



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

November 2023

Dear Emma,

Every year is an election year! As November 7th approaches, many municipalities across Massachusetts will be headed to the ballot box, or mailbox, to cast their vote. 🗳️ Your vote always matters, but in local elections, the future of a community can truly be determined by a single vote. [Find your voter information here](#) before election day next Tuesday, November 7th!

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Advocacy Hour: Bee Biodiversity and Conservation with Dr. Laura Figueroa

Dr. Laura Figueroa, Assistant Professor in the Environmental Conservation Department will talk about bee biodiversity and conservation in Massachusetts. She will describe new methods for monitoring bees. Furthermore, she will describe new work evaluating how pollinator communities in solar facilities are impacted by landscape context and management practices implemented by solar companies, and way that can facilitate the transition to a clean energy future while reducing the negative impact for biodiversity.



NOVEMBER 1 at 5PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Advocacy Hour: Climate Lobbying Training

Learn how we'll pass meaningful climate legislation this session and how to use your power as a constituent effectively. We'll also be discussing MA Power Forward campaign priorities and preparing for the coalition Lobby Day on Dec. 5!



NOVEMBER 15 at 5PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

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

NOVEMBER 19 at 7PM

[RSVP Here](#)



Advocacy Hour: Elections Recap

Curious about our local election wins?

Join us to discuss where we won and what's next!

NOVEMBER 29 at 5PM

[RSVP Here](#)





Clean Energy & Climate

Reflections on an Outing: Introduction to the campaign to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere



Have you heard of this project that would greatly setback Massachusetts' climate goals? The chapter is a part of a coalition of 60+ organizations around the state calling on Governor Healey to end the planned expansion of the private jet hangar space at Hanscom airfield. This past weekend, an awesome group of folks shared a nice walk in the woods with a lively introduction and conversation about the organizing occurring to stop this project.

Check out the outing blog post with the current actions you can take to support the campaign!

[Read the Recap Blog](#)

Transportation Matters

Commuter Benefit Tax Deductions Now Expanded for Bike and Transit Riders

The recent tax bill signed by Governor Healey [expands tax relief measures for commuters](#). For the first time, commuters who take regional bus service, the ferry, the MBTA using daily fare, a bike share bike, or their own bike (including e-bike) will have the opportunity to access these deductions. Prior to this bill commuter benefit tax deduction was limited to MBTA users with a monthly or weekly pass and to residents using E-Z Pass. The deductions will be capped at \$750.

[Read More](#)

There is funding available for electric school buses. Tell your school district to apply!

The EPA has [opened a second rebate round with \\$500 million in funding available for electric school buses](#). Rebate applications are simple, easy, and lottery-based. Applicants can receive up to **\$345,000 per electric school bus** for priority school districts, and up to \$200,000 for non-priority school districts, with a maximum of 25 school buses per applicant. The funding can cover expenses related to the bus, charging station, charging station installation, and workforce development and training. **Applications will close on January 31, 2024 at 4pm ET.**



Reach out to your school district, City Councilor, and Mayor [using this handy toolkit](#).

In addition, the Clean Transportation for All campaign will be leading a webinar about the new round of EPA Clean School Bus Program Rebates and will provide an **overview on materials for reaching out to school districts**. The webinar will be held on **Monday, November 6th at 6 pm ET**. [Click here to RSVP](#).

Host a World Day of Remembrance Action to Honor Victims of Traffic Crashes

This year nearly 2,000 lives have been lost to, or seriously injured by, a traffic crash in Massachusetts. These are preventable and we can do something about it by bringing attention to the issue on World Day of Remembrance, coming up on Sunday, November 19th. **This is an annual international event where people gather together to reflect upon those we've lost or been injured in a traffic crash and commit ourselves to improving our state's roads.** If you would like to host an event in your community, we have all the resources you would need.



Photo: Andy Robinson

[World Day of Remembrance Webinar Recording](#)

[Action Planning Toolkit](#)

2023 State Elections

The Power of Your Vote

Election day is Tuesday, November 7th 2023!

Your vote always matters, but in local elections, the future of a community can truly be determined by a single vote. Make your plan today by visiting [TurboVote!](#) Simply input your address to get all of the information you need for early, mail-in, and in-person voting!



[Find Your Voter Information Here](#)

Municipal Victories

Plastics Reduction Wins in Plymouth and Newton 🎉

Members of the Chapter Toxics Team are leading successful efforts across the state to reduce plastics use at the municipal level. Alan Gordon, a member of the Toxics Team and Chapter Executive Committee, championed a successful plastics reduction ordinance in Newton that the city council passed 22-0. In Plymouth, Executive Committee member Art Desloges led a successful effort to ban nips, which will reduce litter and plastics use.

You can read more about the [Newton ordinance here](#), and the [Plymouth ban here](#).

Stand in Solidarity

Tell Governor Healey we need electrification & 15 minute headways on the Fairmount Line!

There is an opportunity right now to improve the health and lives of thousands of Boston residents, and help fight climate change while doing so. The Fairmount Line – the only commuter rail line entirely within the City of Boston – currently does not serve the people who rely on it as well as it should and could. But electrifying the line can fix this, and right now we have an exciting opportunity to do just that. It's time to make the Fairmount Line cleaner, faster, and better!

Governor Healey has the power to move forward electrification of the Fairmount Line. Use the quick & easy template linked below to send her an email today and ask her to take this long overdue action!

Take Action Now!

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

Right to Be: Free Trainings to Respond to Increasing Antisemitism and Islamophobia

Virtual Trainings

In the face of increasing Antisemitism and Islamophobia, Right to Be has seen an outpouring of registrations for their training topics to address hate and harassment. Join their free training sessions to help us disrupt the cycle of hatred and violence, that has led to the tragedy.

Bystander Intervention to Stop Antisemitic Harassment

- ➔ November 2 at 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM EST [Register Here.](#)
- ➔ November 14 at 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM EST [Register Here.](#)

Bystander Intervention to Stop Islamophobic and Xenophobic Harassment

- ➔ October 26 at 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM EST [Register Here.](#)
- ➔ November 1 at 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM EST [Register Here.](#)
- ➔ November 17 at 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM EST [Register Here.](#)

Conflict De-escalation in Protest Spaces

- ➔ October 26 at 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST [Register Here.](#)

Resilience: This Moment and Beyond

- ➔ November 9 at 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM EST [Register Here.](#)

Learn More About Right to Be

Winning Climate Justice Education

Wednesday, November 1st at 7pm

Virtual Event

Everyone is welcome to join a special youth panel "Winning Climate Justice Education" on Nov 1, 2023, 7:00pm, with students concerned about climate justice and equitable climate solutions, moderated by Laura Gardner, Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast leader and school librarian, and Eben Bein, former high school teacher and MA Field and Education Manager for Our Climate. This event is co-sponsored by Our Climate, the South Shore & Cape Citizens Climate Lobby Chapter, Mass Youth Climate Coalition, and Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast.

RSVP Here

Western Mass Power Up for Climate Solutions!

Saturday, November 4th at 2pm

Pulaski Park, Northampton, MA

Join us for Western MA Power Up for Climate Solutions on November 4! Come out to Pulaski Park in downtown Northampton, MA to be part of the local and global movements to phase out fossil fuels, launch the renewable energy revolution, and protect the land, water, forest, and soil resources that will keep the climate safe! This will be a free, arts-filled and family-friendly event, including a sidewalk parade, information tables, and a performance and sing-along with the Climate Healing Chorus at 3PM.

Sierra Club Massachusetts will be tabling at this event, come say hello!

[Event Page](#)

Mass Power Forward Lobby Day

December 5th

Join Mass Power Forward, in calling on our state legislators to advance critical bills for environmental and climate justice! We are 3 months from the deadline for committees to report out bills, Feb 7th.

The Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee's [continued rift](#) is a barrier to creating a bill. But [three priority bills](#) that we share with Mass Power Forward are in this committee

- ⚡ Siting Reform
- ⚡ Put Gas in the Past
- ⚡ Zero Carbon Renovation Fund

We need to make it clear that these policies must advance, despite internal conflict! Mass Power Forward is organizing a decentralized lobby day to demonstrate our support. We are hoping for at least a dozen lobby visits with legislators across the state and in key positions.

[RSVP Here](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [Council unanimously approves further reduction of single-use plastics](#) (Fig City News)
- [Plymouth Select Board Approves Nips Ban Article In A 2 To 1 Vote](#) (WATD News, 10/25/23)
- [To fight climate change, form coalitions and 'be belligerent,' panelists advise](#) (The Bay State Banner, 10/25/23)
- [As Mass. becomes a greener state, can gas utilities keep up?](#) (Boston Globe, 10/24/23)
- [Massachusetts is drowning in single-use plastics. Why not ban them?](#) (Boston Globe, 10/18/23)
- [How gas utilities used tobacco tactics to avoid gas stove regulations](#) (NPR, 10/17/23)
- [Push for Massachusetts polystyrene container ban renewed](#) (State House News Service, 10/8/23)
- [Push For Plastic Food Container Ban Renewed](#) (WBZ News, 10/6/23)
- [Billionaires are responsible for large amounts of climate pollution from Hanscom, a new report finds](#) (Boston Globe, 10/3/23)

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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