



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

February 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 2 at 5pm

Broken Democracy in Massachusetts

People tend to think of Massachusetts as a beacon of democracy, but in reality the Massachusetts House is run more like a corporation where the House Speaker is the CEO. Rank and file legislators (and therefore constituents), have very little voice in what legislation is passed. Come learn about how power is centralized and how we can build a statewide coalition to get people elected who will truly represent our interests and will change the culture of the legislature.

[RSVP Here](#)



March 9 at 5pm

Protecting our Dark Nighttime Sky

Light pollution is affecting insects, birds and wildlife, our health, our pocketbooks, and our climate. But we can stop it! There is legislation moving in the Massachusetts state legislature that would help us regain our ability to see the stars. Learn about light pollution, current efforts to combat it, and what you can do to help.

[RSVP Here](#)



March 16 at 5pm

Leveraging Billions From the American Rescue Plan Act for the Planet

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided Massachusetts \$8.7 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: \$5.3 billion to the state government and about \$3.4 billion directly to municipalities. In December of 2021,

[RSVP Here](#)

Governor Baker signed a \$4 billion spending package combining ARPA funds with excess tax revenue. What was in that spending package for the environment? And how do we make sure that future ARPA funds are used to build the greener future we need?



Energy Burden in Massachusetts

[RSVP Here](#)

Join this conversation with the Connecticut Chapter's Alycia Jenkins about her Hartford-area work on [energy burden](#).

March 23 at 5pm



Energy Committee Presents: The Next Generation Climate Roadmap Bill

[RSVP Here](#)

The Next Generation Climate Roadmap bill was the first piece of major climate legislation in Massachusetts in over a decade. Signed into law on March 26, 2021, it paves the road ahead to reducing our emissions. 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.

March 30 at 5pm

Fix the Grid: Learn How to Clean Up ISO-NE with Sierra Club

Tuesday, March 8 at 6:00pm
Virtual Event

Join us for an interactive presentation about how ISO-New England is continuing to hold back progress towards a clean grid. We'll hear about the latest action - a vote to delay the elimination of the Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) - and what we can do to stand up for clean energy and clean air!



[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

Sunday, February 27 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](#)



Seed Starting at Home

Wednesday, March 2 at 6:00pm

Virtual Event

The Plant-based Planet Team is happy to collaborate with the Trustees of Reservations for this event, so you can learn how to start your own plants from seeds, adding up to lots of fresh vegetables from your garden. The Trustees is welcoming Sierra Club members to participate in this virtual class on Seed Starting at Home.

[Learn More](#)

Clean Energy & Climate

Fight for Healthy Homes! Actionar on the Specialized Net Zero Stretch Code Featuring Rep. Tami Gouveia

Tuesday, March 1 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) released a specialized stretch code for public review and comment on February 8, 2022. Public comments are due by March 9, 2022.

This webinar will provide an overview of what DOER has proposed for the “net zero” stretch code for municipal adoption and identify key issues for advocates to use in making comments to DOER. Attendees will have a chance to have their questions answered.

The webinar is being offered one day before DOER begins its community meetings—perfect timing! [You can also check out this toolkit for taking action ahead of the webinar.](#)

[RSVP Here](#)

Attend and provide comments at an upcoming DOER community meeting

DOER is holding a series of community meetings related to the specialized stretch code. [Learn more here.](#)

There will be no live Q&A session in the meetings. Instead, advocates can submit comments ahead of time, with specific questions for DOER.

People will be limited to 3 minutes for making their comments. [You can use the comments outlined in this advocacy toolkit](#) to inform your public comments at the DOER community meetings.

Western Region: March 2 at 6-8pm

Register

Metro Boston and Northeastern Region: March 3 at 9-11am

Register

Environmental Justice Communities: March 4 at 6-8pm

Register

Central Regions: March 7 at 3-5pm

Register

Southeastern Region: March 8 at 3-5pm

Register

Hydrogen: Future of Clean Energy or a False Solution?

Thursday, March 3 at 12:00pm

Virtual Event

The fossil fuel industry is hyping hydrogen of all kinds as a low-carbon replacement for all sorts of uses of fossil fuels—from powering vehicles and heavy industry to heating buildings. In reality, many hydrogen projects will only lock us in to continued fossil fuel use and additional investments in fossil fuel infrastructure.

Join us to learn more about the types of hydrogen, how they are produced, and what to watch for from guest speaker Cara Bottorff, Sierra Club senior electric sector analyst, and author of [this article](#).



Photo by iStock.com/Drbouz

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Transportation Matters

Women in the Transit Equity Movement: Past, Present, and Future

Monday, February 28 at 6:00PM

Virtual Event

On the heels of Transit Equity Day, Rosa Parks' birthday, Feb. 4, 2022, and as we wrap up Transit Equity Month currently being observed in various cities and states across the U.S., please join the NAACP Massachusetts State Conference, NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice team, the Labor Network for Sustainability, Sierra Club, Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE), and Boston T-Riders Union for: Women in the Transit Equity Movement: Past, Present, and Future. Featuring Sheila McCauley Keys, niece of Rosa Parks and author of "Our Auntie Rosa: The Family of Rosa Parks Remembers Her Life and Lessons". Also featuring former and current Mayors of the City of Boston, Kim Janey and Mayor Michelle Wu

RSVP Here

Every Year is an Election Year

Looking to volunteer? Join our Political Program!

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club and our 85,000 members and followers across the state support a broad-based, coordinated strategy for addressing the climate crisis. Have you been wanting to get involved in efforts beyond your household to improve our environment? Do you want to work with a Sierra Club team to build political solutions to our environmental challenges? [We offer opportunities for you to get involved!](#)

[Read More on our Blog](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Tuesday, March 1 at 7:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

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

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

Monday, March 7 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](#)

Political Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 8 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, March 9 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, March 10 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, March 17 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, March 22 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, March 24 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](#)

Friend and Partner Events

MUNI Summit: The Importance of REC Retirement and Establishing a Long-Term Plan

Wednesday, March 2 at 5:30pm

Virtual Event

Join the Massachusetts Climate Action Network for their March 2022 Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Summit where they will discuss why the retirement of Class I Renewable Energy Credits matters for MLPS and how the adoption of power supply policies can be beneficial for MLPs in planning for REC retirement.

[Learn More](#)

WEBINAR
Topic: Gas Pump Warning Labels

Newton Councilors Vicki Danberg, Alison Leary, and Emily Norton invite you to a webinar on Gas Pump Warning Labels.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Patty Nolan
Cambridge City Councilor

Jamie Brooks
Activist and Author

This event is co-sponsored by:

SIERRA CLUB MASSACHUSETTS

[WARNING!] This product causes climate change and air pollution.

Cigarette packages have had warnings on them since 1965, “Caution: Cigarette Smoking May Be Hazardous to Your Health”. Government sponsored public health warnings have a proven track record in altering people’s preferences. The public has a right to know: we need health warning labels on gas pumps because gasoline and diesel combustion is an invisible killer of more people globally from respiratory disease than cigarette smoking.

Join us for a discussion with Cambridge City Councilor Patty Nolan, who led on Cambridge’s 2020 “warming label” legislation, and activist Jamie Brooks, author of *Climate Change Warning Labels on Pumps: The Role of Public Opinion Formation in Climate Change Mitigation Policies*, in the journal *Global Challenges*.

Questions?
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DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 3
TIME: 6:00 - 7:00 PM

REGISTER

Gas Pump Warning Labels Webinar

Thursday, March 3 at 6:00pm

Virtual Event

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[Learn More](#)

Pittsfield Green Drinks — Experiencing Mass Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuaries

Tuesday, March 15 at 6:00pm Virtual Event

Zach Adams, full-time Teacher Naturalist for Mass Audubon in the Berkshires, will speak at the March Pittsfield Green Drinks event on Tuesday, March 15th at 6:00PM. Zach will talk about mindfully and respectfully experiencing nature, how to deepen your experience, and what goes on behind the scenes at some of the Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries. From what you see while on the trails, to the science, conservation, and hard work that goes into making the wildlife sanctuaries such amazing places for you and the ecosystem.

Pittsfield Green Drinks is an informal gathering on the third Tuesday of the month. These nights are free and open to everyone with any environmental interest. The drinks aren't green but the conversations are. Bring your questions!

[Learn More](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [From Coal to Wind, Brayton Point to Become Key Location for Offshore Wind Industry](#) (Boston Globe, 2/17/22)
- [Boston food oasis Eastie Farm prepares to expand into new urban greenhouse](#) (Boston Herald, 2/17/22)
- [How Billions in Infrastructure Funding Could Worsen Global Warming](#) (New York Times, 2/10/22)
- [The end of natural gas has to start with its name](#) (Vox, 2/10/22)
- [Fossil Fuel Companies Have the Nerve to Claim That Taxing Them Will Hurt the Climate](#) (The New Republic, 2/10/22)
- [With new Mass Save three-year plan, Massachusetts sharpens its best climate-fighting tool](#) (Boston Globe, 2/1/22)

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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