



SAVE NEWSLETTER

Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment, Inc.

www.saugus.org/SAVE - www.SaugusSAVE.org - www.SaugusSAVE.com

VOLUME 41, No. 2

AUGUST 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ann Devlin

As Summer 2013 begins to slowly wind down, we're planning a number of fun, exciting and enlightening upcoming events. These events include:

- The SAVE table at Founders Day on Saturday, September 7
- SAVE's next "It's New to You" Swap on Saturday, September 28, in conjunction with Breakheart's Fall Festival
- An animal-themed education program – presented by Mass Audubon – sponsored by SAVE during Breakheart Reservation's Fall Festival on Saturday, September 28
- SAVE Candidates Night on Wednesday, October 23

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for these events. If anyone is available – even for an hour of so – to help out at one of the above-mentioned events, please contact me at adevlin@aisle10.net

I'm also very excited to share news that the environmental organization www.350.org now has a Massachusetts chapter with an environmental focus right here in our own state. Check out their website at www.350MA.org and see what upcoming events they have planned.

One of their most recent events happened on July 28 when approximately 350 protesters demonstrated in Somerset to demand that Governor Deval Patrick close the Brayton Point Power Station. Protesters marched from a nearby park to the plant, and erected mock wind turbines and held out solar panels to stress alternatives to coal and fossil fuels processed at Brayton Point. Demonstrators contend that Brayton Point should be closed because they believe it poses a health risk to local residents and impacts the climate. Adam Greenberg, a member of 350MA.org and spokesman at the July 28 event, said one goal of the demonstration was to encourage Massachusetts to take a leading role in exploring other energy options. The plant's owner, Dominion, describes Brayton Point on its website as one of the largest fossil-fueled electricity generating plants in New England, using a combination of low-sulfur coal, natural gas, or oil and diesel fuel to generate electricity. It is located on 306 acres of land at the head of Narragansett Bay in Somerset.

Brayton Point Power Station

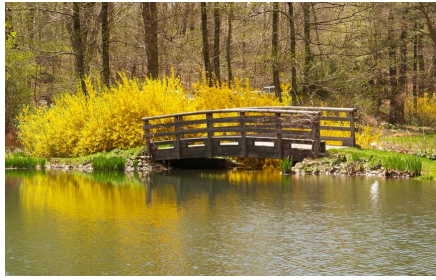


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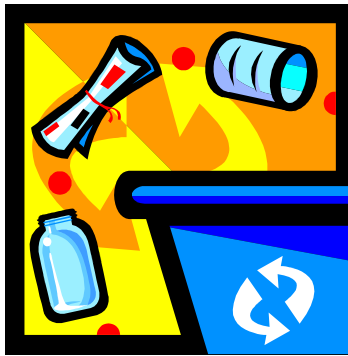
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SAVE CELEBRATING ITS 40TH YEAR !

CONGRATULATIONS to SAVE for celebrating its 40th anniversary this year! We hope that as many as possible of our members, friends and family, and other interested members of the public will join us throughout this special year at our various events. And as always, if you know of someone who would like to join our organization, please have them contact President Ann Devlin at adevlin@aisle10.net or direct them to visit our websites/Facebook page at www.saugus.org/SAVE or www.SaugusSAVE.org or www.SaugusSAVE.com



ONE MEMBER'S RECYCLING EFFORTS

In response to our request that members share their recycling efforts, long-time SAVE member Dick Lynch says that he could write a book on this. One of his top tips is that anyone who walks their dog or just goes for a walk or run should always carry a little bag and pick up trash, especially recyclables, and put them in their bins.

Dick has been composting since 1978 and uses the compost in his vegetable garden and lawn. Last year, he picked up over 6,000 beer and soda cans, as well as various bottles and plastic bottles. He picked up trash along Eastern Avenue, Saugus, approximately 15 times in the last year – to the tune of 3 to 5 bags each time. And, on his own, he cleaned Town Line Brook in Revere from Lynn Street, Malden, to Washington Avenue, Revere. Since joining Saugus River Watershed Council (he is the longest serving board member), he has participated in dozens of SRWC-sponsored cleanups. He also has been cleaning all areas around and on Mt. Hood Golf Course in Melrose for the last 10 years.

Dick really is a **SUPER RECYCLER!** Thank you, Dick, for all your hard work – as well as sharing your recycling experiences with us.

Do you have a recycling story that you'd like to share? Contact President Ann Devlin at adevlin@aisle10.net or at www.saugus.org/SAVE or on the SAVE Facebook page.

MEMBERS: PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAVE at Saugus Founders Day – Saturday, September 7, 2013

Come visit the SAVE table during Founders Day 2013. This year, SAVE will be raffling off a beautiful full-color print of a Barred Owl that was donated by “Eyes on Owls.”

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS EVENT and if you can help out for even a short time that day, please contact Ann Devlin at 781-233-5717 or by email at adevlin@aisle10.net

SAVE’s Next “It’s New to You” SWAP – Saturday, September 28, 2013, 10 AM – 1 PM

SAVE will hold its next “It’s New to You” SWAP in our continuing effort to keep still-usable items out of the waste stream in conjunction with Breakheart’s Fall Festival. If you would like to help out at this event, contact Ann Devlin at adevlin@aisle10.net or at 781-233-5717.

Why not start setting aside any still-usable items that can be brought to the SWAP for recycling?

Also, don’t forget to bring your worn-out athletic shoes for drop-off in our recycling bin as we once again participate in the Nike Reuse-a-Shoe program.

Remember, the purpose of this FREE swap is to keep still-usable goods out of the waste stream.

Breakheart Reservation’s Fall Festival will be held on **Saturday, September 28**. Come join in the fun with face painting, pumpkin decorating, as well as free cider and donuts. The event is free and open to all. Attending the Fall Festival will also give you an opportunity to participate in SAVE’s “It’s New to You” SWAP.

SAVE will also sponsor an animal-themed educational event – with several large native birds such as a Red Tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, American Kestrel, Raven, and/or Barn Owl presented by Mass Audubon – during the Fall Festival again this year. Stop by this two hour event from noon - 2 PM to learn intriguing facts about these creatures.

SAVE Sponsors Candidates Night – Wednesday, October 23, 2013, 7:00 PM at Saugus Town Hall Auditorium

Once more, as we have done many times in the past, SAVE plans to hold an Environmental Candidates’ Night on Wednesday, October 23, in the second-floor auditorium of the Saugus Town Hall. All Selectmen candidates will be asked to attend. And don’t forget: although SAVE regularly presents a “Candidates’ Night,” we do NOT endorse candidates for **any** office – local, state or national.



SAVE'S ENVIRONMENTAL CANDIDATES' NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

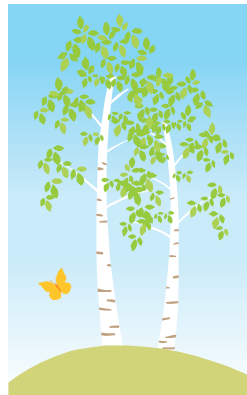
Once more, as we have done many times in the past, SAVE will hold an Environmental Candidates' Night on Wednesday, October 23, in the second-floor auditorium of the Saugus Town Hall. All Selectmen candidates will be asked to attend.

Questions for the candidates are being prepared by the SAVE Board, and other SAVE members are urged to attend and have "environmental" questions ready.

Candidates for other town offices – School Committee, Housing Authority and Town Meeting – who attend that night will be given identification tags and will have a chance to circulate among the audience during the refreshment period at the end of the meeting.

And please don't forget: although SAVE regularly presents a "Candidates' Night," we do NOT endorse candidates for **any** office – local, state or national.

Mark your calendars for the date of our Town Election: Tuesday, November 5, and don't forget to get out and vote!!



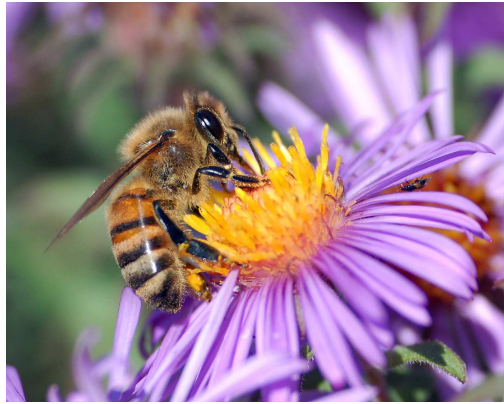
MassDEP UPDATE

John Fischer, Branch Chief, Commercial Waste Reduction and Waste Planning, at the MassDEP recently advised the following:

The RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program August newsletter is now available. You can access it, along with a sign-up form to receive RecyclingWorks updates directly, here:

<http://www.recyclingworksma.com/recyclingworks-august-newsletter>

Or, to go directly to the newsletter, use this link, click [here](#).



JOIN FORCES TO RESCUE AN EMBATTLED INSECT AND SAVE THE AMERICAN FOOD SUPPLY

Honeybees are critical to the food supply and pollinate many of the nuts, fruits and vegetables we love. About one-third of what we put in our mouths benefits directly or indirectly from honeybee pollination, according to the USDA. But beekeepers keep discovering whole hives of them – gone or dead.

In late 2006, beekeepers across the United States began reporting an ominous discovery: their honeybees were disappearing at unprecedented rates. Beekeepers, many of whom tended thousands of hives, were accustomed to losing 10 - 20% of their colonies each year. Normally, in diseased hives, piles of dead bees pooled at the bottom. This was different. In 2007, some commercial beekeepers reported losing a staggering 60 – 90% of their hives. Researchers termed the phenomenon “colony collapse disorder.” Beekeepers who responded to an annual US Department of Agriculture survey reported losing, on average, more than a third of their hives every year from 2006 to 2013, though not all losses have been attributed to colony collapse. Beekeepers in the Northeast have been among those hardest hit.

Some scientists have linked a powerful class of pesticides called “neonicotinoids” – a class of neuro-active insecticides chemically related to nicotine – to increases in bee die-offs. These pesticides have exploded in popularity over the past decade, thanks to a perception that they are both safer and more effective than the pesticides they replaced. The vast majority of corn planted in the United States today is pre-treated with neonicotinoids, and so are other major crops such as soybeans and canola. (The wind, not bees, pollinates corn, but bees can collect corn pollen.) Neonicotinoids are also used on plants that bees do pollinate, including cucumbers and watermelons. Unlike older pesticides, neonicotinoids can linger in the soil for months or even years.

In response to growing concerns about the impact of neonicotinoids on honeybees, the European Commission asked the European Food Safety Authority to study their safety. The results of the peer-reviewed study were published in January 2013. They concluded that the previous industry-sponsored studies were flawed and that the pesticide posed an unacceptably high risk to bees. In response to the study, the European Commission recommended a moratorium across the European Union. On April 29, 2013, fifteen of the 27 European Union member states voted to enact a 2-year ban on the use of three neonicotinoids (8 nations voted against the ban, while 4 abstained).

It may well be that several reasons share responsibility for colony collapse (i.e., parasites, pesticide use, increasingly homogenized American agriculture, etc.). The urgency of solving the puzzle is

undeniable. Honeybees are critical to the food supply. Without bees, one of the effects is that harvests dwindle and food prices rise.

We urge our members to let Congress know that you are concerned about the impact of neonicotinoids on honeybees. Go to our website at www.saugus.org/SAVE and click on the [Facebook link](#) to take action. Also, you can go to: <http://org.credoaction.com/petitions/tell-congress-stop-the-pesticide-that-is-killing-bees> to support the "Save America's Pollinators Act" sponsored by Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer.

**Considering the importance of bees to our environment,
this is a most worthwhile effort. Take action NOW!**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



Here's a useful recycling tip from one of our members:

Since 2001, Preserve and Stonyfield have been working together through the Gimme 5 program to keep (literally) tons of plastic out of landfills. Preserve recycles Stonyfield yogurt cups and other #5 plastic into toothbrushes, cups, food storage containers and other innovative products.

[Learn more about Preserve Gimme 5.](#)

Thanks to SAVE member, Fae Saulenas, for sharing this website

http://www.preserveproducts.com/stonyfieldoffer?utm_source=Stonyfield+Email+List&utm_medium=Stonyfield+Email&utm_content=toothbrush+blast+round+II&utm_campaign=Stonyfield+Toothbrush+email+Round+II%20

REMINDER: As each of us looks back through the years at the diligence and commitment of SAVE members since our organization's inception 40 years ago, we also look forward to continued vitality and dedication to SAVE's founding principles, with special emphasis on the two themes of "THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY" and "REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE" that have been a common thread throughout SAVE's history.

MA SIERRA CLUB SHARES ITS RECENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY REGARDING WHEELABRATOR EXPANSION

Ryan Black, Chapter Director of the Sierra Club of Massachusetts, recently shared his written testimony before the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government regarding the expansion of the RESCO/Wheelabrator facility in Saugus. Ryan was one of the guest speakers at the June 2013 SAVE Annual Meeting and Dinner, and heard first-hand what those members who attended the Dinner thought of the potential expansion of the Wheelabrator incineration facility.

The written testimony was extensive, so we have excerpted several sections below. [To read the written testimony in its entirety, go to www.sierraclubmass.org and click on “**Testimony on Wheelabrator Saugus H.791**” on the Legislative page under the heading “Incineration Moratorium and Phaseout.”]

Excerpt from full written testimony:



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Boston MA 02103-4621
www.sierraclubmass.org
office@sierraclubmass.org
(617) 423-5775

“July 29, 2013

Chairwoman Sarah Peake
Joint Committee on Municipalities & Regional Government
State House, Boston, MA 02133

Chairwoman Linda Dorcena Forry
Joint Committee on Municipalities & Regional Government
State House, Boston, MA 02133

Testimony of the Massachusetts Sierra Club in Support of H.791 An Act to prohibit licensing by DEP of the Wheelabrator facility in Saugus

Click to access additional information: [GAIA Incinerator Myths and Facts.](#)

Dear Chairwoman Peake, Chairwoman Dorcena Forry, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments on H.791, which calls for a ban on expansion of the Wheelabrator incineration facility in Saugus. The Sierra Club strongly supports this legislation not only because of the health benefits it promises through cleaner air, water, and soil, in the area, but also because better options for managing solid waste already exist. The Sierra Club strongly supports H.791.

The Sierra Club is the oldest and largest grassroots non-profit and non-partisan environmental organization in the country, with over 1.4 million members and supporters nationwide. Its chapter in Massachusetts has over 22,000 members throughout the state and a history of protecting the environment that spans more than forty years. We

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work to create healthy, vibrant communities through support of clean air and water; clean energy; recycling and waste-elimination; and the preservation of the Commonwealth's most treasured forests, parks and open spaces.

On June 12, 2013, the Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment (SAVE) held their annual meeting where I had the pleasure of speaking, and then sharing dinner with the group. SAVE has been in existence for over 40 years, and the 50 or so members who showed up for the meeting that night were a lively, engaged and optimistic group. However, the evening's mood turned somber for a brief period when the conversation fell upon the topic of the Wheelabrator trash incineration facility and its proposed expansion.

In 2011, Wheelabrator paid a record settlement of \$7.5 million to the Department of Environmental Protection for failing to properly treat and dispose of toxic ash in addition to releasing 8,000 gallons of contaminated water and ash sludge into local waterways and surrounding wetlands. Incinerator ash contains harmful contaminants such as cadmium, lead and arsenic, and posed a significant threat to wildlife in the Rumney Marsh and greater Saugus River Watershed. Had two whistleblowers not come forward to expose the company's shameful practices, these violations could have gone undiscovered for years and further toxic releases into the local environment might have followed. Despite such brazen disregard for environmental standards, Wheelabrator admitting no wrongdoing as part of their settlement with DEP¹.

The people of Saugus care very deeply about their health and the health of their natural surroundings. They simply do not want further toxins in the air they and their children breathe, nor do they want additional toxic ash dumped in or transported through their town. For years, Saugus has shouldered the impacts of having this facility operating within town borders. In light of Wheelabrator's appalling disregard for public health, water quality, wildlife and natural habitats, it would be a slap in the face of Saugus residents were Wheelabrator granted permission to expand its trash incineration operation.

To better understand the need for the present bill, it is necessary to consider the state of solid waste management. Municipal solid waste (MSW) can be divided into waste from local residents, businesses, and institutions; organic material (food, leaves, grass etc.) and products and packaging. MSW in Massachusetts is managed through fourteen landfills, seven waste combustors ("incinerators"), and various recycling and reuse facilities. As of 2009, the most recent year for which we have complete figures, Massachusetts produced 10.7 million tons of solid wastes, an average of about 9 pounds per day for each of the 6.55 million people who live here. Although this figure is 16% lower than 2000, the percentage of waste diverted through recycling, composting, and other reuse programs actually declined from 49% to 46% between 2000 and 2009.² Of similar concern is an uptick in incineration during this same period – from 3.07 to 3.18 million tons (about one-third of the state's MSW) – as waste sent to landfills and exported out of the state declined. These statistics suggest that we are heading in the wrong direction for solid waste management in the Commonwealth despite having the infrastructure and technology in place to manage solid waste in safer and more cost-effective ways.³

Incinerators are an outdated waste management technology that is harmful to the environment and public health. These facilities burn trash at high temperatures (approximately 2,500°F), reducing its volume by about 90% and its weight by 75%. Over the past decade, emissions control systems at the five largest incinerators have been enhanced to comply with stronger federal and state solid waste and air regulations to protect public health, but major problems remain.⁴ Even incinerators with the most advanced technological safeguards – namely scrubbers and filters - still emit pollutants that contaminate the environment and harm the public. These emissions include acidic gases, chlorine-containing organic chemicals, heavy metals, and smog, which have been shown to increase the risk of cancer, reproductive and birth defects, and developmental disabilities.⁵ Many of these toxics are hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), a subject of another bill before the legislature (H.1944), that consist of "ultra-fine" particles which often escape capture, are not measured regularly, travel long-distances, and accumulate in humans and other organisms over time without dissipating.⁶ Incinerator facilities also produce toxic ash that must be buried in specially approved facilities.⁷ Burning trash is a lose-lose proposition that pollutes the air and harms the public while still requiring landfills for residual disposal.⁸

Visit www.sierraclubmass.org for Ryan Black's full written testimony, as well as links to join the MA Sierra Club chapter and to read about / take action on other issues that the Massachusetts chapter is working on.

BOTTLE BILL UPDATE FROM MASSPIRG

On August 7th, Janet S. Domenitz, Executive Director for MASSPIRG, sent the following message:

“Today, at 1pm, we will head to the Office of the Attorney General and submit an initiative petition to Update the Bottle Bill. [This is a huge step, and I really hope you'll help us take it.](#)

As you likely know, the current Bottle Bill (the 5-cent deposit on certain beverage containers) has a 30 year success story of cleaning up litter, increasing recycling, and reducing the money cities and towns spend on waste disposal. We've been trying for years to get the Legislature to pass an update, so that water bottles, sports drinks, and other containers get the 5-cent deposit, to make our ballfields, beaches, and parks cleaner. But so far, the powerful special interests who oppose this—like the bottlers, the liquor lobby, and the big bottled water and soda companies—have prevailed. So we plan to take this proposed Bottle Bill update directly to the people by petitioning this fall to get the question on the ballot.

Once we file today, we wait for the Attorney General and then the Secretary of State to review and certify the petition. Assuming that all goes well, we have a huge and heavy lift to collect the signatures required to move this petition along to the ballot. We'd love to have your help. [Please let us know if you can help out with signature collection.](#)

The public supports updating the bottle bill, cities and towns support it, Governor Patrick supports it, and 300+ small businesses support it. Now we take the campaign to the next level, straight to the people, and we hope you will participate. [Please let us know if you can help.](#)

Thanks.”

Editor's Note: SAVE Members, you can reach the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG) directly at www.masspirg.org MASSPIRG is a non-profit organization that works on a variety of political activities.

MEMBERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS:

We would love to hear from you regarding any specific steps that you are taking to increase your recycling efforts this year. Please share your environmental ideas / agenda at www.saugus.org/SAVE and click on the Facebook link. Or, if you're already on Facebook, you can simply “search” Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment.



SAVE is participating in a fun activity known as Geocaching. Members can check out how the cache is doing and what other geocaches are in the area by going to www.opencaching.com

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR FY2014 DUES!



SAVE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BEGAN ON JULY 1, 2013

Just a reminder that Fiscal Year 2014 began on July 1, 2013. (SAVE's 2014 Fiscal Year runs from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014). You can submit your FY 2014 annual dues and membership renewal by simply completing the form below.

Dues continue to be just \$5 per year for the first family member to join, plus \$3 for each additional family member who joins. Student dues are only \$1 per year.

The tear-off sheet below enables members to submit their annual dues and indicate whether they wish any additional monies submitted with their dues to be applied to the SAVE Scholarship / Educational Fund, or to the SAVE Environmental Fund.

This is also a great time to update any email / telephone or cell phone / address revisions that will help us maintain current and accurate member information.



Enclosed is my check for membership dues for fiscal year 2014
(from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014).

**Annual Dues are \$5 for the first family member to join,
plus \$3 for each additional family member. Student dues are \$1.**

Name(s) E-Mail

Name(s) E-Mail

Name(s) E-Mail

Address.....

Telephone Cell Phone

Amount enclosed for dues.....	\$ _____
Contribution enclosed for Scholarship/Education Fund (if any).....	\$ _____
Contribution enclosed for Environmental Fund (if any).....	\$ _____
Total Amount enclosed	\$ _____

Please make check payable to **SAVE, Saugus, and mail to: **SAVE, Attn: Treasurer Carol Chelf, 99 Edgelawn Avenue, Unit # 1, North Andover, MA 01845****

While SAVE annual dues have continued to remain extremely low, your financial contributions are an important source of income that help support our ongoing efforts to promote a better quality of life in Saugus through environmental concern and action. These funds also make it possible for us to hold special events, publish our newsletter, hold local Environmental Candidates' Nights, and grant an annual college scholarship to a local high school graduate or sponsor an environmental educational event.

Your continued support is most appreciated. Please direct questions regarding SAVE membership to Ann Devlin at adevlin@aisle10.net or at 781-233-5717



**SAVE PRESIDENT ANN DEVLIN AT 2013 ANNUAL DINNER
WITH GUEST SPEAKERS**



SAVE President Ann Devlin at the June 2013 Annual Meeting and Dinner with guest speakers, from left, Edward Woll, Jr, Chair of the Energy Committee for the Massachusetts chapter of the Sierra Club; Vikram Aggarwal, Chief Executive Officer of EnergySage, with whom the MA chapter has formed an alliance to increase the installation of solar panels and to promote renewable energy; and Ryan Black, the Sierra Club Massachusetts chapter Director.

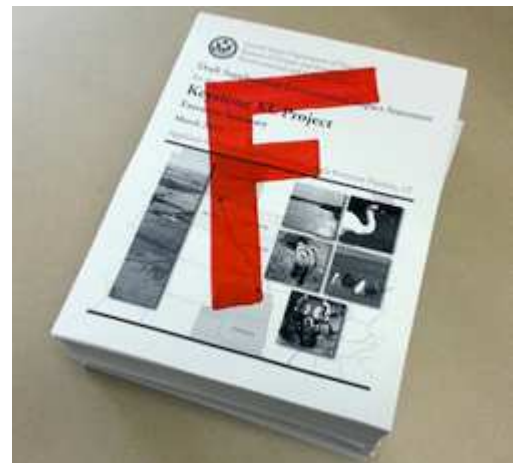
SIERRA CLUB ALERT REGARDING KEYSTONE PIPELINE

August 6, 2013



Time to Tell the Truth About Keystone XL

The fight against the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline got a major boost this summer when President Obama vowed to reject the pipeline if it would "significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution." Keystone's hopes now rest on a flawed State Department environmental report that claims the pipeline is harmless, despite mounting evidence that it would have *significant* negative effects on our climate and environment. And now comes breaking news that [State's own ethics watchdogs are calling the report into question](#), thanks to a list of problems with the pipeline *and* the review process presented by the Sierra Club and our partners.



[Tell Secretary of State Kerry that the State Department's environmental report must tell the truth -- KXL would be a disaster for the environment!](#)

REMEMBER: SAVE was organized and incorporated in 1973, “to promote a better quality of life in Saugus through environmental concern and action.”

For 40 years, SAVE has been an instrumental part of the national grassroots environmental movement. By spearheading local campaigns and participating in statewide initiatives, SAVE is an effective advocate for the protection of our community’s health and its natural resources.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

SAVE reminds all its members to continue to check our website and/or Facebook page to see links to important “Action Alerts”

Visit the SAVE websites at www.SaugusSAVE.org or at www.saugus.org/SAVE and click on the

Facebook link. Or, if you are already on Facebook, simply “search” Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment.

SAUGUS ACTION VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Post Office Box 908
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THINK GLOBALLY...ACT LOCALLY!
Remember to: **REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE**