



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

July 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

Governor Baker must sign the climate bill

With less than a week left in the legislative session, Governor Baker must sign the climate bill as written to meet our climate and environmental justice priorities.



This climate bill, ***An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind***, will expand clean energy, transportation electrification, and building decarbonization measures to create jobs and help reach statewide emissions reduction targets. This includes scaling up the offshore wind industry, removing wood-burning biomass from renewable subsidies, and requiring the MBTA bus fleet to be all-electric by 2040, while prioritizing underserved communities.

In order to ensure this climate bill becomes law, please send a message to Governor Baker to sign the bill as written. [We cannot wait for meaningful action - send your message today.](#)

The provisions in this bill will support much needed progress to reduce emissions 50% by 2030 as required by law. Let's ensure that the Governor signs a climate bill that moves us towards our shared climate goals and grows our clean energy economy.

Send a Message Now

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!



July 27 at 5pm

Legislative Update on Climate Bill

Last week, the House and Senate passed a climate bill, 'An Act driving clean energy and offshore wind'. The bill includes provisions for clean energy, transportation electrification, building decarbonization, and other climate priorities. Governor Baker must now sign this into law before July 31. Join us to learn more about the provisions and what you can do to get this bill over the finish line.

[RSVP Here](#)



August 3 at 5pm

Energy Burden in Boston

Energy Burden has become an important tool in understanding energy efficiency and energy justice. In the Boston area, many residents struggle with energy costs depending on many intersecting variables such as race, income, eviction rates, and more. We hope to learn about Energy Burden in the Boston area by studying these statistics geographically and applying it to energy justice initiatives in Boston.

[RSVP Here](#)



Our Sustainable Kitchen Cooking Class

Thursday, August 11 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](#)

Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

Sunday, August 21 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



Take action to stop the proposed Springfield-Longmeadow Pipeline!

As the escalating impacts of climate change grow, we need you to help stop a fossil fuel expansion project here in Massachusetts. Construction of Eversource's Springfield-Longmeadow proposed pipeline will cost ratepayers tens of millions for an unnecessary, dirty fossil fuel infrastructure project through an already environmentally burdened neighborhood.

[Please send a public comment to the MEPA Office now](#), telling the Baker Administration we have no business building brand new unnecessary and expensive dirty pipelines through environmental justice neighborhoods in 2022. Comments are due by July 28th.

Send a Comment Now

Meeting about Environmental Justice

Thursday, July 28 at 9:30am

Virtual Event

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is convening the [Environmental Justice Council](#) (EJC) for its first meeting on July 28, 2022, 9:30-11:30 am. The EJC is appointed by the Governor to advise and provide recommendations to the Secretary of EEA on relevant policies and standards to achieve environmental justice principles that are recognized by [state law](#). As one of its first priorities, the EJC will conduct an analysis to ensure the definition of environmental justice (EJ) population achieves these objectives of environmental justice principles.

The EJ Council operates under the [Open Meeting Law](#) which allows for public attendance at formal deliberative meetings. While the public is permitted to attend an open meeting, an individual may not address the public body without permission of the chair. The meeting will be hosted virtually on Zoom. Interpretation will be provided in Spanish, Portuguese, and Mandarin. If you require interpretation in another language, please include that requested language on the Zoom registration form. Requests must be submitted 48 hours prior to meeting start time.

Draft Renter Strategic Plan Comment Period Open

As a follow-up to the 2022-2024 Energy Efficiency Plan, the Mass Save Program Administrators ("PAs") have submitted a [Draft Renter Strategic Plan](#) ("Draft Plan") describing what new protocols have been put into place and what additional steps remain to be taken to increase service to renters and landlords. The EEAC is seeking public input on the Draft Plan to inform its review and recommendations.



There are several opportunities for providing input. The EEAC is hosting two public listening sessions at which you can provide verbal input:

- August 1, 2022, 6 pm-8 pm: [You can register for this listening session here.](#)
- August 17, 2022, noon-1pm. [You can register for this listening session here](#)
- If you plan to provide comments or to request interpretation at either of the listening sessions, please email Alissa Whiteman at alissa.whiteman@mass.gov in advance.

You can also provide input in writing via email to ma-eeac@mass.gov. Please provide written input by August 16, 2022.

Cooking With Gas: Health Harms from Gas Stoves

Thursday, August 25 at 4:00pm

Virtual Event



Gas appliances produce dangerous air pollutants that harm both your health and the health of the planet - a fact recently affirmed in a resolution by the American Medical Association. Join Physicians for Social Responsibility and Sierra Club at a new webinar training, Cooking With Gas: Health Harms from Gas Stoves, to learn about these ambient air pollutants produced by gas stoves and their negative impacts on the human body. This training also exposes the exacerbated impacts on vulnerable populations, the effect of environmental racism and classism, and the steps you can take to reduce your risk.

Transportation Matters

Volunteer for the National Campaign on Electric Vehicle Shopping Experience

The Clean Transportation for All campaign is launching the [Rev Up campaign](#) to investigate the electric vehicle shopping experience nationwide. This is a volunteer-led campaign where volunteers visit car dealerships in their area to survey whether or not dealerships are

prepared to sell EVs and to find out how serious they are in doing so. In 2019, [our report showed](#) that 74% of dealers nationwide did not offer a single EV for sale, and that some salespeople had no knowledge of rebates and no knowledge of the technology for the EVs they were selling. This highlighted the need for the industry to do much better to help us transition away from fossil fuel powered cars.



[Sign up to Volunteer!](#)

Welcome To Rev Up!
Thursday, July 28 at 7:00pm
Virtual Event

[RSVP Here](#)

#FairShareMA



@FairShareMA

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 November ballot.

[Register for a canvass event](#) closest to you or [join a phonebank](#) to call voters and spread the word to vote YES on 1 and pass the Fair Share Amendment this November!

[Join a Canvass](#)

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 finetune and improve bus service. Tell the MBTA what you think about the proposed changes using the [online survey](#) by July 31.

[Submit Your Feedback](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Climate Research Team Meeting

Wednesday, July 27 at 6:10pm

Bi-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

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, August 2 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, August 9 at 6:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 11 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, August 11 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, August 16 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, August 18 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, August 23 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](#)

New England Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Climate Justice

Thursday, July 28 at 4:00pm

Virtual Event

Indigenous people throughout the world bear a disproportionate burden of the climate crisis. The Sustainable Solutions Lab will hold a virtual panel to explore how Indigenous communities are applying traditional ecological knowledge to address these impacts. Join us to hear from three Indigenous community members, activists, and scholars who will share their experiences and knowledge as they face climate change.

The panel will address the following questions: How are their communities responding to climate change? What role does traditional ecological knowledge play in mitigating the impacts of climate change? How do tribal, regional, and educational institutions work to educate people about and mitigate the harm from the ecological and political implications of the crisis? What are the implications for climate justice?

RSVP Here

Pittsfield Green Drinks — "Cliff Swallows in Northeastern North America: A Conservation Adventure" with Linda Merry and Mara Silvers

Tuesday, August 16 at 5:15pm

Thistle & Mirth, 44 West Street, Pittsfield

Conservation biologists Linda Merry and Mara Silvers will speak at the August Pittsfield Green Drinks event. On Tuesday, August 16th, Pittsfield Green Drinks will start at 5:15 PM at Thistle & Mirth, 44 West Street, Pittsfield. Merry and Silvers will speak at 6:00 PM.

Learn More

Veterans Organizing Institute: Climate and Clean Energy

September 14-18

Java Center, NY

The [Veterans Organizing Institute](#) (VOI) is currently accepting applications for our September 2022 leadership training retreat! VOI is an intensive four-day retreat that gives veterans the skills they need to be more effective leaders, organizers, and spokespeople. This retreat will offer participants the skills to take action in support of a clean energy transition that benefits working families, and to elevate diverse veteran voices to protect our communities and our country. If you are a veteran who cares about these issues, apply today! The cost of travel and lodging is 100% covered by the program, but space is limited. The [application](#) deadline is September 7.

Our Reading List

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

- [State Legislature advances new climate bill after months of negotiations](#) (Boston Globe, 7/21/22)
- [Biden to visit Brayton Point in Somerset today to discuss the next steps in his climate agenda](#) (Boston Globe, 7/19/22)
- [Delaware will give free solar panels to low-income residents](#) (Canary Media, 7/19/22)
- [Joe Manchin Is a Dire Warning for American Democracy](#) (The New Republic, 7/19/22)

- [Study finds 2,800 Massachusetts deaths in 2019 connected to air pollution](#) (Boston Globe, 7/18/22)
- [An American Climate Failure](#) (New York Times, 7/15/22)
- [Here's why people are fighting over repairing or removing the Natick dam](#) (Boston.com, 7/14/22)

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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