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Water, Energy, Land, & Food Forum to be held at State Capitol

Kansas State Capitol

Topeka, Kansas

Thursday March 17, from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Climate + Energy Project is partnering with community organizations and businesses from across the state to host a day of advocacy and education on water, energy, land, and food policy. The event will be held on Thursday, March 17, from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM at the State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St, Topeka, KS 66612.

After hosting several clean energy days at the Capitol, the Climate + Energy Project sought to expand advocacy efforts to include water, land, and food policy "In recent years, we have focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency," says Dorothy Barnett, Executive Director of the Climate + Energy Project. "Because energy use is connected to water, land management, and food systems we wanted to bring together our states outstanding nonprofits and businesses to discuss and highlight the important impact water, energy, land and food policies have in Kansas."

Kansas Riverkeeper, Dawn Buehler with Friends of the Kaw, agreed: "We joined this event in 2015 and quickly realized the value of spending a day at the Capitol talking to citizens and legislators about our work, our advocacy, and how we can all work together to better the State of Kansas for present and future generations. We are proud to once again be a part of such a great day of advocacy in support of Kansans!"

Advocates will be joined by Senators Tom Hawk and Marci Francisco, and Representatives Steven Becker, Annie Kuether, Adam Lusker, and Sharon Schwartz to discuss policy impacts relating to water, energy, land, and food during the luncheon, which will include meals made with ingredients from local farms.

"The Kansas Rural Center is thrilled help host a local food lunch which will showcase Kansas grown ingredients and how local and regional food systems are a key part of resource resiliency," says Mary Fund, Executive Director of the



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Kansas Rural Center. "Food is the common denominator for all of us, and how we raise and distribute food is a critical part of how our resources are managed. KRC is happy to be working with other conservation, energy and environmental groups to shine a spotlight on these issues."

The event will follow this schedule:

- 9:00-9:45 Climate Prayer Vigil (Visitor's Center Auditorium)
- 10:00-11:30 Advocacy Overview (Visitor's Center Auditorium)
- 10:00-4:00 Solutions Showcase (1st Floor Rotunda and South Wing)
- 11:30-1:00 Speakers & Local Foods Lunch (1st Floor Rotunda, North Wing)
Speakers include: Senators Tom Hawk and Marci Francisco and
Representatives Steven Becker, Annie Kuether, Adam Lusker, and Sharon Schwartz
- 2:00-3:00 Cookies & Conservation Conversation (1st Floor Rotunda)
- 1:00-4:00 Meetings with legislators

This event is sponsored by the Climate + Energy Project, Kansas Rural Center, Kansas Farmer's Union, Kansas Sierra Club, King Solar, Flint Hills Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Cooperative, Stanion Wholesale, Good Energy Solutions, Westar Energy, Kansas National Farmer's Organization, Cromwell Environmental, Kansas Land Trust, Kansas Natural Resources Council, Friends Of The Kaw, Kansas City Food Circle, The MercCoop, Cultivate Kansas City, Kansas Alliance For Wetlands And Streams, Kansas Green Party, Lawrence Ecology Teams United In Sustainability, TrueBlue Women, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Kansas Interfaith Action, Sustainable Sanctuaries Coalition, Lake Region Resource Conservation & Development, Glacial Hills Resource Conservation & Development, Audubon Of Kansas, and Little Red Hen Bakery

For more information, visit <http://www.climateandenergy.org>.

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The Climate + Energy Project seeks to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in America's Heartland through the ambitious deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy, in policy and practice. For more information about this topic please contact Dorothy Barnett, Executive Director of the Climate + Energy Project, by calling (785) 424-0444 or emailing barnett@climateandenergy.org.