



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

December 2023

Dear Emma,

It's been quite a year! We've celebrated [local election wins](#), [advocated for energy justice](#), re-launched our [Chapter's outings program](#), and so much more.

We're so grateful for our community of advocates and allies who power our work and continue to push for a just and sustainable future for Massachusetts. Read on to see a few highlights from the end of the year!

A reminder that the Sierra Club offices are closed from Friday, December 22nd, 2023 to January 2nd, 2024. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and are excited to carry this momentum forward into the new year! 🎉

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

New! Water Team First Meeting

Join us for the first meeting of the Chapter's Water Team!

The mission of this team is to reinforce and generate a vast array of possible solutions for water issues in MA. Namely the 32 Watersheds, Urban waters, Wastewater, Radioactive waste in water, Plastics & Toxics in water, Marine and Freshwater Conservation, Rivers, Whales etc.



DECEMBER 4TH at 6PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Climate Justice Lobby Day with Sierra Club and Mass Power Forward

Your legislators need to hear from YOU that climate justice priorities like putting gas in the past and building decarbonization can't wait! Join our Climate Justice Lobby Day to meet with your legislators in your own community.

Note: this is a distributed lobby day, meaning that meetings will take place in your district, so no need to travel to the State House!

DECEMBER 5TH

[RSVP Here](#)



Sip & Switch (to electric school buses)

Join the Massachusetts Sierra Club for a night of hot cocoa and writing letters to support the switch to electric school buses! We'll learn about the EPA Clean School Bus Program, how to advocate for electrification in your community, and to write letters to local municipal leaders in support of school bus electrification.

This event will be held at the Massachusetts Chapter office:
50 Federal St, Boston, MA 02110 - Please RSVP for more information!



DECEMBER 6TH at 5PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Stockbridge Old-Growth Forest Hike: Ice Glen Trail

Join us for a winter outing! The Ice Glen trail is an 1.4 mile round-trip hike. There will be stops along the trail to learn how to “read” an Old Growth Forest and discuss the unique qualities of this special place.

DECEMBER 9TH at 11AM

[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.

DECEMBER 17TH at 7PM

[RSVP Here](#)



Massachusetts Sierra Club

Holiday Party

save the date!

December 19th, 2023

5-8 PM | 50 Federal St, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Join us for our annual Chapter Holiday Party - now back in person! We'll gather in our office in Downtown Boston for an evening of fun and appreciation to recognize our amazing staff and volunteers who powered our work over the past year.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend!

[RSVP Here](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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

Chapter Events Calendar

Events Calendar



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Help Sustain Our Work!



Clean Energy & Climate

The #StopSpectra movement, and Project Maple

By Nick Katkevitch

In 2013, in the face of growing protests, the owners of the Brayton Point Coal Plant in Somerset, Massachusetts announced a timeline to shut down the facility. The power plant was the largest coal plant in the Northeast, and its closure appeared to mark the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel industry in the region. Unfortunately, the fracked-gas industry had other plans.

With fracking booming in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, a corporation called Spectra Energy announced plans to ship more of this gas into the Northeast via a major expansion to the “Algonquin” Pipeline (the word for this pipeline is appropriated from Indigenous culture, so from here on out will refer to it as the Spectra, or Enbridge pipeline). Ultimately, the plan was to ship the gas to a series of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export terminals proposed for Maine and Nova Scotia....



Continue reading on our blog

Transportation Matters

Legislative Update from Dan McCarthy

On November 20th, the Chapter testified before the Joint Committee on Transportation in support of two key bills: *An Act Setting Deadlines to Electrify the Commuter Rail* ([S.2217](#) / [H.3392](#)) and *An Act Electrifying Regional Transit Authorities* ([S.2285](#) / [H.3366](#)). As part of the Zero-Emission Vehicles coalition, dozens of advocates joined us in person to support two bills that electrify and invest in our vital public transit systems, including several Sierra Club volunteers who testified directly. I want to thank everyone who submitted written comments and took action online. Through these efforts together, we can demonstrate the grassroots demand and support for clean, reliable transportation systems.



You can read the [Chapter's submitted testimony here](#).

If you want to advocate for clean, reliable transportation, join our Transportation Action Team by emailing daniel.mccarthy@sierraclub.org.

Year End Reflections

The Benefits of Being Lost

By Sam Lambert

Like many, the waning daylight and upcoming winter months leave me in an introspective frame of mind. As I reflect on the past few years and my journey to the Sierra Club, one of my fondest childhood memories continues to feature prominently.

“Want to get lost?” ... A question I looked forward to on weekends throughout my younger years. We would pile in the car, with my Dad behind the wheel, and just drive. We would take turns being in charge, yelling “take a left... now a right...” until we saw something or someplace that made us stop. The stops were as varied as mine and my siblings’ personalities and gave us a greater appreciation for each other as well as experiences that we would not have chosen for ourselves.



I'm sure you are asking how this childhood tradition resulted in my joining the staff of the Sierra Club? Simply. I embraced getting lost, once again.

[Continue reading on our blog](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [Governor Healey unveils plan to protect Mass. coastline from climate change](#) (Boston Globe, 11/28/23)
- [New map of U.S. plant zones shows a warmer Massachusetts](#) (WBUR, 11/22/23)
- [Mass. awards \\$27 million to help 'decarbonize' hundreds of affordable housing units](#) (WBUR, 11/21/23)
- [Microgrid model spreads in Massachusetts as cities look to lessen costs, outages](#) (Energy News Network, 11/21/23)
- [Should utilities pay the upfront cost of clean energy? A municipal utility in Ipswich is making the investment.](#) (Boston Globe, 11/19/23)
- [Pilot program will install batteries in 2,000 Mass. homes to reduce energy demand on the grid](#) (WBUR, 11/15/23)
- [Wu stresses Boston will not abandon goal of becoming a 'fossil fuel free city'](#) (Boston Globe, 11/14/23)
- [Climate Chief calls for restructuring of Mass Save, looks to Vermont, Maine for answers](#) (Cape Cod Times, 11/11/23)
- [8 takeaways for Mass. from the National Climate Assessment](#) (WBUR, 11/14/23)
- [Boston's plan to ban fossil fuels in new buildings goes up in smoke](#) (Boston Globe, 11/12/23)
- [It's win-some, lose-some for Mass. federal energy grants](#) (Boston Globe, 11/9/23)
- ['Pollinator-friendly' solar farms can be a boon for bees. In Mass., they're not always easy.](#) (WBUR, 11/6/23)
- [Sierra Club Regards New Hangars as Environmental Threat](#) (The Bedford Citizen, 11/1/23)

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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