

Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

May 2022

Special Announcement: Sierra Club offices organization-wide are closed from May 23 - 30, with staff returning to work on May 31st. We look forward to connecting with you upon our return!

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](#). Over the last two years, we have continued to refine our Roadmap, providing updates on our progress along the way. We recently added updates to the Roadmap, and hope that you'll take the time to review them!

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 1 at 5pm

Protecting Massachusetts Pollinators

Jenny Van Wyk, Visiting Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences at Mount Holyoke College and a USDA-NIFA fellow at UMass will give a presentation about protecting Massachusetts pollinators. Her research has focused on bumble bees, pathogens and climate change.

[RSVP Here](#)



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

[RSVP Here](#)

June 22 at 5pm

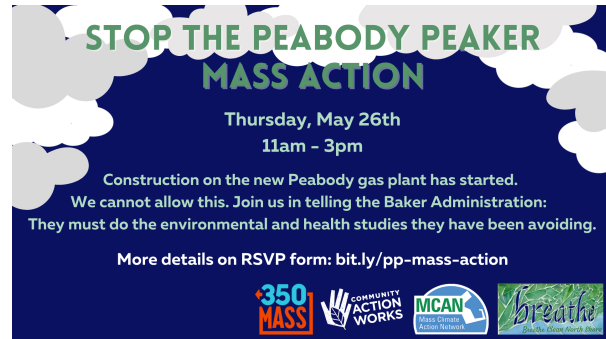
calling on Vanguard to implement a series of solutions to address the climate crisis and the detrimental impacts of its investments, especially on Indigenous, frontline, and communities of color. Join Advocacy Hour on June 22 to hear from Mary Cerulli, founder Climate Finance Action and part of the Vanguard S.O.S. core strategy team, to learn more about the Vanguard S.O.S. campaign and how you can get involved.

Mass Action to Stop the Peabody Peaker

**May 26 at 11:00am
Peabody**

You've probably heard by now that construction has started on the new gas power plant being built in Peabody. It's outrageous and infuriating that our state entities continue to move forward with this dangerous and unnecessary project despite countless unanswered questions about the impacts it will have on our health and our environment.

To make our opposition to the Peabody peaker clear and continue to call on the Baker administration to do their jobs, Breathe Clean North Shore and our allies are planning a mass action on Thursday, May 26th in Peabody.



[Learn More & Register](#)

Coyotes and the Cape Cod National Seashore

**June 7 at 7:00pm
Virtual Event**



Have you ever wondered why hunting, including predator hunting, is allowed within the boundaries of the Cape Cod National Seashore? Would you like to learn how we can put pressure on decision-makers to stop hunting within the Seashore? Please join Sierra Club's Cape Cod Group on Tuesday, June 7 at 7 pm for a discussion about coyotes and the Cape Cod National Seashore with biologist Jon Way, Ph.D., local animal rights activist Louisa Kane, J.D., and founder of the Plymouth North High School Environmental Club Grace McNeill, class of 2022.

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

May 22 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](#)

Clean Energy & Climate

The Burning Question Campaign

Sierra Club has joined a coalition to fight against natural gas expansion and speed up the transition to a just, safe, healthy, and clean energy system. The gas we use to fuel our homes is not "natural," not safe, and a major driver of climate change. This campaign asks the Burning Question: Will our legislators stand up to gas companies? You can learn more at our [website](#). Please contact Dan McCarthy at daniel.mccarthy@sierraclub.org to join the campaign!

[Contact Dan McCarthy](#)



Photo Credit: Rachael Warriner

Vanguard S.O.S.

Extracting and burning fossil fuels created the climate crisis, which is likely to cause a global financial meltdown like we've never seen before. Over 30 million customers entrust their money to Vanguard. But Vanguard continues to put that money into coal, oil, and gas companies, making it one of the world's top two investors in fossil fuels, companies driving deforestation, and companies violating human rights worldwide.

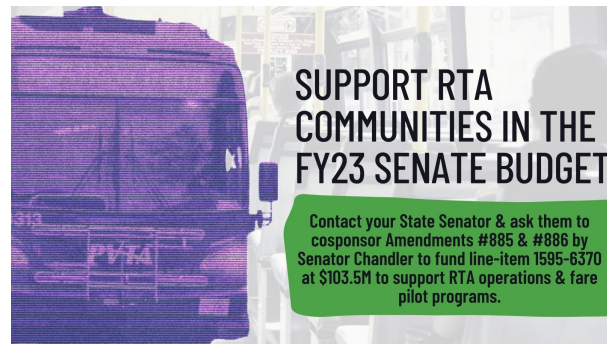
Learn more about [Vanguard S.O.S.](#)

Transportation Matters

Protect Regional Transit in the FY23 State Budget!

The 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) in Massachusetts serve 250 communities beyond the reach of the MBTA and are a lifeline for low-income families and essential workers. The RTAs rely significantly upon

funding in the annual state budget to support operations. In order for RTAs to maintain and improve service, and hire and train drivers to address the workforce shortage, they require \$101 million in FY23 operating funds.



Please call or email your Senator this week and ask them to co-sponsor Amendments #885 and #886 by Senator Harriette Chandler. That will make a total of \$103.5 million available to RTAs for service, workforce development and fare pilot programs.

Use this action guide from our friends at Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) and T4MA to raise your voice:

1. [Find your senator](#)
2. If you know your Senator, [check if they have already co-sponsored amendments #885 & #886 here](#)
3. If not, reach out to your Senator and ask them to co-sponsor Amendments #885 & #886 by Sen. Chandler. While calls have the most impact ([see phone script](#)), emails are great too ([see email template](#))!
4. [Post on social media using this toolkit](#), forward this email to your networks, or reach out to 2-3 close friends or colleagues and ask them to take action.

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Energy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 24 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](#)

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Tuesday, May 24 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](#)

Climate Research Team Meeting

Wednesdays at 6:10pm

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](#)

Advocacy Team Meeting

Thursdays at 7:00pm

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.

[RSVP Here](#)

Toxics Team Meeting

Mondays at 5:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

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.

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Tuesday, June 7 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, June 14 at 6:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 16 at 5:30pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

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](#)

Forest Protection Team Meeting

Thursday, June 9 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](#)

Friend and Partner Events

Kids in Kayaks at the Westside Block Party

May 28 at 12:00pm

181 Dewey Ave, Pittsfield

Join BEAT for a fun afternoon on the Housatonic River! We'll be hosting one of our annual Kids in Kayaks events at this year's Westside Block Party. Bring the kids to learn about how rivers work, what critters you can find in the Housatonic, how to safely navigate the river, and experience a kayak for yourself.

[Learn More](#)

Heat Preparedness Week

May 23rd -27th

MAPC is working with partners and municipalities across the Greater Boston region to better prepare our communities for rising temperatures and extreme heat. This May, they're hosting the second annual "Heat Preparedness Week" to raise awareness about extreme heat in the region, how it's impacting public health, and the strategies to prepare and plan for extreme heat.

Each day of the week will focus on a different theme:

- **Monday, May 23:** Climate Change and Increasing Heat- What can we expect in Metro Boston and what are communities doing about it?
- **Tuesday, May 24:** Climate Equity, Heat, and Housing
 - **Keeping Metro Boston Cool: A Public Forum on Building a Heat-Resilient Region** | 6:30pm - 8:00pm | [Register](#)
- **Wednesday, May 25:** Public Health and Air Quality
 - **It's getting HOT in the workplace!! ¡¡Qué Calor!!** | 3:00pm-4:30pm | [Register](#)
- **Thursday, May 26:** Open Space, Green Infrastructure, and Nature Based Solutions
- **Friday, May 27:** Impact of Heat on the Electricity Grid

Plus, check out these additional events:

- **Heat Resilient Boston Tour with the Charles River Watershed Association** | Saturday, May 21st: 1:00pm – 2:00pm | [Register](#)
- **Sweltering Heat Waves and Increasing Drought: Can the Northeast handle the heat?** | Friday, June 3rd: 8:30am-12:00pm | [Register](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [The Democrats Really Are That Dense About Climate Change](#) (The Atlantic, 5/22)
- [Why Biden's Plan to Fix Gas Prices Isn't Working](#) (The New Republic, 5/12/22)
- [BlackRock, Vanguard and State Street Control a Piece of Nearly Everything](#) (New York Times, 5/12/22)
- [Fossil Fuels Aren't Just Harming the Planet. They're Making Us Sick](#) (Inside Climate News, 5/12/22)
- [India and Pakistan's severe heat wave, explained](#) (Vox, 5/11/22)
- [How shareholders are pushing big banks for climate action](#) (New York Times, 5/10/22)
- [To Equitably Confront Climate Change, Cities Need to Include Public Health Agencies in Planning Adaptations](#) (Inside Climate News, 5/9/22)
- [Heat pumps do work in the cold — Americans just don't know it yet](#) (Grist, 5/9/22)
- [Asbestos found in construction debris dumped in Chelsea](#) (WBUR, 5/6/22)

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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