



# E-Sierran Newsletter



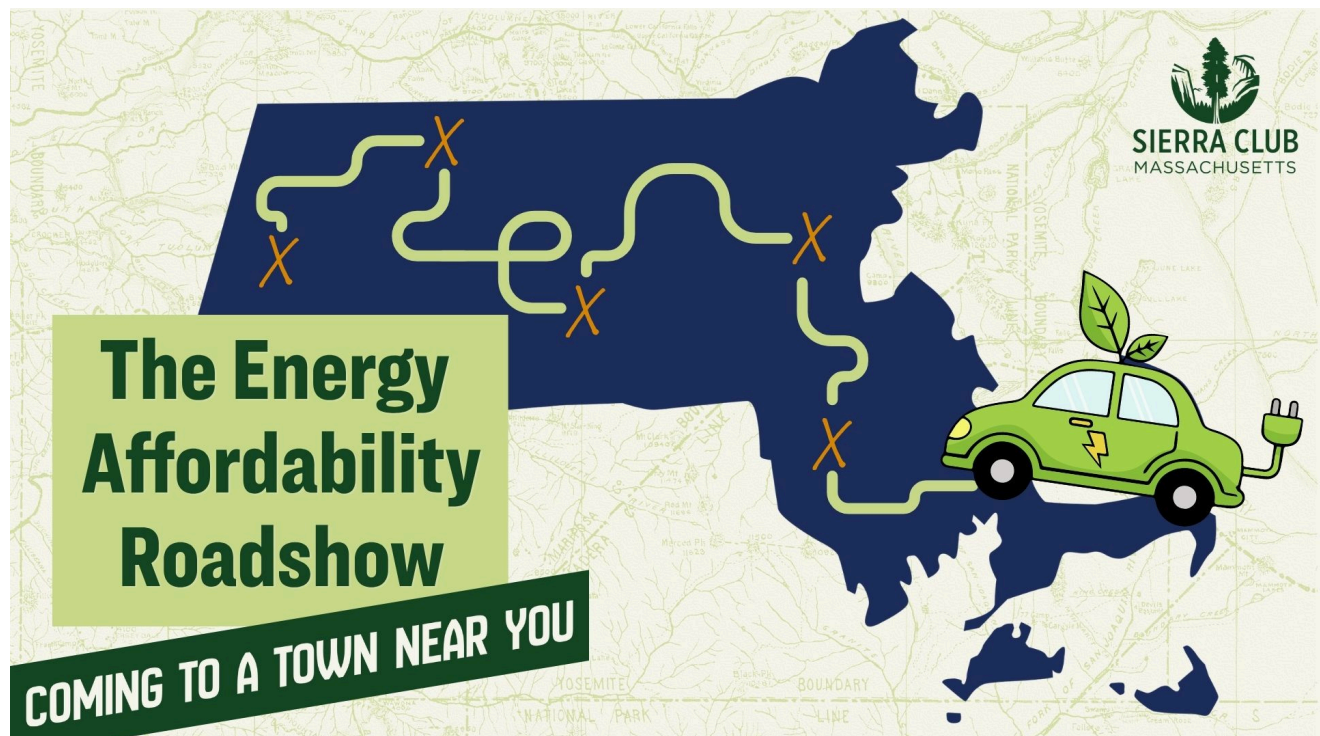
Events, Updates, News, and more!  
May 2026

Dear Emma,

Happy May! We had quite a busy last month at the Chapter, with lots of Earth Month events and actions taking place. We explored the urban wild at Mattahunt Woods, cleaned up the banks of the Charles River, scouted out the blooming spring ephemerals in the forest, and advocated for clean energy and affordability across the state. 🌸 Thanks to all who participated! 🌍

One win to highlight from the month: Massachusetts municipalities continue to make progress on single-use plastics reduction, with [Watertown passing a "skip the stuff" ordinance](#) at the end of April. Over 150 towns and cities around MA have passed regulations on single-use plastic shopping bags. If you'd like to take action on plastic in your community, [reach out to us!](#)

## On the Road with Energy Affordability



As utility bills continue to rise, Sierra Club MA is traveling across the Commonwealth to shed some light on why this is happening and what can be done about it. We're breaking down our current exploitative utility models and presenting a vision for the future that includes ample, affordable, clean energy.

We want to come to you! [Fill out this form](#) if you're interested in having us

come to your town to give a presentation and lead a discussion on all things energy affordability.

**P.S. There is still time to [RSVP](#) and join [our coalition's](#) distributed Lobby Day sometime in May and meet with your state senator on energy affordability! As the senate crafts their climate bill, we have to tell them to put people over energy profits and prevent gas expansion and exploitative energy rates while continuing to fund Mass Save. These meetings will happen in your district, so no need to travel far!**

## World Asthma Day & Fighting for Clean Air Quality

May 5th was World Asthma Day — a day of recognition for asthma and building awareness for care and prevention around the world. We know that living close to a major road or in proximity of fossil fuel infrastructure like gas pipelines can significantly impact air quality and pose a big risk to our health. Check out these upcoming events around the state!



### [Boston Area Air Quality Summit](#)

Friday, May 15th

9am - 5pm

Northeastern University, Boston MA

### [Breathe Easy Eastie](#)

Saturday, May 16th

10am - 2pm

Mario Umana Academy, East Boston MA

*(click to enlarge the flyer!)*

### [Springfield Clean Air Resource Fair](#)

Tuesday, May 19th

5pm - 7pm

Brightwood Library, Springfield MA

## The Future of Mass Transit




Photo by MBTA.

**What are your hopes for the MBTA of 2050?** The Program for Mass Transit (the MBTA's long range planning) is underway. Sierra Club Massachusetts' transportation committee is formulating our advocacy and would love to hear your thoughts. BCC or forward Celeste ([celeste.venolia@sierraclub.org](mailto:celeste.venolia@sierraclub.org)) on your email to [focus2050@mbta.com](mailto:focus2050@mbta.com).

There are two more public meetings coming up on this early stage of gathering public input on the Focus 2050.

 **May 7th** at Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)


 **May 18th** at Community Room at McGovern Transportation Center in Lawrence, MA

And a bunch of station pop-ups! Up to date details on those pop-ups on the [Focus 2050 webpage](#).

### **ACTION OF THE MONTH**

#### **Stand in Solidarity for Immigration Justice: Support the People's PROTECT Act**

While the House's version of the PROTECT Act is an important step in the right direction for immigration legislation in MA, there are critical ways that it can be stronger. This moment calls for greater action, and it calls for MA to pass impactful and effective policy to protect our immigrant communities.

 **As the Senate drafts their own version of the PROTECT Act, we urge you to contact your state Senator.**

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### New Volunteer Welcome Call

 Wed, May 13th at 5pm

 Virtual event

RSVP

Join us for a virtual welcome call to meet staff and volunteers, learn about our various volunteer teams, how you can get involved and start making an immediate impact in your local community! Open to new volunteers as well as those who want to get re-oriented to work currently happening at the Chapter.

### Rockport Outing with TransitMatters

 Sun, May 17th at 12pm

 Rockport, MA

RSVP

We will walk from the Rockport Commuter Rail station about a mile out to and along the coast stopping at multiple points along the way to speak about transit advocacy. Janet Cheung, Regional Rail Lead at TransitMatters, will speak about what Regional Rail means and how we can advocate for fast, frequent, and reliable service in MA and specifically along the Newburyport/Rockport line.

### Narrative Organizing Training

 Tues, May 26th at 5pm

 Virtual event

RSVP

Join us for an organizing training and community building hour! The training topic for this week is Narrative Organizing. Sierra Club Massachusetts volunteer Katherine will guide us through the narrative arc and how we tell our stories to better advocate for change.

### A Celebration of Clean Energy

 Tues, May 26th at 5pm

 Twisted Fate Brewing, Revere MA

RSVP

With so many discouraging things happening in the world, we could all use a break to gather together and think about something good. Join us to celebrate the growth of clean energy in Massachusetts! We'll be at Twisted Fate Brewing in Revere on May 26th from 5pm-7pm, ready to talk about some of the clean energy wins that we've seen in the past few years.

Visit our [Chapter events calendar](#) to see all upcoming committee and team meetings, in addition to special events!



## Friend & Partner Events

May 9 | [Guided Walk in Masson Ridge, a Protected Forest in Northfield](#)

## What We're Reading

- Lowell residents sue data center, state over air quality permit ([CommonWealth Beacon](#))
- Vineyard Wind's power contracts switch on, stabilizing electricity prices ([New Bedford Light](#))
- Senate energy chair signals departure from House on \$1B cut to Mass Save ([CommonWealth Beacon](#))
- Who Pays For The Everett Marine Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal? ([Green Energy Consumers Alliance](#))
- Senate passes \$3.6 billion environmental bond bill in bipartisan vote ([CommonWealth Beacon](#))
- Unexplained rashes, cancer cases, and sulfur smells: A small Mass. town's water supply is a source of fear ([Boston Globe](#))



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