

MASSACHUSETTS  
**SIERRAN**

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Chapter Election Issue



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CLUB**

Red Leaf Japanese Maple, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Boston



# Letter from the Chapter Director

Dear Friends,

This year, our magazine lays out some of the challenges to getting significant and equitable climate action enacted here in the Bay State, and also some of the good work that together we are doing to meet those challenges. I am very grateful to all of you – whether you volunteer in your communities, on our legislative team, serve on a committee, make phone calls, respond to action alerts, or support us financially, I thank each of you for the energy and advocacy that YOU bring to the movement.

This year, I've decided to cede my space to former Executive Committee member, D.R. Tucker, whose inspiring words will (I hope) recharge your hearts and souls for the work ahead.

Gratefully yours,

Deb Pasternak  
Director



## Beyond the darkness

You have to believe there's still hope.

Yes, seeing hope these days is more difficult than hearing honesty from the White House. With the Amazon being incinerated, with the forces of climate-change denial seemingly gaining more power around the warming world and with media conglomerates in the United States still refusing to give the climate crisis the extensive coverage it deserves, despair certainly seems to be the logical response.

Yet despair among climate hawks ultimately redounds to the benefit of climate-change deniers. How can a sports team win a championship if the members of that team do not believe they can prevail against all odds? Yes, climate hawks are the underdogs in this particular competition, but that doesn't mean they can't ultimately win the big one.

Climate despair is nothing short of dangerous—as dangerous to the stability of our atmosphere as the fossil fuel industry's political and cultural power, as the late David Koch's wealth. It sends a message to young activists that their idealism is all for naught, that they should embrace cynicism and nihilism instead.

Former President Barack Obama famously spoke of "The Audacity of Hope." That phrase so perfectly applies to those on the front lines in the struggle for a climate-safe future. There is both audacity and hope in the principled call for leaving coal and oil and natural gas in the ground. There is both audacity and hope in the demand that those who amorally abused our atmosphere be held accountable for their actions.

There is both audacity and hope in fighting for environmental justice here and abroad.

The young climate activist Greta Thunberg has received worldwide acclaim for her efforts to conquer carbon pollution. However, by all rights, Greta shouldn't be an unusual figure. We have the capacity within ourselves to all be Greta Thunbergs. We can all be Greta Thunbergs by more forcefully demanding aggressive climate action from our state representatives and senators. We can all be Greta Thunbergs by demanding that our Congressional representatives make stronger efforts to combat the pervasiveness of the fossil fuel industry. We can all be Greta Thunbergs by urging local and national media outlets to cast a brighter spotlight on the climate crisis.

Despair should be endangered and extinct. The fight against those who have contaminated our climate requires "The Audacity of Hope." This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the release of Bill McKibben's "The End of Nature," one of the first books to state, in stark and harrowing terms, the consequences of carbon pollution. Nature will indeed end if we don't renew our resolve to conquer the climate crisis—but if we do renew that resolve, despair will end.

*D. R. Tucker is a former member of the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee.*



## Table of Contents:

Letter from the Chapter Director .....	1
Beyond the Darkness .....	1
Our 2019 Legislative Update: .....	3
The Time is Now! .....	4
Municipal Clean Energy Summits .....	5
Westborough's Journey to 100% .....	6
Mass Climate Mobilization Project .....	7
Tree Planting .....	8
We Can't Burn Our Way To Clean Energy...	9
Merrimack Valley Team 2019 Activities ..	10
Ten Ways Petrochemicals Are Used .....	11
Chapter Outings Update .....	12
Twelve Ways to Reduce Plastic Pollution ..	13
Donate to the Mass Chapter Today .....	14
Transportation and Climate Initiative ....	15
Cape Cod Group 2019 Activities .....	16
Boston Climate Action Plan Update .....	17
Building Electrification Break Down! .....	18
City of Lowell Leadership Award .....	18
Massachusetts ExCom Nominees .....	19, 20
Cape Cod Group ExCom Nominees .....	21
Your 2019 Volunteer Leadership Ballot ...	22





# Our 2019 Legislative Update: House leadership's restrained response to the climate crisis

Eight of the nine members of the Massachusetts delegation in the U.S. House have indicated their support for comprehensive clean energy and climate policies by co-sponsoring the Green New Deal resolution authored by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and our own Sen. Ed Markey. However, at the state level our current leaders in the Massachusetts House of Representatives have been unwilling to pass legislation that comes close to addressing the urgency of the climate crisis.



Governor Baker Climate Change Adaptation bill hearing on June 18, 2019

Why?

The action (or lack thereof) in the Massachusetts House is a symptom of long time dysfunction in this governing body, where power is controlled by a select few, particularly those in leadership positions.

One example of monopolized decision making power: the bill filing deadline for the current legislative session, which extends through July 2020, was January 18, 2019. Yet, on February 23rd Speaker Robert DeLeo announced his intention to file “Greenworks,” a \$1 billion bond bill focused on climate resiliency and renewable-energy infrastructure. Content of his bill aside, the Speaker was able to file it late (on May 28th) by suspending the rules in order to accommodate his own legislation. It was assigned to Rep. Thomas Golden’s Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE) Committee where less than a month later it was reported out favorably, and then moved rapidly through the Capital Expenditures Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, before receiving a vote on the House floor on July 24th. Of the dozens of climate and clean energy bills, only this one bill—filed by the Speaker himself four months after the deadline—has gotten a vote. GreenWorks is now in the hands of the Massachusetts Senate, where its fate is a matter of speculation.

Although Sierra Club applauded the Speaker for taking initiative on climate issues, there are concerns with the bill. As a bonding bill, it only authorizes the Governor to borrow money; it does not require it. If the Governor is hesitant to increase the state’s debt burden, little or none of the authorized money might be spent. The bond money is to be distributed in grants to various cities and towns, but the criteria for grants have not been defined, left entirely

up to the Governor’s administration. Additionally, since Greenworks is a bond bill, it will further burden the younger generation with debt because we have so far failed to act on climate forcefully.

Governor Baker has filed his own climate adaptation bill, Senate bill S.10, that would raise money via a 50% increase on real estate transfer taxes, and thus provide a dedicated revenue source without borrowing. Unfortunately, the Governor’s bill only allows for spending on adaptation and resilience, not mitigation. Sierra Club has been coordinating with allies in the housing movement to go beyond what the Governor is proposing to raise additional funds for both climate resilience and much-needed affordable housing.

What about the dozens of other bills filed to address the climate crisis? Movement has been slow, with a few exceptions:

- ◆ The Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture (ENRA) Committee released a roadmap bill that would update the Global Warming Solutions Act by requiring Massachusetts to be net zero emissions by 2050, and to set limits for 2030 and 2040. It is now in the House Ways and Means Committee. Unfortunately, this bill ‘kicks the can down the road’ for two more years by allowing the Governor’s administration until 2022 to have a ‘plan’ for emissions reductions by 2030, leaving little time to take the urgent action we need by 2030.

- ◆ Meanwhile, on the Senate side, the TUE Committee has favorably reported out a handful of Senate bills covering

such topics as net zero energy building codes, higher energy standards for common household appliances, a requirement for solar on new buildings, a requirement that 50% of state vehicles be electric by 2025, and a requirement for 2,000MW of energy storage by 2030.

- ◆ Finally, the FY 2020 budget contained a provision that eliminates the requirement that future offshore wind bids be priced at or below the first solicitation. Because of the expiring federal tax incentives this is essential to the continued viability of the offshore wind procurement process.

Despite these scattered actions, the bills mentioned are woefully insufficient in light of the scientific realities we face, our moral obligation to act, and the economic and social justice potential of bold climate action. TUE House Chair Tom Golden has so far failed to move forward any of Sierra Club’s top priority legislation, including a statewide commitment to 100% renewable energy (H.2836), carbon pricing (H.2810), and a set of energy efficiency bills.

Likewise, critical environmental justice (H.826 and H.761) legislation remains stuck in the ENRA Committee.

The Amazon rainforest is on fire. Iceland just lost its first glacier. Wildfires are burning around the Arctic circle. 12.5 billion tons of water melted off of Greenland’s ice sheet. And July was the hottest month on record. Yet in August, state legislators went on vacation without having taken any meaningful action on climate already eight months into the legislative session.

There is a way to achieve significant action on the climate crisis before the legislative session ends in July 2020. **It is up to us though!** We all must demand bold, meaningful action by our Massachusetts representatives and senators, and get others to do so as well. If the clamor is loud enough, the leaders will listen. If we look the other way, the track record shows that our current leaders are not likely to have the vision needed to protect our children’s future. Join the Mass Chapter’s legislative team, we can help bring your voice and concerns to the State House.

## The time is now!

By Emily Norton

Maine and New York have recently surpassed Massachusetts in terms of setting ambitious climate change goals.

Maine now requires a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and 80% by 2050. They also increased their “Renewable Portfolio Standard” [which mandates utilities purchase clean energy] from 40% up to 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2050. New York now requires net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and carbon-free electricity by 2040. Why? Because in 2018 Maine replaced climate denier Governor Paul LePage with Janet Mills, and the state legislature changed from Republican to Democratic majorities. New York voters replaced conservative Democrats with progressive challengers. In other words, *elections matter*.

Massachusetts, once a bold leader with the passage of The Global Warming Solutions Act in 2008, is now falling further behind many states. In fact, Massachusetts struggles to pass a single, unambitious climate bill.

It is terrific that we are going to be seeing offshore wind installed starting in 2021 but our rate of growth in solar has stalled and solar jobs have actually declined each year since 2016, our public transit system is pathetic, and our electric vehicle incentive was cancelled in September.

We will not see truly ambitious climate legislation again in Massachusetts until go-along-get-along state legislators are replaced with climate champions.



Request a meeting with your State Representative and your State Senator, and bring friends with you. The Massachusetts Chapter can help set up those meetings. Just ask! Ask your elected officials their plan to move Massachusetts back to climate leadership. If they tell you their hands are tied because the Speaker or Senate President make all the decisions, that is an unacceptable response—who elects the House and Senate leadership? They do! Think of Maine, think of New York—state level elections matter! If your legislator is not representing your interests, run against them, or support someone who will. The stakes are too high for timidity or business-as-usual.

**Emily Norton is the former Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter Director and now Executive Director of the Charles River Watershed Association.**



# A Program Connecting and Fostering a Community for **Local Clean Energy**



The Sierra Club is widely acknowledged as the most influential grassroots-driven environmental organization in the United States—and rightfully so, given its size and scope.

For the last two years the Massachusetts Chapter used old-school outreach to identify and engage municipal officials from across the state who want to bring clean energy solutions to their communities. A series of five regional climate leadership summits was held over the past year, culminating in March with a statewide summit held at Framingham State University.

The leader of this effort is Sierra Club's Jacob Stern, the Chapter's Clean Energy Organizer. "We're just starting to see dividends now; it takes time to build trust with officials," he said. "I've recruited about 95 percent of the people by emailing and making phone calls myself."

The regional summits average around 20 elected or appointed policy-makers with such titles as select board member, city councilor, or town administrator. "Climate leader summits are educational," according to Stern. "We are connecting them with resources that might make it easier for folks to say *'Hey, this is the obvious next step.'*"

The regional events provide an overview of topics such as short-term projects, applicable laws, and funding pools.

"That always gets great reviews," Stern said of the latter. "People love finding out they can get money!" There's also the opportunity to network with other officials, sharing knowledge and ideas that help solve problems they encounter on their home turf.

The March state summit—attended by over 50 officials, including some previous regional participants—featured high-level keynote speakers such as State Senate President Karen Spilka. There were also breakout sessions for deeper dives into specific topics. "These officials gave us three hours of their Saturday; it was a very exciting, powerful afternoon," said Stern.

A monthly newsletter for program members reports on upcoming events, recent victories, and clean energy news. "If you're doing something cool, let us know and we'll blast it around the state so everyone knows about it," Stern said. "It makes our participants more competitive—everyone wants to have the best results."

The climate leadership program was funded in 2017 with an initial grant from the Boston-based Barr Foundation. The organization recently awarded a second two-year grant, ensuring the program will have the opportunity to grow and deepen its focus.

# Westborough's Journey to **100% Renewable**

*Individuals and communities can have a tremendous effect in lowering Greenhouse Gas Emissions by striving for 100% renewable energy in their homes and towns. Peter Dunbeck, the Chair of Sustainable Westborough and an active member of the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter Energy Committee, shows us how to gain the broad community support to get this done!*

By Pete Dunbeck

Late on October 21, 2019, voters at Westborough's Fall Town Meeting passed an Article to transition the town to 100% Renewable Energy by a vote of 206-24. You'd think we were leaders on this issue – like Cambridge or Amherst! But historically, Westborough has not been aggressive in adopting environmentally progressive programs.

Indeed, our first attempt to achieve Green Community status failed in 2008. However, after a Sierra Club Activist training in 2017, a number of residents formed a team to start organizing on environmental issues. The Board of Selectmen restarted the Green Community application process by chartering those folks to serve on a volunteer committee. We organized and educated stakeholders about the program benefits, and the town achieved its Green Community designation in December 2018.

After becoming a Green Community, Sustainable Westborough, the chartered committee of volunteers including Westborough Selectmen Leigh Emery and Sierra Club Massachusetts Director Deb Pasternak, agreed on two principles: expand our scope beyond municipal operations; and focus on combating climate change.

As a committee, we decided that Westborough must be on the path to transitioning to 100% clean, safe and renewable energy!

Cambridge and Lexington have been down this path and we adopted their model. For the 2019 Fall Town Meeting, we proposed a general Article that declared the 100% renewable energy goal and established a task force to create a climate action plan laying out steps towards its implementation by the Spring of 2021.

The key to successful Town Meeting articles is building a broad base of support among town committees and alerting key constituent groups in advance. With Selectman Emery's help, I presented the proposed Town Meeting

article to the Board of Selectmen, twice. They immediately agreed climate change is an urgent issue and Westborough needs to mitigate the causes. However, they had questions about the mechanisms to get there, and how to protect residents economically. These kinds of discussions helped to hone the language of the article and build stakeholder buy-in. Still, to have success at Town Meeting, we also needed the support of other key committees such as the School Committee, Conservation Committee, Planning Board, and more. With the endorsement of the Select Board, I created a roadshow to speak with these other committees to discuss the Article, and how they think it could benefit or impact Westborough.

In addition to the official town committees, we also included the general public and key civic groups. We formed an informal group called the Westborough Environmental Collaborative (WEC) with representatives from groups including Sustainable Westborough, Westborough High School Environmental Club, Rotary Club, Westborough Community Land Trust, Sierra Club and others. The WEC played an invaluable role as a sounding board; and its members helped publicize the public hearings to review the 100% Renewable Article with likely Town Meeting attendees.

Our efforts proved successful, and after gaining support and endorsements from all of the Committees and local organizations we approached, the Article easily passed in a late night vote at Fall Town Meeting.

Article 11 is just a start down the path to 100% Renewable energy that will take Westborough 30 or more years to achieve. With the diverse set of stakeholders we have recruited to gain broad support for the Town Meeting vote, I believe that we have a successful model for continuing the work of implementation ahead.

*If you are interested in organizing in your town, attend or organize one of our community Climate Activist Trainings! Contact the Sierra Club Chapter office at (617) 423-5775. To learn more about 100 percent renewable visit Sierra Club's Ready For 100 webpage [www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100](http://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100).*

*Pete Dunbeck is the Chair of Sustainable Westborough and an active member of the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter Energy Committee.*





## Sierra Club Massachusetts' Mass Climate Mobilization works!



Jeanie Roper, front row, second from left; Rep. Ruth Balsler, front row, center.

“I was desperate to do something,” explained Jeanie Roper, new Sierra Club member and resident of Newton. Like many of us, Jeanie was increasingly distressed by our climate crisis yet unsure how to act. Thankfully, Massachusetts Sierra Club’s Mass Climate Mobilization provided Jeanie – and hundreds like her in 2019 – clear and effective ways to make a difference.

Mass Climate Mobilization begins with a two-hour climate activist training usually organized in coordination with a local citizen organization. Seasoned trainers like Chapter Director Deb Pasternak help move participants to action: banding with fellow citizens to urge their town toward meaningful environmental action, organizing a meeting with a state representative, and showing up at the statehouse for public hearings or lobby days.

After attending a training, Jeanie left ready to contact her state representative, Ruth Balsler, to request a meeting. “I wanted to fill the room,” she said. Jeanie got in touch with the local environmental group Green Newton which helped her recruit nine constituents, including three passionate teens.

Jeanie reports that the meeting had “a David and Goliath moment.” She remembers thinking, “We’re going to do it. We’re going to win.”

Following the meeting with Rep. Balsler, Jeanie joined a crowded room of supporters at the Massachusetts

Statehouse for a public hearing on the 100% Renewable Energy Act (H.2836 and S.1958). She also signed up to be a “Climate Caller” one of over 150 Sierra Club volunteers around the state who make 10 calls per week to other Sierra Club members to join meetings like Jeanie’s.

You want to act on climate? We can help you “do this!”

Join our Mass Climate Mobilization effort!

*If you have 10-15 minutes per week to make easy and effective, member-to-member climate calls, contact Peer Outreach Coordinator, Lilly Lombard, at [lillylombard@massachusetts.sierraclub.org](mailto:lillylombard@massachusetts.sierraclub.org).*

*If you want to help host a Climate Activist Training in your town, call us at the Chapter office (617) 423-5775*

### Mass Climate Mobilization Stats, 2019

- ◆ 12 climate activist trainings
- ◆ 15 constituent meetings with state reps
- ◆ 12 public hearings and
- ◆ 10 legislative briefings or lobby days
- ◆ 2000 climate calls made

## Tree planting: My antidote to despair

By Lilly Lombard

About a year ago I realized that, while my work mobilizing fellow Sierra Club members to become citizen lobbyists was a strategic use of my climate activism, it didn’t quite fill the ache in my chest. Fact is, for those of us paying attention, our climate reality tears our hearts. As an organizer alternating between marathons and sprints to win political victories, I found myself at times spiritually numb.

What I needed was a regular infusion of hope. For me, that always comes through tangible connection to nature, and to people who cherish it as I do.

I found this infusion through a spring and fall ritual of weekly tree planting with female friends. As part of my city’s tree commission, I was able to tie into the municipal effort to re-tree our urban forest which meant that, with a little coordination with the tree warden, we could show up on a city street early on a Sunday—trees, tools, and water waiting for us and sites staked out for planting. Our weekly commitment took about one hour.

We began and ended each planting with a reading or song—literature and music are rich with tree themed passages, like this simple invitation in a William Cullen Bryant poem:

*Come, let us plant the apple-tree.  
Cleave the tough greensward with the spade;  
Wide let its hollow bed be made;  
There gently lay the roots, and there  
Sift the dark mould with kindly care,  
And press it o’er them tenderly,*

And we ended with a moment of gratitude and reflection. During one planting, our friend Madge announced the birth of a nephew, while Sarah described the brave final days of a dying mentor. There to receive our joy and sadness were our new trees, silently adjusting to their new home, sending signals to their roots, and setting their clocks to tell time not by hours, but by centuries.



From left to right Leslie Chalmers, Marilyn Castriotta, Molly Hale and Lilly Lombard pose after their early morning tree planting. Note the heavy watering, the protective mulch ring formed around (but not against) the trunk, and tree’s root flare visible above ground.

Planting trees brings perspective and calm. It reminds us, in the best sense, that human life is fleeting, that other species are central to our story of shared survival, and that beauty and friendship surround us.

*If you would like to help your community expand its tree canopy, contact your town’s tree warden to see if volunteer tree planters are needed. If your town has no tree warden or tree program, reach out to Mass Department of Conservation Resources Urban & Community Forester, Mollie Freilicher, [mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us](mailto:mollie.freilicher@state.ma.us), to learn best ways to lobby your community to appoint a tree warden and start a tree commission.*

*Lilly Lombard is the Peer Mobilization Coordinator for the Massachusetts Sierra Club Chapter. She organizes community screenings of “Under Pressure,” a film by Four Rivers Charter Public School students on 2018 Merrimack Valley gas explosions and our energy transition off fracked gas. [UnderPressurefilm.org](http://UnderPressurefilm.org)*



# We Can't Burn Our Way To Clean Energy Despite What Our Governor Says

by Paul Dale

On February 6, Governor Baker went to Washington D.C. to declare, "We need strong federal leadership on climate change. We understand the science and know the impacts are real because we are experiencing them firsthand." Back at home his actions are different. He is increasing the incentives for burning wood and refuse for heating and, worse, for biomass powered electricity generation – all in the name of "renewable energy."

In April the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) awarded \$2.6 million to private companies to fund processing of wood chips for heating. Baker said, "Renewable heating is critical to reducing the Commonwealth's greenhouse gas emissions and meeting our targets under the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). Supporting these technologies is an investment in ... the sustainability of our energy future." The Governor is wrong. Burning wood chips grossly increases emissions and undermines the GWSA. Instead, we need incentives and programs to advance clean heating such as the excellent air source heat pumps available for cold climates.

Now the DOER is proposing to greatly expand the feasibility and incentives for burning wood or waste for electricity generation by gutting the restrictions in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). The RPS is a bedrock driver of the development of clean renewable electricity and our pathway to sustainable electricity from wind and solar. This year the RPS requires public utilities to deliver 14% of our electricity from renewable sources.

DOER wants to open up the RPS so that biomass and garbage qualify as "renewable energy." Nothing about burning wood and waste is renewable, sustainable, clean, or non-carbon emitting. Clean energy does not come out of a smokestack. Incinerating wood produces even more CO<sub>2</sub> than burning coal, for equal energy produced.

Biomass is not renewable; we don't have time to grow new trees; the climate crisis is upon us now. We deplete the soil by taking wood out of the forest and we lose the CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. Massachusetts forests have the highest sequestration rate in New England because they are actively growing.

Furthermore, burning wood releases high amounts of particulate pollution that causes asthma, heart disease and other illnesses. It is a costly disaster from a public health perspective and an environmental justice tragedy. Wood-burning power plants will inevitably be sited near low income and disadvantaged communities. In particular, there is plant planned for Springfield whose financial viability depends on these RPS changes.

The proposals are a total betrayal of a hard-won compromise in 2012 when a ballot initiative with over 100,000 signatures and certified by the Attorney General to take all biomass out of the RPS was withdrawn because DOER agreed to restrictive biomass regulations. Last year the legislature agreed to a modest annual increase in the RPS from 1% to 2% a year as an incentive to spur further development of clean energy. There was no intention to see it watered down by including dirty energy such as biomass.

There is a long list of other egregious proposed changes to the RPS:

- ◆ DOER wants to remove the periodic recertification of hydroelectric generators allowing perpetual operation with no further monitoring.
- ◆ DOER wants to allow importation of electricity from outside Massachusetts without the attribute tracking that has been in place for 15 years. This would jeopardize and diminish the value of renewable energy credits and be contrary to our RPS statute.

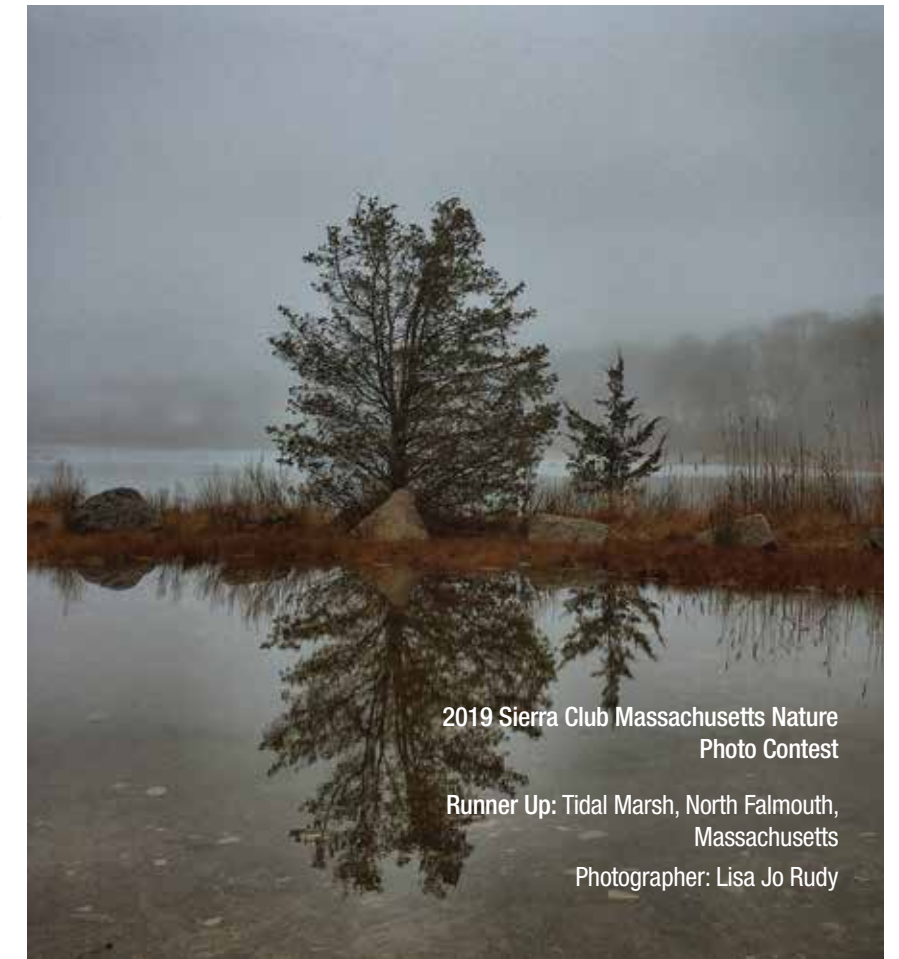
◆ DOER wants to increase the subsidies for burning garbage. Instead, we need to reduce our garbage and food waste, effectively recycle, and use less packaging.

◆ The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has an oversight role over DOER with respect to health and safety, a role that DOER wants to remove.

◆ DOER wants to renege on the financial commitments the Commonwealth made to early adopters of solar.

It is concerning that these proposals were released quietly and received little or no press attention. In order to make our residents understand the true consequences of these proposals, there is work to be done and we need your help. Please demand that the proposed RPS changes be withdrawn. We need to call for the Baker administration to walk the governor's talk: implement effective incentives for the electrification of buildings and transportation; and for rapid progress on the installation of wind and solar energy generation.

*Executive Committee member Paul Dale also serves as Chair of the Chapter Energy Committee.*



2019 Sierra Club Massachusetts Nature Photo Contest

Runner Up: Tidal Marsh, North Falmouth, Massachusetts

Photographer: Lisa Jo Rudy



## Sierra Club Merrimack Valley Action Team 2019 Activities

◆ Participated in the Lowell Earth Day Celebration: parade (sponsored by UMass Lowell); table in the UMass Conference Center; electric vehicle demos in Convention Center parking lot.

◆ Partnered with the UML Kayak Center for a kayak trip down the Merrimack River from Tyngsborough to Lowell.

◆ Sponsored "Lowell Drives Electric" event as part of National Drive Electric Week in September.

◆ Initiated a community recycling advisory committee in partnership with the Lowell Solid Waste and Recycling Department (LSW&R) and the Lowell Sustainability Council. Meets monthly with LSW&R and have been deputized as recycling inspectors to help reduce contamination and educate residents about right recycling practices.

*If you'd like to volunteer with the Merrimack Valley Action Team email Geoff Koetsch: [gkoetsch@gmail.com](mailto:gkoetsch@gmail.com) or call the Chapter office (617) 423-5775.*



# Ten Ways Petrochemicals are in Your Daily Life



Photo by Cheryl Empey

Petrochemicals, or petroleum based chemicals, are derived from fossil fuels like fracked gas and petroleum. These chemicals show up in a surprising number of common products you may buy, use, or even eat every day.

## Examples of petrochemicals in the home:

**1. Health and Beauty Products.** Petrochemicals are regularly found in perfume, sunscreen, shampoos and makeup, even those marked as “natural.” In rodent studies, researchers found that some petrochemicals in makeup caused anemia, kidney degeneration, serious nerve damage, and in some cases, death. Sunscreens with petrochemicals have been found to damage coral reefs and have been banned in some coastal areas. Although these products are common on store shelves, alternatives are not hard to find.

**2. Food.** Petrochemicals are used in food preservatives (sodium benzoate and potassium benzoate) and as artificial colorings and flavorings. Conventional farming uses pesticides and herbicides on crops and traces of these chemicals end up in our food. Example: the herbicide glyphosate (Monsanto’s Roundup) has been found in popular breakfast cereals. Go organic! Organic food certification does not allow pesticides in farming.

**3. Plastics.** Most plastics are petrochemicals and often contain additional unlisted petrochemical additives e.g. plasticizers, UV inhibitors, anti-static agents, dyes and colorants. Try to rid yourself of petrochemicals by steering clear of plastics (supermarket bags, bottles, etc.). See more ways to reduce plastic use on page 13.

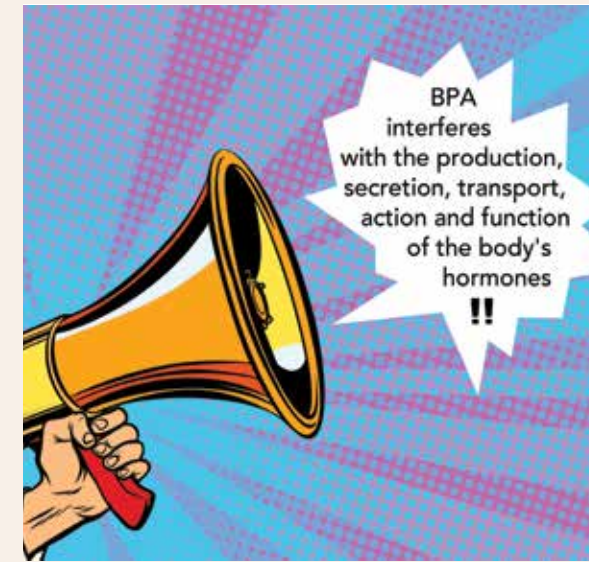
**4. Furniture and flooring.** Many furnishings are made of plastic (PVC leather or tiles; molded fiberglass, acrylic, or melamine for structural parts; polyester or nylon fabrics for carpet or upholstery; polyurethane foam or carpet padding). Even wooden furniture and flooring can be coated with clear polyurethane that is made with petrochemical-based volatile organic solvents.

**5. Clothing.** Natural fibers such as cotton are often finished with petrochemical waterproofing (PFASs) or no-iron agents (formaldehyde). If fabrics are labeled “stain-resistant” or “water-resistant,” chances are they contain PFAS. Best to avoid!

**6. Adhesives.** Glues used on stamps and envelopes used to be made with animal waste products and have largely been replaced with petrochemicals. Pressure-sensitive adhesives found on postage stamps, envelopes, name tags, sticky notes, tape, and packaging labels are all petrochemicals, (e.g. acrylate copolymers).

**7. Disposable Diapers.** In addition to the plastic cover (usually made of polyethylene), diapers contain many petrochemicals for absorbing waste (sodium polyacrylate), killing germs or odors (tributyltin), and in the adhesives of the closing tabs to hold the diaper together.

**8. Thermal receipts.** The technology behind thermal receipts combines three types of complex synthetic petrochemicals: leuco dye, developer, and stabilizer. The developer has most often been bisphenol A (BPA) historically but may include other bisphenols. BPA is an endocrine disruptor. Black 305 is a common dye. The stabilizer is usually from the PFAS family. Bottom line: skip receipts!



**9. Paint.** Paints are based on acrylics and polyvinyl acetate. Other petrochemicals may be added such as solvents and tints. Paints and other finishes break down in air, sunlight and wind and release microscopic petrochemical pollution into the environment. A recent study of microplastics in the arctic snow found the number one source to be from varnishes!

**10. Candles.** 95% of candles on the market today are made with paraffin, a petroleum-based wax. Candle brands are not required to disclose their ingredients so it’s impossible for consumers to know when a product includes potentially unsafe ingredients. If a candle brand does not explicitly say ‘paraffin-free’ then don’t buy it. Beeswax candles burn clean, burn brighter, and promote sustainable beekeeping!

## Exploring and Enjoying the Outdoors: Chapter Outings Programs Take Off!



Getting outside continues to be an important part of the Chapter’s work as we explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of Earth. By connecting with our natural resources, we build important relationships with nature, ourselves, and our community and help develop strategies to protect these places and the ecosystem services they offer.

The Chapter’s Outings Program had a successful year. We led 15 outings that ranged from the coastal Nahant to the hills of the Pioneer Valley and to the wetlands of the Berkshires. We visited public lands and sensitive areas in the Commonwealth, and had fun, while enjoying teamwork, building self confidence and learning about nature.

Boston Inspiring Connections Outdoors so far has led 10 outings with four of them being overnights! We ventured from New Hampshire, eastern Massachusetts, and to a week-long Sierra Club service trip to California. Our all-volunteer team has partnered with five community agencies in the Boston-area to take kids on hikes. [www.bostonica.org](http://www.bostonica.org)

Looking forward to seeing you on an outing next year!

**Benjamin Pignatelli is Chair of the Chapter Executive Committee and also serves as Boston ICO Chair.**

**Robert Kearns is Secretary of the Chapter Executive Committee and also serves as the Chapter Outings Chair.**



# Twelve ways to reduce plastic pollution

Plastic pervades our world today and no doubt is having huge impacts on human health, wildlife and ecosystems.

Here are twelve ways to reduce plastic use and support the demand for alternatives.

## 1. Replace Plastic Utensils and Containers

Refuse plastic utensils and straws, carry portable flatware in your bag, and ask restaurants to skip the cutlery in your take-out or delivery orders. Bring your own reusable take-out containers for leftovers from a meal out.

## 2. Reusable Beverage Containers

Use reusable bottles, choose glass or aluminum containers over plastic ones.

## 3. Plastic-Free Personal Care Products

Avoid liquid soap, shampoo, and conditioners. Opt instead for bar or powder cleansers.

Avoid personal care products containing microbeads. A five-ounce tube of facial scrub holds millions of microbeads which end up in our water. Ingredient lists often disguise microbeads as polyethylene (PE) or polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) or nylon.

## 4. Replace Synthetic Clothes or Wash Carefully

Avoid synthetic fibers, especially fleece, to help prevent microfiber pollution. When synthetic textiles are washed, microscopic bits of plastic, called microfibers, break off and enter wastewater treatment systems. Once back in the environment, these microfibers are often ingested by marine life and travel up the food chain – even to humans. If you do own synthetic fibers, you can mitigate this pollution by washing them in a front loading washing machine with a microfiber filter called a lint washing machine discharge filter Lint LUV-R.

## 5. Cloth Diapers

Disposable diapers contain plastics and chemicals that can irritate your baby’s skin and pollute the environment. Use cloth diapers and/or diaper services which are cost effective and eliminate pollution.

## 6. Plastic-Free Dental Floss

Alternatives to traditional dental floss include water flossers, or silk or bamboo thread, which can be purchased in refillable cartridges.

## 7. Plastic-Free Gum

Chewing gum is another sneaky source of plastic in our lives containing a synthetic plastic base. Non-plastic gums use chicle, a tree sap traditionally chewed by indigenous peoples, as their gum base.

## 8. Reusable Steeping/Brewing Methods

Enough K-cups have been produced to circle the globe dozens of times over. Your typical single-use coffee cup is lined with plastic and cannot easily be recycled. The answer? Brew your own coffee at home, compost the grounds/filters, and take it in a reusable mug or thermos. Tea drinker? Brew loose leaf tea in reusable tea steepers rather than relying on plastic wrapped and/or sealed tea bags.

## 9. Cotton Canvas Shopping and Produce Bags

Bringing your own cotton canvas bags reduces plastic waste. Canvas can be washed and cleaned when dirty. You can also find 100% organic cotton produce bags at Massachusetts based, B-Organic [www.b-organicma.com](http://www.b-organicma.com). Cotton produce bags extend the life of your produce and are healthier for you and your family.

## 10. Reusable Food Storage Methods

Reduce plastic use in the kitchen with reusable food storage products. Start with washable glass, metal or ceramic containers, and organic cotton produce bags. Beeswax food wrap is more sustainable than single-use plastic wrap.

## 11. Minimize Plastic Packaging

Even if the products you purchase are “plastic-free,” chances are the packaging isn’t. Buy goods in person, rather than online, and choose minimally packaged products. If you do shop online, many companies have an option to include a note with purchase. This is an opportunity to request plastic-free packaging. Even if the company is unable to accommodate your request, you are sending the message that customers care about this issue.

## 12. Support A More Sustainable Fishing Industry

Over 40% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is comprised of abandoned fishing gear like plastic fishing nets. Speak out for regulations, support ocean clean-up efforts, and consider curbing the seafood in your diet.

*To find out how the Sierra Club’s Massachusetts Chapter is addressing the issue of plastics and toxics and how you can help, visit our website at <https://www.sierraclub.org/massachusetts/plastics>.*



**Donate Today.**



**To continue all of this good work, the Massachusetts Chapter must raise over half of our budget annually. We can't do this without you. Please donate today!**

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# WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE

Please contact Development Associate Grace Hanley about your investment in the work of the Massachusetts Chapter. [Grace.Hanley@SierraClub.org](mailto:Grace.Hanley@SierraClub.org)



Ensure your environment legacy by naming Massachusetts Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold onto your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.





## Massachusetts Will Benefit from 12 State Collaboration



By Veena Dharmaraj

### **The Transportation Climate Initiative Will Curb Emissions and Generate Funding for Transportation Projects in Massachusetts**

Transportation is the largest source of climate disrupting climate pollution in Massachusetts and across the country. The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a collaboration between Washington D.C. and 12 Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution from transportation modes like cars, buses, and trucks while accelerating investment in clean, modern and multimodal forms of transportation. Massachusetts and other states are engaged in ongoing conversations and gathering of public input, with facilitation of the Georgetown Climate Center, to determine a regional policy that would reduce transportation pollution and generate revenue for equitable clean transportation solutions.

A survey from Sierra Club shows that there is strong support for making that vision a reality with over 83% of Massachusetts voters supporting a regional plan for modernizing our transportation system and limiting air pollution. Analysis shows that investing \$3 billion annually in the Northeast states to reduce GHG emissions would save thousands of lives in the region, create more than 140,000

jobs in Massachusetts and put \$13.10 billion in the pockets of Massachusetts residents through 2030.

One policy that has been widely discussed is a cap and invest approach similar to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) a successful program that exists in the electric power sector. The proposed policy could set a declining cap on the amount of carbon pollution released by the use of transportation fuels by requiring entities like wholesale fuel distributors that sell gasoline and other fuels to retail outlets (i.e., gas stations) to purchase emission permits available under the cap. The proceeds from sale can then be invested by states in more equitable, efficient and resilient transportation solutions like expanded public transportation options, better bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, improved access to electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, and affordable transit-oriented development.

**You can play a role in advancing Massachusetts to adopt an equitable, clean, and 21st Century transportation system by participating in public hearings and meetings on proposed plans. To get involved reach out to Veena Dharmaraj, Conservation and Development Program Manager at [veena.dharmaraj](mailto:veena.dharmaraj)**

## Sierra Club Cape Cod Group 2019 Activities

The Sierra Club's Cape Cod Group (CCG) is dedicated to ensuring Sierra Club's mission to "explore, enjoy, and protect the planet" is applied locally. Our focus in 2019 is on moving the Cape toward 100% clean energy, educating the public and our elected leaders about contaminants of rising concern, and promoting zero waste best practices.

### **Education & Advocacy Efforts**

- ◆ The CCG submitted comments on the state's proposed PFAS standard for drinking water in July, led by volunteers David Dow and Sue Phelan of GreenCape.
- ◆ David Dow continues to represent the Sierra Club on the STEEP grant (led by Silent Spring Institute and URI) examining PFAS in Cape drinking water.
- ◆ Chris Powicki represented the Sierra Club in giving a presentation on the town of Brewster's progress toward zero waste practices at an August 1 forum.
- ◆ Keith Lewison spoke on behalf of the Sierra Club at an August 15 media event coordinated by environmental organizations in support of Vineyard Wind.
- ◆ The CCG enjoyed the Quahog Festival in Hyannis on August 25 while providing an information table at the event.
- ◆ The 350 Cape Cod-Sierra CCG campaign to amend the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan (RPP) to sharpen its focus on climate mitigation continues. A September 20 rally in solidarity with the Global Climate Strike, attracted 150 people of all ages from all over the region. Proposed RPP amendments were pinned to the Commission's front door, and speakers called for action - including striking students from Sturgis Charter Public School.

◆ The CCG is also supporting continued efforts to pass Municipal Bottle Bans at many Fall Town Meetings, building on successful bans passed in the spring.

◆ The CCG represented Sierra Club at the Cape Cod Electric Car Show & Drive Experience at the Barnstable Airport on September 14.

◆ The installation of a water bottle filling station/bubbler at the Barnstable High School (BHS) gym, using funds donated to the Sierra Club in memory of Olivia Brodt, has been completed. Olivia, an incredible young woman who died of a rare form of cancer in 2017, requested that funds donated in her name go to Sierra Club for a project on the Cape. Olivia, a volleyball star, dancer, and environmental activist, was a bright light at Barnstable High School (BHS) and Babson College. Sierra Club's Chris Powicki worked with Olivia's parents, Craig and Brenda Brodt, and BHS to implement this project. Donated funds covered the filling station/bubbler and a memorial plaque, while BHS funded their installation. A September 24 dedication ceremony was conducted in conjunction with the annual cancer fundraiser, "Dig Yellow," run by the BHS volleyball team in Olivia's honor.

◆ Keith Lewison collaborated with organizations including Mass Audubon and the Cape Cod Theatre Company/Harwich Junior Theatre to run another youth climate action summit in early November; it featured attendance at a performance of *Crude the Musical*, a talkback with actors/sponsors, and an afternoon action planning session.

**Please get involved with the Cape Cod Group by contacting Keith Lewison at [keith.Lewison@gmail.com](mailto:keith.Lewison@gmail.com)**



2019 Sierra Club Massachusetts Nature Photo Contest

Second Place:  
Provincetown Breakwater, Provincetown  
Photographer: Corrine Doud



## Boston Updates Climate Action Plan



The City of Boston released its Climate Action Plan (CAP) update in October which includes a commitment for all new municipal buildings to achieve a net zero carbon emissions standard. The update sets the course for the City's emission reductions efforts over the next five years.

The plan was informed by the Carbon Free Boston study, commissioned by the City of Boston, and produced by Boston University's Institute for Sustainable Energy. The Carbon Free Boston study analyzed pathways for the City to achieve its 2050 carbon neutrality goal. The study concluded that the City must:

- 1) Reduce energy use and increase energy efficiency
- 2) Electrify our buildings and transportation systems
- 3) Purchase 100% clean energy

The CAP update seeks to accelerate the decarbonization of the building sector, which produces 70% of city carbon emissions. It includes a net zero carbon building performance standard for existing buildings. It also strengthens existing green building zoning requirements for new construction. The plan also seeks to increase access to public transit and improve service for underserved neighborhoods in Boston; as well as support the deployment of zero-emissions vehicles. Additionally, the plan aims to implement the City's community choice aggregation program, and the deployment of carbon-neutral district energy microgrids.

As advocates, Sierra Club provided input into the updated Climate Action Plan in numerous working group sessions.

We pushed for equitable clean energy solutions that will benefit our communities, especially our socially vulnerable populations and those most burdened by climate pollution. We urged the city to construct onsite renewables where possible, and purchase Class 1 Renewable Energy Credits for those where onsite generation is not possible. We emphasized the local job creation, health benefits, and energy price stability that come with investments in local clean energy projects.

While the CAP Update contains many ambitious solutions to reduce Boston's carbon footprint, it lacks teeth for implementation. Moving forward, it is our role to hold the City accountable and push for swift action towards the commitments set in the plan.



*We need your help to accomplish this! Are you a resident in Boston? Interested in joining our team to push the City of Boston to implement these solutions in a just and equitable way? Contact: [michelle.brooks@sierraclub.org](mailto:michelle.brooks@sierraclub.org)*

## Building Electrification Breakdown!

By Michele Brooks

The bottom line is that we need to get off fossil fuels as quickly as possible while ensuring that our most vulnerable communities are protected and benefit from the transition to clean, safe and renewable sources of energy.

The false notion that fracked gas would be a bridge fuel has been dispelled. In fact, fracked "natural" gas is mostly methane (a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.) Studies show that the amount of methane leaked throughout the extraction, transmission and distribution of fracked gas makes it just as dirty as coal or oil.

What is concerning is that we are currently seeing new development going up across Massachusetts - almost entirely powered by fracked gas. With the knowledge that we can no longer afford to build new structures powered with dirty fuels, the Sierra Club and our allies are advocating for buildings have much higher efficiency standards with all electric heating and cooling using heat pump technology that is ground or air sourced.

By electrifying our buildings, we lower our greenhouse gas emissions because we can source our electricity from clean renewable generation. Indeed, as we "green our grid" adding offshore wind and rooftop solar, our electricity gets cleaner.

Due to increased efficiencies and economies of scale, heat pumps have recently grown cost competitive with gas! To make things even more enticing, the Mass Save Energy Efficiency Program is now offering incentives for residential heat pumps.

Our elected officials need to be pushed to do more to cut carbon emissions in all sectors. Right now, our state leaders are not doing what leading climate scientists say must be done: drastically cut carbon emissions in the next 10 years in order to avoid catastrophic warming and devastation.

The Climate Crisis will require a World War II style mobilization with a focus on prioritizing energy burdened, rural, and historically marginalized communities to benefit first from an equitable transition to a renewable energy economy. It's up to us - people from communities across the Commonwealth - to come together and build grassroots power to demand our elected officials act on climate. Join us for an upcoming training, or contact Jacob Stern ([jacob.stern@sierraclub.org](mailto:jacob.stern@sierraclub.org)) to organize a training in your town/city.

*Michele Brooks is the Boston Community Outreach Coordinator at the Massachusetts Sierra Club Chapter.*

## City of Lowell 2019 Community Leadership Award Goes to Sierra Club's Merrimack Valley Action Team



"The Council is impressed with the scope of projects your organization is pursuing such as promoting electric buses/vehicles, local environmental legislation such as restrictions on single-use plastics, supporting the city's stewardship of recycling measures, bringing awareness to food waste issues, and supporting outdoor recreation in our parks and canals. As a community we make progress by working together to achieve the goals identified in the Sustainable Lowell 2025 masterplan; we commend this submission."

*-Andrew W.J. Kollar  
Lowell Sustainability Council*

Lowell Mayor's reception room, Lowell City Hall. MVSC Scott Darlington, Lowell Mayor Wm Samaras, MVSC Coordinator Geoff Koetsch, /MVSC Kevin Goscila, Lowell Sustainability Council Chair Jay Mason, MVSC members Ruth & Gary Potwin



# MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTION NOMINEES

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEES

(Vote for not more than 4, all members vote for Chapter Executive Committee)

### Maxine Gunther-Segal of Northampton



A recent intern with the Massachusetts Sierra Club, I currently study the sociology of climate change at Smith College working toward becoming an attorney to defend the rights of climate refugees. As an Executive Committee member, I would be honored to represent youthful perspectives of those raised in the midst

of the climate crisis, and would work to uplift the voices of marginalized groups most harmed by environmental degradation. I also volunteer with Sunrise Northampton and aim to unite Sunrise's bold energy with Sierra Club's formidable activist infrastructure. Together, these movements can help overcome our climate crisis and create a just, livable world.

### John Kyper of Roxbury

I am particularly concerned with issues of environmental justice, as a Roxbury resident and public transportation activist. Businesses, institutions and government all affect our quality of life through policies like the siting of pollution-generating facilities, highway expansion, etc. I have long fought for equity in urban and transportation planning, like the North-South Rail Link and rail on corridors including the Green Line Extension. Such policies greatly benefit the public by eliminating greenhouse gases and other toxins, also reducing our dependence on the private automobile by providing cleaner and attractive alternatives. Please support my candidacy for the Chapter's Executive Committee.



### Benjamin Pignatelli of Jamaica Plain

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2005 when I was active in the restoration of Lake Tahoe. I currently serve as Chair of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Club's Boston Inspiring Connections Outdoors youth outreach program. It has been an honor to serve with other volunteers on the ExCom. We hired a new Chapter Director, Deb Pasternak, continued to grow the Club's influence in the Commonwealth, and have stood up to the dangerous policies of this governor. We have had successes fighting gas expansion, protecting water quality, and creating a Chapter Outings program.



### Clint Richmond of Brookline

My family has been a member of the Sierra Club for many years. I became active with the Chapter on the issue of single-use plastics in 2012. This campaign has expanded into solid waste and toxics. I have also served as co-chair of the Transportation Committee since 2017. I have represented the Chapter on these issues in the media and public forums including hearings. In 2018, I was appointed to the Chapter Executive Committee. I am an elected Brookline Town Meeting Member, and member of the town's Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Professionally, I am a technology consultant.



### Jenny Lau of Dorchester



I'm Jenny Lau and I'm running for the Executive Committee because I care deeply about our human race in the face of ongoing climate crisis and want to work with you to leverage the organization's resources to lead the big changes we need to protect our communities and thrive. I bring ten plus years experience in strategic planning, fundraising, and nonprofit management through working with women in politics and organizing poor workers, immigrants, and communities of color. Let's work together to increase our organizational resources and to center frontline communities most impacted by the climate crisis. Vote for me so together we can fight for a more just and sustainable world.

### Rev. Vernon Walker of Brighton



What I will bring to the Sierra Club Executive Committee as a person of color with relationships with many diverse organizations across the state is the opportunity to help build new ties and build solidarity among groups effected by the climate crisis. We are living in dangerous times, with climate change rapidly endangering all living organisms on this plant. The climate crisis represents a true threat to civilization. It is not a single special interest issue. I would like to work with the Sierra Club to help shape the intersectionality and the interrelatedness of climate change to other social justice issues.



FOR YOUR MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER VOLUNTEER LEADERS!

#### MAIL BALLOTS TO:

Sierra Club Massachusetts Elections  
50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02110

**Your Member ID# MUST appear on the outside of the envelope for ballot to be valid.**  
(Your 8-digit member ID# is on your address label above your name.)

**Family members may submit a ballot for each member – up to a total of two.**

**Ballots due NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM on Friday, December 13, 2019.**  
Please contact [Massachusetts.Chapter@Sierraclub.org](mailto:Massachusetts.Chapter@Sierraclub.org) with questions.



# CAPE COD GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEES

(Vote for not more than 3, only Cape Cod Group members vote for the Cape Cod Group Executive Committee)

## Madhavi Venkatesan PhD of Brewster



I am committed to stewardship and view the environmentally-focused protective actions we take as part of a fundamental value framework that we need to adopt as a cultural norm. We are dependent on the environment in more ways than we know and that our manufacturing capacity will allow us to readily perceive. I am a PhD economist and presently teach at Northeastern University where my focus is on sustainability and its three pillars: environmental justice, social justice and economic equity. I am also the founder and executive director of Sustainable Practices, 501(c)3 environmental action group located on Cape Cod.

## Samuel Bechtold of West Barnstable



The Sierra Club is an astounding organization and resource for environmental outreach. I would be honored to join the executive committee. I am the co-founder of the Cape Cod Litter Initiative, a monthly cleanup group. We aim to educate and invigorate volunteers through a zero-waste, data driven approach. Through CCLI, I work with Hyannis West Elementary School's 21st Century Program to teach students about waste and how it effects the environment. My drive to educate the community on environmental issues would make me a great addition to the Cape Cod Sierra Group's executive committee.

## Morgan Peck of Chatham



Hi, Im Morgan Peck! I've been with Mass Audubon for the past 8 years as a Wildlife and Conservation Educator, specializing in marine ecosystems. I've spent the last 5 of those years at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, creating immersive, hands-on curriculum for both local and visiting schools. While not teaching in schools on the Cape or at the Sanctuary, I am the Director of our Natural History and Wildlife Day Camp. I'm thrilled to be joining Sierra Club, as it allows me to take action tackling a wider range pf pertinent ecological issues which are vital to us all.

### Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter

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 Deb Pasternak,  
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 Veena Dharmaraj,  
*Conservation Program and Development Manager*  
 Jacob Stern,  
*Clean Energy Organizer*  
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*Boston Community Outreach Organizer*  
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*Development Associate*  
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Robert Kearns, *Secretary*  
 John Kyper  
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 Benjamin Pignatelli, *Chair*  
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 Daniel Vernick, *Vice-Chair*

**Cape Cod Group Executive Committee**  
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 John Cumber  
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# OFFICIAL BALLOT

Primary / individual member ballot.  
 Family memberships may submit a ballot for each member - up to two total

**Part 1:** All chapter members vote for Chapter Executive Committee

## Chapter Executive Committee Nominees

(vote for not more than four)

- Maxine Gunther-Segal of Northampton
- John Kyper of Roxbury
- Benjamin Pignatelli of Jamaica Plain
- Clint Richmond of Brookline
- Jenny Lau of Dorchester
- Rev. Vernon Walker of Brighton

**Part 1:** Only Cape Cod Group<sup>1</sup> members can vote for Cape Cod Group Executive Committee

## Cape Cod Group Executive Committee Nominees

(vote for not more than three)

- Madhavi Venkatesan, PhD of Brewster
- Samuel Bechtold of West Barnstable
- Morgan Peck of Chatham

<sup>1</sup>Cape Cod Group covers all of Barnstable, Nantucket and Dukes counties including the Elizabeth Islands and the portion of the Town of Bourne that is west of the Cape Cod Canal.

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