



E-SIERRAN

Events, Updates, News, and more!
January 2024

Dear Emma,

It's been quite a busy start to the year! From delivering calendars to legislators, to recruiting new team members and hosting a climate action fair, our members and supporters have been working full-steam ahead this month.

📣 **Want to plug into the work?** We're [hosting a new volunteer orientation](#) on Wednesday, February 7th for new and returning volunteers to learn about current campaigns and how you can get involved - no prior experience necessary!

Upcoming Chapter Events

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.

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.*

Ecological Impact of Livestock Grazing on Public Lands

February 5th
7:00pm - 8:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

George Wuerthner is an ecologist and long-time grazing activist. George has been a member of the Sierra Club for 35 years, and currently serves on the Sierra Club's national Grazing Committee. George will discuss the ecological impact of livestock grazing on public lands, as well as the economic costs.

New Volunteer Orientation

February 7th
5:00pm - 6:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

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

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

Link Name	Week View	Calendar View	Print View
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



Legislative Updates

Staff and Volunteers met at the Statehouse to deliver 2024 Sierra Club calendars and legislative priorities to Senators and Representatives to celebrate and motivate our environmental champions!



Staff and Volunteers at the Statehouse last week.

⌚ **Joint Rule 10, a cultural deadline for legislators to decide which bills move one step closer to passage, is fast approaching** (on February 7th!). [Join us for Activist Hour on January 31st](#) to take action to get priority climate bills passed meet some cool people while doing it!

Clint Richmond, Chapter Conservation Chair, stood with Legislators and partners in support of statewide plastic bag legislation. One hundred and sixty two communities in Massachusetts have [already passed regulations to reduce plastic checkout bags](#), more than any other state except California. Now it's time for MA to take action at the state level!



Photo: Elle Vignette Photography

➡ **Join our Chapter's Toxics Team** if you want to get more involved in plastics reduction efforts across the state! The team meets every other Monday at 5pm. Contact [Dan McCarthy](#) for more info.

Share Your Story

As winter arrives and the temperatures drop, we know that many communities across Massachusetts are struggling to keep up with rising energy rates. The term 'Energy burden' is defined as the percentage of your household income that is spent on energy costs. Anything above 6% is considered high.

The Sierra Club MA Chapter is collecting stories from people across the state who are experiencing **energy burden**. Our hope is to speak with residents who are experiencing energy burden, to listen to their stories and amplify their experience to elected officials and decision makers at the state level.

🔍 **The State Department of Public Utilities (DPU)** has recently [opened an inquiry to examine Energy Burden with a Focus on Affordability](#) for Residential Ratepayers, and we want to leverage this opportunity to share your stories.

💡 **These stories can remain anonymous. Along with submitting comments to the DPU we are also planning to turn a few of the stories into written blog articles** if the person is interested in this. We are aiming to collect 8-10 stories for blog posts from across the state in the first round of this project, with not more than 2 people per community. *We will be providing \$100 gift cards to compensate people for their stories and time.*

➡ **If you are interested in sharing your story with us please email [Allyson Samuell](#).**

Volunteer Spotlight

Our first volunteer spotlight of 2024 ✨ Meet Angela!

She is an invaluable member of the Sierra Club MA Chapter Forest Protection team and Education Subcommittee, where she uses her editorial and technological skills to build and expand the team's web page.



Alongside her work as a high school senior, active member of the track team, and an accomplished pianist, Angela attends Forest Protection Team meetings, always eager to learn more about climate and forest science. No matter how busy she is, Angela always cheerfully volunteers to help with new projects.

Congratulations to Angela for also being recently selected to serve on the Governor's Youth Climate Council! Our future is bright, filled with students like Angela, already an engaged citizen, climate activist, and life-long learner!

*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

- Environmental advocates take another run at a statewide plastic bag ban ([Boston Globe](#))
- New report calculates how to eliminate billions of single use plastic bags ([MASSPIRG](#))
- Gas plants 'disproportionately vulnerable to failure,' warns Union of Concerned Scientists report ([Utility Dive](#))
- Here are the top 5 issues of Mayor Wu's State of the City address ([Boston Globe](#))
- More electric school buses are coming to Boston ([Boston Globe](#))
- These Massachusetts cities are getting more electric school buses from an EPA grant ([CBS Boston](#))
- Massachusetts to evaluate energy affordability programs in the state ([NBC Boston](#))
- 7 communities get green light for fossil-fuel free building pilot ([WBUR](#))



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