



## Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

September 2023

Dear Emma,

September is here! We hope you enjoyed a restful Labor Day weekend - join us in learning about the [history of Labor Day](#) and celebrating the hard work and collective power of the labor movement to fight for worker's rights! Sierra Club is proud to be a unionized workplace, with Chapter staff proudly represented by the Progressive Workers Union.

Here at the Chapter we are gearing up for a busy fall season. 🍁 Check out exciting opportunities to join outings, march to end fossil fuels in NYC, elect environmental champions, and more!

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### What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

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#### City Hike East Boston: Wood Island to Maverick

Join us for an approximately 1.7 mile one-way walk of the City Hike route in East Boston! We will visit points of interest including Eastie Farm, Neptune Rd where a neighborhood was destroyed for a guidance system for Logan airport that was never built, the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway, the East Boston Library, and a beautiful Immigrant mural. This outing is transit-accessible from the Blue line of the T; the Blue line can be used to return to the starting point at the end of the outing. The pace of this walk will be slow, and the route contains minimal gain and loss of elevation.



#### City Hike East Boston

**SEPTEMBER 10 at 1PM**

[RSVP Here](#)

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#### Plant Based Cooking Demonstration

Join the Chapter Plant-Based Planet team for two special guest chefs! Adante Hart of the Whole Grains Council will demonstrate a traditional African recipe. Jill Nussinow, aka The Veggie Queen, nutritionist and chef will demonstrate a plant-based recipe using a pressure cooker or Instant Pot. Feel free to ask us questions; we'll be happy to help you.



**SEPTEMBER 10 at 7PM**

[RSVP Here](#)

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#### Community Benefits from Offshore Wind Power: Stabilizing Electric Rates & Decarbonizing the Cape, featuring Rep. Dylan Fernandes

September's "Third Tuesday" talk is entitled "Community Benefits from Offshore Wind Power: Stabilizing Electric Rates & Decarbonizing the Cape, featuring Rep. Dylan Fernandes"

**SEPTEMBER 19 at 7PM**

[RSVP Here](#)



## City Hike East Boston: Belle Isle Marsh to Wood Island

Join us for an approximately 3 mile one-way walk of the City Hike route in East Boston! We will visit points of interest including Belle Isle Marsh, Constitution Beach, and the former location of Wood Island Park. This outing is transit-accessible from the Blue line of the T; the Blue line can be used to return to the starting point at the end of the outing. The pace of this walk will be slow, and the route contains minimal gain and loss of elevation.



## City Hike East Boston

**SEPTEMBER 30 at 10AM**

[RSVP Here](#)

## New Volunteer Orientation

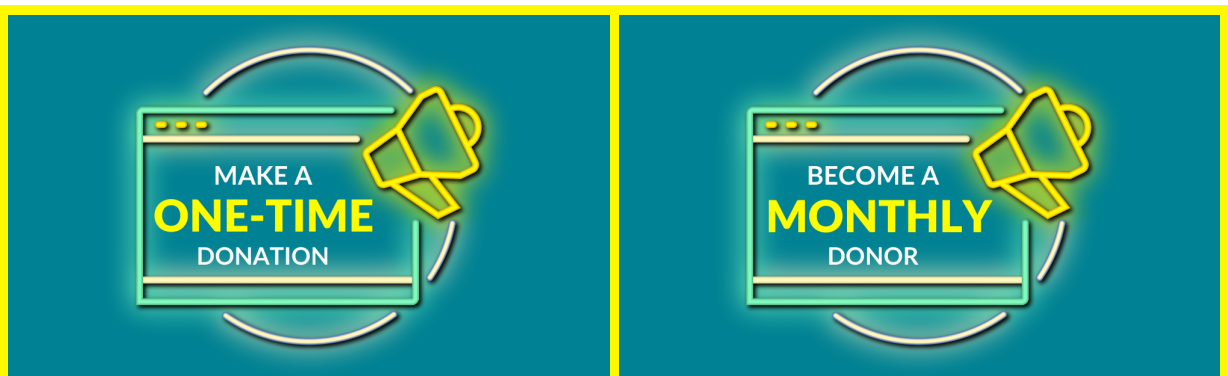
Looking to get involved in equitable clean energy solutions and climate advocacy in Massachusetts? Join us for a special welcome orientation to learn about the chapter and our various teams, how you can get involved and start making an immediate impact in your local community!

**OCTOBER 11 at 5PM**

[RSVP Here](#)



## Support the Chapter



## Clean Energy & Climate

### March to End Fossil Fuels in NYC

The [March to End Fossil Fuels](#) is anticipated to be the largest climate march in years, urging President Biden to stop the expansion of fossil fuels. From approval of the Willow oil project, to the Alaska LNG project, to the Mountain Valley Pipeline, we need bold action to combat the climate crisis and protect communities from climate change and the impacts of fossil fuel infrastructure projects. **Sierra Club has officially endorsed the March!**

**Sign up here** to let us know if you want to join the Sierra Club contingent in New York!

[RSVP to Join Sierra Club in NYC!](#)

If you need transportation assistance, **350.org is organizing group buses**, and if you need additional financial support to participate please [reach out to us](#).

[Sign up for a 350.org bus!](#)

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## Turn the Tap Off on Toxic PFAS Chemicals

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### Urge the Joint Committee on Public Health to pass An Act to Protect Massachusetts Public Health from PFAS!

PFAS are a class of over 12,000 chemicals that are toxic at low levels and are used in many everyday items, like clothing, dental floss, food packaging, cookware, personal care products, and more. **These chemicals have [contaminated drinking water](#) throughout our state.**

The solution? There is legislation pending in Massachusetts to ban PFAS from a wide range of consumer products:

**An Act to Protect Massachusetts Public Health from PFAS ([S.1356/H.2197](#)).** This bill will:

- Get PFAS out of many products by 2026 and even more by 2030
- Cut industrial discharges of PFAS to water
- Set up a fund to help communities test for and treat PFAS in drinking water, soil, and groundwater

Passage of the bill will significantly reduce our exposure to toxic PFAS and prevent contamination from getting worse.

[Sign the Petition TODAY!](#)

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## Transportation Matters

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### It's time for National Drive Electric Week!

Join us from September 23 to Oct 2 for a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all types of electric vehicles from cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles, and more. Attend one or many of the in-person events near you: [Concord](#), [Beverly](#), [Ipswich](#), [Lowell](#), [Westborough](#) (Sept 23), [Shrewsbury](#) (Sept 30), [Westborough](#) (Oct 1).

Click below for a list of online and in-person events near you. New events are added every week!

[Full List of Drive Electric Week Events](#)

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### New Sierra Club Rail Report

A Sierra Club team of advocates focused on improving rail in the US released an updated report, outlining a series of recommendations to improve both passenger and freight rail, as well as expand rail electrification. The report is a resource for policymakers, government officials, and advocates on how investing in rail can help create good jobs, provide equitable mobility, reduce traffic congestion, and cut climate emissions.



Check out the [report](#) and the [press statement](#), as well as a [short backgrounder](#)!

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### The MOR-EV Program to now offer Rebates for Used Electric Vehicles

Massachusetts announced three important changes to the MOR-EV rebate program for electric vehicles (EVs) that will support greater adoption of EVs and make them accessible and affordable for more people. The Sierra Club has been a [longtime advocate for these changes](#) which were signed into law in the 2022 climate bill.

#### MOR-EV program changes:

- Income-eligible residents now qualify for a \$3500 rebate for used EVs with a final purchase price of \$40,000 or less
- A \$1500 rebate adder for income eligible residents to purchase new and used EVs
- Rebates will now be available at the point of sale with participating dealership instead of customers being reimbursed later

[Click here to read the eligibility requirements and process details.](#)

*The MOR-EV website now also includes program details in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and Chinese.*

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## Initial Assessment Report on Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Charging Network Released

The interagency Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council (EVICC) released their [Initial Assessment](#) with recommendations on policy changes to build an interconnected, accessible and reliable electric vehicle charging network in Massachusetts.

Sierra Club submitted [these comments](#) on the draft assessment report and will continue to track development in this space.

The initial assessment report found that 10,000 public fast charging ports, 35,000 public Level 2 charging stations, and 700,000 residential and workplace charging stations will be needed to achieve the vehicle electrification targets in the 2025 and 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP). With approximately 6000 public charging ports, Massachusetts has a long way to go to bridge the gap. **The EVICC will use the recommendations in the report to further refine its assessment of charging station needs and location, evaluate and manage grid impact, and develop a plan for the use of \$50 million in the Charging Infrastructure Deployment Fund.**

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## Every Year is an Election Year

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### Ready to make change? The Election team needs your help!

**Across our Commonwealth, change happens on the local level.** As cities and towns across Massachusetts demonstrate what's possible in their neighborhoods, innovate climate solutions and sustainability measures, and engage residents to find solutions that work for everyone; we get closer to meeting the critical goals necessary to avoid the worst of the climate crisis. The Massachusetts Sierra Club is working to elect our endorsed environmental champions in cities that have begun important work, *progress that could be at risk if we don't act*.

Text and phone banking, field canvas, communications, and outreach support are all part of the strategy, but no worries if you don't have experience. There is a space for everyone! We will provide the support and training or the space to grow your leadership skills and campaign experience, all we need is **you!**

Join us on **Sundays at 6 PM** or reach out to [Sam Lambert](#) to learn more!

RSVP to the next meeting: Sunday, Sept. 10th

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## Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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### Communications Team Meeting

**Thursday, September 7th at 5:00pm**

The "comms" team handles the Chapter's digital communications, including managing our social media accounts, sending email blasts, and other digital organizing tactics.

RSVP Here

### Transportation Action Team Meeting

**Thursday, September 7th at 5:00pm**

Join us to discuss and respond to critical transportation issues affecting Massachusetts, including rail, bus, bike, pedestrian, and traffic pollution policies.

RSVP Here

### Elections Team Meeting

**Sunday, September 10th at 6:00pm**

Join our elections team! We are building Sierra Club volunteer power to elect environmental champions this year and in years to come!

RSVP Here

### Toxics Team Meeting

**Monday, September 11th at 5:00pm**

Weekly meeting of the Toxics Team. This team handles toxic pollution issues, including deadly chemicals (e.g. PFAS), plastic-based pollutants, and recycling/solid waste issues.

RSVP Here

### Cape Cod Group Meeting

**Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00pm**

Please join us for the bi-weekly meeting of the Cape Cod Group. All interested parties are welcome.

RSVP Here

### Climate Research Team Meeting

**Wednesday, September 13th at 6:10pm**

RSVP Here



Weekly meeting of the Climate Research Team. This team looks at municipal progress on clean energy/climate issues and seeks opportunities to leverage municipal power for state policy change.

### Forest Protection Team Meeting

**Thursday, September 14th at 7:00pm**

The Forest Protection Team is dedicated to protecting and preserving forests and trees throughout Massachusetts through education, advocacy and community involvement. All are welcome to attend!

[RSVP Here](#)

### Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

**Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00pm**

Please join us for the monthly meeting of the Plant-based Planet Team. Come discuss strategies to promote a plant-based diet as way of fighting climate change and conserving natural resources.

[RSVP Here](#)

### Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday, September 21st at 5:30pm**

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee. All members welcome to join except for any Executive Session.

[RSVP Here](#)

### Energy Justice Organizing Team Meeting

**Thursday, September 28th at 5:00pm**

"EJOT" is a new team focused on solutions that center the needs of those who have been most affected by the climate crisis and fossil fuel pollution.

[RSVP Here](#)

### Transportation Committee Meeting

**Thursday, September 28th at 6:00pm**

Join us to discuss and respond to critical transportation issues affecting Massachusetts, including rail, bus, bike, pedestrian, and traffic pollution policies.

[RSVP Here](#)

### Political Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, October 10th at 6:00pm**

This committee researches political candidates and makes recommendations on who the Chapter should endorse.

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Friend and Partner Events

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### Where is this Train Going?: Freight Rail in the Public Interest

**Tuesday, September 12th at 8pm**

**Virtual Webinar**

What would it look like to have a public transportation system that actually serves the public interest? Unfortunately, in the U.S. we don't have such a system. Join the Labor Network for Sustainability to hear from railroad workers and surrounding communities and help us develop a new understanding of this vital infrastructure toward a system in the public interest.

Webinar Series | 09.12.23 | 8PM EST

[RSVP Here](#)

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### Local Energy Advocates Climate Justice Workshop

**Tuesday, September 19th at 7pm**

## Virtual Event

On September 19, Local Energy Advocates of Western MA will be hosting a Zoom meeting with Jessica Guadalupe Tovar, who will be presenting on cutting edge California climate justice work. Jessica is Democracy Organizer for the Local Clean Energy Alliance and Coordinator of East Bay Clean Power Alliance. We hope to get tips from East Bay's trailblazing energy democracy work especially with regard to work with CCAs/Joint Power Entities. California is at least a decade ahead of the rest of the country.

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Housing and Climate Justice Lobby Day

**Tuesday, September 26th from 10am-3pm**

**Massachusetts State House in Room 428**

The Housing Environment and Revenue Opportunities (HERO) legislation and the Zero Carbon Renovation Fund (ZCRF) legislation will fund much-needed investments in the Massachusetts affordable housing and building sectors by creating designated funding streams that will support our state's decarbonization and climate adaptation plans while making housing more available, affordable, and healthy.

The day will start by hearing from the bills' sponsors and cosponsors, and then advocates will meet with their legislators to encourage them to support these bills.

### **More info about the bills:**

HERO Bill: [Fact sheet](#), [Cosponsors list](#)

ZCRF bill: [Fact sheet](#), [Cosponsors list](#)

Email [Jess Nahigian](#) if you are interested in attending!

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## Our Reading List

*Read the latest environmental news from Massachusetts and beyond...*

- [Climate change and poverty are complex problems. These solutions aim to address both.](#) (Boston Globe, 9/4/23)
- [Exploring hip hop's climate advocacy](#) (Grist, 8/30/23)
- [Gov. Healey's Past Due Climate Report Said To Be 'Under Review'](#) (WBZ, 8/29/23)
- [Upgrading school bus fleets is a critical key to cleaner air](#) (Dorchester Reporter, 8/24/23)
- [Everett grid 'insurance' cost \\$536m over first 13 months](#) (CommonWealth, 8/22/23)
- [Tear up the tracks? Some call for Bourne Rail Trail to be only a trail — with no rail](#) (CAI, 7/19/23)
- [Massachusetts' goal to reduce driving lags behind other states](#) (Boston Globe, 8/13/23)
- [Slammed by climate emergencies, Mass. farmers ask, 'Now what?'](#) (wbur, 8/9/23)
- [State must electrify new construction in every community to meet climate change goals](#) (Boston Globe, 8/7/23)

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*Always be sure to check our [website calendar](#) for more upcoming events. If you'd like the Sierra Club to co-sponsor your event (and add it to our events digest), [please email us!](#)*

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