



Ohio Student Environmental Coalition

Update from Mattie 6.22.08

Another bi-weekly update. This one has a ton of new resources – check out the bottom section. If you happen to be in Columbus this coming weekend, come to [ComFest: The Community Festival](#) June 27-29 – it's gonna be great!

A leader is best
When people barely know that she exists,
Not so good when people obey and acclaim him,
Worst when they despise her.
'Fail to honor people,
They fail to honor you.'
But of a good leader, who talks little,
When his work is done, her aim fulfilled,
They will all say, 'We did this ourselves.'

-Lao Tzu

-m!-

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-- OSEC UPDATES --

SIERRA STUDENT COALITION SUMMER LEADERSHIP TRAININGS

Act now before it's too late, the SSC's summer programs are filling up fast! Their camp near Pittsburgh is now officially full – if you were planning to apply and haven't yet, please let me know so I can try and help get your application accepted. <http://ssc.org/sprog/>

BE A LEADER: GO TO THE ENERGY ACTION MEGA CAMP

In order to prepare organizers for their role in running the Power Vote program and beyond, the Energy Action Coalition will be convening an intensive 5-day training program from August 13th-17th. Led by Wellstone Action and Energy Action, the training will focus on the critical skills for electoral and issue advocacy organizing. It's the place to be this August!

Training participants will leave with a clear understanding of the Power Vote program goals, timeline, implementation plan, and their role in making it happen. The training will be highly interactive with a great emphasis on actually testing out the skills with time for discussion and feedback. Skills will be applicable for climate campaigning throughout the year. The training will take place at Concordia College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Housing will be provided! Apply for the [MEGA Camp](#) today!

-- ACTION --

CONVERGE FOR THE CLIMATE THIS SUMMER!

This summer, [Rising Tide](#) (and many friends and allies) are converging around the country, and the world, to build a powerful grassroots movement to challenge the root causes of climate change. It has become abundantly clear that the governments and corporations of the world will not solve the climate crisis; they are after all, part of the problem.

You can join that movement at one of three action packed gatherings in North America this summer. The climate convergences are gathering places for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together to take direct action

against the root causes of climate change while working to build a just and sustainable world. This year the U.S. convergences will take place alongside several similar gatherings in the [UK](#), [Germany](#), [Australia](#), and beyond.

-West Coast Convergence for Climate Action:

July 28 - August 4, Eugene, OR

-Southeast Convergence for Climate Action:

August 5-11, Louisa County, VA (near Richmond)-

-Northeast Climate Confluence:

July 27 - August 3, High Falls, NY



- - POLITICS - -

A SPRINGFIELD IN HIS STEP: MCCAIN TALKS UP NUKES AND COAL

John McCain followed up yesterday's [energy speech](#) with more energy talk today during a roundtable at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo. Today he focused more specifically on his support for two energy sources: nuclear power and "clean coal."

McCain was less keen to provide government support for renewables. "In the progress of other alternative energy sources -- such as wind, solar, geothermal, tide, and hydroelectric -- government must be an ally but not an arbiter," said McCain. Continue reading [A Springfield in his Step](#)

WHITE HOUSE ASSERTS EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE IN EPA DISPUTE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Bush asserted executive privilege Friday to withhold documents from a congressional investigation into whether he pressured the Environmental Protection Agency to weaken decisions on smog and greenhouse gases.

White House officials notified a House committee of the rare assertion about 15 minutes before the committee was to vote on holding the head of the EPA and a White House budget official in contempt of Congress for not providing the documents. The committee's chairman, Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., then canceled the vote while expressing skepticism over the privilege claim. Continue reading [Executive Privilege In EPA Dispute](#)

SENATOR BROWN'S FLOOR STATEMENT FOLLOWING VOTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

June 6, 2008, Washington, DC - Immediately following a vote on the *Climate Security Act of 2008*, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) today delivered the following speech on the floor of the Senate. Brown, who voted against limiting debate on today's measure, advocated to keep Ohio's economy in the forefront of the climate change debate. His remarks, as delivered, are below:

"I rise today to address an environmental issue, an economic issue, a moral issue. Future generations will look back on global warming as a defining issue of our time. Our children, their children, and their children will look back on this issue and judge us on how we confronted it. If we treat global warming politically, as so many on the other side of the aisle did today, if we abdicate our responsibility, if we ignore reality, twiddle our thumbs as the destructive effects of global warming intensify, we will lose our chance to shape the future because simply put, we will be squandering it. Continue reading [Brown's Floor Statement](#)

- - NEWS - -

CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL: PROTECTING OUR CLIMATE

City Council on Wednesday night approved a 212-page [Climate Protection Plan](#), which includes 80 recommendations, both big and small, for citizens (use less electricity when possible, e.g.) and for the city (buy a fleet of hybrid buses). The goal: reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Cincinnati by 8 percent in four years, 84 percent by 2050.

"The rising cost of energy is on everyone's mind," the mayor said. "We have worked to develop a comprehensive plan that will have big impact and produce substantial change." Continue reading [Cincinnati City Council](#)

FUEL PROTEST BEGINS TO PINCH IN SPAIN

MADRID — The customer ordered a tortilla — a traditional Spanish potato omelet — but Graciela Gómez Torea, owner of the San Telmo cafeteria in Madrid, sadly shook her head.

On Monday, tens of thousands of Spanish truck-drivers went on strike to protest high fuel prices and by Tuesday the escalating stoppage began severing the nation's supply lines to supermarkets, gas stations and even small cafeterias like those of Ms. Gomez Torea. Around major cities, traffic continued Tuesday to crawl behind the so-called "snail protests" of slow-moving trucks. Continue reading [Fuel Protest Begins to Pinch](#)

GREEN JOBS ARE POPPING UP IN OHIO'S ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

How do you define a "green" job? In its purest sense, a green job is an occupation that wouldn't exist if not for the growing movement to conserve resources and make businesses more environmentally conscious. More broadly, a green job also is a traditional vocation carried out in support of a green purpose. An accountant at a company that makes solar panels. An electrician who installs solar panels when not doing routine wiring jobs.

But if the definition of a green job is hard to get your hands around, the ability to land one shouldn't be, especially in Cleveland, where industries as diverse as farming, renewable energy and an emerging business called deconstruction show promise. Even those at the bottom rung of the socioeconomic ladder are expected to join the movement, thanks to a program under development at Cuyahoga Community College.

Continue reading [Green Jobs are Popping Up](#)

Also see [Study Finds 'Green' Job Potential in Ohio High](#)

UK: CLIMATE ACTIVISTS HIJACK COAL TRAIN

Protestors yesterday halted a coal train carrying fuel for Drax power station in Yorkshire, the single biggest source of CO2 in the UK, and train services delivering coal to the station remain stopped today. The protest comes six weeks before the 2008 [Camp for Climate Action](#) at Kingsnorth power station - which will also highlight how using coal to supply energy will be a disaster for the planet.



Dressed in white overalls and canary outfits, protestors used safety signals to stop the train on a bridge overlooking the power station, before climbing on board and dumping coal off onto the tracks. The train was halted on a branch line used exclusively for delivering coal to Drax. Protestors used a network of climbing ropes to suspend themselves under the bridge from the train - meaning any movement while the protest continued was impossible.

- - OPPORTUNITIES - -

ENERGY ACTION SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

Instead of tearing ticket stubs this summer, apply for an Energy Action Fellowship and get paid to develop our new green jobs program; make national news; create cool viral videos; spread the youth climate gospel on Facebook; ensure that Power Vote pushes every candidate to take youth and energy seriously this election; design exciting materials; and begin organizing Power Shift '09.

What are you waiting for?? Apply today for an Energy Action Fellowship by sending a letter of interest and resume to theteam@energyaction.net. These are paid fellowships and can be based in Washington, DC or San Francisco, CA. Fellows earn a living wage and have the distinct job satisfaction of making a movement instead of making coffee. Meet some of our [past fellows](#).

JOB: BIOTOUR ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL SEEKING ADDITIONAL CREWMEMBERS

Want to explore the country, meet new people, support the PowerVote 08 campaign, and be part of a movement to create a sustainable and democratic society? Now you can, and all via vegetable oil-powered bus. BioTour is looking for an Outreach Coordinator, Photographer, and Web Developer to join the crew for the upcoming fall

tour. Visit BioTour.org for a job description and to fill out a job application.

SUSTAINUS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR UN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

The SustainUS Agents of Change program is now accepting applications for its delegation to the UN Climate Negotiations, COP14, happening in Poznan, Poland this December. COP14 will determine the future of international policy on climate change, and youth must make their voices heard.

The SustainUS delegation, comprised of key leaders in the youth climate movement from various organizations and backgrounds, will have the unique opportunity to represent American youth at the COP. Delegates will work with each other and with international youth in advance of the conference to educate themselves, develop policy priorities, acquire skills in effective lobbying, and engage the broader youth population in a conversation about international climate policy. Read more about this amazing opportunity [here](#).

-- RESOURCES --

GEAR FOR GOOD

High quality, safe gear makes a huge difference for activist actions. Unfortunately, most groups don't have the money, the experience, or the gear company connections necessary to acquire the equipment they need and deserve. What [Gear for Good](#) does is as simple as it is effective: locate and solicit donations of demos, seconds, and warranty returns from outdoor companies and give them to grassroots activists who need them, yet can't afford them.

COMPARATIVE COSTS: COAL VERSUS ALTERNATIVES

From Ted Nace of Coal Moratorium Now:

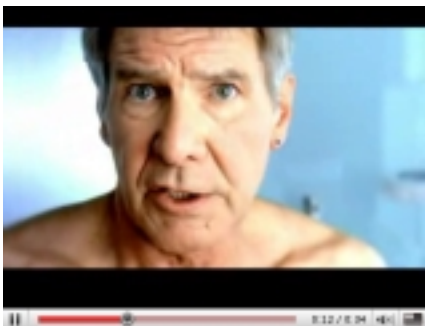
On May 13 the California Energy Commission a new comparison of the costs of of new generating capacity from various sources. Here are the results. Note that all these estimates include firming resource costs.

Busbar cost in cents per kilowatt-hour in 2008 dollars:

Biogas:	8.552
Wind:	8.910
Gas Combined Cycle:	9.382
Geothermal:	10.182
Hydroelectric:	10.527
Coal Supercritical:	10.554
Coal IGCC:	11.481 (Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle)
Solar thermal:	12.653
Nuclear:	15.316
Biomass:	16.485
Coal IGCC with CCS:	17.317 (IGCC with carbon capture and storage)

Busbar means the price of the power leaving the plant. All capital, fuel, and operating costs are taken into account in busbar costs. See the [spreadsheet](#) containing these costs -> Select GHG Calculator v2b.

VIDEO: HARRISON FORD – LOST THERE, FELT HERE



“When rainforests get slashed and burned, it releases tons of carbon into the air we breathe... What gets ripped out over there really hurts us over here.”

REPORT: WHERE DOES OUR POWER ORIGINATE

Convincing evidence for the central role of protest and a troubling cost-benefit analysis

The most important and relevant research for U.S. environmentalists is being conducted by Jon Agnone, a

sociologist at the University of Washington. Agnone studies sources of environmentalist power -- the first social scientist to undertake a systematic analysis.

Agnone compared the relative impact of public opinion, institutional advocacy, and protest on passage of federal environmental legislation between 1960-1998, using a sophisticated analytical model and data drawn from *The New York Times*. Three key findings in this first-ever quantification of environmentalist power upend conventional political wisdom:

1. Protest is significantly more important than public opinion or institutional advocacy in influencing federal environmental law
2. Public opinion on its own influences federal action (though less than protest), but is vastly strengthened by protest
3. Institutional advocacy has limited impact on federal environmental policy



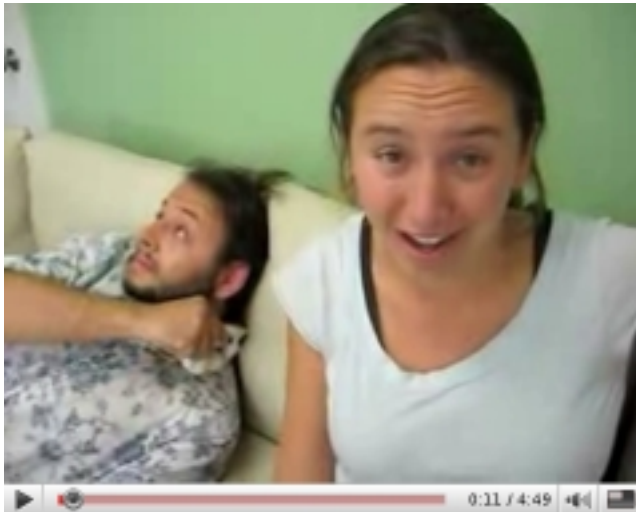
Continue reading [Evidence for the Role of Protest](#)

ENTREPRENEURS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

E4S is a diverse network of over 5000 leaders who are putting the principles of sustainability into action. We started the E4S Network in 2000 with the classic entrepreneurs and have attracted the entrepreneurial thinkers, the change agents from business, government, academic and non-profit sectors of our community.

What we share is a belief that sustainability principles are drivers for new business opportunities and tools to improve our quality of life. Together we are [building a sustainable economy in Northeast Ohio](#) that will create prosperity and total community health.

GREENWASH OF THE WEEK: GOING NUCLEAR



Bria and Robin take on the nuclear power industry.

YOUTH ORGANIZING RESOURCES FROM RESIST, INC.

From the latest newsletter from Resist, Inc., funding social change since 1967.

http://www.resistinc.org/newsletters/issues/2008/youth_resources.html

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