



# Ohio Student Environmental Coalition

Update from Mattie 8.3.08

One of the big news stories recently was about AEP's proposed rate increases of 15% over each of the next 3 years. The top reason they cited was the increased cost of coal. As we continue to push our economic and ecological boundaries, change is in the wind. These are exciting times.

*"Business as usual is over." -Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onongada Nation, 2008*

-m!-

## CONTENTS:

- OSEC Updates (2)
- Action (2)
- Politics (2)
- News (7)
- Opportunities (1)
- Resources (6)

## -- OSEC UPDATES --

### INTERNSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE – APPLY NOW!

The two OSEC fall internships are still available, though probably not for long as there have been a couple of applicants. If you're interested in either the [Coordination and PR](#) or the [Campaigns and Trainings](#) internships with OSEC, you should apply today!

### OSEC SKILLS TRAINING & GREEN JOBS RALLY – COLUMBUS 9/12-14

Come to Columbus the second week of September for trainings on recruitment, media, and leadership development, the opportunity to meet and network with other groups from around the state, and a BIG rally for green jobs at the statehouse downtown. The gathering will focus on Power Vote, a national campaign to build the political will be need to jumpstart a clean and just energy revolution, but the skills learned and connections made will also be useful for many other pieces of this work.

If you're interested in being a point person for your school, please contact [matt@energyjustice.net](mailto:matt@energyjustice.net) and we can plug you in as a campus coordinator. Look for more details and a registration page in the next several days.

## -- ACTION --

### SAVE YOUR DATES AND SOME PLASTIC BOTTLES FOR MEIGS COUNTY!

# Meigs Citizens Action Now!

*Economic and Environmental Justice in Southeast Ohio*

Folks down in Meigs County, ground zero for Ohio's expansion of toxic coal related industry, are hoping to do a big push both against polluting industry and for clean, renewable energy this fall, and need your help!

- 1) Bring your group to Meigs County! There are several projects going on, including a species survey on local land, a sustainable design workshop series, true cost of coal tours, and service projects at local residents' homes.
- 2) Save your plastic bottles! We're going to need a lot of big plastic soda bottles for building a sweet recycled bottle greenhouse. Please save your big plastic soda bottles and donate load to Elisa Young's farm.
- 3) Step it up, keep it up against the proposed AMP-Ohio coal plant! Youth action against the AMP Ohio pulverized coal power plant is getting louder and stronger, and it's helping the fight in Meigs.

To help out contact Kyla, the Meigs CAN! Intern: [kylajagger@gmail.com](mailto:kylajagger@gmail.com) / 740.949.2175.

For more information and to check out the new Meigs CAN website, visit <http://www.meigscan.org/>

## **AMP COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT PERMIT HEARING – AUGUST 5TH, 8PM, RACINE, OHIO**

Please join Meigs Citizens Action Now! and other concerned citizens *August 5th at 6:30 pm at the Racine Elementary School* to make your views on American Municipal Power's proposed pulverized coal plant heard to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

## **POLITICS - -**

### **THE CHALLENGE TO REPOWER AMERICA**

On July 17, Al Gore challenged America to produce 100 percent of our electricity from energy sources with zero carbon emissions - and to do so within 10 years. His speech, and the resulting dialogue, is resetting the way Americans think about our energy future and the climate crisis. [Read more and see the video](#)

### **ENERGY PRICES REMAIN TOP CONCERN**

With sources of natural energy so expensive, both presidential candidates are trying to convince voters they'll bring down prices. Senators Barack Obama and John McCain disagree on exactly how to do that, but agree that our region is crucial to solving the energy crisis. Although gas prices have dropped a few pennies from record highs, energy is still a major election issue. Continue reading [Energy Prices Top Concern](#)

## **- - NEWS - -**

### **RESEARCHERS SAY GLOBAL WARMING COULD COST OHIO BILLIONS**

Ohio could lose billions of dollars in the shipping, tourism and recreation industries in coming decades if global warming continues unabated, researchers at the University of Maryland contend.

"Ohio's greatest challenge is likely to be in adapting to climate change along its waterways and on Lake Erie, where the most significant economic and ecological impacts will occur," the researchers conclude in the peer-reviewed report. Continue reading [Global Warming Could Cost Billions](#)

### **AEP ASKS FOR RATE HIKE**

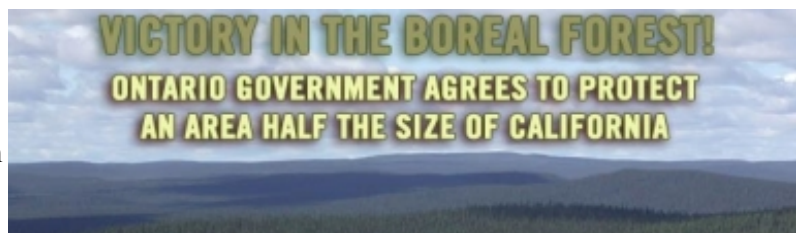
#### **Costs of coal have doubled and systems need to be modernized**

American Electric Power's Ohio customers could begin receiving bigger electric bills next year. AEP's request with state utility regulators calls for a 45 percent increase over three years.

Higher costs for coal and the cost of modernizing the company's systems to keep them reliable are reasons for the increase, according to company spokesperson Terry Flora. "We're looking at increases over the past couple years of over 300 percent for coal alone and about 140 percent for natural gas." Flora said. "So obviously, our costs have increased significantly due to that fuel component." Continue reading [AEP Rate Hike](#)

### **ONTARIO TO PROTECT VAST TRACT OF FOREST**

Ontario has made the largest conservation commitment in Canadian history, setting aside at least half the Northern Boreal region – 225,000 square kilometres – for permanent protection from development, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced yesterday. It's an area almost the size of the United Kingdom.



The announcement is globally significant in the fight against climate change, advocates say. Nearly 100 billion tonnes of carbon are stored in the Northern Boreal region and another 12.5 million tonnes are absorbed each year. Continue reading [Ontario to Protect Forest](#)

### **MOSTLY BLACK NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR ZANESVILLE DENIED WATER BECAUSE OF COLOR City, County Ordered to Pay \$10.9 Million**

Once the jury had left the courtroom, Freddie Martin and others draped arms around one another's shoulders and offered a prayer of thanks. After a seven-week trial in U.S. District Court in Columbus, jurors found yesterday that Martin and 67 others long were denied public water service because of the color of their skin.

"There is a price to pay if you discriminate," Martin said. "They've got to answer not just to the court, but to God." Continue reading [Neighborhood Denied](#)

### **OSU RECEIVES MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR "CLEAN COAL" RESEARCH GRANT**

Coal direct chemical looping (CDCL) technology will be further developed under this project. CDCL technology can be retrofitted to existing pulverized-coal power plants to efficiently convert coal while capturing CO<sub>2</sub> through the assistance of a patented iron oxide-based composite oxygen carrier particle. (DOE share: \$2,860,141; recipient share: \$1,126,513; duration: 36 months)

Continue reading [OSU Receives Coal Research Money](#)

### **OSU CONVERTS HEAT, SUNLIGHT INTO ELECTRICITY**

Ohio State University scientists have created a device that they say can boost gas mileage in hybrid cars by as much as 7 percent. The device, a sandwich of heavy metals, converts the heat a car makes into electricity. The metals also can convert sunlight into electricity, like a solar panel, and produce electricity for homes, the inventors say.

For nearly two centuries, scientists have known that connecting metals of different temperatures creates a weak current. But the OSU team made the process more efficient. The work is published today in the journal *Science*. "The energy crisis is the real motivation," said Joseph Heremans, professor of mechanical engineering and physics at Ohio State. "I hope this has a major impact."

Continue reading [OSU Device Converts Heat, Sunlight](#)

## **-- OPPORTUNITIES --**

### **NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S REDUCE YOUR FOOTPRINT CAMPUS INTERNSHIPS**



Need money for green projects on your campus? Need support to get started? National Wildlife Federation's [Campus Ecology](#) program **awards fellowship grants** to undergraduate and graduate students committed to reduce their campus carbon footprint; projects including: greenhouse gas inventories, climate action plans, energy conservation and efficiency, habitat restoration, climate action gatherings and more will be considered.

Grant awards: Up to \$2000 for Undergraduate Students, up to \$5000 for Graduate Students

**Fall deadline: October 1, 2008. Additional submission deadlines throughout the year.**

Visit <http://www.nwf.org/fellows> for details about the Campus Ecology Fellowship program.

## **-- RESOURCES --**

### **DATABASE: OHIO CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES**

Green City Blue Lake has put together a new [database of campus sustainability initiatives](#) in northeast Ohio. This is a good resource, and good ammunition in meetings with school administrators.

### **REPORT: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

From the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative, this new report shows how:

-Global warming amplifies nearly all existing inequalities.

-Sound global warming policy is also racial and economic justice policy.

-Climate policies that best serve African Americans and other disproportionately affected communities also best serve racial and economic justice.

-A distinctive African American voice is critical for climate justice.

And more!

- [Full Report](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)

## VIDEO: THE TRUTH ABOUT GAS PRICES & DRILLING

A new video and presentation from the Natural Resources Defense Council



## VIDEO: OIL ADDICTION

This video is really good, and it's got a sweet soundtrack. You should totally watch it.



## RESEARCH: WHITEPAPER ON TRAYLESS DINING

Aramark has published a whitepaper entitled, "[The Business and Cultural Acceptance Case for Trayless Dining](#)." The paper lists reasons for considering, the cultural shift in accepting, and the business case for tray removal. The publication also provides best practices and gives case studies for the University of Maine at Farmington and Grand Valley State University (MI).

## CAMPAIGN: REAL FOOD CHALLENGE

*WHAT IF...*

- All food purchased by US colleges and universities, over \$4 billion worth, came from local, green, fair, & humane sources?
- College farms were as common as football fields and every student had a chance to grow food?
- All 17 million college students — future professionals, parents, and decision-makers — graduated understanding the incredible impact of their food choices?
- All institutions of higher education embraced their role as shapers of a just and sustainable world?

The potential could be a reality if we work together. Check out the [Real Food Challenge](#) today to plug in.