

## Put the boot to the Barnett rump

### Natural gas wells may fuel the North Texas economy but they also make a major impact on local air quality with no mandated controls

By **TERRY JENSEN**

The oil and gas sector in the Barnett Shale is a significant source of air emissions in the North Central Texas area, comparable in magnitude to other major sources, including the airports and motor vehicles. This is the finding of Al Armendariz, Ph.D., Department of Environmental and Civil Engineering, Southern Methodist University, in his study to investigate air pollutants from oil and gas production in the Barnett Shale area.

Natural gas production in the Barnett Shale region of Texas has increased quickly since 1999. As of June 2008, over 7700 oil and gas wells had been installed and another 4700 wells were pending.

Dr. Armendariz found that oil and gas production from the Barnett Shale definitely impacts local air quality and releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Pollutants analyzed included smog forming emissions (NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC), greenhouse gases, and air toxic compounds.

This information is particularly troubling to an area that already has wretched air quality. Armendariz concludes that by 2009:

1. Emissions of smog forming compounds (NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC) from the engine and tank point sources will be approximately 260 tons per day.
2. The combined emissions from the engines, tanks, and the fugitive (leaks) and intermittent sources will be approximately 624 tons per day.
3. Emissions in 2009 of air toxic compounds from Barnett Shale activities will be approximately 33 tons per day.

4. Emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane will be approximately 30,000 equivalent tons per day.

Dr Armendariz writes: "There are significant opportunities available to improve local and regional air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by applying readily available technology and practices to oil and gas production activities in the Barnett Shale."

Unfortunately, these simple controls cost money. Unfortunately, spending money reduces the large immediate profits of the gas companies operating in the Barnett Shale, even though most controls eventually pay for themselves. Unfortunately, our state and local governments are not requiring the gas companies to use these simple controls.

For example, FOUR cost-effective strategies that enhance gas collection while reducing emissions from pneumatic devices are:

1. Installing low or no-bleed pneumatic devices at all new facilities and along all new transmission lines.

2. Retrofitting or replacing existing high-bleed pneumatic devices with low- or no-bleed pneumatic devices.

3. Ensuring that all natural gas actuated devices discharge into sales lines or closed loops, instead of venting to the atmosphere.

4. Using pressurized instrument air as pneumatic fluid instead of natural gas.

**TAKE ACTION:** As we choose goals for the Sierra Club in 2009, let's push our government to insist on these controls being implemented. If you would like to work on a committee to help put the controls in place, please attend our monthly conservation meeting (see calendar) or contact Dewayne Quermous, Conservation Chair, 214-558-1407 or email Dewayne at fw.sierra.conservation@gmail.com.

If you would like a copy of this eye-opening report by return email, send your email address to fw.sierra.sustain-

### Annual planning meeting Jan. 10

## You are invited to help shape the next year's agenda of the Fort Worth Group

You are invited!

At the beginning of each year, your Ex-Com members and the committee chairs meet to discuss and plan the agenda for the Sierra Club for the coming year.

But it's not just for current officers and chairs of the Group. All interested members are invited and encouraged to attend as well. It is a perfect way to get involved and find the best volunteer spot for yourself.

We meet on Saturday, January 10, in Colleyville from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

We will break for lunch at Rio Mambo's Mexican Restaurant which is located in the adjacent parking lot.

Come for the entire meeting or any portion of the meeting that you can attend. We welcome your ideas and assistance.

Please join us in the second floor community room in the Sunflower Shoppe (formerly Healthy Approach Market) 817-399-9100, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, 76034, located on the west side of the freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads.

Exit Hall-Johnson and go south on the Hwy 121 access road. Turn right into the Sunflower parking lot immediately after passing the restaurants Rio Mambo and Mac's.

Don Young, 817 437.0175 for more information.

## Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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## More outings, events Continued from Page 3

a 5,135-acre park situated along the Mountain Fork River just south of Broken Bow Reservoir in Southeast Oklahoma. Total drive is about 200 miles from Fort Worth. The park has cabins of various sizes accommodating 2-6 persons. We plan to spend Friday and Saturday nights in the cabins and dayhike part of the David Boren Trail for 7-12 miles on Saturday and 5-6 miles on Sunday. These trails are extremely demanding with uneven terrain and elevation changes suitable for hikers in very good shape. Not suitable for beginners. You need to contact leader (Claudia Blalock) to preregister and then call state park to arrange your own cabin rental at 580-494-6300 (state park office). Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. Trip limited to 10 persons.

### February 22, Sunday

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 Veg, (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

### February 23, Monday

Mid-Suburban Sierra Club at 7 pm. Kathryn Beer, lobbyist for The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, will explain both the sustainability and the mechanics of rainwater collection. Meet in second floor community room in the Sunflower Shoppe (formerly Healthy Approach Market) 817 399-9100, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, 76034, located on the west side of the freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads. Exit Hall-Johnson and go south on the Hwy 121 access road. Turn right into the Sunflower parking lot immediately after passing the restaurants Rio Mambo and Mac's. Organizer: Terry Jensen 817 545-0140.

### February 24, 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.

### March 1, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817 283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW

corner, Bedford 76021. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Organizer: Terry Jensen 817 545-0140

### March 27-29, Friday-Sunday

Camp at Huntsville State Park Fri and Sat nights and Dayhike 8 miles on Sat and 3 miles on Sunday on trails in the park located approximately 200 miles southeast of Fort Worth in the beautiful hardwood forests of SE Texas. Need to sign-up with trip leader prior to reserving your campsite. Park also has 210 acre lake. Call Texas State Park Reservations at 512-389-8900 or email [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) to reserve your campsite. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 and Martha Ohlson.

## Mid-Cities group supported by both the Fort Worth and Dallas Sierra Clubs

The Mid-Suburban Sierra Club is a satellite group supported by both the Fort Worth and Dallas Sierra Club. It meets in the communities around DFW Airport. Please join us and bring your friends to the following meetings:

Monday, January 26 - 7 pm. This will be an hour-long program on "Energy in 2009" presented by several different speakers We will cover everything from what we might expect from the government (U.S. and Texas) for energy in the new year to an update on renewable energy for 2009, including information about the federal tax credits and the Onco rebates for solar energy.

Monday, February 23 - 7 pm. Kathryn Beer, lobbyist for The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, will explain both the sustainability and the mechanics of rainwater collection.

Both meetings are in the second floor community room in the Sunflower Shoppe (formerly Healthy Approach Market), 817 399-9100, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, 76034, located on the west side of the freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads. Exit Hall-Johnson and go south on the Hwy 121 access road.

Turn right into the Sunflower parking lot immediately after passing the restaurants Rio Mambo and Mac's. Call TerryJensen at 817 545-0140 for further information.

# Upcoming Sierra Club Events

## January 4, Sunday

Start your New Year with a 3-5 mile dayhike on the Trinity Trail. Meet at 3 PM at the parking lot just south of the Hoffbrau Steak House on University Drive in Fort Worth approximately 1 mile south of I-30. Bring water for yourself and wear appropriate clothing. Dogs are welcome. In the event of rain, hike will be cancelled. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

## January 4, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817-283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford 76021. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Organizer: Terry Jensen 817-545-0140

## January 6, Tuesday

Sierra Club Executive Committee (Excom) Meeting, 6 pm. Luby's Cafeteria, 2800 8th Ave, Fort Worth, just north of 8th Ave and Berry St. All Sierra Club members and interested parties are invited to attend this meeting and help shape the policies and events of the Fort Worth Sierra Club.

## January 12, Monday

Conservation Meeting & Discussion Group 6:30 p.m. Grab something to eat and meet us in the Cafe on the Run where we will cover any conservation business and then discuss topics of interest. Central Market, 4651 West Freeway, Fort Worth 76107

## January 15, Wednesday

General Meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, 7 p.m. Brief business meeting followed by speaker. Location: Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Moncrief Garden Center, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30.

## January 17, Saturday

Planning Meeting. Fort Worth Excom, committee chairs, and all interested members meet to plan the year 2009. From 9:30 to 3:30 with a break for lunch at Rio Mambo's Mexican Restaurant in adjacent parking lot. Meet in second floor community room in the Sunflower Shoppe (formerly Healthy Approach Market) 817-399-9100, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, 76034, located on the west side of the freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads. Exit Hall-Johnson and go south on the Hwy

*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.*

121 access road. Turn right into the Sunflower parking lot immediately after passing the restaurants Rio Mambo and Mac's. Call Don Young, 817-437-0175 for more information.

## January 18, Sunday

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## January 26, Monday

Mid-Suburban Sierra Club at 7 p.m. This will be an hour-long program on "Energy in 2009" presented by several different speakers. We will cover everything from what we might expect from the government (U.S. and Texas) for energy in the new year to an update on renewable energy for 2009, including information about the federal tax credits and the Onco rebates for solar energy. Meet in second floor community room in the Sunflower Shoppe (formerly Healthy Approach Market) 817-399-9100, 5100 State Hwy 121, Colleyville, located on the west side of the freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads. Exit Hall-Johnson and go south on the Hwy 121 access road. Turn right into the Sunflower parking lot immediately after passing the restaurants Rio Mambo and Mac's. Organizer: Terry Jensen 817-545-0140.

## February 1, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, 817-283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford 76021. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Organizer: Terry Jensen 817-545-0140

## February 1, Sunday

Hike the area's newest park on an exploratory hike with other Sierrans at Eagle Mountain Park in NW Tarrant Co. We will meet in front of the Apple

Computer Store on University Drive in Fort Worth just south of I-30 in the University Park Village Shopping Center (1612 S University) at 1:30 p.m. to carpool. Will hike 3-4 miles. This is an exploratory hike. No dogs please. Hike cancelled in the event of rain. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242

## February 3, Tuesday

Sierra Club Executive Committee (Excom) Meeting, 6 p.m. Luby's Cafeteria, 2800 8th Ave, Fort Worth, just north of 8th Ave and Berry St. All Sierra Club members and interested parties are invited to attend this meeting and help shape the policies and events of the Fort Worth Sierra Club.

## February 8, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Luncheon Indian Buffet at Kusum Indian Dining, This new plant-based buffet is North Indian cuisine—not as spicy but still as tasty. 1725 Airport Fwy on the north side of the freeway between Central and Forest Ridge in Bedford 76021. 12 noon until 2 pm. Organizer: Terry Jensen 817-545-0140.

## February 9, Monday

Conservation Meeting & Discussion Group 6:30 p.m. Grab something to eat and meet us in the Cafe on the Run where we will cover any conservation business and then discuss topics of interest. Central Market, 4651 West Freeway, Fort Worth.

## February 18, Wednesday

General Meeting of the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, 7 p.m. Brief business meeting followed by speaker. John Promise, P.E., Director of Environment and Development for the North Central Texas Council of Governments, will discuss the new Regional Ecosystem Framework. This is NCTCOG's green-printing (planning development around natural assets) initiative. Come find out what we can do to help make this initiative a success. Location: Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Moncrief Garden Center, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30.

## February 20-22, Friday-Sunday

Cabin weekend and rigorous dayhiking in SE Oklahoma. Shake off those winter blues and join us for a cabin weekend at Beavers Bend State Park, Please see MORE, Page 2

# Campaign aims to debunk the myth 'Clean Coal'

The Alliance for Climate Protection, League of Conservation Voters, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sierra Club launched the "Reality" Coalition, a national grassroots and advertising effort to tell a simple truth: in reality, there is no such thing as "clean coal."

Environmental experts agree that coal is the dirtiest fuel America uses to produce electricity. The Reality Coalition, then, is challenging the coal industry to come clean in its advertising and in its operations. Coal cannot be considered clean until its carbon dioxide emissions are captured and stored.

"The reality is that there's not a single home or business in America today powered by clean coal," said Brian Hardwick of the Alliance for Climate Protection. "If coal really wants to be part of America's energy future, the industry can start by eliminating their pollution that is a leading cause of global warming.

"It is high time for the coal industry to come clean and admit to the American people that today clean coal is not a reality. No matter how much they say it in their advertising, coal can't truly be clean until the plants can capture the global warming pollution. With so much at stake, we can't afford to hang our hats on an illusion."

The Reality Coalition launched a multi-million dollar ad campaign, running in print, broadcast and online media and supported by the website, <http://www.thisreality.org/>.

The first print ad shows a solitary door labeled "Clean Coal Facility Entrance." Behind the door, though, lies a barren field. "In reality, there's no such thing as clean coal," the ad states.

The ad continues: "Coal is one of the leading causes of global warming. But that hasn't stopped the coal industry from advertising clean coal. Yet, the truth is there isn't a single commercial coal plant in America today that captures its global warming pollution. Learn more about what the coal industry is not telling you ..."

Reality's first TV ad follows the same premise and can be viewed at <http://www.thisreality.org/>.

"The coal industry has spent hundreds of millions promoting 'clean coal' technology, but in reality, there is not a single large-scale demonstration project in the United States for capturing and

safely burying all of coal's CO2 emissions," Vice President Gore said. "The industry must make good its promise if they truly want to do their part to solve the climate crisis. Until that happens, coal cannot be called 'clean'."

The Reality Coalition echoes the call made by Gore in a recent New York Times op-ed that until coal is truly clean, there should be no new coal-fired power plants built in America.

"The coal industry is running a cynical and dishonest campaign to mislead the American people, while they stand in the way of real solutions," said Gene Karpinski, President of the League of Conservation Voters. "The Reality Coalition is aimed at holding them accountable for their outlandish claims."

Added Natural Resources Defense Council President Frances Beinecke:

## Midnight Rule benefits factory farms

The EPA issued a final rule exempting the livestock and poultry industries from the requirement to report releases of hazardous substances above health-based thresholds to the federal government under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The rule also created a release reporting exemption to the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, which requires notification of state and local authorities, for smaller facilities. This is the first time the EPA has ever created an exemption from hazardous substance notification requirements for a specific industry.

Decomposing animal waste releases toxic chemicals, such as ammonia and hydrogen sulfide. Exposure to these chemicals can cause respiratory problems, eye and nasal irritation, headaches, nausea and, in extreme concentrations, death. In recent years, as the size of livestock and poultry operations has increased and concentrated large quantities of animal waste, a considerable body of research suggests that the release of hazardous substances from the waste may present a public health risk.

In response, Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope issued the following statement:

"This is one of the most egregious special interest giveaways in eight long years of special interest giveaways. The

"Big coal is spending millions to make us think that coal use today is 'clean.' But all their dirty money can't hide the truth -- coal as it's used today is the dirtiest climate-killing fuel on earth."

"Everyone has a role to play in creating our clean energy future," said Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. "It's time for the coal industry to stop fighting against efforts to bring about a green economy and instead start living up to its clean coal rhetoric."

"We need to clean up coal, not spend billions on a scheme to market coal as clean," said Larry Schweiger, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. "It's time to build a better energy future with existing clean sources like wind and solar that will create jobs, boost our economy and confront the climate crisis head-on."

injury from ammonia or hydrogen sulfide is the same whether someone is exposed from a factory or tank car or from a giant cesspit of manure. This loophole stinks of political favoritism. In EPA's warped view, deregulating factory farms is more important than protecting communities' health.

"Exempting factory farms from toxics reporting requirements is clear violation of longstanding law that leaves the neighbors of these operations at risk of serious illness. In September, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Minnesota Department of health found that hydrogen sulfide air pollution from a large dairy created a 'public health hazard' for the community. The state government advised people living nearby to evacuate their homes. Only two months later, the EPA exempts these very types of facilities from having to report their toxic pollution under CERCLA, saying the reports are unnecessary.

"This is another example of EPA putting politics before science. In June, 2007, the EPA launched a two-year, \$14 million monitoring study to gather more information about toxic air pollution from factory farms. Now, long before the end of the study but just before the Bush administration leaves office, the EPA decides it knows enough about the problem to exempt factory farms from reporting requirements. Why bother with the science?"

# Suddenly solar: never been a better time

By **TERRY JENSEN**

Overnight, installing solar energy has not only become practical, it also seems to be a reasonable investment.

Why?

If you live in the Oncor service area and install grid-direct solar photovoltaic, Oncor will pay up to \$2.46 per watt for residential customers to install a solar electric system up to 10 kilowatts (kW).

Added to the 30% tax credit from the federal government, making electricity on your own roof suddenly looks pretty good.

## **COST FOR SOLAR**

Let's start with an example. If you install \$24,500 of solar PV, you will receive a tax credit of \$7,350 and an Oncor rebate of \$7,380. The cost of your PV installation will be \$9,770. To me, that is quite practical.

It does not matter if you buy your electricity from Reliant, TXU, Green Mountain, etc., as long as you are in the Oncor area and attach your system to the Oncor grid.

You can not get the rebate from

Oncor if you are outside their delivery area. You can still get the 30% federal tax credit, of course.

## **DESIGN TO YOUR BUDGET**

A solar system can be added in stages. It does not have to be done all at once so it can be designed to fit your budget.

Think of it as a multi-year project that approaches the problem from two directions: making your home as energy-efficient as possible to allow you to use fewer PV panels, while not adding more solar energy than you ultimately need. A good plan is:

—Work on the energy-efficiency of your home.

—Add some more solar.

—Finish making your home energy-efficient.

—Follow your electricity consumption through a summer or even longer.

—Add the final solar.

Therefore, you can decide on a budget and timeline, then work backwards until you have a project plan

## **THERE IS A CATCH**

That catch is TIME.

1. Oncor has only allotted \$4,000,000 per year (for four years) to this rebate program. Although that sounds like a sizable amount of money, Oncor has 3,000,000 customers vying for a place at the table.

2. The money will be allotted by reservation with a certified installer.

3. Oncor says reservations for the rebate can be made as early as January 1, 2009.

4. The money will almost certainly be gone very quickly in 2009.

## **CAVEAT**

As of press time, this has not been announced to the general public so there may be some changes in Oncor's final plan. However, I feel Sierra Club members are some of the most likely people to purchase solar energy for their homes.

I think we deserve a piece of the pie and the advance notice for those who wish to take advantage of the opportunity.

All in all, a perfect holiday gift, both for those who add solar energy to their homes and for planet earth.

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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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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.

# The Sierra Club climate recovery agenda

**BY CARL POPE**

In 2008, Americans chose change. "New Energy for America" trumped "Drill, Baby, drill," marking a major change across the country.

Now that the celebrations are done, we must roll up our sleeves and get to work. Barack Obama's top priority is investment in clean energy and energy efficiency in order to jumpstart our economy, create green jobs and make us more secure – and the Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda closely follows that priority. Energy is now a national priority, and it's clear that the steps we need to take to help our economy recovery will also help our climate recover.

Fixing our economy, transforming our energy future, slowing and ultimately reversing climate change and its consequences will require a clear agenda and aggressive timetable that will allow us to repower, refuel and rebuild America.

The Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda will help our economy

recover, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, cut carbon emissions 80% by 2050, and protect our natural heritage, communities and country from the consequences of global warming.

Putting our planet on the path to economic and climate recovery will require Congress, working with the Obama Administration, to:

Invest \$150-500 billion in clean energy to create millions of new, high quality jobs.

Reduce our dependence on oil by increasing vehicle fuel efficiency, increasing the use of alternative fuels, and deploying innovative transportation technology like plug in hybrids.

Move America to 100% renewable energy for electricity and dramatically increase the efficiency of our buildings and homes.

Tackle global climate change by establishing an economy-wide cap on carbon emissions. Ensure that carbon permits are auctioned.

Take action that acknowledges the

consequences global warming is already having and the need to protect vulnerable communities, wildlife and their habitat from drought, intense flooding, wildfires and the other changes we already experience.

Congress' first step working with Obama Administration should be serious investments in high performance technologies and energy productivity improvements that will create millions of immediate jobs. Public and private building energy upgrades, mass transportation improvements and grid modernization should also be part of any economic recovery package.

America can lead by example. By taking actions at home, we can provide leadership on the international stage to both work with and be competitive with other nations. This agenda will be hard work, but the good news is that these are proven ways to face our economic and environmental challenges – and the solutions help everyone.