



## Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

July 2021

### What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

#### Change Powered by People: August Training Series

We believe that change is [powered by people](#) -- that this country belongs to all of us, and we hold the power to create a future where we all can thrive. Right now, Congress has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape our society and economy by passing two pieces of legislation: an infrastructure package to tackle climate change, create jobs, and address racial injustice; and bold democracy reforms like the For the People Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Act. This August Recess, when our members of Congress are back home to hear from their constituents, we'll make it clear that we will accept nothing less than a fully functioning democracy and an economy that sustains both people and the planet. The stakes are too high to sit this one out. Let's do this!

*Change Powered by People*  
**FOR OUR DEMOCRACY.  
 FOR OUR FUTURE.  
 FOR ALL OF US TO THRIVE.**

Join us this summer as we build our shared future and demand Congress build back bolder and fulfill the unmet promises of our democracy.




Sierra Club is offering a series of trainings will teach you new activist skills, connect you with other volunteers taking action around the country, and get you set up to join the movement!

**Climate Justice, Equity & the Sierra Club**  
Tuesday, August 3

**Lobbying for Change**  
Tuesday, August 10

**Storytelling to Build Power & Connection**  
Tuesday, August 17

**Creative Activism, Make Your Advocacy Sparkle & Shine**  
Tuesday, August 24

**Online Activism & Social Media Advocacy**  
Tuesday, August 31

[View all trainings](#)

[Learn More: Changed Powered by People](#)

#### New Volunteer Welcome Orientation

**Thursday, August 12 at 5:30pm**  
**Virtual Event**



Join Massachusetts Chapter staff for an introduction to our current work, learn how to get involved, and meet other volunteers! After four long years, we are so pleased to welcome a new administration into the White House. While we deserve some hard-earned celebration, now is a critical junction to plan for the fight ahead: putting America back on the right track. The next four years will focus on building local and state power and to pressure President Biden on his climate policies.

[RSVP Here](#)

**Advocacy Hour: Campaign Updates**  
**Wednesdays at 5:00pm**  
**Virtual Event**

Join Sierra Club Massachusetts leaders on Zoom for a campaign update, every Wednesday at 5pm. This is an opportunity to get plugged into our campaigns, learn about [timely issues](#) and ongoing projects, and talk directly to Sierra Club staff and leaders. New members and volunteers welcome!



[RSVP Here](#)

**Update Your Sierra Club Preferences**

All Sierra Club members and supporters (if you're reading this email—that's you!) have the ability to control their contact preferences. The process is simple, and you have full control over when and how you are contacted by the Sierra Club. You can also [log in to your online account](#) to update your address, email, or phone number, view your donation history, and view other Sierra Club tools and resources.

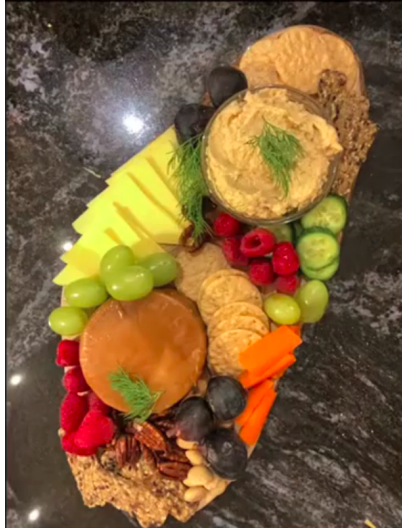
[Update Your Preferences](#)

**Plant-based Cooking Demonstration**

**Sunday, August 29 at 6:00pm**  
**Virtual Event**

Learn how to make healthy plant-based food with the Plant-based Planet Team! We'll demonstrate how to make various plant-based dishes at home. Feel free to ask us questions; we'll be happy to help you.

[RSVP Here](#)



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## Clean Energy & Climate

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### Public Hearing: Biomass is not Clean Energy

Friday, July 30 at 10:00am

Virtual Event

The Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE) Committee will be conducting a [virtual public hearing](#) on the Baker administration's proposed biomass rule changes this Friday, July 30th at 10 AM. Anyone can attend (virtually) and submit written testimony! We are urging the TUE Committee to reject DOER's amendments that would expand renewable energy incentives for wood-burning biomass power plants and roll back critical public health and environmental protections.

For more information and talking points, please visit [notoxicbiomass.org](https://notoxicbiomass.org).

[Learn More](#)

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### Energy Justice Solar Revolution

What does it look like to scale up solar in a way that prioritizes those who bear the brunt of the pollution, cost, and disease impacts of our fossil fuel energy economy? Read about this work in California to bring energy justice to communities through solar installations.



[Read More](#)

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### Support Clean Energy and Climate Justice in Boston!



The City of Boston has released a draft policy to accelerate decarbonization of buildings by setting new emissions reduction targets for buildings to meet, with the goal of being carbon free by 2050. Review the presentation of the [draft policy](#) and contact [Michele](#) to assist in submitting comments.

Take Action Now

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## Transportation Matters

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### Bus Network Redesign

As part of the bus network redesign process MassDOT and MBTA have launched an online survey to understand how the bus network can better reflect the travel needs of the region. If you are a rider on the bus system or if the current bus system is not a good option for your travel needs, this is an opportunity for you to directly inform the design and evaluation of the new redesigned bus network.

[Tell the MBTA about your travel experience by filling in this 10 minute online survey.](#)

Read more about MBTA's [vision for the bus network redesign here](#) and this article on [5 ways to make buses more reliable](#).



Take the Survey

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### Northampton Main Street for Everyone Campaign



A quickly mobilizing local group, Main Street For Everyone, is calling for significant improvements to the City of Northampton's chosen redesign plan for Main Street in order to meet the climate emergency and economic changes facing downtown. This is a once-in-a-generation chance to reclaim Northampton's greatest public space for more healthy and resilient public and economic activity including community gatherings, sidewalk vending, strolling, bicycling, performances, and the enjoyment of art and green space.

If you live or work in Northampton, write to [Mayor Narkewicz](#) ( [email template here](#) ) asking for a design that better addresses our climate emergency by significantly shrinking the street to make room for people and green infrastructure.

Visit [MainSt4Everyone.org](#) to learn about the design recommendations and how you can take action. Email [mainst4e@gmail.com](mailto:mainst4e@gmail.com) to help.

Learn More

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## Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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### Cape Cod Group Meeting Tuesday, August 3 at 7:00pm

Please join us for the bi-weekly meeting of the Cape Cod Group. All interested parties are welcome.

RSVP Here

## Community Outreach Team Meeting

**Thursday, August 5 at 7:00pm**

Bi-weekly meeting of the Outreach Team. This team is responsible for person-to-person outreach to Sierra Club members and supporters. They use a variety of tools, including phone calling, peer-to-peer texting, and email blasts.

[RSVP Here](#)

## Forest Protection Team Meeting

**Thursday, August 5 at 7:30pm**

The Forest Protection Team is dedicated to protecting and preserving forests and trees throughout Massachusetts through education, advocacy and community involvement. All are welcome to attend!

[RSVP Here](#)

## Climate Research Team Meeting

**Monday, August 9 at 6:00pm**

Bi-weekly meeting of the Climate Research Team. This team looks at municipal progress on clean energy/climate issues and seeks opportunities to leverage municipal power for state policy change.

[RSVP Here](#)

## Political Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, August 10 at 6:00pm**

This committee researches political candidates and makes recommendations on who the Chapter should endorse.

[RSVP Here](#)

## Boston Team Meeting

**Wednesday, August 11 at 6:00pm**

Join us for the meeting of Team Boston, our volunteer team focused on Boston advocacy work!

[RSVP Here](#)

## Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday, August 19 at 5:30pm**

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee. All members welcome to join except for any Executive Session.

[RSVP Here](#)

## Toxics Team Meeting

**Tuesday, August 24 at 5:00pm**

Monthly meeting of the Toxics Team. This team handles toxic pollution issues, including deadly chemicals (e.g. PFAS), plastic-based pollutants, and recycling/solid waste issues.

[RSVP Here](#)

## Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

**Wednesday, August 25 at 7:00pm**

Please join us for the monthly meeting of the Plant-based Planet Team. Come discuss strategies to promote a plant-based diet as way of fighting climate change and conserving natural resources.

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Friend and Partner Events

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### Rally for Cambridge Trees

**Monday, August 2 at 5:00pm**

**City Hall Lawn, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge**

Join Mothers Out Front on August 2, 2021 in a rally to "Save Cambridge Trees." The rally kicks off at 5:00pm, just before the August City Council meeting begins at 5:30pm.

# RALLY FOR CAMBRIDGE TREES

Since 2009, Cambridge's tree canopy has shrunk  
16 acres every year...

Join Mothers Out Front and Others

**City Hall Lawn,  
Monday, August 2, 5PM Sharp**  
Suggested RSVP: [bit.ly/cambridgetreerally](https://bit.ly/cambridgetreerally)

*Saving our TREES is Everyone's Job*



Co-sponsored by Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods, Cambridge Citizens Coalition, Cambridge Residents Alliance, Communities Responding to Extreme Weather, Friends of Jerry's Pond, Green Cambridge, Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts and others.

Using 2009 as a baseline, Cambridge's tree canopy has shrunk by more than 16 acres every year. As a result, only about a quarter of the city is now shaded. At this rate, by 2030 as much as 83 percent of the city could be without any tree canopy at all. Mature trees are irreplaceable infrastructure. Trees cannot be an afterthought if we truly care about combating climate change and upholding our stated values of social equity and economic justice. Retaining mature trees needs to be a top priority as plans are being drafted.

RSVP Here

## Our Reading List

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

- [Deep Dive: Redlining, Racism and Urban Planning](#) (Sierra Club, 7/21/21)
- [Biden's Infrastructure Plan Should Focus More on Resilient, Low Emissions Buildings](#) (Canary, 7/19/21)
- [Some want to stop pollution from local power plants. How does that pollution impact health?](#) (The Berkshire Eagle, 7/17/21)
- [Vineyard Wind developers sign deal with unions to build \\$2.8b project](#) (Boston Globe, 7/16/21)
- [Massachusetts cities try new legal path toward banning new fossil fuel hookups](#) (Energy News Network, 7/15/21)
- [Efforts to pursue climate goals in Mass. clash with incentives offered that promote fossil fuels](#) (Boston Globe, 7/10/21)
- [Why We Don't Recommend Artificial Turf for Most People](#) (New York Times, 7/9/21)

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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