



## Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

February 2020

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## What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

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### Chapter Election Results

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club announced the election of four new board members to its Executive Leadership Committee. Joining the board for the first time are Dorchester residents Vernon K. Walker and Jenny Lau, both active in community leadership and environmental action in the Boston area and the state of Massachusetts. In addition, Ben Pignatelli of Jamaica Plain and Clint Richmond of Brookline were reelected. All will serve a two-year term beginning February 2020.

Meet the Executive Committee



I'm Interested in Volunteering!

### Our Sustainable Kitchen seeking volunteers

The Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter has a new initiative, Plant-based Planet, eating for the climate and health. As part of that initiative, we will be filming a vegan cooking show, Our Sustainable Kitchen, to be aired on cable TV and youtube channels, starting later this month or early next month. We are looking for volunteers for filming or editing the show at the North Andover Cable Access TV station which has a beautiful new kitchen perfect for a cooking show. Previous experience is preferable. We expect to film once every two weeks for a few hours between 11 am and 3 pm. Exact date and time will depend on the availability of the kitchen for filming. Please contact [mass.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:mass.sierra@gmail.com) if you are interested.

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### Plant-based Potluck Dinner

Sunday, March 29 at 6:00 pm  
6 Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain

Fight climate change with your food choices. Put your concern for the environment into action by minimizing the carbon footprint of your food, and saving habitat for wildlife. Join your fellow Sierra Club members for a plant-based potluck dinner, in partnership with the First Church in Jamaica Plain Unitarian Universalist's Social Justice Action Committee. Please bring a plant-based dish (vegan), free of meat, chicken, fish, meat or fish stock, eggs, dairy products, or honey. Free, but registration is required.



RSVP Here

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## Clean Energy & Climate

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### Save the Date: Earth Day Climate Action

April 22-24



Save the dates now for April 22nd through April 24th. On the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, we will once again demand that our elected leaders take action in the name of climate. [On the 22nd](#) we'll strike from school and work once again. [April 23rd](#) will focus on actions throughout the day to target the financiers of climate change and advocating for divestment. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

RSVP Here to Stay Informed

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### Stop the Money Pipeline Campaign

The [Stop The Money Pipeline campaign](#) is calling on banks, insurance companies, asset managers, and institutional investors to stop funding, insuring and investing in the climate crisis. Many of you joined the Stop The Money Pipeline Massachusetts webinar the evening of February 25. If you missed it, here's [the video](#) and here are [the slides](#).



On **March 25** there will be a midday action in downtown Boston to hold accountable the asset managers that are financing climate change. Specifics details are in progress. RSVP to receive updates.

RSVP Here

To stay involved with the Stop The Money Pipeline campaign, please [sign up here](#).

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# Transportation Matters

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## Make Your Voice Heard: Submit Input to Implement a Strong Transportation & Climate Initiative!

States across the region are trying to protect the climate and improve transportation with the [Transportation & Climate Initiative](#). The more we limit pollution from motor fuels, the more jobs are created, the more the economy grows, the healthier our air is and the more lives we save.

Governors from across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic released a draft agreement to limit climate pollution from motor fuels and invest in an economy built on clean transportation. These changes will reduce traffic congestion, make clean vehicles more accessible, increase jobs, and grow the economy.

[Take action now: tell Gov. Charlie Baker to make our communities healthier and more prosperous.](#)



Take Action Now: Email Governor Baker



Learn More

## MBTA Fairmont Line Expansion

Beginning on May 18th for a pilot lasting for one year, the MTBA will expand service on the Fairmont Line. The pilot will add eight additional weekday trips, serving parts of Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Hyde Park. Additionally, riders will be able to use their CharlieCards to pay for their fares during the pilot, which officials hope will make paying for transit easier. [Read more from WBUR...](#)

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## Transit Equity Day

On February 4th, Sierra Club along with allies participated in the bus ride and rally organized by Alternatives for Climate and Environment (ACE)/ Transit Riders Union (TRU) to honor Rosa Parks and highlight the need for safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable transit. Transit advocates and Boston City Councilor, Michelle Wu rode MBTA bus #14 from Roslindale to Nubian Square during rush hour. We set aside a seat on the bus to honor Rosa Parks and spoke with riders about their transit experience. The day also included a rally in Nubian Square, calling for

electrification of our public transit fleets, as well as free or affordable transit fares.



*"We fight for transit equity because we are fighting for mobility. The right for every person to have access to every opportunity in the city no matter what zip code they were born or grew up in. Everyone should be able to benefit from all of Boston's successes and prosperity. We need a functional, safe, reliable, affordable, free public transit system to make that work."* - **Michelle Wu, Boston City Councilor**

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## Beyond Fossil Fuels

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### Climate Change and Your Health

The Massachusetts Medical Society, a professional association representing 25,000 physicians and medical students in Massachusetts, is concerned about climate change and its effect on human health — in Massachusetts and around the world. In a recently released video, physicians speak out about how our health is impacted by climate change. [Watch the video](#), and visit [www.massmed.org/climate](http://www.massmed.org/climate) to learn more about these impacts, and what we can do to combat the effects of climate change.



Watch the Video

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### DPU Hearings for Eversource Rate Increases & Pipeline Expansion

On November 8, 2019, Eversource filed a rate review request with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to increase natural gas delivery rates. This rate increase proposal will affect all residents in Massachusetts who heat their homes with natural gas. Eversource is also proposing a new pipeline expansion project through Westborough & Southborough (the town of Westborough is currently opposing this pipeline) that will feed more dirty gas to Worcester and surrounding towns. The public has an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed increase and pipeline expansion. There are several upcoming hearings:

**February 27, 2020**

Keith Middle School  
225 Hathaway Boulevard  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

**March 3, 2020**

Dedham Middle School  
70 Whiting Avenue  
Dedham, Massachusetts 02026  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

**March 5, 2020**

Plymouth North High School  
41 Obery Street  
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

If you're interested in attending a hearing and would like to receive talking points, please reach out to [Deb Pasternak](#).

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## Public Meetings on 2050 Roadmap: Building Solutions to Address Climate Change in the Commonwealth

Please join the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for a series of public meetings on the Commonwealth's planning efforts to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Guided by the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act, Massachusetts is currently studying how to achieve the ambitious climate goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. These meetings will be an opportunity to learn about the state's research effort as well as to provide feedback on the state's 2050 emissions limit and the implementation plans to achieve it. Further meeting details and updates will be made at [www.mass.gov/2050Roadmap](http://www.mass.gov/2050Roadmap). If you're interested in attending a meeting and would like to receive talking points, please reach out to [Deb Pasternak](#).

**Worcester Meeting**

Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00pm  
Worcester State University

RSVP Here

**Fall River Meeting**

Monday, March 9 at 6:30pm  
Bristol Community College

RSVP Here

**Greater Boston: Roxbury Meeting**

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00pm  
Roxbury Community College

RSVP Here

**Pittsfield Meeting**

Thursday, March 12 at 6:00pm  
Berkshire Community College

RSVP Here

**Springfield Meeting**

Monday, March 16 at 6:00pm  
Springfield Technical Community College

RSVP Here

**Lowell Meeting**

Monday, March 23 at 6:30pm  
Middlesex Community College

RSVP Here

## Greater Boston Area: Charlestown Meeting

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30pm  
Bunker Hill Community College

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Stand in Solidarity

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### HERO Coalition Webinar

Wednesday, March 4 at 8:00pm

Learn how one policy can help address both the climate and housing crises! The [Housing and Environment Revenue Opportunities \(HERO\) Coalition](#), a diverse coalition of environmental and housing advocacy organizations, have joined forces to advocate for major new state investments to protect our families, neighbors and communities from the affordable housing crisis and climate change.

Join activists across the state and State Senator Jamie Eldridge for a webinar to learn about how the housing and climate crises are connected, and how doubling the state's 'deeds excise tax' can generate significant new revenue for investments in housing production and assistance, and in climate resilience and mitigation.

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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### Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 12 at 6:00pm

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

Join us to discuss and respond to critical transportation issues affecting Massachusetts.

[RSVP Here](#)

### Plant-Based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00pm

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

Please join us for the monthly meeting of the Plant-based Planet Team. Come discuss strategies to promote a plant-based diet as a way of fighting climate change and conserving natural resources.

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Friend and Partner Events

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Local Environmental Action 2020

### Local Environmental Action 2020

Saturday, March 7 at 9:00am

Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Join us at Local Environmental Action on Saturday, March 7 in Boston, MA! This annual gathering brings together hundreds of community leaders and activists to share the skills you need to make change, learn more about the problems facing our health, environment and climate today, and be inspired to keep up the fight. Join us to learn, connect and be inspired. Local Environmental Action is co-hosted by [Toxics Action Center](#) and [Massachusetts Climate Action Network](#).

RSVP Here

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## Closing The Environmental Voting Gap in 2020!

Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00pm

The Venture Cafe - Cambridge Innovation Center, 1 Broadway, 5th Floor, Cambridge



RSVP Here

Primary elections are happening now and the presidential election is less than 10 months away. This is a particularly important time to ensure that the environment is front and center in political discussions, locally and nationally. For that to happen, people that care about the environment need to show up at the polls. To teach and also inspire how to fix this, we invited the expert on this topic back to [Boston Area Sustainability Group \(BASG\)](#) for an update and are super excited to hand the floor and mike to Nathaniel Stinnett, Founder and Executive Director of the [Environmental Voter Project \(EVP\)](#).

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### MCLA'S SPRING SEMESTER GREEN LIVING SEMINAR:

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

THURSDAYS AT 5:30 PM – FEIGENBAUM CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION RM 121

### Green Living Seminar Series 2020

Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation Room 121, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Every semester the Green Living Seminars center around a different topic, timely and relevant in current sustainability issues. Presented by the Environmental Studies Department and the MCLA Berkshire Environmental Resource Center.

#### Mercury in the Environment: Ecological and Human Impacts

Zoe Baumann  
Thursday, March 5

#### What is New England Doing About Nutrient Pollution in our Waters?

Emma Gildesgame  
Thursday, March 12

RSVP Here

[Learn More](#)

## Sustainability Film Series: "Divide in Concord"

**Saturday, April 4 at 9:30am**  
**Chatham Orpheum Theater, 637 Main**  
**Street, Chatham**



[Divide in Concord](#) is a feature-length documentary that follows the entertaining tale of banning bottled water in small town America. For three years Jean Hill has been trying to rid the town of single-serve plastic bottles of water. Complete with strong opposition from local merchants and the bottled water industry, Jean is leading the controversial crusade.

[RSVP Here](#)

## Our Reading List

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

- [Don't Suffolk-ate the Marsh](#) (What's Up Eastie)
- [The Mass. Senate is slated to vote on the state's 'next generation climate policy.' Here's what to know.](#) (1/27/2020 Boston.com)
- [Free recycling in Western Mass. is about to end](#) (2/22/2020 Greenfield Recorder)
- [Cape coalition asks towns to declare 'climate change emergency'](#) (2/24/2020 Cape Cod Times)
- [Fare-free bus idea gains traction in Worcester](#) (2/24/2020 Telegram.com)

*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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