



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

June 2022

Massachusetts Equity & Justice Roadmap

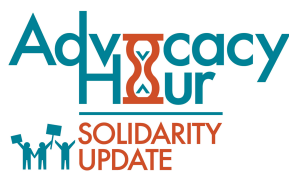
In 2020, the Massachusetts Chapter—with the help of numerous volunteers, partners, and allies—wrote and publicly released an [Equity and Justice Roadmap](#). We advocate for environmental justice and climate justice across the state, but we can't do this well without ensuring that we are a just organization. Learn about the Roadmap we've created for the Chapter to become a more equitable organization and ways you can be part of the movement!

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!



June 29 at 5pm

Equity & Justice Roadmap Update

In May 2021, the Massachusetts Chapter formally launched our [Equity and Justice Roadmap](#), which is our first iteration of equity goals as a chapter. Join this Advocacy Hour to learn more about the roadmap, our goals, our progress to date, and next steps.

RSVP Here



July 13 at 5pm

2022 Elections Kickoff Call

As we continue to face multiple crises, our elected officials matter more than ever. Join this kickoff call to learn about the Chapter's plan for electing climate champions this fall, and how you can get involved!

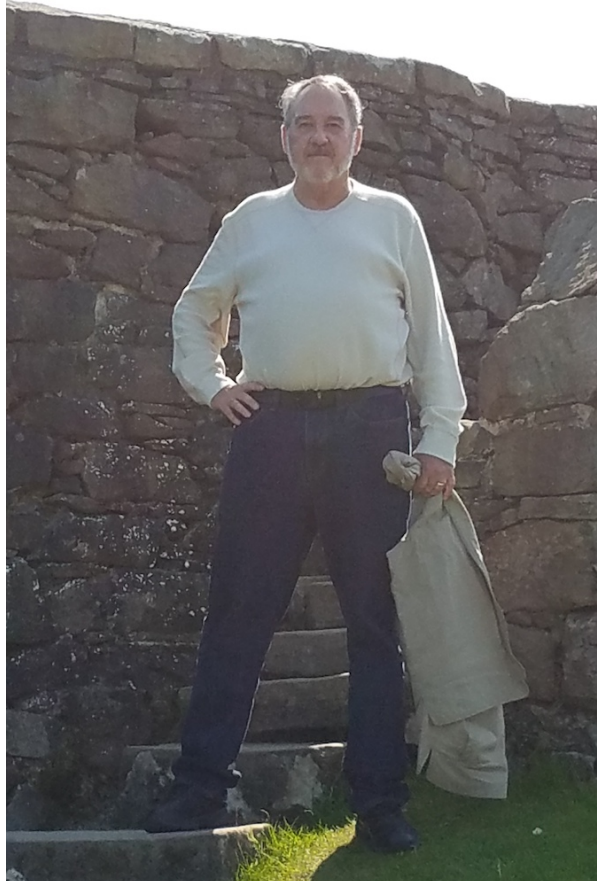
RSVP Here

An instrumental volunteer:
David Zeek

David Zeek has been a volunteer with the Massachusetts Chapter since 2015, following his professional retirement. Over the last seven years, he's become a leader in both gas leaks and offshore wind work, and has been instrumental in the success of various pieces of legislation. This month, David is retiring from his volunteer position, and we could not be more grateful for his work with the Chapter. Read [a profile of David](#) over on our blog, and then RSVP to join the beginning of the monthly Energy Committee meeting on June 28 to help us thank David for his hard work and wish him well as he embarks on the next phase of retirement.

[Read David's Profile](#)

[Join David's Send-Off Call](#)



Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

June 26 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

June 23 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:

beantownkitchen.com. 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.



Clean Energy & Climate

Why burning hydrogen in buildings is bad for climate and health

A new report from Physicians for Social Responsibility called "[Hydrogen Pipe Dreams: why burning hydrogen in buildings is bad for climate and health](#)" takes a close look at the health, safety, and climate impacts of blending hydrogen with methane in our gas system to fuel gas appliances in our homes. The report outlines several "failings" of this false climate solution as well as policy and advocacy recommendations, including pursuing electrification without delay.

[Read the Report](#)

Only 10 Days Left for Climate & Environmental Justice!

July 11

Massachusetts State House & Online



The clock is ticking down! Join the Massachusetts Chapter, with Mass Power Forward, in calling on our legislators to keep moving swiftly ahead and pass our priorities for environmental and climate justice! Air Quality! Siting Reform! Housing Justice and Retrofits! Renewable Energy! Just Transition! Indigenous Justice! These can't wait another two years! We need all of this before the end of the session in July- which is just around the corner. We must show up so our leaders know that we demand climate action now!

[RSVP Here](#)

ICYMI: Vanguard is Sinking Your Future

With over \$8 trillion in assets under management (AUM), Vanguard plays a critical role in the transition to a sustainable future. The Vanguard S.O.S. campaign is calling on Vanguard to implement a series of solutions to address the climate crisis and the detrimental impacts of its investments, especially on Indigenous, frontline, and communities of color. On June 22, Mary Cerulli, founder Climate Finance Action and part of the Vanguard S.O.S. core strategy team, joined Advocacy Hour to teach us about the Vanguard S.O.S. campaign and how you can get involved. If you're interested in watching the recording, please email [Emma](#).



Photo Credit: Rachael Warriner

Transportation Matters

[Ask Your School District to Go Electric with the EPA's Clean](#)

School Bus Funding Program



Photo credit: [Proterra](#)

The EPA Clean School Bus Funding Program, the largest school bus funding program in U.S. history is now open for applications. This program will provide \$5 billion over the next five years (FY 2022-2026) to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. The current round makes available \$500 million in funding and allows school districts to apply for up to 25 buses. The EPA has put together a list of priority school districts that will receive a higher level of funding and preference in the selection process. The list of [24 priority school districts in Massachusetts is available here](#).

[Click here](#) to view program guidelines, list of eligible applicants, and supporting resources. The EPA will be [accepting applications](#) until **August 19, 2022**.

MBTA Bus Network Redesign

The MBTA is in the process of reimagining its bus network to better reflect the changes in travel patterns and create a better experience for riders. As a part of the redesign efforts, MBTA hopes to provide 25% more bus service, 70% more weekend service, and increase frequency of service. Use this [interactive map](#) to get detailed information on specific routes or use the [trip planning tool](#) to compare your current trip and the proposed redesigned bus network. Your input is critical to fine-tune and improve bus service. Tell the MBTA what you think about the proposed changes using the [online survey](#) or join one of the several [virtual or in-person public events](#) through June and July.

[Take the Survey](#)

[Join an Event](#)

Stand in Solidarity

Support the Fair Share Amendment

The [Fair Share Amendment](#) is a proposal to amend the Massachusetts Constitution, creating an additional tax of four percentage points on a person's annual income above \$1 million. The revenue raised (approximately \$2b annually) would be spent on quality public education, public transportation, and maintenance of roads and bridges. The Fair Share Amendment will be on the ballot this November. Take action by signing this [Vote Pledge Form](#) and canvass friends and family to vote 'Yes' on Fair Share this November. Want to go door-to-door and talk to voters? Join one or more of the [18 regional canvass events and phone banks](#) happening through this week.

[Learn More](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 23 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](#)

Advocacy Team Meeting

Thursdays at 7:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Weekly meeting of the Advocacy Team. This team advocates for stronger legislation by helping Sierra Club members and supporters organize within their communities and connect with their legislators to advance climate justice.

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

Energy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 28 at 5:30pm

Join to learn about the many regulatory and legislative avenues for climate action here in Massachusetts, and how you can get involved.

RSVP Here

Climate Research Team Meeting

Wednesday, June 29 at 6:00pm

Biweekly 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

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Tuesday, July 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, July 12 at 6:00pm

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

RSVP Here

Forest Protection Team Meeting

Thursday, July 14 at 7:00pm

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

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Tuesday, July 19 at 6:00pm

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

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 21 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

Heat preparedness workshops

Join CREW (Communities Responding to Extreme Weather) and Mass General Hospital for two workshops on how to prepare for heat waves in your community! Free food, cooling kits, and a raffle ticket for a free air conditioner are available to all who attend. Attendees who complete research surveys will also receive gift cards.

- June 23 @ 6pm — [Montserrat Aspirers Community Center](#) (358 Washington St, Boston)

- July 14 @ 6pm — [Mass Audubon Boston Nature Center](#) (500 Walk Hill Street, Mattapan)

Our Reading List

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

- [How climate change and environmental justice are inextricably linked](#) (Washington Post, 6/14/22)
- [Climate change is all about power. You have more than you think.](#) (Vox, 6/9/22)
- [Why Joe Biden is invoking a war power to build heat pumps and solar panels](#) (Vox, 6/8/22)
- [Ford plans to add 6,200 jobs in Ohio, Michigan, and Missouri](#) (Boston Globe, 6/2/22)
- [Column: An effective peak capacity generator for Peabody](#) (Salem News, 6/2/22)
- [\\$20 million is in sight for three-decker energy pilot](#) (Dorchester Reporter, 6/1/22)
- [Despite funding concerns, Phil Scott approves environmental justice bill](#) (VTDigger, 5/31/22)
- [A climate-friendly greenhouse goes up in East Boston](#) (WBUR, 5/26/22)

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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