



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

August 2021

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter



TEAM SIERRA'S CITY HIKE: BOSTON



SEPTEMBER 19 - OCTOBER 9

Take a Hike (Literally) with Sierra Club's City Hike September 19 - October 9

City Hike will take you on a tour of some of the best green spaces in Boston's Emerald Necklace, while also spotlighting places that need protection or are being threatened. This year's reimagined hike is self-guided and participants have from September 19th - October 9th to complete it. Do it all in one go or break it up over a few days. [Preview our video promo here](#) and [register here to join!](#)

Learn More and Register

Advocacy Hour: Boston Update

Wednesday, September 1 at
5:00pm
Virtual Event

Hear from Chapter staff about our ongoing work around proposed building emission policies that will seek to accelerate decarbonization in Boston buildings, which account for roughly 70% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

Advocacy Hour



RSVP Here

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](#)

Boston Climate Finance Fall Mobilization Meeting

Wednesday, September 8 at 5:30pm

Virtual Event

Boston is a financial hub with major offices of some of the world's largest financial institutions including BlackRock. Join us to get involved in efforts to launch strategic direct actions this fall!

In this general interest meeting, we'll hear updates about global and national campaigns to move money away from fossil fuels, and specific plans for Boston.

[Learn More](#)

New Volunteer Welcome Orientation

Thursday, September 9 at 5:30pm

Virtual Event

Join the Massachusetts Chapter for an introduction to our current work, learn how to get involved, and meet other volunteers! We'll discuss the structure of the Sierra Club, our equity values in practice, a practical look at our work, and how YOU can get involved! We hope you can make it!



[RSVP Here](#)

Clean Energy & Climate

Activist Briefing and LTE Action Night on Federal 100% Clean Energy

Thursday, August 28 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

Join us in demanding Congress build back bolder with a clean energy future for all. You'll hear an up-to-the-minute update from Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (NY-9) on where

we're at with passing a climate-centered infrastructure package. Connect with other activists sharing their stories on how we're winning on clean energy in our cities and towns. Together we'll take action submitting letters to the editor across the country asking Congress to follow our lead and invest in our communities, in our clean air and safe drinking water, and in clean energy.

CHANGE *Powered by People*

For our democracy. For our climate. For all of us to thrive.

*Activist Briefing and Letter
to the Editor Action Night*
ON FEDERAL 100% CLEAN ENERGY



SIERRA CLUB

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Energy Storage Policy Best Practices from New England: Ten Lessons from Six States

Thursday, August 26 at 1:00pm

Virtual Event

A [new report](#) by the Clean Energy Group and the Clean Energy States Alliance explores energy storage policy best practices and lessons learned from the New England states. The report aims to inform state policymakers and regulators seeking to expand energy storage markets. Report author and CESA Senior Project Director Todd Olinsky-Paul will discuss the findings of the report.

RSVP Here

Transportation Matters

MassDEP Action on Medium-and Heavy-Duty Vehicles

MassDEP will soon be initiating the regulatory process to address criteria pollutant, greenhouse gas, and toxic air contaminant emissions from medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) on-road vehicles. This includes the planned adoption of California's medium-and heavy-duty (MHD) vehicle regulations including the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) Rule, the Nitrogen Oxides Heavy Duty Omnibus, and the one-time large entity fleets reporting. [Read about the proposed regulations.](#)

Public hearings on these regulations are expected in October. Sierra Club is working to ensure that the administration hears from a diverse group of stakeholders including residents, municipal officials, fleet operators, community and environmental justice groups.

If you or sustainability and transportation groups in your community are interested in speaking up in support of these regulations, please email [Veena Dharmaraj](#) for talking points. Stay tuned for a webinar with more details on how you can engage.

Read More

Demand a stronger clean cars rule for cleaner air and climate action

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a rule that should have drastically slashed emissions from the transportation sector, the largest source of carbon emissions in the US. However, the proposal is far too weak to achieve the climate progress we need, and contains



loopholes that would allow auto manufacturers to continue to double down on gas guzzling vehicles. The proposal would result in much less pollution reduction than the auto industry agreed to in 2012, nearly a decade ago. Read the [clean car factsheet](#) and [Sierra Club statement](#).

The clean cars rule is the single most important rule on greenhouse gas emissions in this country. We need your help strengthening it. [Tell EPA we need a much stronger rule that offers no loopholes for automakers to delay the transition to all electric vehicles.](#)

Take Action: Send a message to EPA

Uber and Lyft File Ballot Language that Seeks to Classify App-Based Workers as Contractors

Sierra Club Massachusetts has endorsed the Coalition to Protect Workers Rights led [No Prop 22 campaign](#) that would cut wages and benefits for low-wage, app-based workers.

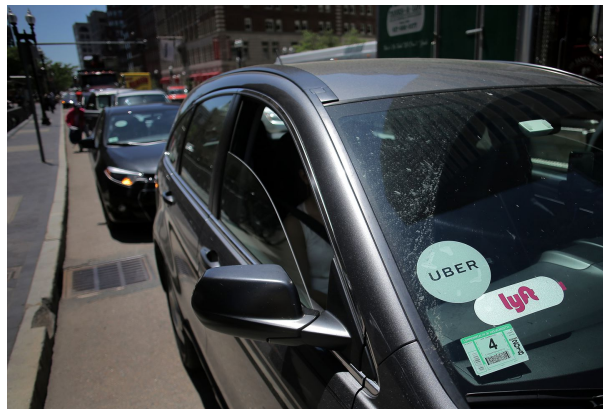


Image credit: Lane Turner, Boston Globe

Tech giants Uber, Lyft, DoorDash and Instacart have filed a proposal that would classify drivers for ride hailing and delivery apps as independent workers that would allow tech giants to pay less than minimum wage and remove legal protections against workplace injuries, discrimination, and sexual harassment. Similar to the Proposition 22 ballot initiative in California, this proposal will appear on the November 2022 ballot if it passes review. [Read more about the proposal here.](#)

[Read the coalition press release here](#) and help amplify [this campaign video](#) on social media.

Learn More

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.

Learn more about the effort to transition Main Street to clean energy on [Thursday, August 26 at 4:00pm.](#)

Visit [MainSt4Everyone.org](#) to learn about the design recommendations and how you can take

action. Email mainst4e@gmail.com to help.

[Learn More](#)

Better Bus Project Virtual Open House

Thursday, August 26 at 6:00pm
Virtual Event

Please join the Better Bus Project Virtual Open House meeting next tomorrow, August 26, at 6:00pm.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about how the MBTA is working to improve the bus experience for riders through initiatives including real-time arrival information, bus transit priority, and other bus service improvements being addressed through the [Better Bus Project](#).



[RSVP Here](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 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](#)

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Tuesday, August 31 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, September 2 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, September 2 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, September 13 at 6:00pm

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](#)

Toxics Team Meeting

Tuesday, September 14 at 5:00pm

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](#)

Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, September 13 at 6:00pm

Join us to discuss and respond to critical transportation issues affecting Massachusetts, including rail, bus, bike, pedestrian, and traffic pollution policies.

[RSVP Here](#)

Political Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 14 at 6:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 16 at 5:30pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Friend and Partner Events

Speak out for Clean Air!

Every Saturday at 10:30am

Corner of Thorndyke and Dalton Ave. in Pittsfield

Come join the 'Put Peakers in the Past Coalition' for this stand-out protest to let folks know about Pittsfield Generating's peaker power plant. They are filing for renewal of their Air Quality Permit, which would give them permission to keep polluting our air - we must stop it!



[Learn More](#)

Rally for Yes on Question 1 For a Better Budget

Saturday, August 28 at 12:00pm

LoPresti Park, 33 Sumner St, East Boston

Join the [Yes on Question 1 for A Better Budget campaign](#) and supporters on Saturday Aug 28th from 12-2pm for a Rally in East Boston! Help knock doors in neighborhoods across Boston right after 2-4pm! If you have a car, please [sign up to carpool](#).

[RSVP Here](#)

Our Reading List

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

- ['Personal Choice' Won't Stop The Climate Crisis. Join A Movement Instead](#) (WBUR, 8/19/21)
- [Bill filed to establish a state climatologist office in Mass. to track climate change](#) (Boston Globe, 8/17/21)

- [Despite all the hype, electric cars are no easy fix for the climate crisis. Here's why.](#) (Boston Globe, 8/12/21)
- [Playing Nice With the Fossil Fuel Industry Is Climate Denial](#) (The New Republic, 8/9/21)
- [US Can't Meet Climate Goals while Spending Billions on Gas Infrastructure](#) (RMI blog, 8/2/21)

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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