IT’S TIME TO MOVE AMERICA BEYOND OIL
Imagine a world with clean, abundant, affordable energy. One where climate disruption is a fading threat and American soldiers are never again deployed to defend oil fields. One where innovative green industries provide good jobs and supply 100 percent of our energy needs. Imagine a healthier America, with clean air and water, with pristine coasts and protected natural areas. A wealthier, more productive nation, whose leaders answer only to the citizens who elect them. This is America beyond oil.

THIS IS THE SIERRA CLUB BEYOND OIL CAMPAIGN
As America’s largest, most powerful grassroots environmental advocacy organization, the Sierra Club will play a definitive role in challenging the influence and power of oil companies and moving America beyond oil. We are focusing on four ways the U.S. can move beyond oil right now:

• Green Transportation: Raise and defend strong fuel efficiency and pollution standards, increase access to transportation choices, and promote electric vehicles.

• Green Fleets: Accelerate the transition to cleaner cars and trucks by moving America’s large fleets to fuel-efficient and electric vehicles.

• Dirty Fuels: Block the most dangerous oil projects and revoke the oil industry’s license to operate above the law and interfere with our transition to a clean-energy future.

• Dirty Money: Eliminate the outsized influence of the oil industry and challenge public officials who take contributions and then put Big Oil’s interests above those of the American people.

THE PROBLEM
The U.S. remains, by far, the world’s single largest user of oil, and our dependence compromises every aspect of American life. Half of the oil that we burn is for cars and light trucks.

As conventional oil sources run dry, the industry is pursuing riskier and even more damaging “extreme” sources of oil. Instead of switching to cleaner alternatives, Big Oil wants to drill off our coasts, drill in the deep ocean, and drill in the Arctic and other remote places where conditions make dangerous accidents more likely, emergency response more difficult, and cleanup effectively impossible. Tar sands, oil shale, and coal-to-liquid—which require massive amounts of energy—destroy pristine wilderness, threaten drinking water, and release significantly more climate-disrupting pollution than conventional oil.

“Drilling more just means spilling more. But we have the solution to high oil prices — use less oil. We can end Wall Street manipulation of the oil market. We can put an end to Big Oil manipulation of our wallets, our economy and our elected officials.”

— MICHAEL MARX, BEYOND OIL CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR
Meanwhile, oil companies spend millions each year to mislead the public, undermine science, undercut clean-energy alternatives, and manipulate our democracy—all to keep America from moving beyond oil.

THE SOLUTION

There is only one way to free ourselves from the political, personal, and economic impacts of oil, and break the influence of oil companies: We must use less oil.

The good news is that we are already doing it. U.S. oil consumption is declining thanks to rising fuel efficiency, alternative fuels, electric vehicles, and smart transportation solutions like public transit and bikeable, walkable communities. Now we must pick up the pace.

The Sierra Club and thousands of our members and supporters have already played a decisive role strengthening fuel efficiency and carbon pollution standards, promoting public transportation and electric vehicles, delaying tar sands pipelines, and challenging Big Oil’s legislative agenda in Congress. We will mobilize 1.4 million Sierra Club activists and our many allies, we will create new partnerships, and we will slash our dependence on oil.

OIL POISON OUR HEALTH, OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR ECONOMY, AND OUR POLITICS.

Climate Disruption: Oil is the #1 source of U.S. climate-disrupting pollution.

Environment: Oil companies are arguably the worst contributors to environmental degradation worldwide.

Economic Instability: Each day, the U.S. spends an estimated $2 billion on oil—the average American household spends more on gas than food, healthcare or education.

Compromised Government: The oil industry spent more than $114 million in the past decade buying access and influence in Congress—contributions that have paid off in subsidies, weakened laws, and special favors from elected officials.

Human Rights: In the U.S. and around the world, the pursuit of oil leads to political repression, human rights violations, and the destruction of entire cultures that depend on intact ecosystems.

Health: Oil is highly toxic. Catastrophes like the BP Deepwater Horizon and Exxon Valdez disasters destroy entire ecosystems, and the daily incidental release of oil and its byproducts constantly poisons our water and air.

Environmental Justice: In the United States, non-white communities bear the biggest burden of air and water pollution from oil refineries, drilling, and mining operations.

National Insecurity: Wars to defend oil supplies have cost thousands of lives and trillions of dollars. More than 4,800 U.S. service people and 118,000 civilians have been killed in Iraq alone.

Join us in the epic fight to move America beyond oil.
Visit BeyondOil.org or email us at oilactivist@sierraclub.org.