



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

October 2019

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter



Oh What A Night! Chapter Fundraiser

**Tuesday, November 12 at 5:30pm
Beacon Hill, Boston**

You're invited! Please [join us for our annual fundraiser](#). Together we'll toast our successes and share our plans to build on those wins in 2020. Join us for a special evening of hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music, and guest speaker **MA Attorney General, Maura Healey**. Please reach out to [Deb Pasternak](#) with any questions.

Can't Attend - Donate

Purchase Tickets

CRUDE: The Climate Change Musical

**October 10 through November 10
Cape Cod Theatre Company, Harwich
Junior Theatre, 105 Division Street, W.
Harwich**

[CRUDE-The Climate Change Musical](#) opens Oct. 10 and runs until Nov. 10, Thursdays - Sundays, at the [Cape Cod Theatre Company](#), in Harwich, MA. CRUDE is about an environmentalist daughter who tries to outwit her oil tycoon Dad!

This musical is being sponsored by the Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club, Cape Cod 350.org, and 350Mass for a Better Future, five solar energy companies on Cape Cod and other green organizations and businesses.

For more information and tickets, visit:

www.capecodtheatrecompany.org, or call 508-432-2002.

Learn more



Clean Energy & Climate

Gas Forum: Triage and Transition

Thursday, October 24 at 7:00pm
456 Wellesley Street, Weston

Join the Town of Weston for this panel discussion surrounding natural gas and aging infrastructure in Massachusetts. Local experts will share their insights and experience in addressing both short and longer term issues with natural gas, outlining the impact on our communities and providing solutions for a way forward. Speakers include State Rep. Lori Ehrlich, 8th Essex; State Rep. Alice Peisch, 14th Norfolk; and Dr Nathan Phillips, BU School of Earth & Environment.

RSVP Here



RSVP Here

Blackrock do your homework!

Tuesday, October 29 at 11:45am
60 State Street, Boston

Blackrock is the world's biggest investor in coal, oil, and gas, and CEO Larry Fink is the most powerful corporate driver of climate destruction on the planet. Join us to hand out homework, showing Larry how he can use his outsized power to lead the transition to

renewable energy and create a healthy climate.

Halloween at the State House! Join us!

Thursday, October 31 at 12:00pm
MA State House, Boston

Join the Sierra Club for our version of "trick or treating" at the State House. We'll be stopping by our legislators' offices to bring them treats and also ask to support our legislative priorities. We will meet in the State House and begin with a brief training. No experience required to participate. This is intended to be a friendly, low-intensity action.



RSVP Here

Boston's Climate Action Plan Update

Earlier this month, the City of Boston released an update to its Climate Action Plan (CAP), which is a roadmap for the city to reach its goal of going carbon-neutral by 2050. Notably, the update requires new city-owned buildings to be constructed with carbon-neutral designs, and also calls for a mass reduction in emissions from buildings across the city. Buildings in Boston account for approximately 71% of all emissions, so reducing their impact provides the greatest opportunity to cutting emissions. The updated plan also calls for increased public transit infrastructure and a shift toward zero and low-emissions vehicles. [The Sierra Club MA Chapter has responded](#) to Boston's CAP, noting that it's a step in the right direction, but the city needs to take more aggressive action if it wants to achieve its climate goals.

You can read the [Climate Action Plan Update](#) online.

When it comes to the climate crisis, don't hope — act

On September 29th, MA Chapter Chair Benjamin Pignatelli wrote a Letter to the Editor of the Boston Globe, calling on our legislators to act on the important climate bills before them. In particular, the Sierra Club supports the following three bills:

- H.2810, An Act to Promote Green Infrastructure and Reduce Carbon Emissions, sponsored by Representative Jennifer Benson, which would put a fee on carbon, so we burn less;
- H.732 & S.459, An Act Protecting the Natural Resources of the Commonwealth, sponsored by Representative Ruth Balser and Senator Jamie Eldridge, which would help preserve open space to reduce atmospheric CO2 and mitigate flooding; and
- H.2836, An Act Re-Powering Massachusetts with 100 Percent Renewable Energy, sponsored by Representatives Marjorie Decker and Sean Garballey, which would set goals for the state to achieve 100 percent renewable energy.

Read the Letter

Vineyard Wind Update

Vineyard Wind's offshore wind farm has secured its next set of permits - moving it one step closer to construction of the project. In 2018, Vineyard Wind submitted a notice of intent to install two heavy-duty underwater cables that would connect the wind farm with mainland Massachusetts. The cable path partially runs through Muskeget Channel, and as such, partly fell under the jurisdiction of the Edgartown conservation commission by order of the state Wetlands Protection Act.



Photo: Tim Johnson, Vineyard Gazette

Earlier in October, Vineyard Wind and the Edgartown Conservation Commission reached an resolution regarding the cables, which includes adding nine new conditions that Vineyard Wind must meet before, during, and after the construction process. [Read more from the Vineyard Gazette...](#)



[Watch the Trailer Here](#)

Under Pressure Upcoming Film Screenings

Numerous communities in MA are facing local battles -- with regional and global consequences -- to stop expansion of gas pipelines and infrastructure. We are co-sponsoring 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 visit [Under Pressure online](#).

Taunton Film Screening

Wednesday, October 30 at 6:30pm
8 Trescott Street, Taunton

[RSVP Here](#)

Pittsfield Film Screening

Thursday, November 7 at 7:30pm
Koussevitzky Arts Center, Room 111, Berkshire
Community College, 1350 West St, Pittsfield

[RSVP Here](#)

Newton Film Screening

Sunday, November 10 at 11:45am
1326 Washington Street, West Newton

[RSVP Here](#)

Somerville Film Screening

Sunday, November 17 at 3:30pm
55 Davis Square, Somerville

[RSVP Here](#)

Athol Film Screening

Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30pm
Athol Public Library, 268 Main Street, Athol

[RSVP Here](#)

Springfield Energy Efficiency Month

OCTOBER is Energy Efficiency Month in Springfield! All month, people in this City are

encouraged to get their free energy assessment of their home or apartment. Not only are the assessments free, but the cost of insulation that gets suggested is greatly reduced, and sometimes even free. You can also receive free LED bulbs, water-saving shower fixtures, programmable thermostats, and even free sealing of those leaks around your doors and windows that drive you crazy. If you own your home, call 413-279-9141 or go to www.ener-g-save.com/contact. If you rent, ask your landlord to contact Mass Save at 866-527-7283. If you receive fuel assistance, call Springfield Partners at 413-263-6500.

[Learn more](#)

“Megadams equals Megadamage” Northeast U.S. Tour

November 21 at 6:00pm

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

Sierra Club Chapter is co-sponsoring the third annual “Megadams equals Megadamage” Northeast U.S. Tour of First Nation community members. These speakers are traveling over a thousand miles from their homes where megadams are located to share their years-long struggle to protect their land and waters from destructive Canadian hydropower. They will also voice their experiences at the 50th National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, MA on Thanksgiving Day. Electricity from these Canadian megadams is being marketed in Massachusetts and beyond as “renewable” and carbon-free energy, but it is anything but that. The Megadams Tour will dispel the myth that Canadian hydropower is renewable and clean.



Transportation Matters

TCI Community Workshops Coming to Your Region

Massachusetts is hosting five regional workshops to seek public input on the [Transportation Climate Initiative \(TCI\)](#), a proposed cap and invest program to reduce carbon emissions and create a cleaner, more equitable transportation system. The TCI states recently released a [draft framework](#) and will be accepting [public comment](#) till November 5th. Listen to [this webinar](#) to learn more about TCI.

TCI Workshop: Buzzards Bay

Thursday, October 24 at 6:00pm

**Massachusetts Maritime Academy - The Beachmoor,
11 Buttermilk Way, Buzzards Bay**

[RSVP Here](#)

TCI Workshop: Haverhill

Monday, October 28 at 6:00pm

**Northern Essex Community College - Hartleb
Technology Center, TC Elliott St, Haverhill**

[RSVP Here](#)

TCI Workshop: Roxbury

Wednesday, October 30 at 6:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Roxbury Community College, Reggie Lewis Center,
1234 Columbus Ave, Boston

TCI Workshop: Holyoke

Monday, November 4 at 6:00pm

Holyoke Community College - Kittredge Center. 303
Homestead Ave, Holyoke

RSVP Here



MBTA Electric Bus Campaign

Sierra Club joined allies at a press conference to release [this MassPIRG report](#) highlighting the experience of six early adopters of electric buses. We also released [this coalition video](#) calling on MBTA to stop dragging its feet and commit to fully electrify its bus fleet to improve public health and lower carbon emissions. MBTA has five electric buses in service but plans to wait two years before deciding on future procurements. We cannot afford to wait. To learn more about this campaign contact [Veena Dharmaraj](#).

Fix Our Transportation Crisis: Call to Action on Wednesday, 10/30!

Transportation funding and policy are top issues in the Legislature, and legislative leaders are pledging action. This is a critical time for your voice to be heard at the State House to fix this transportation crisis.

On October 30th, Sierra Club is joining Transportation for Massachusetts and many of their members and partners to call for action on transportation. Come learn about transportation priorities and help spread the word by speaking to legislators and staff. **Join us on October 30th from 2:30 - 4:00 pm, Room 437, State House.**



RSVP Here



Riding the Rails on the Valley Flyer

Executive Committee Secretary and Outings Chair Robert Kearns recently wrote about the first weekend trip of the Valley Flyer, a new pilot passenger rail service. This rail service connects the Pioneer Valley to New York City (and beyond!), when previously there was no direct train service. To read more about Robert's journey, [check out his blog post](#).

Plastic Free Mass

MA lawmakers weigh bans on straws, plastic bags

Next week, lawmakers in Massachusetts will weigh a series of bills that would aim to reduce the amount of plastic waste in Massachusetts. Among the bills is a proposal to force restaurants and venues to only offer straws upon request, and would replace them with sanitized, reusable straws. Another bill considers a statewide ban on plastic bags, and instead mandates that businesses offer paper bags for 10 cents, or may sell reusable alternatives. Yet another bill bans the sale of helium balloons, as they can end up in the ocean and harm marine life. The Legislature's Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture meets on Tuesday, October 29th to weigh these bills.

The Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban "Vote" is Coming to Hudson!

Monday, November 18 at 7:30pm
Town Meeting - Hudson High School

On November 18th, Hudson residents will vote on a bylaw to ban single-use checkout bags. This bylaw is sponsored by the Hudson Conservation Commission and the resident non-profit group Green Hudson. For more information, email info@greenhudson.org.

[Learn more](#)

Local Advocacy

Upcoming Climate Advocacy Trainings



As part of an ongoing campaign, Massachusetts Sierra Club is leading advocacy trainings across the Commonwealth about solutions to expand renewable energy and reduce climate pollution.

Training attendees will learn more about current Massachusetts energy laws, opportunities/barriers for climate action, best practices for cities and towns, and how they can better engage with public officials to make real progress in their community.

Needham Training

Wednesday, November 6 at 7:30pm
Temple Beth Shalom, 670 Highland Ave, Needham Heights

[RSVP Here](#)

Berlin Training

Thursday, November 7 at 7:00pm
1870 Town Hall, 12 Woodward Ave, Berlin

[RSVP Here](#)

Attleboro Town Hall on Energy & the Environment

Tuesday, October 29 at 7:00pm
Murray Unitarian Universalist

Church, 505 N Main St, Attleboro

Join neighbors, constituents, and environmental organizations to discuss environmental issues facing Attleboro and the Commonwealth. Representative Hawkins, Senator Feeney, and Senator Rausch will be present and take questions from the audience.

RSVP Here



Join us for

A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

with Representative James Hawkins, Senator Paul Feeney, and Senator Rebecca Rausch

Tuesday, October 29th
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Murray Unitarian Universalist Church
505 N Main St, Attleboro, MA

Come join your neighbors, local constituents, and organization members to talk about environmental issues facing the Commonwealth. We will hear from Representative Hawkins, Senator Feeney, and Senator Rausch who will take questions from the audience.

All are welcome
Parking available

SPONSORED BY
Environmental League of Massachusetts

Friend and Partner Events

Chase-Miller Policy Forum

Friday, October 25 at 4:00pm

Center for Coastal Studies, 5 Holway Ave, Provincetown

Keynote Speaker Leila Hatch, PhD, presents "Can you hear me here? Understanding and protecting underwater soundscapes in US National Marine Sanctuaries." Dr. Hatch is based at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, a marine protected area managed by NOAA off the coast of Massachusetts, and studies the ways that animals use sound underwater, and the impacts of noise produced by human activities on marine environments.

The Chase-Miller Policy Forum is a series of free lectures and discussions designed to educate the public on the role of science in public policy as it relates to the marine environment. The lecture will be followed by the presentation and celebration of the 2019 Hiebert Memorial Fellowship, awarded annually to women who are pursuing degrees and careers in marine science. The lecture is free, but a donation of \$10 per person is appreciated

"A Fierce Green Fire" Movie Screening

Saturday, November 2 at 9:30am

Chatham Orpheum Theater,

Chatham

"A Fierce Green Fire" highlights some of the biggest victories of the environmental movement thus far: from halting dams in the Grand Canyon to fighting toxic waste at Love Canal. The Los Angeles Times said A Fierce Green Fire is "nothing less than the history of environmentalism itself."





[RSVP Here](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Merrimack Valley Team Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 24 at 6:30pm

**The Merrimack Room, Renaissance on the River, 52
Lawrence Drive, Lowell**

The monthly meeting of the Merrimack Valley Massachusetts Chapter Team.

[RSVP Here](#)

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 29 at 6:00pm

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

The monthly meeting of the Chapter Transportation Committee.

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-Based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00pm

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

The monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter Plant-Based Planet Team. Sierra Club members welcome and encouraged to attend!

[RSVP Here](#)

Legislative Advocacy Team Meeting

Tuesday, November 5th at 6:00pm

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

Join one of our newest teams to strategize how to influence the state legislature to pass critical environmental and clean energy legislation.

[RSVP Here](#)

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 14 at 5:30pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

The monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee. Sierra Club members welcome and encouraged to attend!

Political Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 19 at 6:00pm

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

The monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter Political Committee. An RSVP is required to attend.

RSVP Here

Our Reading List

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

- [Dustup at T over bus improvement efforts](#) (9/23/2019 Commonwealth Magazine)
- [7 things we learned researching climate change on Cape Cod](#) (9/27/2019 Boston Globe)
- [City Council affirms support for gas safety and renewable energy acts](#) (10/2/2019 The Somerville Times)
- [Lawmakers weigh 'nuclear option' for Columbia Gas](#) (10/4/2019 Gloucester Daily Times)
- [New city-owned buildings will be carbon-neutral under updated climate plan](#) (10/8/2019 Boston Globe)

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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