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!

Broken Democracy in Massachusetts

March 2 at 5pm

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.

Protecting our Dark Nighttime Sky

March 9 at 5pm

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.

Leveraging Billions From the American Rescue Plan Act for the Planet

March 16 at 5pm

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,
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

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

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

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!

Tuesday, March 8 at 6:00pm
Virtual Event

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.
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

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

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**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*

RSVP Here

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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
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!

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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Political Committee Meeting**
*Tuesday, March 8 at 6:00pm*
This committee researches political candidates and makes recommendations on who the Chapter should endorse.

**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.

**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!

**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.
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.

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.

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.

Gas Pump Warning Labels Webinar
Thursday, March 3 at 6:00pm
Virtual Event
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.


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!