



# Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

March 2022

## 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!



March 30 at 5pm

### Energy Committee Presents: The Next Generation Climate Roadmap Bill

The Next Generation Climate Roadmap bill was the first piece of major climate legislation in Massachusetts in over a decade. But what did this legislation accomplish? Hear from members of our energy committee and other experts about the substance of the legislation and the effects it is already having.

[RSVP Here](#)



April 5 at 7pm

### A Public Bank for the Public Good

Did you know that bills to create a Massachusetts public bank are currently before the state legislature? Would you like to learn about these bills and how a public bank could support environmental justice and our climate? Join Brookline Mothers Out Front and the Sierra Club of MA for an expert-led webinar discussing the Massachusetts Public Bank Bill.

[RSVP Here](#)



April 13 at 5pm

### Decommissioning Charles River Dams

The Charles River has two dams that we are currently advocating to remove, the Watertown Dam and the South Natick Dam. These dams are blocking passage of fish and are degrading the quality of water. Robert Kearns, a Climate Resilience Specialist with CRWA and MASC volunteer, will talk about how to get involved and advocate for removal of these dams.

[RSVP Here](#)

### Introduction to Sierra Club's Core

[RSVP Here](#)

April 27 at 5pm

Here at the Sierra Club, we recently adopted five core and aspirational organizational values: anti-racism, balance, collaboration, justice, and transformation. These values guide how we will interact with each other, how we show up in relationships with partners, and the approach we take as we advance our established mission. Join this discussion to learn more about our core values and how we can talk about these values to further our mission.

## North American Right Whales and Offshore Wind Turbines

Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00pm  
Virtual Event

Sierra Club's Cape Cod Group will host guest speaker Charles "Stormy" Mayo, Ph.D. at our April 5, 2022 meeting at 7 pm on Zoom. Stormy is the Senior Scientist and Director of the Right Whale Ecology Program at the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown. His talk will focus on protecting North American Right Whales in the context of offshore wind project development south of Cape Cod. All are welcome to hear Stormy's expert perspective on the knowns, unknowns, and priorities!



Photo Credit: Dennis Schroeder, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

RSVP Here

## A Public Bank for the Public Good

Making our Money Work for Climate & Economic Justice

Learn from experts & advocates about public banking and how to make public banking a reality in Massachusetts.

📅 Tuesday, April 5, 2022  
🕒 7:00 - 8:00 PM

**RSVP**  
[bit.ly/MAPublicBank](https://bit.ly/MAPublicBank)

Learn more at:  
[masspublicbanking.org](https://masspublicbanking.org)

SPEAKER LINEUP

**Christine Desan**  
Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law  
Harvard Law School

**Paige Curtis**  
Culture and Communications  
Manager  
Boston Ujima Project

**Samuel Gebru**  
Managing Director,  
Black Lion Strategies  
Nonresident Senior Fellow,  
Tufts University Center for  
State Policy Analysis

**Michael Swack**  
Research Professor and Director,  
University of New Hampshire  
Center for Impact Finance  
Member, White House  
Community Development  
Advisory Council

**Ruth Caplan**  
Co-Chair,  
Massachusetts Public  
Banking Coalition,  
environmental activist

## A Public Bank for the Public Good: Making Our Money Work for Climate and Economic Justice

Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00pm  
Virtual Event

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RSVP Here

## Change

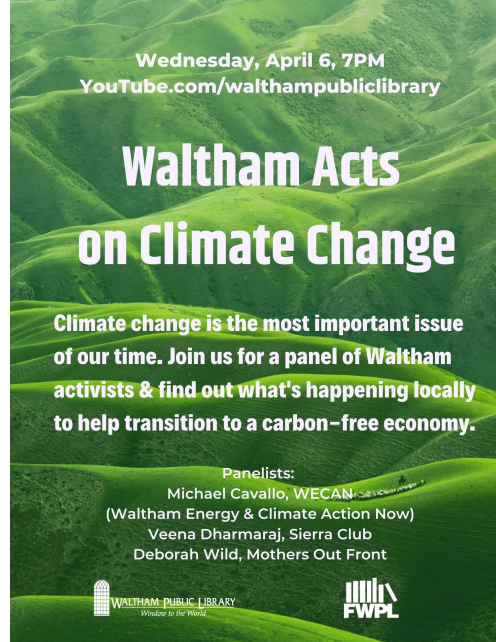
Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00pm

### Virtual Event

Climate change is the most important issue of our time. Panelists from Sierra Club MA, WECAN Waltham, and Waltham Mothers Out Front will speak about what's happening locally to help transition to a carbon-free economy. Panelists include:

- Veena Dharmaraj, Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter
- Michael Cavallo, WECAN
- Deborah Wild, Mothers Out Front

Tune In!



## Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

Sunday, April 10 at 7:00pm

### 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



## Our Sustainable Kitchen Cooking Class

Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30pm

### Virtual Event

Join professional Chef Diana Goldman as she demonstrates the preparation of a plant-based recipe. Feel free to check out Diana's repertoire of healthy recipes and cooking tips at her [website](#). A list of ingredients will be sent to people who register, so you can cook along with Diana. If you'd rather just watch, that's okay too.

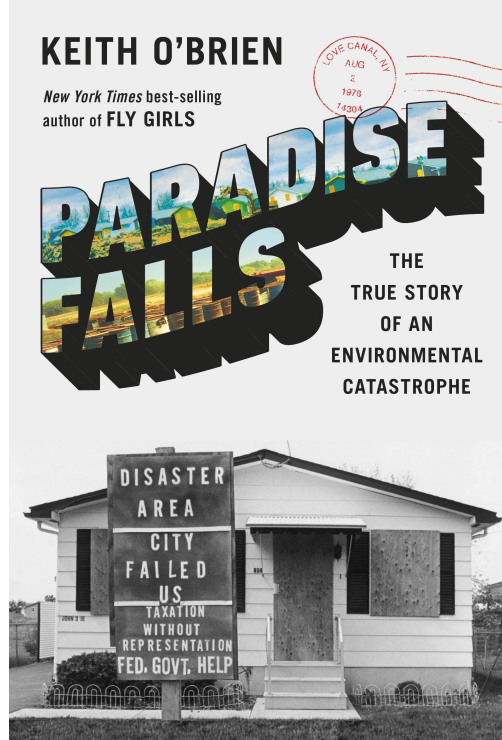
RSVP Here

## Paradise Falls Book Launch & Signing Events

*Paradise Falls* is the staggering story of an unlikely band of mothers who discovered the deadly secret of Love Canal, and exposed one of America's most devastating environmental disasters.

*Paradise Falls* brings to life a defining story from our past, laying bare how the dauntless efforts of a few women helped to spark the modern environmental movement as we know it today.

Keith O'Brien has written for *The New York Times*, *Politico*, and *The Boston Globe*. A longtime contributor to National Public Radio, he has appeared on *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition*, and *This American Life*, among other programs. He lives in New Hampshire.



### Paradise Falls Book Launch

Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00pm  
78 Main St, Maynard

[Learn More](#)

### Paradise Falls Book Signing Event

Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00pm  
279 Harvard St, Brookline

[Learn More](#)

### Paradise Falls Book Signing Event

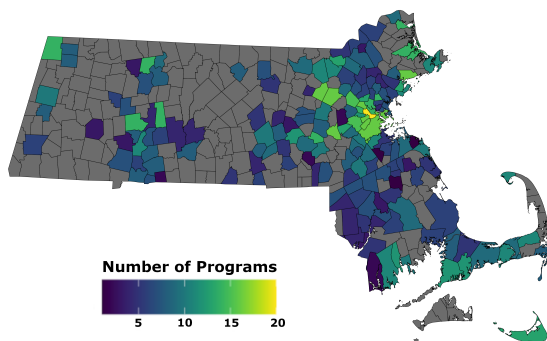
Sunday, April 24 at 1:00pm  
95 Rantoul St Suite 105, Beverly

[Learn More](#)

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## Clean Energy & Climate

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### Mass Towns for Climate

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. What actions has your municipality taken? How does it stack up to neighboring cities and towns? Check out our research and resources at [masstownsforclimate.org](https://www.masstownsforclimate.org) to learn more!

[Check it out!](#)

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## Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP): Upcoming Hearings

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is developing the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030 that will incorporate new statutory requirements and public feedback. EEA is getting ready to release the 2025 and 2030 CECP proposals and will be holding two sessions for feedback.

The first hearings have been set, and will be virtual with a presentation followed by public

comment. The presentation will be recorded in multiple languages and posted on [www.mass.gov/2030CECP](http://www.mass.gov/2030CECP) afterwards. Written feedback on the proposal is accepted at [gwsa@mass.gov](mailto:gwsa@mass.gov) until April 30, 2022.

### Hearing Focused on Electric Power, Transportation, and Non-Energy Sectors

Thursday, April 7, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Register

### Hearing Focused on Electric Power, Transportation, and Non-Energy Sectors

Friday, April 8, 12:00pm-2:00pm

Register

### Hearing Focused on Buildings Sector and Natural and Working Lands

Thursday, April 14, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Register

### Hearing Focused on Buildings Sector and Natural and Working Lands

Thursday, April 14, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Register

## Action at Chase Boston

Thursday, April 21 at 12:00pm

Chase Bank, 800 Boylston Street, Boston

On Thursday, April 21st, during the week of Passover, Jews and allies will gather at 12:00 noon outside the Prudential branch of Chase Bank, 800 Boylston Street, Boston. Chase is the institution that currently tops the list of banks funding the fossil fuel industry across the globe. Together, we will publicly proclaim today's fossil-fueled plagues like flooding, wildfires, and other extreme weather events. We will call on Chase to divest from fossil fuels and become a force for good at this moment when the need to transition to renewable energy is so urgent.



### Passover Rally @ Chase Bank

Join Jews all over the country in our fight for freedom from the tyranny of the fossil fuel industry!

#StopTheMoneyPipeline



THURSDAY April 21

12:00PM

The Prudential Center

800 Boylston Street Boston MA 02199

All Voices, All Faiths Welcome

RSVP & More Info  
[bit.ly/ChaseActionApril21](http://bit.ly/ChaseActionApril21)

RSVP Here



## Transportation Matters

### EPA Clean Trucks Rule Public Hearing



Photo Credit: Quintin Geller, Pexels

The EPA has announced its proposal to revise the clean truck standards. Trucks and buses make up only 10 percent of all vehicles on the road, but they disproportionately spew 45 percent of nitrogen oxide emissions and 57 percent of PM 2.5; and these are linked to childhood asthma, chronic illnesses, lung cancer, and premature death. EPA's standards are insufficient and need to be strengthened. We need to ensure the EPA sets a standard that reduces deadly NOx pollution 90% by 2027 and puts us on a path so that by 2035 all new trucks and buses are zero-emission.

Take action for clean truck standards today!

- **March 30 at 3:30pm:** Join a livestream panel on how we can clean up our air and climate by demanding the Environmental Protection Agency pass the strongest possible clean truck standards. [RSVP here](#).
- **April 4 at 7:00pm:** Learn more about the EPA's truck rule and then write your own comments or testimony to send to the Administration by joining the How-To-Testify workshop. [RSVP here](#).
- **Right now:** [Demand that the EPA strengthen the standards and deliver cleaner trucks now.](#)

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## MBTA FY 2023-2027 Capital Investment Plan Public Hearings

On March 24, MassDOT released their draft of the [FY2023-FY2027 Capital Investment Plan](#) (CIP) that includes all capital projects and programs that will be funded in the next five years. This is an opportunity to influence and recommend projects that will expand transit access, improve reliability, and build climate resilience. Public hearings on the CIP will be held on:

- [March 31](#), 6:00-7:30pm
- [April 6](#), 6:00-7:30pm
- [April 12](#), 6:00-7:30pm

Comments can be submitted until April 25, 2022 and emailed to [cipengagement@mbta.com](mailto:cipengagement@mbta.com).

[View sample talking points.](#)

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## Stand in Solidarity

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### Call to Action! Eversource Public Hearing

**Wednesday, March 30 at 6:00pm**

**Virtual Event**

We're calling all #NoEastieSubstation allies! Eversource is at it again. They are requesting permission to skirt all local and state permitting processes that are being appealed. Join us this Wednesday night to voice your opposition to Eversource's attempt to stampede over our residents' voices!

First, the new EFSB proceeding regarding the certificate Eversource is asking for, which would allow them to bypass all local permitting/regulatory steps. **GreenRoots is asking folks to please turn out on Wednesday night at 6pm and testify.**

To participate (i.e. comment) at the meeting, please email [geneen.bartley@mass.gov](mailto:geneen.bartley@mass.gov) with your name, email address and mailing address. To join the Zoom meeting, [please follow the link here](#). If necessary, the meeting will resume on Thursday, March 31 at 6:00 pm.

If you have questions about showing up in solidarity, please email John Walkey at [JohnW@greenrootschelsea.org](mailto:JohnW@greenrootschelsea.org)

A second but related issue is the fact that Eversource is filing to raise rates for customers across the state in order to cover distribution costs - essentially to cover the cost of the Eastie substation. [DPU hearings are on March 31st and May 4th](#). **Again, please show up and testify!**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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## Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

**Climate Research Team Meeting**  
**Wednesdays at 6:00pm**

[RSVP Here](#)

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.

## Community Outreach Team Meeting

**Thursdays at 7:00pm**

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](#)

## Toxics Team Meeting

**Mondays at 5:00pm**

Weekly 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](#)

## Cape Cod Group Meeting

**Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

## Political Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

## Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

**Wednesday, April 13 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](#)

## Forest Protection Team Meeting

**Thursday, April 14 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](#)

## Executive Committee Meeting

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

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

[RSVP Here](#)

## Energy Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, April 26 at 5:30pm**

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](#)

## Transportation Committee Meeting

**Thursday, April 28 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](#)

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## Friend and Partner Events

**On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces: Kareemah Batts -**

## “Diversity Is More Than Color”

Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00pm

### Virtual Event

As a cancer survivor, paraclimber, outdoor enthusiast, and a diversity, equity, and inclusion professional, Kareemah pulls from her lived experience and education to co-create a world where diversity is intersectional and accessible. Kareemah will walk us through her journey, and demonstrate what happens when the narrative shifts from: “you don’t belong here” to “you belong here, you exist, and you matter.”

This free speaker series will address the challenges and importance of establishing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in outdoor spaces, and will feature speakers whose work is advancing efforts to strengthen belonging and connection between communities of color and the benefits of time in nature.

[Learn More](#)

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## Pittsfield Green Drinks — Water Quality in Berkshire County

Tuesday, April 19 at 6:00pm

### Virtual Event

Elena Traister will speak at the April Pittsfield Green Drinks event on Tuesday, April 19th at 6:00 PM. She will talk about the Clean Water Act (CWA), give a summary of the primary pollutants affecting the Housatonic and Hoosic watersheds, and briefly touch on policy aimed at continuing to improve water quality.

As part of this discussion, Elena will give us a brief historical perspective on the CWA, then discuss some of the state’s water quality monitoring findings for the Hoosic and Housatonic Rivers. She’ll touch on some of the primary pollutants that continue to be problematic — such as pathogens, nutrients, PCBs — and emerging concerns, like salinization.

This October will mark 50 years since the enactment of the Clean Water Act. So, come join us to celebrate everything this law has achieved and learn about how we continue to improve our water quality here in the Berkshires — and everywhere!

[Learn More](#)

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## Our Reading List

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

- [Mass. revisits rules about burning wood for electricity, including environmental justice protections](#) (WBUR, 3/29/22)
- [‘Specific questions’: Review of Joint Base machine gun range will take longer than expected](#) (Cape Cod Times, 3/25/22)
- [Banks promised climate action. Where is it?](#) (Grist, 3/25/22)
- [Oaktree-Backed Power Plant Goes Bankrupt After Construction Spat](#) (Bloomberg, 3/24/22)
- [It’s Time to Listen to Young Voters on Climate Action](#) (Data For Progress, 3/17/22)
- [Federal regulators to reconsider controversial Springfield compressor station](#) (Boston Globe, 3/11/22)
- [How Redlining Contributed to Air Pollution Across America](#) (New York Times, 3/9/22)

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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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