoors or outdoors. We will have some games for younger kids.

5 p.m.: Potluck. Bring a dish, snack,

bread, or dessert to share. Bring your own food for picnics and your own beverages for the day. There are microwaves in the lodge kitchen for warming food.

We will have paper plates and utensils plus ice chests with ice available all day. Alcohol is allowed in the lodge but not in the park or on the water. Bring your own.

Dark: Event will close.

VOLUNTEERS

We do need a few volunteers to help set up at 9:45 a.m., and also to take down and clean up at 8 p.m. If you can help, please call Terry at 817-545-0140.

FURTHER INFORMATION

All rowboats, canoes, kayaks, motorboats, sailboats, barges, personal watercraft and sailboards must have a permit. The permit (for a day) is \$5 and must be purchased in advance at the lake office (6300 Arkansas at lodge). If you know you are going to bring a boat, and can't get by the office, let me know by Thursday, August 8. I will purchase the permit for

you on Friday and get reimbursed by you on Sunday.

All persons over the age of 17 are required to have a state fishing license while fishing and there is a \$10 fee for a daily permit. Licenses are not sold at the park so buy your license in advance.

DIRECTIONS

The park is at the end of Arkansas Lane on your left at the shoreline of Lake Arlington. You park on the right side of Arkansas.

From I-20, come north (right from Dallas, left from Fort Worth) on Green Oaks to Arkansas. Turn left on Arkansas and stop right before you drive into the lake.

MAP

If you're a visual person and need a map, you can find one at http://www.ci.arlington.tx.us/park/guides/lakearlington/lake_arlington_map.html

CONTACT

Terry Jensen at 817 545-0140 or 972 251-1532 or fw.sierra.sustainability@gmail.com.

Conservation Report

COOL CITIES

Want to try to make a difference in the fight against global warming? The Sierra Club is getting more cities on board the Cool Cities train!

As part of our expansion of the Cool Cities campaign in the North Texas area, we are forming teams in Fort Worth and its suburbs. Be part of this positive, solutions-oriented campaign!

This is an excellent first-time volunteer opportunity that has a specific objective and a limited time commitment. A training session will be held

one day after our July General Meeting in the same place and time (see below).

DATE: Thursday, July 17

TIME: 7 p.m.

PLACE: Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Azalea Room, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth

RSVP/INFO: Ann Drumm, ann.drumm@swbell.net, 214-350-6108

Cool Cities and the related Cool Counties campaign target the considerable power of municipal gov-

Please see CONSERVATION, Page 2

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1874, Burleson, TX 76097-1874
<http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>
Change of address: address.changes@sierraclub.org

Executive Committee

Chair Don Young 817-437-0175

fw.sierra.chair@gmail.com

Vice-chair Nancy McVean 817-596-5209

fw.sierra.vice.chair@gmail.com

Treasurer Bonnie Bowman 817-266-8569

fw.sierra.treasurer@gmail.com

Secretary Scott Carpenter 817-253-0158

fw.sierra.secretary@gmail.com

Bonnie Bowmann 817-266-8569

fw.sierra.discussion@gmail.com

Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407

fw.sierra.conservation@gmail.com

Mark Peters 817-937-9696

fw.sierra.programs@gmail.com

Barry O'Neal 817-483-4315

fw.sierra.excom1@gmail.com

Conservation Contacts

Chair Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407

Air Glen Ford 817-731-8382

fw.sierra.air@gmail.com

Water Bob Scott 817-282-1372

Sustainability Terry Jensen 817-545-0870

fw.sierra.sustainability@gmail.com

Cool Cities VACANT

Outings Contacts

Chair Claudia Blalock 817-924-6242

fw.sierra.outings@gmail.com

Canoeing Marilyn Turnage

fw.sierra.canoe@gmail.com

Bicycling Dan Smith 817-410-2955

fw.sierra.bicycle@gmail.com

Day hikes, Car camps Claudia Blalock 817-924-6242

Backpacking VACANT

Administrative Contacts

Membership Claudia Blalock 817-924-6242

fw.sierra.membership@gmail.com

Programs Mark Peters 817-937-9696

fw.sierra.program@gmail.com

Fundraising Dewayne Quertermous 214-558-1407

fw.sierra.fundraising@gmail.com

Mid-Suburban Group Terry Jensen 817-545-0870

fw.sierra/midsuburban@gmail.com

Sierra Singles VACANT

Newsletter Contacts

Editor James Moody 817-295-1623

fw.sierra.newsletter.editor@gmail.com

Circulation Steve Turner 817-457-7131

fw.sierra.newsletter.circulation@gmail.com

Circulation Party Glenn Ford 818-731-8382

fw.sierra.newsletter.party@gmail.com

Cyber Space Contacts

Webmasters Dewayne Quertermous, Scott Carpenter

fw.sierra.webmasterr@gmail.com

KistServ Coordinator Todd Nichols 817-937-5217

fw.sierra.listserv@gmail.com

Conservation Report *Continued from Page 1*

ernments to impact global warming by making their operations more energy efficient.

Over 850 U.S. mayors have embraced the challenge by signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and working to develop local emissions reduction plans.

Some of the actions these campaigns encourage are:

–Performing efficiency retrofits on city buildings

–Raising the efficiency requirements for residential and commercial buildings

–Buying and generating electricity from clean, renewable sources

–Changing traffic signals to efficient LED types

–Buying efficient vehicles for city fleets

–Zoning to promote high-density, transit-friendly developments and

expanding mass transit

–Finding efficiencies in wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal practices

For more information please visit <http://coolcities.us/>

Conservation and Political Committee Meetings

In July and August the Conservation and Political committees will have joint meetings one week after our General Meetings. We will discuss conservation and political issues of interest to the Fort Worth Sierra Club and explore ways we can help make a difference.

Dates:

Wednesday, July 23 @ 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27 @ 7 p.m.

Location:

Panera Bread

1409 North Collins

Arlington 76011 (just south of I-30)

Sierra Club representative testifies on future of oil

In mid-June, Sierra Club Public Lands Program Director Athan Manuel testified at the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming's hearing, "The Future of Oil."

Athan Manuel's full testimony is available at <http://www.sierraclub.org/pressroom/downloads/2008-06-oiltestimony.pdf>.

Excerpts from his statement:

"Our nation's energy problems won't be answered by drilling for more oil, now or in the future. The cure for our dangerous oil addiction is not to seek a bigger fix by drilling the few remaining places that are not already open for energy development.

"Sacrificing places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and America's coastlines will not bring energy prices down or keep them down.

"The Bush Administration's own Energy Information Administration (EIA) admits that at peak production – which wouldn't be until 2027 – the effect on prices at the pump, if any, would be a few pennies from drilling

in the Arctic Refuge.

"Finally, more off shore drilling does not automatically lead to lower prices. The price of gas is set on the world market, largely by OPEC. Consider gas prices in these countries that allow and promote offshore drilling: United Kingdom: \$8.37; Norway \$7.33; Germany, \$6.72; Canada, \$4.34; Japan, \$4.16.

By contrast, EIA research indicates that clean energy and energy efficiency technologies could do ten times more to help reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil.

"Instead of encouraging more drilling, which will only add to the billions in profits already being made by the oil industry, we should continue to raise the fuel economy of our cars, encourage the use of renewable energy like wind and solar power, and adopt other, existing energy-saving technologies that cut pollution, curb global warming and create good jobs.

"These steps will help end our addiction to oil and put us on the path to a prosperous clean energy future."

Upcoming Sierra Club Events

July 6, Sunday

Sierra Club's Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817-283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. Organizer: Terry Jensen, 817-545-0140

July 11, Friday

TGIF hike along the Trinity Trail, Fort Worth. Meet at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot along the Trinity Trail and Trinity River just off University Dr next to Hoffbrau Steak House. The parking lot is on the west side off University. We will hike a short distance (heat permitting) and then retreat to cooler quarters for food and drink. In the event of rain at the trailhead, hike is cancelled. Wear lightweight clothing and bring water and bug repellent. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242

July 12, Saturday

Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness Annual Meeting. This is the umbrella environmental group for all local activists including Sierra Club, Audubon, League of Women Voters, Arlington Conservation Council, and others. If you want to meet the local environmental activists and heroes, attend this meeting. They can help you connect your ideas with the local needs. All members of the Sierra Club are welcome 1 p.m.. Location: Tin Cup, 1025 W. Abram St. Arlington. For info, contact Bonnie 817-265-0008 or bfbg@tx.rr.com

July 16, Wednesday

Outings Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Join outings leaders and trip participants to discuss and plan upcoming trips and to enjoy a quick meal at Spiral Diner, Magnolia and 6th, Fort Worth. Order your food early at 5:30 p.m., and meeting will finish by 6:30 p.m. in time to attend the Sierra Club general meeting at 7 p.m. at the Botanic Gardens. For more info, contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

July 16, Wednesday

General Meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, 7 p.m. Brief business meeting followed by speaker, Gayle Loeffler, a member of the Dallas Sierra

This is an all-inclusive list of activities of the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club. Check the group website for updates. Most activities are free and open to all. No pets, firearms, or radios are allowed on Sierra Club outings. All children (17 years or less) must be accompanied by a parent on any outing. All overnight trips require pre-registration with the trip leader. A donation of \$5 per person to the Fort Worth Sierra Club is requested for all overnight trips.

Club who will update us on population related Issues. Location: FortWorth Botanic Gardens, Moncrief Garden Center, 817 871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

July 17, Thursday

Arlington Daytime Sierra Club group General Meeting @ 3:00 p.m. We will view Fighting Goliath: The Texas Coal Wars. Shown at the Mid-Suburban group in June, the film will now make a showing for the daytime crowd. Location: TBA Arlington. For more information contact Bonnie 817-265-0008 or bfbg@tx.rr.com or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SierraCT>

July 17, Thursday

7 p.m. – Cool Cities Training. Come learn about the Sierra Club's Cool Cities program, the aim of which is to help solve Global Warming one city at a time. You will learn how to take part in making our local communities cool cities. For more information visit: <http://coolcities.us/>. Location: Ft Worth Botanic Gardens, Moncrief Garden Center, 817 871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth. For more info, contact Dewayne Quertermous 214.558.1407

July 20, Sunday

Sierra Club's Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Garden, (972 243-0507) 2330 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizer: James Bisby 469-371-1938.

July 23, Wednesday

Conservation & Political Committees Meeting @ 7 p.m.. Come discuss conservation and political topics of interest to the Fort Worth Sierra Club. We are combining the two committee meetings since the memberships over-

lap so much. Location: Panera Bread, 1409 North Collins, Arlington, TX 76011 (Just south of I-30). For more info, contact Dewayne Quertermous 214.558.1407

July 27, Sunday

Dayhike in the shade at Gateway Park in Fort Worth. Hike about 2.5 miles on concrete trail. Difficulty level is easy. Dogs welcome on 6-foot leash or shorter. Meet at 2 p.m. No reservations needed, just show up. Bring mosquito repellent, water for you and your dog, and pick-up bags. Directions: From I-30, exit Beach Street and go north to 1st Street. Turn east on 1st Street and go to park entrance on right. Turn right into park and go to the end of the road. We will gather in the pavilion. Hike cancelled if raining at park. Leader: Bonnie Bowman 817-265-0008(H) or bfbg@tx.rr.com

Jul 28, Monday

Mid-Suburban Sierra Club shows first 60 minutes (of three-hour class) of green-building video by nationally acclaimed green builder Jim Sargent at 7 p.m., Community room at Healthy Approach Market, 5100 Hwy 121, Colleyville, 76034 on west side of freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads. Terry Jensen, 817 545-0140

August 3, Sunday

Sierra Club's Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817-283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2 p.m. Organizer: Terry Jensen, 817 545-0140

August 10, Sunday

Member Appreciation Day. Please join Fort Worth Sierra Club members (any chapter welcome) for a day of fun on Sunday, August 10 from 10 a.m. until dark in a tree-shaded park on the shores of Lake Arlington with picnic tables, fishing (permit required), boating (permit required) and a lodge. The lodge is great: a large air-conditioned building complete with restrooms and kitchen with microwaves and fridge. Bring your families and guests, your own beverages (alcohol is allowed in the lodge), your own picnic lunch, and a dish, snack, bread, or dessert to share

Please see MORE, Page 4

More Sierra Club outings, events *Continued from Page 3*

for a potluck at 5 p.m. No swimming but we might have water games if the park allows. Come and go as you wish. Complete details can be found on Page 1. Contact: Terry Jensen at 817-545-0140 or 972-251-1532 or fw.sierra.sustainability@gmail.com for more information.

August 17, Sunday

Sierra Club's Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 pm. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Garden, (972 243-0507) 2330 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizer: James Bisby 469-371-1938

August 20, Wednesday

General Meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, 7 p.m. Brief business meeting followed by speaker, Jim Schermbeck, an activist with Texas Downwinders At Risk. He will give an update on air quality issues and the work of this important group in our own neighborhood. Location: Ft Worth Botanic Gardens, Moncrief Garden Center, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

August 21, Thursday

The Arlington Sierra Daytime meeting will be cancelled to encourage the daytime crowd to join the Sierra picnic on August 10th at Lake Arlington. For more information contact Bonnie 817-265-0008 or bfbg@tx.rr.com

August 25, Monday

Mid-Suburban Sierra Club shows next 60 minutes (of three-hour class) of a green-building video by nationally acclaimed green builder Jim Sargent at 7 p.m., Community room at Healthy Approach Market, 5100 Hwy 121, Colleyville, on west side of freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads. Terry Jensen, 817-545-0140

August 26, Tuesday

Newsletter Folding Party at 6 pm. Braum's Restaurant, 6770 Bridge St. at Loop 820, Fort Worth. Have a few minutes to donate your time to the club to label newsletters. No skill required, just a willingness to help.

August 27, Wednesday

Conservation & Political Committees Meeting @ 7 p.m. Come discuss conservation and political topics of interest to

the Club. We are combining the two committee meetings since the membership overlap so much. Location: Panera Bread, 1409 North Collins, Arlington. For more info, contact DeWayne Quertermous 214-558.1407

September 7, Sunday

Sierra Club's Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817-283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Organizer: Terry Jensen, 817 545-0140.

October 11-13, Friday-Sunday

Sierra Celebration for whole state of Texas sponsored by the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club will be at Caddo Lake State Park, near Marshall. Join other Sierrans from across the state as we meet to hike, camp, and canoe at the loveliest state park in east Texas on our state's only natural lake. Call immediately to reserve your cabin or campsite by contacting the Texas State Park reservations office: www.tpwd.state.tx or 512-389-8900. Organizer: Tolbert Greenwood, 817-737-8698 or tol@greentol.com.

Programs for July, August meetings announced

Gayle Loeffler will be the speaker for the July meeting of the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club.

Jim Shermbeck will be the speaker for August's meeting

Loeffler spoke at the Dallas SC a short while back. She is chair, Population Committee, Dallas Group; chair, Population Committee, Texas Chapter; and a member of the National Committee on Global Population & Environment Program.

She has also won the Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club Phyllis Van Ker-

rebrook Award (for population).

Her topic will be "Population Growth and the Environment."

Shermbeck, a Fort Worth native, is a 28-year veteran of environmental organizing and has been working on cement plant pollution issues since 1989. He is active in Downwinders at Risk. An independent filmmaker and father of one, his topic will be: "DFW Air: What We Can Do To Make It Cleaner And Why It Matters."

According to state documents, four Midlothian heavy industries are

among the top air polluters in north Texas, with TXI (cement) ranking as the largest single source of air pollution in D/FW. Holnam (cement) ranked second and North Texas Cement 3rd. Chaparral Steel was 6th. Combined, they released over 48 million pounds of pollution into the Best Southwest Skies in 1995. Just one of the cement kiln companies, TXI, had nitrogen oxide pollution equivalent to the emissions of over 275,000 cars. For more info on this important topic please see: www.cementkiln.com"

Mid-Suburban Satellite Group to show original video on green building

The Sierra Club's national Sustainable Consumption Committee is producing a video on green building for our national True Cost of Homes campaign. Local green builder Jim Sargent volunteered his time and expertise for this video. The first filming was a 3-hour class taught by Sargent in

March. It has been rough edited.

We will watch about 60 minutes of this video during the July 28 meeting, then see 60 more minutes at the August 25 meeting. If you have suggestions for editing, they will be appreciated.

We meet on the fourth Monday of

the month (note change of meeting days) at 7 p.m. at Healthy Approach Market 5100 Hwy 121, Colleyville, between Hall-Johnson and Glade on the west side of the freeway.

For further information about the Mid-Suburban Satellite Group, call Terry Jensen, 972-251-1532.

Senate legislation OKs energy tax incentives

BY TERRY JENSEN

The Sierra Club has a national campaign called "The True Cost of Food." Through education, we hope Americans will realize that "conventional" food has so many hidden costs that organic food is actually much cheaper – not only in dollars spent in supermarkets and restaurants, but also for dollars spent cleaning up the environment.

Most of us know that food labeled "organic" usually costs more. Many know organic food is grown and processed without toxic pesticides, sewage sludge, chemical fertilizers, confined animal feeding operations (CAFO), antibiotics, hormones, irradiation, and genetic modification (GM) of the foods.

What does food labeled "conventional" mean? Is it grown and processed with toxic pesticides, sewage sludge, chemical fertilizers, confined animal feeding operations, antibiotics, hormones, irradiation, and genetic

modification?

Yes, that is exactly what it means.

In his book "The War on Bugs," author Will Allen concluded that the corporations call these foods "conventional" to conceal the fact that they are grown with the most toxic chemicals on the planet and genetically modified with growth hormones or genes from rats, bacteria, viruses, and antibiotics.

The vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, and grains that grocers and big agribusiness label "conventional" (see Whole Foods' produce department for an example) are loaded with systemic chemicals, which you cannot wash off. Many conventional foods are actually genetically modified. Conventional meat is laced with hormones, antibiotics, prions, and multiple resistant bacteria that are difficult or impossible to cook out of that meat.

Clearly, something in our food system is terribly amiss because the

majority of the food we eat is toxic in some way and then labeled "conventional" because of public relations and advertising campaigns from government and big agribusiness.

The fact is that we pay five times for most of the "conventional" foods we eat.

1. **SUBSIDIES and OTHER SUPPORT:** "Conventional" food would be impossible without the subsidies and other support taxpayers contribute through government support and subsidies. Soy, cotton, corn, rice and wheat receive more than 80% of all government subsidies. In addition, many other "conventional" foods, like milk, receive government support. For example, the U.S. government actually pays for the "milk mustache" ads to promote milk consumption.

2. **PROCESSING:** Half the food Americans eat is processed. Highly subsidized or government-promoted milk, soy, cottonseed oil, corn, rice,

Please see GROCERY, Page 6

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Membership

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Email _____

Phone (optional) _____

Individual (\$39) Joint (\$49) Senior/Student (\$25)

Annual dues include subscription to *Sierra* (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.

F94QT19002
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 Entity Code

Mail to Sierra Club Member Services, 85 Second St.
 2nd Floor, San Francisco, Calif. 94105-3441

Mission statement

The purposes of the Sierra are: To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Grocery bill doesn't show true cost of food

Continued from Page 5

canola, and wheat are used in most processed foods. In addition, more than 75% of these processed foods have genetically modified ingredients. Unfortunately, unless you choose organic, you won't know which of your foods contain GM foods because the U. S. government does not require labeling for such items.

3. **BULLYING:** Politically speaking, our government supports GM

foods with campaigns to push other countries to allow their importation. The campaign costs are part of your taxes.

4. **CLEAN-UP:** Taxpayers usually pay to clean up the toxins used to produce "conventional" foods and pay again to clean up the manure and urine waste from Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO).

5. **HEALTH:** And finally, we pay

our doctors and medical professionals to treat obesity, diabetes, heart disease, allergies, high cholesterol, cancer, birth defects, Parkinson's and a multitude of other ailments related to pesticides, CAFOs, or toxic foods.

Is this smart?

The Sierra Club believes when the true cost of food is known, we will choose to eat the much cheaper organic food.

Workers have a friend in environmentally-conscious jobs

Workers at every skill level will be in high demand and enjoy greater job security in key industries essential to building a clean-energy economy in America and fighting global warming, according to a new report by a coalition of conservation and labor groups.

"Achieving a clean energy economy through green industries like wind and solar are just part of the story. This report is also about job security. Making homes and offices more energy

efficient not only saves money and energy, but also represents growth opportunities for workers," said Dan Lashof, director of National Resources Defense Council's Climate Center. "We're talking about jobs at every skill level from construction to research."

This groundbreaking report, Job Opportunities for the Green Economy, takes a state-by-state look at existing jobs skills across a wide range of occupations and income levels that would benefit from America's transi-

tion towards a clean energy economy. The report quantifies the number of workers who can apply their skills to six categories of green industries building retrofitting, mass transit, fuel-efficient automobiles, wind power, solar power, and cellulosic biomass fuels. Hundreds of thousands of workers in the U.S. already possess the vast majority of skills and occupations necessary to reduce global warming and make the shift to a clean energy economy.