



June 2018

We Tell Boston Mayor Marty Walsh: Step it Up on Climate



Working alongside Boston Climate Action Network, Better Future Project, and many other groups, a large and energized crowd [called on Mayor Walsh](#) to "walk the talk on climate" as hundreds of mayors gathered in Boston for the US Conference of Mayors over the weekend. Future rising sea levels were digitally projected onto the side of the Marriott hosting the conference, and as Mayor Walsh held the opening press conference, we called for [urgent climate action](#), including **implementing Community Choice Energy, halting any expansion of pipelines, divesting the city's fossil fuel stocks, and championing net-zero carbon buildings.** It's time to [#WalkTheTalkOnClimate!](#)



Pittsfield Local Leadership Summit



Over the weekend we hosted over a dozen Western Mass municipal public officials for a summit on climate leadership. We recognize that Massachusetts cities and towns are taking

Support Sierra Club Student Organizers in Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico residents are still in desperate straits. Sierra Club is training student organizers there to be effective advocates for recovery and climate resilience through our Summer Grassroots Leadership Training Program (SPROG). Please consider [supporting Puerto Rico Sprog](#), as an investment that will pay dividends to the movement for years to come, and for the resiliency of Puerto Rico.

Offshore Wind is Coming



On May 23 the Baker Administration announced that Vineyard Wind was selected to construct an 800 megawatt (MW) offshore wind project in federal waters off the coast of Massachusetts. Negotiations for another 400 MW of offshore wind energy was announced by the State of Rhode Island. This is wonderful news, but it is just the beginning. As Chapter Director Emily Norton [said](#), **"With the cost of offshore wind falling precipitously, we can transition much more quickly to 100 percent clean energy than anyone thought possible - and there is no time to lose."** To help understand what the megawatts of these projects really mean for everyday life, our friends at Union of Concerned Scientists put together this [very neat calculator!](#)

leadership for the most important challenge facing mankind. **Sierra Club is looking for opportunities to empower local public officials to tackle the work that our national leaders are ignoring.** We covered current avenues for advocacy, as well as giving these leaders a chance to learn more about the Massachusetts renewable energy landscape, and connect with officials in other communities. Big thanks to all who came, and if you are a municipal public official, visit CleanEnergyMass.org to learn more!



Organize a Community Ride n Drive!

Do you drive an electric vehicle? Are you a clean transportation guru? The warmer weather

is here, and with that comes events. **Plus, it's never too early to be thinking about [National Drive Electric Week](#), and what else you can be doing in your own community.** Our event tables are a great place to get your questions answered, learn how an EV can work for you, and even talk with some owners or take one for a spin. Along with making our communities more walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly, electrifying our vehicles is a critically important step to tackling transportation emissions. If you'd like to organize an NDEW event, or just be kept in the loop for future events, [click here to let us know!](#)

#fixFERC

Sierra Club's #fixFERC campaign is aiming to reform the FERC outdated policies for reviewing pipeline proposals that essentially amount to a rubber stamp for over building unnecessary, polluting, dangerous pipelines. Take action at sc.org/fixferc and share with your networks.



Clean Transportation For All

In order to really tackle our transportation pollution, we also need an equitable public transit service that works for all and runs on clean energy. Did you know the MBTA

is [integrating five battery-electric buses](#) this year? It's a great start, but **there's a whole lot more that can and needs to be done quickly.** Electrifying our bus system would have great benefits to urban air quality, and as this [WBUR piece](#) states, it cannot happen fast enough. If you'd like to help in our efforts to accelerate the transition to electric buses, contact [Veena Dharmaraj](#).



Upcoming Events & Happenings!

What You Can Do Now: Activist Training - Monday June 11 (Tonight!) Northborough, MA

Please join us for an activist training at the First Parish Church Hall at 40 Church Street in Northborough on June 11th at 7pm. What we do at the state and local level is more important than ever to ensure that Massachusetts continues to be a clean energy and environmental leader. Northborough residents and activists will host Deb Pasternak, Chair of the Massachusetts Sierra Club Executive Committee for a public meeting to present clean energy essentials and discuss approaches for local action. Free and open to the public. [RSVP here!](#)

Merrimack Valley Action Team Meeting - Wednesday June 13 - Lowell, MA

The Merrimack Valley Action Team has been working to address issues including gas pipeline expansion, plastic pollution in the Merrimack River, and getting electric buses onto routes of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority. The next regular monthly meeting will be held in the function room on the first floor of the Apartments at Boott Mills, 141 John Street, Lowell, MA. For more information, contact Geoff at gkoetsch@gmail.com and [RSVP here!](#)

Soular Jazz Festival - Saturday June 16 - Northborough, MA

The [Soular Jazz Festival](#) brings innovations in clean energy to the public in a jazz festival setting. Listen to fantastic bands, discover what clean energy has to offer, enjoy great food in a family-friendly environment. Featuring music by: The Gringo Kings, Fabiola Mendez Trio, Dan Gabel, Worcester Youth Jazz Ensemble, Algonquin High School Jazz, and Newton South Combo. First Parish Unitarian, 40 Church Street, Northborough, MA.

Book Discussion: The Green Amendment - Tuesday June 19 - Lowell, MA

Join co-sponsors Mothers Out Front Merrimack Valley Team, Merrimack Valley Sierra Club, For The Generations, and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network as we welcome veteran environmentalist Maya

van Rossum to discuss her new book, *The Green Amendment: Securing our Right to a Healthy Environment*, followed by Q&A and signing. [Learn more here!](#)

Net Zero Round Table Discussion - Wednesday June 20 - Boston, MA

What does the community of the future look like? Probably net zero, or even net positive. What does that mean? It means a community that makes as much (or more) renewable energy as it uses. It's not only possible, it's happening! MCAN presents this round table discussion co-sponsored by Massachusetts Sierra Club and Mothers Out Front that will give you a general overview of Net Zero. [Learn more and RSVP here!](#)

MassDOT North South Rail Link Public Meeting - Thursday June 21 - Boston, MA

Supporters of the North South Rail Link come to MassDOT's North South Rail Link Feasibility Study Public Meeting at 5:30pm on June 21st to show support for the project and learn the results from MassDOT's study as we advocate for a Full EIR/EIS. Massachusetts Sierra Club has been a long time supporter of this important rail project. [RSVP here!](#)

Film Screening: Bag it - Thursday June 21 - Northborough, MA

Screening of [Bag it! Is your life too plastic?](#) Executive Producer Judith Kohin will speak about the film and its impact on municipal single-use plastic bag bans. Learn how the film supports the movement away from single-use plastics. Screening at the Northborough Public Library (34 Main Street) at 7:00pm.

A Community Dialogue on Energy and the Environment with Senator Karen Spilka - Tuesday June 26 - Framingham, MA

Come and join co-sponsoring organizational members, constituents of Senator Spilka, and elected officials in the district. We will speak about priority legislation and issues facing the Commonwealth and hear from Senator Spilka, who will take questions and comments from the audience. All are welcome. Event will be held at the UU Church (Scott Hall) at 24 Vernon Street, Framingham, MA. [RSVP here!](#)

Film Screening: (JUST RELEASED!) Reinventing Power - Thursday June 28 - Boston, MA

This groundbreaking documentary ([VIEW TRAILER](#)) takes you across the US to meet people whose lives were changed by clean energy. These individuals are working to rebuild what's broken, rethink what's possible, and revitalize communities. Reinventing Power underscores the notion that we don't have to sacrifice jobs for a clean environment. [Click here to RSVP](#) for this free screening with Q&A at The North Face store in Boston!

Support Clean Energy and Massachusetts Sierra Club



You, like many of us, may not be able to put solar panels on your roof. Sierra Club and Mass Energy Consumer's Alliance have an easy way for you to purchase renewable energy for your home. We have worked together for many years to advocate for better energy policy and are teaming up now to help you switch to cleaner, locally sourced electricity. [Click here to learn more and enroll now!](#)

What Will Be Your Legacy?



Ensure your legacy by making a gift to the Massachusetts Sierra Club in your will or trust by beneficiary designation. Planned gifts are particularly important to the Chapter as they provide significant resources to continue conservation activities over an extended period of time. For more information on naming the Massachusetts Chapter as a beneficiary of a bequest or on creating life-income gifts, call (800) 932-4270 or email giftplanning@sierraclub.org.

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