



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

October 2023

Dear Emma,

Happy October! 🍁👻🍊 Fall is a busy time here in Massachusetts and for the Chapter. This month we have lots of events coming up from Advocacy Hours to Chapter outings -- we hope you can join us!

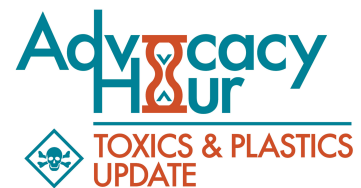
If you have a few minutes, we'd also appreciate you taking [this short survey](#) to give feedback on our email communications (like this newsletter!) Any and all feedback is greatly appreciated.

Keep reading to check out some campaign updates from the last month and see how to get involved in advocacy this season!

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Advocacy Hour: Municipal Action on PFAS

Join the Toxics Team and Co-Chair Clint Richmond for a presentation on municipal PFAS action and a recently proposed municipal ban. The Toxics This team handles toxic pollution issues, including deadly chemicals (e.g. PFAS), plastic-based pollutants, and recycling/solid waste issues.



OCTOBER 4 at 5PM

[RSVP Here](#)

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 (33 ft ascent and 24ft descent overall).



City Hike
East Boston

OCTOBER 8 at 1PM

[RSVP Here](#)

New Volunteer Orientation

Looking to get involved in equitable clean energy solutions and climate advocacy in Massachusetts? Join us next week 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](#)



Research Talk: Reframing the Urban Forest

Join us to hear Professor Nicholas Geron speak about his dissertation research on urban heat islands in MA and the Greening the Gateways Cities program (GGCP), which plants trees in Environmental Justice communities across Massachusetts. His research examines how reconceptualizing the urban forest can lead to increased stewardship and improve the potential of urban forests for reducing urban heat island effect. The GGCP is a case study which this research uses to explore the spatial distribution of extreme heat in environmental justice communities during a heat wave in eastern Massachusetts, and how residents' can mitigate these impacts through increased roles in governance and stewardship of their urban forests.



At the end of the talk, Forest Protection Team volunteers will share a bit about the Municipal Reforestation Act, and why the chapter supports it.

OCTOBER 12 at 5PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Campaign Strategy Chart Training

Join us as we learn how to craft a strategy to achieve major victories for our issues while building the power we'll need to win the future we want to see! This training will present a useful tool to guide the crafting of a campaign plan: the Midwest Academy Strategy Chart. You'll learn how to define goals, identify the 'pieces on the chessboard', take stock of resources, prioritize and timeline tactics, and how to draft a persuasive and strategic messaging narrative.



OCTOBER 17 at 5:30PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Advocacy Hour: Is Your House Being Haunted By Fossil Fuels?

From our HVAC equipment, to water heaters and stoves, it turns out that gas-powered appliances are seriously haunting our homes.

Join us for a casual and fun educational event where we'll review the findings of our latest report "The Outdoor Pollution Is Coming From Inside The House" and answer your questions about fossil fuels in our homes, including some of the things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint while pushing Massachusetts decision makers to pass climate friendly buildings policies using historic federal funding in the Inflation Reduction Act!



OCTOBER 18 at 5PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant Based Cooking Demonstration

Join us as we show you how to make delicious healthy plant-based food in at home. Feel free to ask us questions; we'll be happy to help you.

OCTOBER 22 at 7PM

[RSVP Here](#)



A Walking Introduction to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere

Join the Sierra Club MA Chapter on a nice Fall walk adjacent to Hanscom Airfield! We will be taking an easy walk through the Hartwell Town Forest in Bedford, MA, while learning about the proposal for a private jet expansion at the adjacent Hanscom airfield. This development threatens to clear 500,000 square feet of land, and will result in irreversible environmental damage in the form of environmental degradation and greenhouse gas emissions from private planes. Join us as we hear more details about the development from local advocates, and take action to stop this expansion.



OCTOBER 29 at 2PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Support the Chapter



Clean Energy & Climate

Join our Energy Justice Organizing Team!

One of our newest teams at the Chapter is the Energy Justice Organizing Team or EJOT!

Join us for our next meeting as we talk about stopping expanding the use of gas and passing legislation that equitably reduces emissions. Learn about what's going on in the world of the Massachusetts energy transition and how you can take action!

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 26th at 5pm

[RSVP for our October meeting!](#)

City Hike: East Boston

Belle Isle Marsh to Wood Island Recap: A Morning Exploration of an Urban Oasis



Have you heard? Outings are back at the MA Sierra Club! Sam Lambert had the opportunity to join fellow staff and volunteers in the Outdoor Leader training process and was even more thrilled to get started with her provisional hike: City Hike East Boston: Belle Isle Marsh to Wood Island!

[Check out her reflections on the program last weekend!](#)

Environment and Natural Resources

Take action for Massachusetts State Forest Protection!

Did you know only 2.3% of MA lands are permanently protected [wildlands](#)? An Act Relative to Forest Protection ([HD.4430](#)) would designate 412,000 acres of forest and watershed lands controlled by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation as parks and reserves. In An Act relative to increased protection of wildlife management areas ([H.904](#)), 30% of state-owned lands under the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) are given the same permanent reserve status. Asking your legislators to co-sponsor these bills today helps show there is people power backing this cause.

Ask your legislators to co-sponsor!

Sign a letter of Support!

Use Your Voice for Testimony

There is a hearing on October 11th at 1pm for Forestry, Parks & Recreation, Land Policy and Open Spaces including ([H.904](#)) and the Municipal Reforestation Act ([H.869/S.452](#)). **Sign-up to submit oral (virtual or in-person) and written testimony and help pass these important bills!**

Transportation Matters



Ask your Mayor, Town Manager, and City Councillor to add their voice to this [sign on letter](#) calling on Governor Healey to commit to an all-electric school bus fleet by 2035 and provide \$70 million in funding to support school districts in this transition.

Here is a template email you can use to urge your local electeds to support the wellbeing of our children, drivers, and communities across Massachusetts.

[Email Template](#)

Every Year is an Election Year

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th!

Election season is upon us once again! Communities across the Commonwealth will be heading to the ballot box (or mailbox... thank you mail-in voting!) this November 7th to cast their vote for local leaders.

Turnout in local elections is historically low and no vote can be taken for granted. Take a moment today to [confirm your registration status](#) , encourage others to do the same, and then make a plan to vote. Voting has never been easier with the adoption of early and mail-in voting in Massachusetts. Check your local municipal website for detailed information on dates and locations!

Chapter Update

Clint Richmond Appointed Conservation Chair



The Chapter Conservation Chair provides a point of contact for the public and other Club leaders, and assists the ExCom in conservation planning, budget decisions, resolving conflicts, training, and implementation of the Conservation Program.

"For me, the Sierra Club's original mission of conservation still holds. But it must mean much more than preserving wild places to preserving all of creation. We need to conserve and restore the planet in its totality: the harmonious biodiversity of all plant and animal life, and the air and waters upon which all life depends. I look forward to working with you all to make this dream real. Please feel free to contact me at clint@massachusetts.sierraclub.org"

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Check out our Events Calendar for a full list of Chapter committee and team meetings and special events!

[Events Calendar](#)



Friend and Partner Events

MA Statewide Indigenous Peoples Day Now! March

Saturday, October 7th at 12pm

Boston Common by Park Street Station

Rally and March for a statewide Indigenous Peoples Day in Massachusetts! Rename Faneuil Hall!

Hosted by IndigenousPeoplesDayMA, UAINE (United American Indians of New England), NAICOB (North American Indian Center of Boston), Cultural Survival, New Democracy Coalition, MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda

Event Info

Friends of Belle Isle Marsh Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 14th at 1pm

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, East Boston



People's Forum for Nature-Based Solutions

Wednesday, October 18th at 6pm

Hybrid Event: Audubon Nature Center in Mattapan OR Virtual Zoom link

Please Join! A widely-inclusive community update meeting and roundtable discussion. Leaders from the Wu Administration, including the Mayor and Chief White-Hammond, have been invited. Co-sponsored by the Crane Ledge Woods Coalition, Speak for the Trees, and more local environmental advocacy groups.

Panel Discussion - Updates, Next Steps on:

- Open Space Plan
- Tree Canopy
- Heat Impacts, Inland Flooding and Extreme Weather
- Environmental Justice

Zoom Registration

Our Reading List

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

- [MBTA announces new climate office to reduce its environmental footprint](#) (WBUR, 9/28/23)
- [Boston launches pilot to help small housing owners go electric](#) (Smart Cities Dive, 9/22/23)
- [New plan aims to quadruple heat-pump adoption in 25 states](#) (Canary Media, 9/21/23)

- [Healey unveils 'groundbreaking' policies on biodiversity and single-use plastic](#) (WGBH, 9/18/23)
- [Massachusetts to ban state agencies from purchasing single-use plastic bottles, Healey announces](#) (Boston Globe, 9/18/23)
- [Heat pumps outperform boilers and furnaces — even in the cold](#) (Canary Media, 9/13/23)
- [Utilities need to stop building natural gas infrastructure](#) (CommonWealth, 9/13/23)
- [Leominster assesses the damage after 'catastrophic' floods](#) (Boston Globe, 9/12/23)
- [Too hot to handle: As schools reopen in a heat wave, a warning of the climate future](#) (Boston Globe, 9/6/23)
- [MassDOT Analysis: Commutes Are Faster For Everyone After Buses Got Their Own Lane On Tobin Bridge](#) (StreetsblogMASS, 9/6/23)
- [Climate change and poverty are complex problems. These solutions aim to address both.](#) (Boston Globe, 9/4/23)

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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