



## Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

September 2021

### What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

#### 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!



#### Plastics & Zero Waste Update

Wednesday, September 29 at 5:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Clint Richmond, member of the Chapter Executive Committee & national Zero Waste Single-Use Plastics Subcommittee joins Advocacy Hour to present on recycling and zero waste. In particular, there will be a focus on plastics at the state and Federal level (Break Free From Plastic Pollution bill).

#### Climate Leadership Update

Wednesday, October 6 at 5:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Join the chapter's Climate Research Team on October 6 for a presentation and update on their municipal climate research project. Across Massachusetts, individual cities and towns are taking action to fight climate change. These actions, referred to as *municipal climate actions*, are a key component to achieving the emissions reductions necessary for a safe future.

#### Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

Sunday, September 26 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](#)

## Clean Energy & Climate

### BERDO 2.0 Victory

The Boston City Council voted unanimously in support of passing a building emissions performance standard (BEPS) which will require all large buildings to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050! The policy will prevent 37 million metric tons of greenhouse gases from going into the atmosphere over the next 30 years. It also contains provisions which establish an Emissions Review Board comprised of 2/3 members nominated by community based organizations, and an Equitable Investment Fund made up of alternative compliance payments which will support local emission reduction projects that benefit EJ populations and prioritize air quality improvements, lowering energy burden, low-income affordable housing and housing stabilization, access to green jobs, and clean energy installations.



The Chapter coordinated with many coalition partners on a robust advocacy campaign in support of the policy including Boston Climate Action Network, Mothers Out Front, ACE, Clean Water Action, Community Labor United, and more. Together we gathered approximately 1800 letters and petition signatures from residents in support. As Councilor Lydia Edwards said in remarks upon receiving the petitions, our organizing "dwarfed the opposition."

This is a proud moment for the City and our advocates community, one that propels us forward as a leader in climate action!

### MassCEC Pilot Showcases Success of Whole Home Heat Pumps



"Heat pumps can serve as a whole-home heating and cooling solution in Massachusetts. That was the primary takeaway of MassCEC's Whole-Home Heat Pump Pilot, which ran from May 2019 through June 2021. And whole-home heat pumps will be fundamental to the Commonwealth meeting [our goal](#) of one million households using high-efficiency electric heating systems by 2030."

Continue Reading



One of the outdoor units for the whole-home heat pump system at the author's home. Meg Howard, Program Director, MassCEC

## Environmental Justice Legislative Briefing

The Mass Environmental Justice Table is hosting one more legislative briefing this fall on one of its bills! This bills will provide guardrails to stop dirty transportation emissions and energy projects in Massachusetts' environmental justice communities.

- [S.2135/H.3336](#) *An Act Relative to Energy Facilities Siting Reform to Address Environmental Justice, Climate, and Public Health.* [FACT SHEET](#)
- Monday, October 4th 11AM - 12PM <https://tinyurl.com/SitingJustice>

RSVP Here

## Transportation Matters

### National Drive Electric Week (NDEW)

September 25 - October 3

Join us from September 25 to October 3 for a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of electric vehicles. Attend one or many of the in-person events near you:

[Wellesley](#), [Boston](#), [Westborough](#), [Lowell](#), [Danvers](#), [Andover](#), and [Plymouth](#). Events will be held online and in-person, and new events are being added every week.



Learn More

## Sierra Club's Smart Growth and Infill Guidance Webinar Series

The [Smart Growth and Infill Guidance](#) provides meaningful guidance to activists in applying the Urban Infill Policy at the local level. It includes an overview of how land-use decisions get made, how to get involved in the process to ensure that urban infill policies are included in local plans and ordinances, what types of housing and transportation projects, plans, and policies we should support and oppose, and how to guarantee adequate and meaningful public participation, especially by historically underrepresented groups.

The guidance shows how general principles from the policy, such as that every neighborhood should be inclusive, compact and walkable, can be achieved across a spectrum of contexts, from single-family neighborhoods to transit corridors, and from rural towns to urban centers. Smarter growth is important in all of these settings, but what it looks like can vary considerably.

Join one or more infill webinar on the third Monday of each month at 8pm ET to walk through the guidance.

- Housing Access for All - October 18th - 8pm ET
- Active Transportation - November 15th - 8pm ET
- Resilience and Labor - December 20th - 8pm ET

RSVP Here

## NoProp22MA Rally for Worker Protections

Wednesday, October 6 at 10:00am

Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon Street, Boston

Tech giants Uber, Lyft, DoorDash and Instacart have filed a proposal that would classify drivers for ride hailing and delivery apps as independent workers. This would allow tech giants to pay less than minimum wage and remove legal protections against workplace injuries, discrimination, and sexual harassment.



Sierra Club Massachusetts has endorsed the [NoProp22MA campaign](#) led by the Coalition to Protect Workers Rights to oppose this \$100M big tech campaign. [Read more about the proposal here](#) and [RSVP here](#) to join the rally at the State House on Wednesday, October 6th at 10 AM at the State House Steps in advance of the public hearing on the Uber/Big Tech bill.

RSVP Here

## Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

### Climate Research Team Meeting

Wednesdays 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

### Community Outreach Team Meeting

Thursday, September 23 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

### Energy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 28 at 2:30pm

This committee meets monthly for conversations about energy policy. They weigh in on legislative issues, write testimony for hearings/public input sessions, and pen op-eds for media publications.

RSVP Here

## Political Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, September 28 at 6:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

## Cape Cod Group Meeting

**Tuesday, September 28 at 7:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

## Forest Protection Team Meeting

**Thursday, September 30 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](#)

## Toxics Team Meeting

**Monday, October 4 at 5:00pm**

Biweekly 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, October 6 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](#)

## Transportation Committee Meeting

**Thursday, October 14 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](#)

## Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday, October 21 at 5:30pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Friend and Partner Events

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### Youth-led intergenerational rally

**Friday, September 24 at 3:00pm**

**Boston Public Garden**

This is a collaborative, youth-centered, intergenerational event organized by members of the Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition (MYCC) and their adult allies. The effort is led by Fridays for Future MA, in concert with other strikes occurring around the world on the same day.



[RSVP Here](#)

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## The Fair Share Amendment: Why it Matters and How You Can Help

September 27 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

The Massachusetts Fair Share Amendment—or “millionaires tax”—will be a referendum on the ballot in November 2022. If it passes, our state will be able to make the big and sustained investments in our entire transportation system necessary to save our planet. In this webinar, hosted by 350MA, we will learn about the Fair Share Amendment, and discuss how each of us can help ensure its passage.

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Love. Earth. Justice.

October 3, 2021 at 3:00pm

At 3 pm on Sunday, October 3, 2021, [Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light](#) will convene **Love. Earth. Justice.: A Multifaith Service of Prayer, Celebration, and Resolve**. We will gather at [Old South Church](#) in Boston to celebrate creation and community, mourn all we have lost, and call each other to faithful action. Planned for approximately 90 minutes, the service will include prayer, meditation, and uplifting music, with an inspiring sermon from Rev. Traci Blackmon, national justice minister for the United Church of Christ. We'll follow the strict [Covid protocols of Old South Church](#). Wherever you live, you can join by [livestream](#).

[Learn More](#)

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## Our Reading List

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

- [Boston City Council approves major emissions cuts for large buildings](#) (Boston Globe, 9/22/21)
- [Biden Confronts Extreme Heat, A Silent Climate Killer](#) (Washington Post, 9/20/21)
- [Building Electrification Could Recharge Our Economy and Save the Climate](#) (Forbes, 9/20/21)
- [This powerful Democrat linked to fossil fuels will craft the US climate plan](#) (Boston Globe, 9/20/21)
- [As Climate Change Fears Grow, A Real Fight Over Fake Turf](#) (New York Times 9/18/21)
- [House Panel Expands Inquiry Into Climate Disinformation by Oil Giants](#) (New York Times, 9/16/21)

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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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