



## Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

December 2019

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### Chapter Election Update — Deadline Extended

We are aware of an issue where some members received their copy of the Massachusetts Chapter Sierran late. As the original deadline for Chapter elections was December 13 at 5pm, we are extending the window to return ballots until **Monday, February 10 at 5:00pm** to make sure that all members are able to vote.

Please send your vote to the following address with your return address on the envelope:  
*Sierra Club Massachusetts Elections*  
*50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor*  
*Boston, MA 02110*

Apologies for any inconvenience. Thank you for your support and stay tuned for further updates!

[Download a Printable Ballot Here](#)

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## What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter



The Massachusetts Chapter office will be closed from December 24 through January 1. We hope you have a great New Year and we'll see you in 2020!

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## Clean Energy & Climate

### New Years Resolution: #ActOnClimate in 2020!

The New Year is an opportunity to reflect on where we have been and where we want to go. Let's build on the momentum of the Green New Deal and the youth climate strikes to

[pass meaningful climate legislation](#)! We're activating 2,020 members to take action in 2020. We're going to need all hands on deck if we want to pass substantive climate and environmental justice policies. [Click below to take action](#) and see what we're planning for next year.



Because of the way the MA state legislature works, we only have until July 31st to pass new state laws. Sierra Club and Mass Power Forward asks, as one of our resolutions for 2020, to consider the following:

- I resolve to be active for environmental justice. When our state allows any community to be over-polluted, then we allow for that possibility in any community. Right now, communities of color and poor communities bear the brunt of pollution in Massachusetts.
- I resolve to be active for 100% renewable energy for all. We know what we need, and we need it now.
- I resolve to be active for equitable investment of any funds. As our world considers taxing carbon, I reflect that we cannot punish low-income people with a flat regressive tax.

Sign Up to Take Action



## Hundreds of Youth Flood the Statehouse

On December 6th, hundreds of youth activists flooded the Statehouse to demand climate action from Governor Baker and Speaker DeLeo. The action started with a rally at Copley Square and march to the Statehouse, organized by [Massachusetts Climate Strike](#). This transitioned into a rally inside the statehouse and sit-in in Governor Baker's office, where 27 individuals with the [Sunrise Movement](#) were arrested following the 5:00pm closure of the Statehouse. The Sierra Club commends these youth organizers for their leadership in calling upon Governor Baker and Speaker DeLeo to take action to pass [Mass Power Forward legislation](#) and to stop the [Weymouth Compressor Station](#).



## Transportation Matters

[East West Rail Across](#)

## Massachusetts

Earlier this month, Executive Committee Secretary and Outings Chair Robert Kearns took a trip on Amtrak's Lake Shore Limited train to advocate for future East West rail service in Massachusetts. [Read about](#) Robert's journey across the state, with photos and highlights from the trip, and a great summary of why this rail service would be crucial in Massachusetts.

[Read More](#)



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## The Transportation and Climate Initiative, Explained

This week, the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) announced a new policy framework to invest up to \$68 billion over the next ten years in clean transportation. The initiatives would help fund electric vehicles, improved public transportation, and improved pedestrian and bike infrastructure. In addition to reducing carbon emissions, the program would also improve public health and quality of life. [Read more](#) from the Union of Concerned Scientists...

[Read More](#)

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## Beyond Fossil Fuels

### Brookline Leads the Way With Gas Ban

Last month the Town of Brookline [approved a bylaw](#) banning the use of oil and gas heating for all new construction projects beginning in 2021. Developers have a full range of new technology available, ensuring that the cost of heating a home will remain similar to the use of oil and gas heat. Additionally, increasing wind and solar energy available to the grid will ensure that clean, carbon-free energy will be affordable and will continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over time. Kudos to the Town for their local leadership, which paves the way for more communities in Massachusetts to follow suit. Already, Newton and Cambridge have begun the process of drafting similar ordinances.

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### Telling the Stories - Health Impacts in the Fore River Basin

This [short film](#) tells the stories of people who have been impacted by air pollution in the Fore River Basin, a community that has been overrun by toxins. The Fore River Basin is located on the South Shore in MA and is home to ten different toxic facilities, including a power plant, diesel tanks, and a sewage treatment plant. Air quality testing has shown levels of carcinogens, including benzene and formaldehyde, that are above state guidelines. Despite this data, the state



approved key permits for yet another toxic facility, the Weymouth compressor station. Community members are still actively fighting that proposal. You can learn more about their fight here: [nocompressor.com](http://nocompressor.com).

Watch the Film

## Shape Massachusetts' Clean Energy Future

Much of our electricity in New England comes from fossil fuels such as oil and gas, but new, cleaner electricity sources are becoming more widely available. In Massachusetts, [Attorney General Maura Healey's office](#) represents electricity users to ISO New England, the organization that regulates our energy. Make your voice heard by telling ISO New England that you want market rules to promote affordable clean energy, healthy communities, and climate protection.



Learn more

Sign the petition



Watch the Trailer Here

## Under Pressure Upcoming Film Screening

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](#).

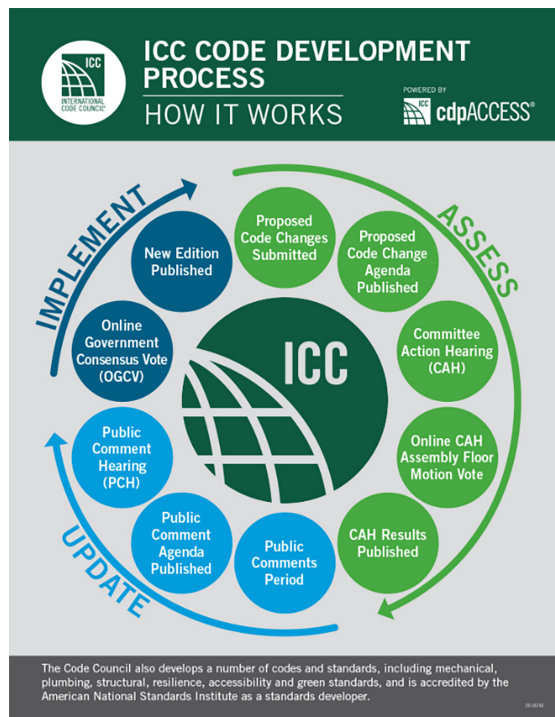
**Westwood Film Screening**  
Sunday, January 5 at 10:15am  
7 Clapboardtree Street, Westwood

RSVP Here

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## Efficiency and Electrification

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### Team Massachusetts . . . Pat Yourself on the Back!

The preliminary International Code Council (ICC) voting results are in: Together, we've achieved a huge victory for building energy efficiency!. The new 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a huge gain for both commercial and residential efficiency and a big step forward for putting our nation's model energy code on a glide path to net zero buildings. Our coordinated efforts with allies [Mass Climate Action Network \(MCAN\)](#) and [Metropolitan Area Planning Council \(MAPC\)](#) paid off because so many town officials who care about building efficiency across the state took action, registered and voted. Thank you all for your efforts! We'll update you with facts as we know more, but enjoy your Holidays knowing you did a wonderful job!

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## Protecting our Planet

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### MassDEP Action on PFAS

The Baker-Polito Administration and the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) have filed two rules with the Secretary of State related to PFAS: a *final* soil and groundwater cleanup rule and a *draft* drinking water rule. The draft drinking water standard would establish a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for drinking water of the sum of 20 ppt for six PFAS compounds. The proposed standards cover a larger subgroup of compounds than any other state and provide a greater degree of protection, particularly for sensitive subgroups including pregnant women, nursing mothers, and infants. MassDEP will be hosting five public hearings on the draft standards and comments will be accepted through February 28, 2020. The dates and locations of the meetings are below:

**Thursday, January 23, 2020 – Springfield, MA**

Public Hearing: 1:00 p.m.  
MassDEP's Western Regional Office  
436 Dwight Street, (413) 784-1100

**Friday, January 24, 2020 – Boston, MA**

Public Hearing: 10:00 a.m.  
MassDEP's Boston Headquarters  
One Winter Street, (617) 292-5500

**Tuesday, January 28, 2020 – Lakeville, MA**

Public Hearing: 10:00 a.m.  
MassDEP's Southeast Regional Office  
20 Riverside Drive, (508) 946-2700

**Wednesday, January 29, 2020 – Wilmington, MA**

Public Hearing: 1:00 p.m.  
MassDEP's Northeast Regional Office  
205 Lowell Street, (978) 694-3200

**Friday, January 31, 2020 – Worcester, MA**

Public Hearing: 10:00 a.m.  
MassDEP's Central Regional Office  
8 New Bond Street, (508) 792-7650

[Learn more](#)

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## Friend and Partner Events

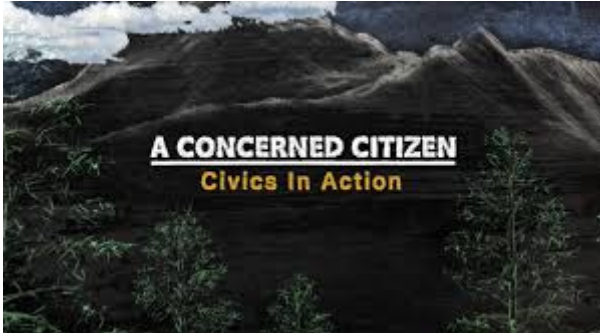
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### Climate Emergency: Time for Action Now Vigil

**Friday, December 20 at 7:00am**

**Walpole Common, Corner of Main and West Streets, Walpole**

The Walpole Peace and Justice Group is holding a peace vigil, "Climate Emergency: Time for Action Now," on Friday, December 20, 2019 from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM, at the corner of Main and West Streets, at the Walpole Common. There will be signs but you are welcome to bring your own. It may be cold so dress appropriately. Hot chocolate will be provided as well.



[RSVP Here](#)

### Sustainability Film Series: "A Concerned Citizen"

**Saturday, January 4 at 9:30am**  
**Chatham Orpheum Theater,**  
**Chatham**

This feature documentary is about Dr. Riki Ott, a whistleblower who predicted the Exxon Valdez oil spill hours before it happened. A toxicologist, author, and activist, Riki has been organizing the Gulf coast communities to recover from the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster. The film also follows how other citizens have also taken her example—to change and strengthen oil pollution of America's lands, rivers and coastal waters.

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## Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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### Transportation Committee Meeting

**Thursday, January 9th at 6:00pm**

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

The monthly meeting of the Chapter Transportation Committee.

[RSVP Here](#)

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# Legislative Advocacy Team Meeting

RSVP Here

Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00pm

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

Regular meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter Legislative Team. Join to learn about pending legislation at the State House and strategize with fellow volunteers about how to advocate for critical legislation. No prior experience required to participate!

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## Our Reading List

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

- [Students storm the State House, ask why Mass. hasn't done more to cut emissions](#) (12/6/2019 Boston Globe)
- ['People are boiling over with frustration' over their daily commute on the T](#) (12/7/2019 Boston Globe)
- [Cape Cod faces winter without Pilgrim Power](#) (12/8/2019 Cape Cod Times)
- [Brookline's ban on natural gas connections spurs other municipalities to consider the idea](#) (12/11/2019 Boston Globe)
- [6 more protesters arrested at Weymouth compressor site](#) (12/11/2019 Patriot Ledger)
- [Save the planet and money at the same time](#) (12/12/2019 CommonWealth Magazine)

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*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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