



E-SIERRAN

Events, Updates, News, and more!
January 2024

Dear Emma,

🎉 Happy New Year! 🎉

You may notice that our newsletter looks a little bit different this month. We're piloting a new format for the E-Sierran, and switching to a twice-per-month cadence to bring you the most up to date information on all our campaigns. We hope you like it!

We hope you had a restful holiday season. As we ring in the new year we are eager to build our movement even stronger, and feeling energized by recent victories for the Commonwealth. Read on to see what's coming up in the new year!

Upcoming Chapter Events

Calendar Drop 2024 at the State House

January 17th
1pm - 3:30pm

[RSVP Here](#)

It's a new year and the MA legislature is revving up to make some big decisions! Help us deliver our revered Sierra Club calendars to thank our champions and remind key legislators to act on the climate and biological diversity crises.

Environmental Justice and Building Our New Grid - Where Should It All Go?

January 20th
2pm - 3:30pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Join the MA Environmental Justice Legislative Table to learn more about our vision for infrastructure, energy democracy, and centering frontline communities in the process - as well as the current policy proposal from the EJ Table to greenlight good projects quickly and nip bad projects in the bud.

Climate Action Fair @ Aeronaut Brewing

January 21st
12pm - 4pm

[Event Info](#)

Join Sierra Club Massachusetts and allies for a Climate Action Fair hosted at Aeronaut Brewing in Somerville. Meet local orgs and find out how to get involved!

Plant-Based Cooking Demonstration

January 21st
7pm - 8pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Join our Plant-Based Planet Team for a virtual demonstration on how to make delicious healthy plant-based food from home. RSVP for details to join.

Advocacy Hour: Reducing Building Emissions in Boston

January 24th
5pm - 6pm

[RSVP Here](#)

The City of Boston has recently finalized and adopted the regulations which set the guidelines for implementation of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO). This is a huge win for our chapter and the Boston climate advocacy community! Come learn about the impact of these new regulations and how you can get involved in Boston.

Plant-Based Potluck Dinner

January 28th
7pm - 8:30pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Please join members of the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter and the First Congregational Church of Winchester as they join forces for a plant-based potluck dinner. Please bring a vegetarian or vegan dish to share. *Please RSVP by January 21st.*

Activist Hour: Legislative Action Mixer!

January 31st
5:30pm - 6:30pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Join us for a new program called Activist Hour! Get priority bills reported favorably out of committee and meet some cool people while doing it! Come join us in person at the Boston office of the Sierra Club MA Chapter or on Zoom. *In person, we will have food and drinks to share.*

Upcoming Committee and Team Meetings

Check out our Events Calendar for all Committee and Team Meetings in addition to special events!

[Events Calendar](#)

Events Calendar

Calendar View	Month View	Calendar View	Month View
October 2023	October 2023	October 2023	October 2023
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	

🌟 Volunteer Action of the Month 🌟

Hanscom Field is already the largest private jetport in New England. If Massport's proposal to triple the private jet capacity moved forward, private jets enabled by Hanscom would cancel out 70% of the greenhouse gas reductions from all the solar PV installed in Massachusetts (based on a 2.5 hour flight).

Sign this letter to Governor Healey, asking her to stop private jet expansion at Hanscom, or anywhere!

👉 [Add your name to the letter!](#) ➡

Support the Chapter



Celebrating Environmental Victories

Vineyard Wind 1, the nation's first utility-scale offshore wind farm, is officially online! [Sierra Club Massachusetts and its Cape Cod group submitted hundreds of pieces of testimony and comment](#) to state legislators, local municipalities, and the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management over the last 15 years to encourage the development of a responsible offshore wind industry in America.



Photo: Dennis Shroeder/National Renewable Energy Laboratory

🌊 Located 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, the project will produce 800 megawatts of electricity, power over 400,000 homes, and reduce carbon emissions by over 1.6 million tons per year. The carbon emissions reductions are equivalent to taking 325,000 cars off the road.

The City of Boston has finalized and adopted the regulations which set guidelines for implementation of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO). *BERDO regulates the emissions reduction of buildings that are 20,000 square feet or larger, or contain 15+ units, with the end goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.*

🎉 This is a huge win for our chapter and the Boston climate advocacy community! Our Boston Lead Organizer, Michele Brooks, has been [providing input into the development of this policy for over 2 years](#). We are thrilled to see it move onto the implementation phase with the goal of significantly cutting carbon emissions from the city's most polluting

buildings, while producing tangible benefits in environmental justice communities and new job opportunities in green building retrofits.

📣 Don't forget to join our [Advocacy Hour on BERDO on January 24th at 5pm](#) to learn more about how to get involved!

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities issued a transformative docket called the Future of Gas Order to #PutGasInThePast! [The top-line takeaway?](#) For the first time in the 15 years since Massachusetts passed landmark decarbonization legislation, the state has definitively said that gas heating is not in our long-term future. The order:

- 1 Requires that utilities examine non-pipe alternatives.
- 2 Ensures ratepayers do not pay for false solutions like renewable natural gas (RNG) & hydrogen.
- 3 Prohibits the use of ratepayer money to market gas expansion.

Chapter Equity Update

In 2020 and 2021, the Massachusetts Chapter Staff, with support from the Executive Committee and Volunteers, put together a series of short-term and long-term goals to guide our commitment and practice of equity at the chapter. This became known as our Equity & Justice Roadmap.

In the past year, Chapters staff have revisited these goals to update progress, clarify outcomes, and set intentions for work moving forward, with new expanded capacity as we created 4 new positions on our team in 2023. [We are excited to share an 2023 updated version of the Equity & Justice Roadmap, with progress updates from the last year -- check it out!](#)

*Want to learn more about our current work?
Check out our [Campaign Updates Document](#) for more information!*

Partner Events

[MassBike Lobby Day](#)

January 25th at 9am
State House

Join MassBike at the State House in Boston on January 25th for a traditional lobby day. Advocates who join will have the opportunity to meet in-person for a morning briefing before their meetings, and we'll provide support with a virtual training session before the event, printed copies of our legislative priorities, and in-meeting support from MassBike staff (if you'd like). The goal is to help get our priority bike-friendly bills out of committee before the session deadline to keep them moving in the process and closer to being passed this session.


What We're Reading


 Vineyard Wind sends burst of power to New England grid for first time.

([Cape Cod Times](#))

✔ Massachusetts Just Took a Big Step Away from Natural Gas. Which States Might Follow? ([Inside Climate News](#))

 Finally, natural gas has no future ([CommonWealth Beacon](#))

 State charts a new energy future for Mass., beyond natural gas ([Boston Globe](#))

 Revealed: US utility firms offer builders cash and trips to fit new homes with gas appliances ([The Guardian](#))



Enjoying this newsletter? Forward to a friend! [They can sign up here.](#)

[ABOUT](#) | [DONATE](#) | [JOIN](#)



This email was sent to: emma.brown@sierraclub.org

This email was sent by the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter
50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02110

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Preferences](#) | [View as web page](#)