

Sierra's "Climate Crossroads" is up and running!

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Wednesday, August 12 2009

The Sierra Club is joining up with a number of other environmental organizations in an effort to pass critically important energy legislation and support the Obama Administration's recent rulings on cleaning up coal-powered industries. As of this posting (August 12), the House has passed a good bill, the Clean Energy and Security Act, and after the summer recess the Senate will address the issue of energy. In order to urge the Senate to pass a comparable bill that encourages green jobs, forces polluting industries to clean up their act, and provides assistance for families with making their homes more energy-efficient, the Sierra Club has started an effort called Climate Crossroads .

Unfortunately, right now the amount of public input against the energy bill is four times greater than the input for the bill. The reason for this is that polluting industries and other groups who have a stake in preserving the status quo are paying huge amounts of money to influence this process. Climate Crossroads is intended to reverse that trend. It is a program that makes use of tools like phone banking and the internet's social networking features to help concerned activists make a difference on energy.

If you're interested in helping to phone bank, write letters to the editor, or organize community events, go to <http://climatecrossroads.sierraclub.org/index.html>. There you'll be able to sign up and participate in this effort in an organized way. Climate Crossroads will provide weekly updates on where Sierra members can be most effective in shaping the legislative process, tools to make contacting other members of the community easy, and a place to discuss details of policy or just get in touch with other concerned citizens. The best part is that you'll only be asked to contribute a few hours a month- by coordinating our efforts, Climate Crossroads helps members concentrate where we can do the most good. We just held our first teleconference last night to discuss how the project will work, and enthusiasm is high. Won't you join us and help make a difference on this issue?