

Subject: Sierra Climate Change News for January 2010



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Climate Change News January 2010

Including [Campaign Updates](#), [Taking Action for the Sierra](#), [Relevant News Articles](#), [Useful Reports and Resources](#) and [Cool Websites and Blogs](#)

(click on the links to jump to a section)

Campaign Updates

[Climate Change Case Studies Publication from the Sierra Nevada Alliance!](#)

This issue of the Alliance's quarterly Climate Change Case Studies examines the efforts of a small New England town and a Canadian non-profit organization that are each actively working to incorporate the following into their local land use planning: 1) information on possible climate change impacts, 2) strategies to reduce emissions, and 3) adaptation tactics to address the unavoidable changes in climate. This quarterly publication is meant to provide Sierra resource managers, decision-makers, and others with possible models and tactics that can be replicated to protect and restore the Sierra's natural environment and local communities.

There are no cookie cutter solutions for reducing greenhouse gases nor planning how to adapt to climate change that will work for every region and community of the Sierra. There are, however, many existing strategies and pilot projects from the Sierra and farther afield that offer advice and wisdom and can be modified to address local conditions and needs. If you would like to share a project or plan that you believe to be an exemplary model for the Sierra, please contact the Sierra Nevada Alliance so that we can share your success with others who hunger for examples. In the meantime, the Sierra Nevada Alliance will maintain its commitment to reducing emissions and planning for climate change adaptation by continuing to search for and to bring useful examples and lessons learned to Sierra organizations, agencies and decision-makers.

Link to the Publication:

http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/db/pics/1261513925_16021.f_pdf.pdf

To share your success story, please contact Marion Gee, Program Associate, 530-542-4546 ext. 320, marion@sierranevadaalliance.org

Events

February 9-11 2010
[Pre and Post-Wild Fire Forest Management for Ecological Restoration and Fire Resiliency](#) at the McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento.

March 16-17 2010 5th
[Biennial Tahoe Basin Science Conference](#)

April 8-11 [Western Wilderness Conference](#) at the University of California, Berkeley.

April 14 Sierra Day at the Capitol. More information to come.

Taking Action for the Sierra!

Sierra License Plate Campaign and Marketing Intern

The Alliance is launching a new campaign, which seeks to

- Inform Californians about the new Sierra Nevada License Plate. This new plate will benefit the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency dedicated to initiating, encouraging, and supporting efforts to improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada.
- Mobilize our network of over 100 partnering groups to help collect license plate pledges and support their efforts.
- Sign up Alliance friends and supporters to get their own plate.

The Alliance is part of a team of partners leading this effort. We need to have 7,500 license plates committed to within one year to establish this as a permanent program. Once we reach this goal, all Californians can purchase the plate from DMV showing their love of the Sierra while proceeds help fund tangible projects protecting and improving the Sierra.

Position Description

- Help write campaign newsletters and alerts to keep partners updated on the effort.
- Contact Sierra conservation groups around the region to gain new partners.
- Write news releases, opinion editorials and other materials for media outreach.
- Assist in news conferences and organizing media events to gain attention to the campaign.
- Track how many plates are collected, what campaign tactics work the best, and what marketing outreach efforts are effective.
- Write articles and create materials for groups to use in the campaign.
- Do some data entry to ensure campaign partners receive updates and materials.

Intern(s) may work on one or more of the aforementioned activities depending on experience and interest. The Sierra Nevada Alliance has a fun, yet professional office environment and is committed to high quality work. Internship positions are designed to give candidates quality experience and work can be tailored to the interests and goals of the intern. Minimum 10 hours a week in our South Lake Tahoe office, although part-time telecommuting options are available. Start/end dates and hours are flexible. This position is unpaid.

Application Instructions

To apply, please submit your resume, contact info and cover letter expressing your interest in this position, what you hope to learn and what you will bring to the Sierra Nevada Alliance to Joan Clayburgh, Executive Director at joan@sierranevadaalliance.org. Please feel free to call at 530.542.4546 ext. 307 or email for more information.

Climate Change News Articles

Sierra

- [Wild and Scenic Film Festival advances environmental education in the Sierras](#) - Jesse Locks/Nevada City Union 1/7/2010
The 8th annual [Wild and Scenic Film Festival](#), organized by Alliance member South Yuba River Citizen's League, occurred this month in Nevada City, screening 135 films on environmental issues.
- [NASA Study: Lake Tahoe water temps warmer](#) – KHSL TV 1/6/2010
NASA satellite and buoy data shows that the lake's water has warmed 3.7 degrees Fahrenheit since monitoring began in 1992 – twice as fast as the region's air temperature.

State

- [Butterflies struggling with climate change, development](#) – Suzanne Bohan/Contra Costa Times 1/18/2010
A 35 year study by a UC Davis professor has revealed a decline in sensitive butterfly species and movement of butterfly populations to higher altitudes.
- [Storms bring water year up to average](#) – Mike Taugher/Contra Costa Times 1/22/2010
Recent storms are helping to fill the state's reservoirs and for the first time in four years, the state is on track for a normal water year. However, not enough water is falling to make up for the drawdown of reserves from the ongoing drought.
- [Where to find one million acre-feet of water for California](#) – Peter Gleick/Pacific Institute 1/21/2010
The Pacific Institute is preparing to release a new report that identifies one million acre-feet of practical agricultural and urban water efficiency measures in California that save end-users money.

- [70 GW of proposed renewable energy in the pipeline for California](#) - Reuters 12/30/2009
California has 244 proposed renewable energy projects in planning stages right now, with 50 projects attempting to be on the fast track to break ground in 2010 in order to receive federal stimulus funds.
- [California Sets Up Statewide Network to Monitor Global-Warming Gases](#) – Todd Woody/New York Times 2/3/2010
The State of California is setting up an emissions monitoring network to focus on sources and concentrations of methane and compliance with upcoming regulations.

National

- [Mt. Rainier's melting glaciers create hazard](#) – Sandi Doughton/L.A. Times 1/31/2010
Receding glaciers on Mt. Rainier's west slope are exposing crumbling gravel and soil that are rapidly filling area rivers.
- [Solar panel leasing takes off](#) - Yasha Levine/AlterNet 1/16/2010
Leasing of solar panels, which removes the financial barrier to installing solar power in homes, is becoming more prevalent.

International

- [Pine beetle turns trees to carbon emitters](#) – EU News Network 1/10/2010
A new study shows that the devastation wreaked on British Columbia's forests by the pine beetle, aided by climate change, has turned the forests into a carbon source rather than a carbon sink.
- [Nigeria: Lake communities left high and dry](#) – Mustapha Muhammad/IPS News 1/8/2010
Over the last 30 years, Lake Chad has shrunk to less than 10 percent of its original size due to climatic and human conditions. Desert land is replacing its former basin, driving fishermen south or to the cities to make a living.

Useful Reports and Resources

- [California Climate Adaptation Strategy](#) – This report, released on Dec. 2, 2009, highlights climate impacts in seven critical areas – public health, biodiversity and habitat, ocean and coastal resources, water management, agriculture, forestry, and transportation and energy infrastructure - and provides recommendations on solutions for state agencies to manage the threats these impacts pose. The report lays out a set of principles for adaptation plans, including that plans should be living documents, that efforts should enhance existing programs when possible, and that strategies should “initiate, foster, and enhance existing efforts that improve economic and social well-being, public safety and security, public health, environmental justice, species and habitat protection, and ecological function.” ([Executive Summary](#), [Full Report](#))
- [Cool California](#) – Cool California's website includes toolkits for [local governments](#), [businesses](#), and [individuals](#) that contain information on climate action planning, impact measurement, and mitigation and adaptation measures that save money. The site lays out many common strategies such as installing energy efficient bulbs and appliances, but it also provides more in-depth information such as links to resources like U.S. EPA's [Portfolio Manager Tool](#), which aids businesses in tracking and lowering resource consumption.

Cool Websites and Blogs

- [Brighter Planet](#) – Looking to track your carbon footprint over time? Brighter Planet's carbon footprint profile lets you specify detailed information about your travel patterns, housing, energy usage and more in order to develop impressively comprehensive carbon footprints for individuals. You can select to have your actions to reduce your footprint be private, or choose to have them become public so you can compete with others.
- [Grist](#) – Grist provides detailed news and informed commentary on climate change, sustainability, energy, and national politics. The site tracks trends in environmental careers, emissions reduction, adaptation, and work on a national climate bill.

The purpose of the Sierra Nevada Alliance Climate Change Electronic Newsletter is to provide you with relevant information, news, media, events and resources combed from local, state, national and international sources regarding Climate Change. If you have any suggestions or contributions, please feel free to email them to nick@sierranevadaalliance.org

Climate Change Campaign Background

Climate change is occurring now. The Sierra's precious resources, including flora, fauna, and

rural communities, are already feeling the impacts and will continue to be negatively affected unless we make greenhouse gas emissions reduction and adapting resource management practices to climate change high priorities. The Sierra Nevada Alliance is committed to educating the general public, resource planners and community leaders of the Sierra about climate change impacts while empowering them to take the necessary actions to reduce emissions and adapt to this new future. For more info, check out our [Climate Change Campaign Website](#).

To Subscribe to this list, email in info@sierranevadaalliance.org with Subject: Subscribe Climate Change News

To Unsubscribe to this list, email info@sierranevadaalliance.org with Subject: Unsubscribe Climate Change News