



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

April 2020 Earth Day Edition

Celebrate the Earth this Week!

EARTH DAY ACTION: Email Legislators To Extend The Legislative Session & Pass Critical Climate Policies

Massachusetts legislators have been rightly focused on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by passing critical reforms, such as an eviction and rent moratorium and halting water and energy utility shutoffs. As Massachusetts hits its peak of coronavirus cases, it's important to remember that this will not be the last existential crisis most of us will face in our lifetimes.



The Commonwealth only has ten years to significantly reduce our climate emissions to meet the goals set out in the [2018 UN IPCC report](#). While the [Speaker has hinted at support for passing climate legislation sometime this year](#), plenty of uncertainty remains and the session is scheduled to end July 31, 2020. The legislature has a responsibility to extend the session this year to deal with urgent climate and environmental justice policies. Please ask your legislator to extend the session so we have time to pass these critical policies!

Take Action: [Email Legislators](#)

Earth Week Virtual Events April 20-25

This Earth Week is a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! While we had originally planned a mass mobilization to strike for climate, we have shifted our plans to make all events accessible from the safety of our homes.

There are many events planned this week - from virtual town halls and actionars, to teach-ins and trainings, and art builds and mosaic-making. [Check out the full schedule of events being organized in Massachusetts here!](#)

A vertical graphic with a rainbow gradient background. At the top is the "EARTH DAY LIVE" logo. Below it, the text reads: "STRIKE APR 22", "DIVEST APR 23", and "VOTE APR 24".

Aside from the local events happening here in Massachusetts, there is also a national [Earth Day Live](#) event featuring prominent activists, performers, thought leaders, and artists coming together for an empowering and inspiring 3-day livestream mobilization.

Stop the Money Pipeline Actionars

Thursday, April 23 at 12:00pm and 7:00pm



Join activists from across the Commonwealth to learn what Chase Bank, Massachusetts, and Lee Raymond (former CEO of ExxonMobil and historic climate change denier) have in common and to use phone, email, and tweet to stop the money pipeline in Massachusetts.

Our actionars target JPMorgan Chase — the biggest financier of fossil fuel projects around the world, across the U.S., and right here in Massachusetts. You have two opportunities to participate: [12:00pm](#) and [7:00pm](#).

Join at 12:00pm

Join at 7:00pm

Earth Day Virtual Climate Advocacy Workshop

Friday, April 24 at 12:00pm

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. A presentation by Jacob Stern, Deputy Director will discuss what you can do to advocate for policies that match the urgency of the climate crisis.



NOTE: This a virtual workshop to be conducted over Zoom. An RSVP is required to receive the login link information. We will be sharing a PowerPoint, so we highly recommend attendees participate via computer (as opposed to phone).

RSVP Here

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Massachusetts Chapter Response to Covid-19

We all have varying capacity for advocacy at this time, so for those who have the energy and time to engage, this email includes a variety of opportunities to get involved with current issues and actions. In addition to highlighting virtual events, we're also sharing a handful of opportunities to participate in the COVID-19 response efforts.

There are drastic differences in how this pandemic impacts various populations. Check out this comprehensive [Massachusetts mutual aid spreadsheet](#) to support those in need during this time, or to ask for what you need. There are sections on health (mental and physical),

housing, childcare, location-specific aid resources, and more. In Massachusetts there are key policies we're asking for:

- **Extend the legislative session.** Sierra Club and our allies are [calling on legislators to extend the session](#) so that policymakers have an opportunity to review and pass critical climate and transportation bills.
- **Expand vote by mail laws.** Voters deserve the right to safely participate in elections. We're asking the state to allow rapid expansion of vote by mail ([more info here](#)) efforts for use by Sept 1 or earlier.
- **Emergency paid sick time for workers.** We support legislation to guarantee workers additional protected sick time to care for themselves or loved ones ([more info here](#)).

Weekly Advocacy Hour: Campaign Updates

Wednesdays at 1:00pm and 5:00pm

Join Chapter Director Deb Pasternak for a weekly Advocacy Hour - an opportunity to learn from Sierra Club staff about actions that volunteers can take in order to provide input on critical policy decisions. We all have varying capacity for advocacy at this time, so for those who have the energy and time to engage, this is an opportunity to discuss issues and actions with the Sierra Club community. Advocacy Hour happens every Wednesday from [1:00pm to 2:00pm](#) and from [5:00pm to 6:00pm](#). Both advocacy hours share the same agenda each week. Please RSVP in advance and a link to join the call will be sent out. For a full list of upcoming Advocacy Hours, please check our [website calendar](#).

Join at 1:00pm

Join at 5:00pm

Transportation Matters

Drive Electric Earth Day

Wednesday, April 22 at 2:00pm



Join Plug In America, Sierra Club, and Electric Auto Association on April 22, 2020 at 2:00 pm for a [Facebook Live virtual tribute on Earth Day](#), celebrating clean electric vehicles and their positive impact on our planet's health.

Learn More

It will be an EVs 101 teach-in with entertainment, informative facts, and short videos, as well as special guests, including race car driver and environmental activist [Leilani Münter](#), the Wall Street Journal's automotive columnist Dan Neil, and former California Assemblymember [Lloyd Levine](#). [Click here for details](#).

Virtual StreetsTalk Series

Wednesday, April 22 at 6:00pm

In partnership with the WGBH Forum Network, LivableStreets will be hosting a four-part [virtual StreetTalk series](#) focused on our streets, our transportation system, and the future of mobility. The first event, [How Will the Federal Response to COVID-19 Impact Our Streets and What Can You do About It?](#) on Wednesday, April 22, 6:00pm features Congresswoman Katherine Clark and Beth Osborne, the Director of Transportation for America, who will help us unpack how the most recent stimulus package impacts local transportation and explain

what we'll need to do to make sure future transportation and infrastructure bills get it right. [Click here to register.](#)

Register Here

Stand in Solidarity

Emergency Paid Sick Time is Essential!



Sierra Club MA Chapter is a member of the [Raise Up Massachusetts](#) (RUM) coalition, and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, RUM has directed all its attention on emergency paid sick time. When workers have been exposed to COVID-19, are sick, or have a sick family member, they **must have the ability to miss work to care for themselves or their family, without losing the pay they need to make ends meet.**

CALL YOUR LEGISLATOR! [Ask them to co-sponsor](#) the Donato/Lewis Emergency Paid Sick Time legislation, endorsed by Raise Up Massachusetts.

Contact Your Legislator

Community Support for Chelsea Residents: The One Chelsea Fund

Outbreaks in Chelsea have spiked these past weeks leading to a citywide lockdown. Chelsea is home to some of the most vulnerable groups in the Boston region: newly-arrived immigrants, undocumented families, non-English speakers, and low-income workers and families. We're working with our allies at [GreenRoots](#) to raise money to support families in need. [Click here to donate.](#)

Donate Now

Solidarity with Mashpee Wampanoag

In March the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs told the [Mashpee Wampanoag](#) tribe that [the tribe's reservation will be "disestablished"](#) and its land taken out of trust, per an order from Secretary of the



Interior David Bernhardt. The Mashpee are calling on allies to help them fight this decision.

- [Share this related post from our allies at UU Mass Action](#)
- [Sign the MoveOn.org petition](#)
- [Use this form to contact ND Senator John Hoven](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 23 at 6:00pm

Virtual Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Transportation Committee. RSVP for details to join the meeting.

[RSVP Here](#)

Energy Committee Meeting

Friday, April 24 at 2:00pm

Virtual Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Energy Committee. RSVP for details to join the meeting.

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant Based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00pm

Virtual Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Planet-Based Planet Team. RSVP for details to join the meeting.

[RSVP Here](#)

Friend and Partner Events

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Cree and Inuit Voyage to Save Our Rivers

Earth Day 2020 is the 30th anniversary of one of the world's most historic, riveting and successful campaigns against megadam hydropower. This Indigenous-led campaign featured the voyage of the Odeyak hybrid canoe via dog sled, over land and down the Hudson River to NYC and resulted in the cancellation of NYC's contract with Hydro-Quebec's Great Whale Project.



This groundbreaking film was produced by [Standing Bear Network Indigenous](#) just for this Earth Day 2020 and the 30th anniversary of the Odeyak campaign. The film links contemporary U.S. energy policy to the cultural, environmental and economic harms caused by Canadian hydropower dams and their transmission corridors.

[Watch the Film](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [Will we do what's needed on climate change?](#) (4/21/2020 Cape Cod Times)
- [Earth Day turns 50, is celebrating virtually, during coronavirus pandemic](#) (4/20/2020 South Coast Today)
- [Even in a pandemic, the gears of the Mass. Legislature grind as slowly as ever](#) (4/20/2020 Boston Globe)
- [Kennedy, Rausch push vote-by-mail program, but GOP leader blasts idea](#) (4/19/2020 The Sun Chronicle)
- [GUEST COLUMN: Earth Day comes with moral challenges](#) (4/17/2020 Telegram Gazette)
- [Should Massachusetts cities and towns ban new natural gas hook-ups?](#) (4/16/2020 Boston Globe)
- [EPA won't tighten pollution rule despite evidence of link between soot, COVID-19](#) (4/14/2020 Boston Globe)
- [Green groups pressure Biden to expand, improve environmental policy platform](#) (4/10/2020 The Hill)
- [SUSTAINABLE MARBLEHEAD: Learning from the coronavirus pandemic](#) (4/9/2020 Wicked Local Hanover)
- [The America We Need How to make the nation more just, less fragile...](#) (4/9/2020 NY Times)

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!](#)

As we all deal with a global pandemic with COVID-19, we wanted to let you know [how the Sierra Club is adapting and responding](#) so we can keep doing the important work of helping our communities, protecting our natural environment and fighting for a just, clean energy future.

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