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Contact: Emily Norton  
(617) 423-5775  
emily.norton@sierraclub.org



### **Waltham City Council Calls on Utilities to Plug Gas Leaks**

[Boston, MA June 12, 2015] The Waltham City Council voted unanimously on June 8 in favor of a resolution endorsing statewide legislation to tackle natural gas leaks in our state's infrastructure. The City of Waltham alone has over 150 confirmed gas leaks.

Waltham becomes the third community in Massachusetts to pass resolutions calling on utilities to plug these leaks, after Cambridge and Framingham.

The resolution endorses House Bill 2870, "An act relative to protecting consumers of gas and electricity from paying for leaked and unaccounted for gas." The bill aims to reduce natural gas leaks by financially incentivizing utilities to repair leaking natural gas pipes and eventually disallow the cost of "lost and unaccounted for" gas from being passed on to gas consumers.

"Combating the issue of gas leaks in the Commonwealth is crucial," said Waltham City Councilor George Darcy. "Fixing these leaks will save our residents and businesses money, and also prevent greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change."

"I am grateful to the Waltham City Council for their endorsement of this important legislation," said Amy Gortler, a local Sierra Club activist. "Gaining support from individual municipalities is the first step in passing this bill on the state level. I am proud of my City for the leadership we have shown."

The increasing prevalence of gas leaks in the Commonwealth was most recently revealed in a Harvard University [study](#) showing Greater Boston's natural gas leaks to be more extensive, expensive, and damaging to the climate than was previously believed. The study estimated that gas leaks cost customers \$90 million dollars per year in Greater Boston alone.

#### **ABOUT Massachusetts Sierra Club**

Sierra Club is the nation's oldest and most effective grassroots environmental group. The Massachusetts Chapter was established in 1892 and has a strong track record of enabling Baystaters to "enjoy, explore and protect the planet." For more information visit us at [sierraclubmass.org](http://sierraclubmass.org).

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