



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

July 2019



Your Renewable Energy Update

It's only a week before the legislature is scheduled to go on August recess. Typically the summer is a slow time at the State House, but we're working hard to keep pressure on our state policymakers. On Tuesday, July 23, the [Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy held a hearing for public input](#) on a long list of bill topics, including emissions targets, building energy efficiency codes, and electric vehicles. Sierra Club members showed up in force alongside our Mass Power Forward allies. [Click here to read the full update!](#)

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

We're Hiring!

Join our small Boston-based team

The Massachusetts Chapter is hiring a [part-time Development Associate](#). The associate will work closely with staff and volunteers to implement effective fundraising strategies and grow current campaigns. Note that this is currently a part-time position (~20 hrs/wk) with a strong possibility of full-time depending on funding and candidate performance.

The Sierra Club is an equal opportunity employer committed to workforce diversity.



Apply Now!



Learn More About our Platform

Our Equitable & Just National Climate Platform

This month, the Sierra Club joined forces with a broad coalition of environmental justice and national environmental groups to release, for the first time, a just and equitable national climate platform. Indigenous, people of color, and low-income people have been facing the effects of climate change for years, and we're joining together to recognize the fact that climate action is incomplete if it fails to address the extreme conditions facing frontline communities.

Beyond Fossil Fuels



On March 15th, hundreds of people gathered in front of the State House to strike for climate.

Save the Date: Climate Strike September 20

Following the lead and vision of Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, youth have been striking across the globe for climate justice. In Massachusetts, youth leaders organized three strikes in the spring. On September 20th, youth and adult allies will once again come together to strike to stop "business as usual." The strike will be followed by a week of action.

RSVP on Facebook

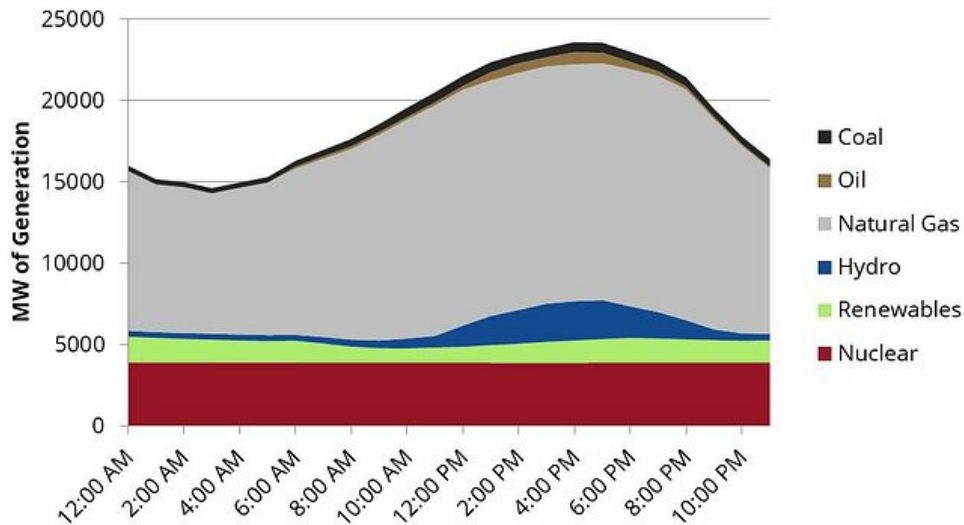
Community Choice Energy in Watertown

The town of Watertown recently announced that it will launch the Watertown Electricity Choice program in September. The program will increase the amount of renewable energy in Watertown up to 35%, which will significantly cut emissions from the city's overall carbon footprint. This is a huge win for Watertown and its residents! [Click here to learn more.](#)

Summer is here: Help Shave the Peak

On the hottest days of summer, everyone cranks their air conditioning and fans. Demand peaks in the early evening, putting a huge strain on the grid. Electricity demand on a peak day can be twice that of demand on a spring day. To meet the high electricity demand, the electrical grid operator signals old, dirty, expensive power plants to start supplying energy to the grid. That's why electricity during the 10% of hours that have the highest demand lead to 40% of electrical grid costs. It's also why electricity is dirtiest during peak hours.

Fuel Mix on a Summer Peak (8/29/18)



But we can help fight these dirty power plants and green the grid by **shaving the peak**. To learn more about Peak energy consumption, check out this [helpful blog post](#) from the Green Energy Consumers Alliance, and sign up for alerts below!

Get Alerts to Shave the Peak

Growing the Green New Deal

It's clear that the Green New Deal is big. That's intentional. It's an invitation for solutions that match the scale of our most urgent challenges. It will take a national mobilization to transition the country to an equitable, clean-energy economy that leaves no one behind; from an economy of low wages and climate pollution to one driven by dignified work and 100 percent clean energy where communities are resilient in the face of the climate crisis.

People-powered organizing put the Green New Deal on the map and grassroots pressure made it a top priority for our elected officials. Now more than ever, **it's crucial for each and every one of us stay involved to keep up the pressure!**

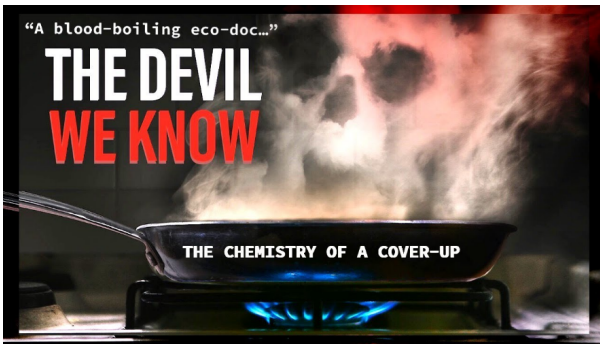
[Will you visit your member of Congress's office this August to ask them to Grow a Green New Deal by supporting 100% clean energy legislation?](#)

From August 5 to September 6, our members of Congress will go back to their home districts to meet with their constituents. When they come home, we will be at their offices, asking them to stand with us in growing the vision of a Green New Deal through 100% clean energy legislation. **Go to [sc.org/recess](#) to find out about our upcoming trainings, download our toolkit, and more.** We'll also have a team of volunteer coaches who are available to check in with you one-on-one and support you every step of the way.



"The Devil We Know" Film Screening

Thursday, August 1 at 6:30pm
Brighton Branch of Boston Public



Library

Please join us for a showing of "The Devil We Know" on Thursday, August 1st at the Brighton Branch of the Boston Public Library. This documentary discusses DuPont's coverup of the potential harm that the chemicals in Teflon products cause. The event is free to the public.

Register Here

Under Pressure Film Screenings Coming Soon!

Numerous communities in MA are facing local battles -- with regional and global consequences -- to stop expansion of gas pipelines and infrastructure. We are encouraging screenings of the powerful 2019 student-produced documentary [Under Pressure](#) to educate about the dangers of fracked gas in an era of climate change. To inquire about hosting an **Under Pressure** screening, please contact [Connie Kastelnik](#).



Watch the Trailer Here

Transportation Matters



#BuildTheLink

#BuildTheLink Rally for the North South Rail Link Take Action to #BuildTheLink

On Monday, July 29th there will be a hearing in front of the Boston City Council to support the North South Rail Link (NSRL). Such a connection would allow for the through running of Amtrak and commuter trains, eliminating the wasteful backup moves that are now a major cause of congestion at both terminals. Those who would benefit from such a link are invited to [share their stories](#), which will be read during testimony at the hearing.

We are supporting an action on July 29th at 4:30pm, to rally outside of the state house ahead of the formal testimony of Former Governor Michael Dukakis. The Massachusetts Chapter has supported this link for many years, as an expanded South Station with a connection to North Station is the optimal path forward for traveler mobility and reduced greenhouse gases.

MBTA Fair Fare Rally

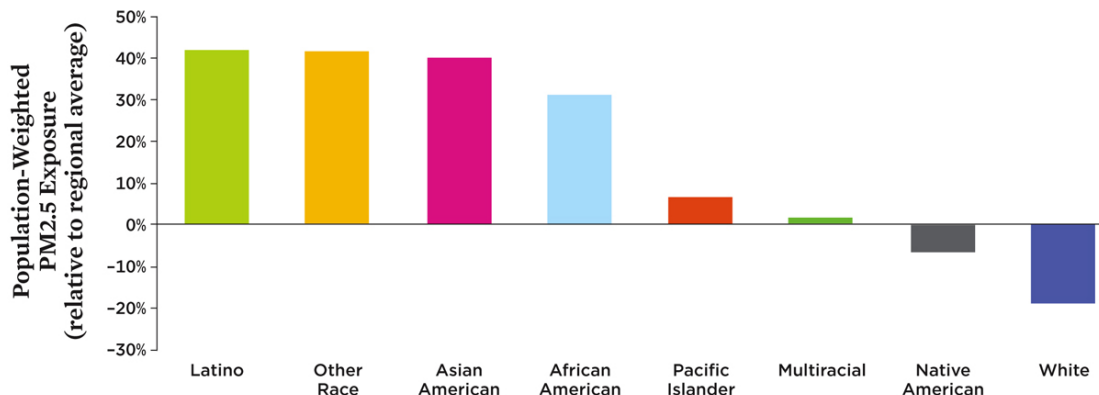
The Sierra Club Massachusetts is proud to stand in solidarity with the Green Justice Coalition and all those who showed up to protest the MBTA's recent fare hikes. Earlier this week, a rally was held in favor of a Fair and Equitable Fare, which would be available to individuals making less than 300% of the federal poverty line (~\$36K), set at half the rate as normal similar to how the senior and youth pass both reduce the fare, and a policy, not just a pilot. [Read more about the rally.](#)



Photo: Jessica Rinaldi, Boston Globe Staff

Inequitable Exposure to Air Pollution from Vehicles in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

A study published in June by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that Asian American, African American, and Latino residents in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region are exposed to substantially more air pollution (PM2.5) from cars, trucks, and buses than other demographic groups. The study also found that the most densely populated areas suffered significantly worse pollution, which can contribute to health issues such as asthma, diabetes, and other heart and lung problems.



The study offers suggestions for both governments and for individuals for reducing the impacts of PM2.5 pollution. These solutions include electrifying bus fleets, reducing the number of vehicular trips taken, and investing in regional public transit. [Click here to read more.](#)

[Read More](#)

Regional Rail: Transformational Transportation

Thursday, August 8 at 7:00pm
Druker Auditorium, Newton Free
Library

Powering the Future: Electrifying & Expanding the MBTA Bus Network

Wednesday, August 7 at 12:00pm
290 Congress Street, Boston

Join A Better City for a series of short

Come learn from Josh Fairchild and Jarred Johnson from Transit Matters about their vision for a truly modern regional rail system and how it can benefit the entire Greater Boston region. Their presentation will advocate for the need for flat platforms, electrified transit, and more frequent trains.

[RSVP Here](#)

presentations and moderated panel discussion as they release their new report titled: "New MBTA Bus Maintenance Facilities & Evolving Battery Electric Bus Technology." Presentation topics will be related to the need for a bus maintenance modernization and the challenges and opportunities of moving towards an electric bus fleet. The Sierra Club's Veena Dharmaraj will be one of the panelists.

[RSVP Here](#)

Every Year is an Election Year

Help Canvass with the Environmental Voter Project

Sunday, July 28 at 3:00pm
Workbar Cambridge

Join the Environmental Voter Project (EVP) to canvass Cambridge environmental voters this summer. You'll be trained in EVP's unique messaging and canvassing strategy, then paired with another volunteer to go out and canvass local environmental voters.

[RSVP to Canvass](#)

If you can't make the canvassing day, join EVP for a text bank on August 14th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the New England Aquarium. For more information and to sign up, please contact [Kate Heffernan](#).

Sustainable Melrose Mayoral Forum

Tuesday, August 20 at 7:00pm
Melrose High School

The City of Melrose has five candidates running for Mayor this year. Sustainable Melrose, a coalition of local sustainability-minded people and groups, are hosting a Mayoral Forum. The forum will give candidates a chance to speak to their positions on sustainability, environmental stewardship, and quality of life. Currently, this forum is the only announced candidates' forum prior to September's election.

[RSVP Here](#)



Get Outdoors with the Sierra Club!



Invasive Kiwi Cut & Pull

Friday, July 26 at 3:00pm

Join the Massachusetts Chapter and the Berkshire Environmental Action Team to help eradicate destructive, invasive hardy kiwi at

[Register Here](#)

the Burbank Park Boat Launch in Pittsfield. Gloves and tools will be provided.

Quincy Environmental Fair

Saturday, July 27 at 11:00am

Join us for a free outdoor environmental fair on the front lawn of the Thomas Crane Public Library. There will be fun green activities for all ages, live local entertainment, electric vehicle ride-alongs and a free bike valet.

[Register Here](#)

Kids in Kayaks

Sunday, August 11 at 2:00pm

Join us for a fun afternoon on the Housatonic River! Learn about the Housatonic River, how to safely navigate in a kayak, and more! This event is free and open to the public, and children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

[Register Here](#)

Outings Leader Training (OTL101)

Saturday, August 17 at 9:30am

We can give you the tools, including first aid, you need to qualify as a leader of safe, enjoyable outings with Sierra Club. Outings can range from a simple walk in the woods to more challenging technical expeditions. Registration cost is \$140 (or \$40 if wilderness first aid certified).

[Register Here](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Plant-Based Planet Team Meeting

Thursday, August 1 at 7:00pm

Sierra Club Office, 50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston

Eating lower on the food chain with a healthy plant-based diet helps fight climate change. We'll discuss strategies to publicize the issue to institutions, businesses, and individuals.

[RSVP Here](#)

Transportation Team Meeting

Thursday, September 5 at 6pm

Sierra Club Office, 50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston

Our Reading List

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

- [Massachusetts mayor says access to cheap gas not worth the cost to climate](#) (7/9/2019 Energy News Network)
- [Lowell Council OKs green-energy boost](#) (7/10/2019 Lowell Sun)
- [Feds throw up uncertainty for Vineyard Wind project](#) (7/10/2019 South Coast Today)
- [Video depicts how rising seas will affect South Boston](#) (7/16/2019 Boston Globe)
- [Equitable transition to renewable energy can create millions of jobs \(Letters\)](#) (7/16/2019 MassLive)
- [Climate change bills: It's not either/or](#) (7/16/2019 Commonwealth Magazine)
- [Columnist Lindsay Sabadosa: Racism is not just about words](#) (7/18/2019 Daily Hampshire Gazette)

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!](#)
