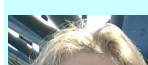
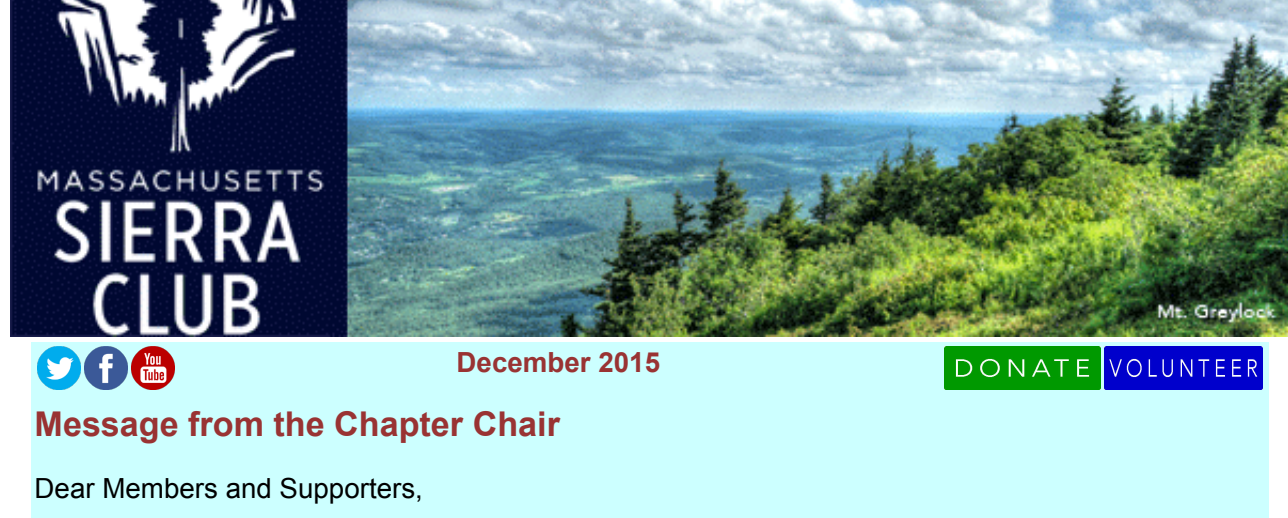




AG Healey Says No Need for More Pipelines | Take Action on Gas Leaks + Much More!

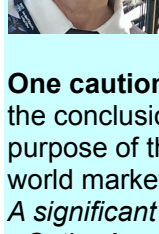


December 2015

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Message from the Chapter Chair

Dear Members and Supporters,

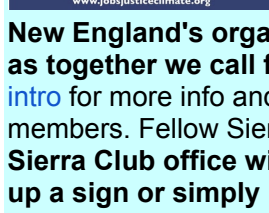


I am very thankful that we have an attorney general such as Maura Healey. She not only agreed to examine the taken-for-granted assumption of some that Massachusetts needs more gas pipelines, but commissioned a study to look at alternatives to a fracked-gas-soaked future for Massachusetts (more below). Those alternatives include options that are better for our health, our safety, our future place on the planet, and our economy: renewables, energy efficiency and conservation, and demand management.

One cautionary note: As the study assumed that the gas would be used here in Massachusetts, the conclusion was that our prices may go down with expanded pipeline capacity. Since the real purpose of the pipelines is to export fracked gas, our prices will instead go up, as we compete in the world market where prices are much higher. As stated by the US Congressional Research Service: *A significant rise in U.S. natural gas exports would likely put upwards pressure on domestic prices.* --Cathy Ann Buckley

ACTION: Tell Governor Baker that we do not want to pay for unnecessary, dangerous, toxic, expensive new pipelines.

Jobs, Justice, and Climate: Rally to Defend New England's Future



Saturday, December 12, 2015, 1:00-3:00 PM
Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common, Boston

On December 12, people will come together from every corner of New England to call for bold climate solutions that create secure union jobs, strengthen community power and help build a more resilient future. We envision a movement that unites us all, and **we will lift up the voices of New England's working people, immigrants, and people of color.**

Let's have a strong showing from our Massachusetts Sierra Club members. Fellow Sierra Club members from all over New England will be journeying to join us. The Sierra Club office will be open from 12:30 to 1:00 PM in case you want to come by and pick up a sign or simply march over together.

Attorney General says NO NEED for More Pipelines in Mass



Attorney General Maura Healey's recently released [analysis](#) of the energy landscape of the Commonwealth confirmed what we knew - Massachusetts can meet even the "worst case scenario" of energy needs WITHOUT adding any new pipeline infrastructure or increased natural gas capacity. This study accounts for the impending closure of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant and our upcoming departure from dirty coal.

Investments in renewable energy provide local jobs in a clean industry, independence from potentially volatile commodity markets, and improved air quality. The natural gas industry is dedicating huge resources to promote new pipelines designed for decades of use, and prone to leaks. New pipelines commit us to decades of pollution. Given the urgency of climate change, it is imperative that we develop a long-term energy plan based on facts, not on a disinformation campaign.

ACTION: We do not need new pipeline capacity for Massachusetts. Call your legislators and urge them to oppose any bill that will allow further development of fossil fuel infrastructure.

Solar Bill Stalled

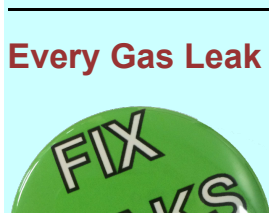


The Massachusetts House recently voted 150-2 for a bill that would limit solar energy growth in Massachusetts. (Thanks to those two - Representatives Provost (D-Somerville) and Hecht (D-Watertown)). Our solar industry is one of the most robust in the country, thanks in large part to the net metering program that allows residential and commercial solar customers to "sell back" their excess energy. That very successful program is almost at its current net metering "cap." When the cap is reached, projects are stalled. Solar means clean energy and also jobs - nearly 15,000 in Mass. alone. The stall in raising the cap has effectively stopped over 100 MW of solar projects, which translates to over \$350 million in new revenue and over 1,500 new Massachusetts jobs.

House Bill 3854 would raise the cap only minimally (possibly reaching it in a few months), and reduce the rate that producers receive for their excess energy production. This will only further undermine the state's solar industry. A joint committee for negotiation are now working on a final bill to be presented to lawmakers in January.

ACTION: We need to protect community solar, eliminate the cap on net metering, and reduce net metering credits. Call your legislators and ask them to vote only for a strong solar bill!

Every Gas Leak is a Threat



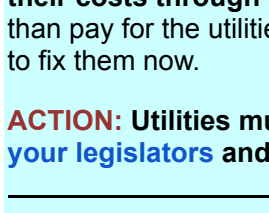
On November 17th, we joined with our friends fighting to [#FixTheLeaks](#) at the State House Joint Legislative Committee hearing on natural gas pipelines. Energy Chair Ed Woll testified with Joel Wool (Clean Water Action), Caitlin Peale (Conservation Law Foundation), and Audrey Schulman (Home Energy Efficiency Team) in support of legislation to protect our wallets, our health and our safety by requiring utilities to fix the state's more than 25,000 natural gas leaks. The Gas Consumer Cost Protection bill, [H.2870](#), bars utilities from passing the cost of leaked gas onto consumers. The Road Repair bill, [H.2871](#), requires repair of all gas leaks when a road opens for construction.

With one of the nation's oldest systems, Massachusetts' cast iron and steel pipes are especially leak prone. They pollute our air with over eight billion cubic feet of natural gas (\$100 million worth) every year. Methane, the main component of natural gas, is 86 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Methane also kills trees, leaks into homes and worsens allergies and asthma.

And we pay for the lost, undelivered gas **because gas utilities are legally allowed to recover their costs through rates charged to consumers.** The value of this wasted resource can more than pay for the utilities' own cost estimate to repair leaks. That is enough of an economic incentive to fix them now.

ACTION: Utilities must begin fixing all 25,000 gas leaks in Massachusetts immediately. Call your legislators and ask them to vote in support of H.2870 and H.2871!

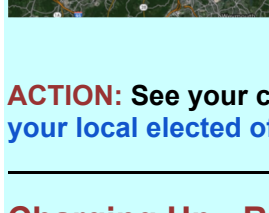
Enlist Your Local Elected Officials to Shut Down the Gas Leaks



Elected officials of 14 cities and towns, representing 20 percent of the state's voters, have passed resolutions supporting House Bill 2870 and House Bill 2871 seeking to close natural gas leaks throughout Massachusetts. This effort has been led by the Sierra Club, Mothers Out Front, Clean Water Action, HEET, 350MA and others. Please ask your elected officials to pass resolutions to support these bills as citizens have done in [Arlington](#), [Bedford](#), [Boston](#), [Brookline](#), [Cambridge](#), [Concord](#), [Framingham](#), [Lexington](#), [Newton](#), [Northampton](#), [Pittsfield](#), [Somerville](#), [Swampscott](#) and [Waltham](#).

ACTION: See your community's leaks on a [HEET map](#) (scroll down to see list) and then ask your local elected officials to act. For supporting materials contact ewoll@sierraclubmass.org.

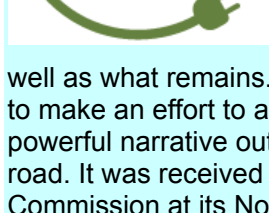
Charging Up - Report on Electric Vehicles (EVs) by the Sierra Club, CLF, and Acadia Center



We need to electrify the transportation sector with renewable energy to meet our climate goals. Sierra Club National EV Initiative Director Gina Coplon-Newfield and Chapter Director Emily Norton partnered with Jennifer Rushlow of Conservation Law Foundation and Mark LeBel of Acadia Center to produce [Charging Up: The Role of States, Utilities, and the Auto Industry in Dramatically Accelerating Electric Vehicle Adoption in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States](#).

This report enumerates all the great things already done in many states, as well as what remains. It emphasizes an "all-hands-on-deck" approach that invites every stakeholder to make an effort to accelerate EV adoption. With eye-catching pictures and info-graphics, the powerful narrative outlines proposals for best practices and suggestions for getting more EVs on the road. It was received enthusiastically by the Massachusetts Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Commission at its November meeting. [View the full report here.](#)

Heroes of the Ocean - Leaders in Preventing Plastic Pollution



Massachusetts Sierra Club, together with Women Working for Oceans and the New England Aquarium, honored local residents leading the charge to ban single-use plastic bags, bottles, and polystyrene packaging across the Commonwealth. Recognition was given to 21 towns that have passed 27 separate plastic packaging bans. There are 16 bans on plastic bags covering 7 percent of the state's population. The remaining bans: eight for polystyrene, two for bottled water, and one on non-biodegradable packaging (includes both polystyrene and plastic bags).

We are excited at this good progress and will continue to support local communities in passing similar legislation. Towns honored included Amherst, Barnstable, Brookline, Cambridge, Concord, Falmouth, Great Barrington, Harwich, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Marblehead, Nantucket, Newburyport, Newton, Northampton, Pittsfield, Provincetown, Somerville, South Hadley, Truro, Wellfleet, and Williamstown. Local bans also support proposed statewide legislation.

Please Join Us for Our Holiday Open House



We cannot thank you enough for all of your support. We deal with some tough issues and, with your help, get results. Our holiday open house is a chance to celebrate those successes with you, our friends and supporters. Please stop by anytime between 4:00 and 7:00 PM to see old friends and make new ones.



Thursday, December 17, at the Massachusetts Sierra Club office, 294 Washington Street, Boston. (The 10 Milk Street entrance locks at 6:00 PM)

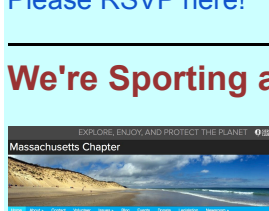
[Please RSVP here!](#)

We're Sporting a New Look



We moved over to our [new website](#), continuing to provide information on our activities, with more in-depth analysis of key issues, and a brand new look. Please check us out and see our new issue of the [Massachusetts Sierran](#), the printed version of which was mailed to members in mid-November.

Chapter Executive Committee Elections



It is time for the Massachusetts Sierra Club Chapter and Group Executive Committee elections. Your ballot is on page 10 of our annual [Massachusetts Sierran newsletter](#) which our active members should have received in the mail before Thanksgiving. (Please contact us if you did not receive your issue.)

The ballots must be received at the office by Friday, December 18, at 5:00 PM. They can be mailed or dropped off in person in a sealed envelope with your member ID on the envelope. You may also bring your ballot with you to our holiday party.

We appreciate your participating in the election of our volunteer leaders.

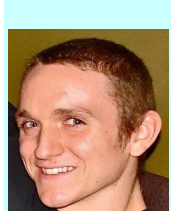
Welcome Kevin O'Brien



We are delighted to welcome Kevin O'Brien as a new staffer at the Massachusetts chapter as Community Outreach Organizer. Kevin will work with volunteers to help them advocate to their elected leaders. Kevin will focus on clean energy policy, as the General Court negotiates an omnibus energy bill in the coming months.

If you would like to be involved or just want to say welcome aboard, please contact him at kevin.obrien@sierraclub.org.

Farewell James McCaffrey



After 25 years with the Sierra Club - the first 22 of them as Massachusetts Chapter Director - James "Jay" McCaffrey is heading toward new adventures. For the last three years, James has served as the Senior Campaign Director for the New England Beyond Coal Campaign, helping to chart a coal-free future for our region.

Working with our partners, James helped Massachusetts get on track to phase out coal by 2017, and at least one former coal site is being repurposed for solar. In New Hampshire, new legislation requires the utility to sell its coal-generating assets, ultimately leading to retirement, as the two remaining coal plants now have to compete with newer, more economical, and cleaner generating sources.

While serving as our Chapter Director, James spearheaded efforts to protect Massachusetts public lands, expand areas on state-owned lands that are off-limits from timber harvesting, create better public transportation opportunities for all Massachusetts residents, and helped block one of the largest proposed fill of wetlands in the Commonwealth. James also helped lead efforts to increase protections for the endangered Northern Right Whale, and the creation of the strongest biomass regulations in the nation to help ensure that New England's forests and habitats are not devastated and burned to create energy.

James has been an invaluable asset to our work protecting that which does not have a voice. **We will miss Jay greatly and wish him the very best in his future endeavors!**

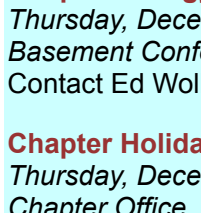
UPCOMING MEETINGS + EVENTS

Chapter Political Committee Meeting
Monday, December 14, 2015, 6:00 PM
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston
Contact David Rudolph cpc@sierraclubmass.org. This meeting is for Sierra Club members only.

Chapter Energy Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 17, 2015, 2:00-4:00 PM
Basement Conference Room, 10 Milk Street / 294 Washington Street, Boston
Contact Ed Woll ewoll@sierraclubmass.org. This meeting is open to the public.

Chapter Holiday Open House
Thursday, December 17, 2015, 4:00-7:00 PM
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston
Contact Aileen Kelley aileen.kelley@sierraclub.org. Please remember to RSVP.

Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
Saturday, December 19, 2015, 9:30-Noon
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston (ring bell in upper right hand corner of entrance.) Contact Cathy Buckley chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org. This meeting is open to the public.



Do Good and Go Solar with the Sierra Club's Home Solar initiative with Sungevity
Solar costs have come down and government incentives have made the installation of solar panels an even smarter financial decision. You can now install a solar system on your rooftop for a fraction of what it used to cost. Within minutes after installation, you'll become a clean-energy producer, even selling power back to your electric company.

[Go here to learn more.](#) Special Offer - Sign up and you'll receive a \$750 cash gift card (and Sierra Club receives \$750 too!) Request your quote now and find out how solar is more affordable than ever!

What Will Be Your Legacy?

Ensure your legacy by making a gift to the Massachusetts Sierra Club in your will or trust by beneficiary designation. Planned gifts are particularly important to the Chapter as they provide significant resources to continue conservation activities over an extended period of time. For more information on naming the Massachusetts Chapter as a beneficiary of a bequest or on creating life-income gifts, call (800) 932-4270 or email giftplanning@sierraclub.org. The **Sierra Club** is the nation's largest and oldest grassroots environmental organization with over 2.4 million members and supporters, of which 50,000 are here in Massachusetts. We fight for clean air, clean water, the preservation of the Commonwealth's most precious natural spaces, and healthy, vibrant communities.

About the e-Sierran

The e-Sierran is the electronic newsletter of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club. In an effort to reduce printing costs and the environmental impacts of print communications, the Chapter publishes this e-newsletter to members and subscribers. Go here to view our [privacy policy](#).