

Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

June 2020

As people across the country protest in defense of Black lives, the Sierra Club recognizes the need to dismantle systemic racism in the United States and within our own organization. We must reckon with how white supremacy -- both past and present -- has shaped our institutions and do the critical anti-racism work necessary to repair the harm done. The environmental movement does not exist in a vacuum, and it is our responsibility to use our power to help abolish systemic racism, which is destroying lives, communities, and the planet.

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Volunteer Spotlight on Racial Justice

We asked several of our volunteers to comment on why racial justice is important to them as environmentalists and climate activists. Here are some of their responses.

 <p>Environmental justice is racial justice. We all deserve equal access to a safe, healthy, and thriving environment, but Black, brown, and low-income communities are statistically overburdened with the effects of environmental degradation. It is our responsibility as environmentalists to address these injustices as we work to protect our land and create a greener future for ALL.</p> <p>— Tara M. Volunteer</p> 	 <p>I value people, health, and environment over profit. Black and Hispanic people fill low-wage, difficult jobs, and suffer heightened health impacts from racism, occupational conditions, and environmental exposure. With green economic development we can open employment opportunity, restore communities and habitats, and create conditions for a more just society and a viable planet.</p> <p>— Jeanne C. Volunteer</p> 
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Getting outside and experiencing nature is important for every individual and our society as a whole. I continue to be disappointed at the inequities in access to nature, and although just a small part of a broader issue, we need to do a better job of getting everybody safely outside. We all can benefit from a closer relationship with ourselves and our communities through what time in nature provides. And that is building self confidence while being continually humbled by our world.

— Ben P.
Chair, Executive Committee



Racial justice is a matter of human rights. All people deserve freedom, safety, and prosperity.

— Sara S.
Chair, Plant-Based Planet Team




Want to submit your own response? [Fill out this form.](#)

If you're interested in learning more, be sure to visit our page of [Anti-Racism Resources](#). You can also [sign up to participate in upcoming conversations](#) focusing on the intersection of racial justice and climate justice.

Help Support ACE

The Massachusetts Sierra Club is calling on our supporters to join us in [making a contribution](#) to one of the leading frontline environmental justice organizations in the state.

[Alternatives for Community and Environment](#) (ACE) is a Black-led community-based non-profit organization in Boston that has been fighting against environmental racism for over 25 years. ACE has a long history and proven track record of achieving significant wins on environmental justice and civil rights including: passing the Commonwealth's Executive Order on Environmental Justice, passing the City of Boston Ordinance to Protect Air Quality by reducing fuel emissions, and blocking numerous dirty fuel projects from being sited in EJ communities.



ACE builds the power of communities of color and low income communities in Massachusetts to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environmental justice. ACE trains youth in organizing and empowerment, builds community gardens, advocates for transit justice and cutting pollution, supports affordable housing and fights gentrification, and helps the local Black economy of Nubian Square (formerly Dudley Square) in Boston thrive.

Massachusetts Sierra Club is actively working with ACE on a campaign to end displacement in Boston and restore civil rights by affirmatively furthering fair housing and advocating for new development to be affordable, efficient, and zero emissions. [We are raising money](#) to support this organization in the amazing work they do and hope you will join us in making a donation today. Every contribution makes a difference!

Donate Now

Advocacy Hour Every Wednesday at 5:00pm

Advocacy Hour is your opportunity to take immediate action for environmental justice across the state. Through conversation with Sierra Club staff, learn about [timely issues and different ways that you can make a difference](#). New members and volunteers are all welcome! To find all upcoming Advocacy Hour meetings, check out our [Events Calendar](#).

Keep the Massachusetts Chapter Updated

The Sierra Club is committed to bringing you the most current and urgent information about the climate crisis, environmental justice, local events, reports, legislation and state agency activities.

In order to connect better at this critical time, we are asking you to [update your contact information](#). Through our monthly e-newsletter and action alerts, the Massachusetts Chapter can keep you informed, alert you to needed group action, and ask for your help.

The email address we have on file for you is hodgesclarke@gmail.com. You will need to input that address for this form to work correctly (you will have an opportunity to update your email address here as well).

Update My Information



Charlie Baker
Massachusetts Governor



Baker's COVID-19 Scorecard

On Monday, the [Task Force on Coronavirus & Equity](#), a coalition of 94 public health, community, and labor organizations that began meeting in mid-March, released a report card for Gov. Baker rating his reopening policies based on how they prioritize the health of Black and Latinx residents, low wage workers, and others that have been most impacted by COVID-19. Based on four key criteria, the Governor received [two D's and two F's](#). In this report card we offer recommendations for improvement and we hope he heeds them sooner than later.

Virtual Plant-Based Potluck Dinner

Sunday, July 12 at 6:00pm

Eat in with the Plant-based Planet Team! Have fun while we show you how to make a healthy, plant-based dinner. Feel free to ask us questions; we'll be happy to help you.

RSVP Here



Clean Energy & Climate

Vineyard Wind SEIS hearings - Learn more & prep to speak up!
Monday, June 29 at 4:00pm

Please [join this webinar](#) on Monday, June 29 to learn more about how to participate in the public

Offshore Wind Energy
in the US is under federal review & needs your voice!

Join our webinar Monday
June 29th at 4 pm

Learn about responsible development, climate impact, jobs, & the Vineyard Wind project that could power 400,000 homes

REGISTER:
bit.ly/offshorewindpowerNOW

hearing process surrounding the [Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement \(SEIS\)](#) for Vineyard Wind's 800-MW offshore wind project for Massachusetts.

As the first large-scale project to reach this stage in the federal permitting process, this comment period can play a pivotal role in ensuring that responsibly developed offshore wind power plays a significant role in the U.S.'s energy future.

RSVP Here

The webinar will include environmental and labor leaders across the region, and as well as a brief presentation from Vineyard Wind.

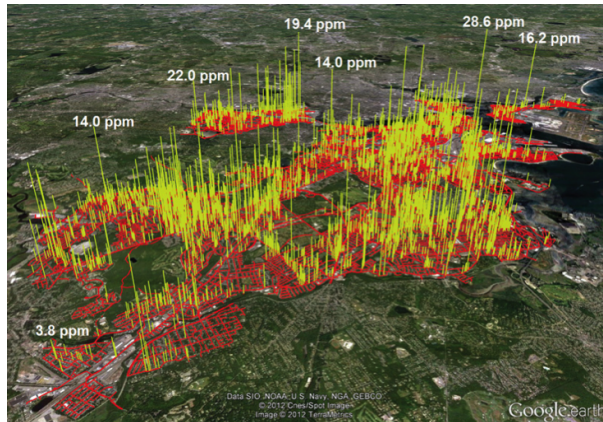
You may also [register here](#) to participate in any of the following virtual hearings:

- Friday, June 26 – 5:00 pm ET
- Tuesday, June 30 – 1:00 pm ET
- Thursday, July 2 – 5:00 pm ET
- Tuesday, July 7 – 1:00 pm ET
- Thursday, July 9 – 5:00 pm ET

Beyond Fossil Fuels

See Gas Leaks in Your Town!

Our friends at [Gas Leaks Allies](#) and HEET have released the [2019 map and lists of reported gas leaks](#) throughout the Commonwealth! This map and list will show you exactly where the new and unrepaired leaks are in your town as reported by your Gas utility. The maps can also show patterns. For example, repeated leaks along one road indicate pipe in poor condition below. The maps also show leaks near schools, hospitals, and other areas of special concern.



Please [share the link](#) to your town's gas leaks with your local fire department, board of health, and sustainability committee as well as your DPW and town engineer. Because gas leaks kill trees by suffocating their roots, please also forward the map to your tree warden and conservation commission to see if a leak is near a dead or dying tree.

Transportation Matters

Guidelines and Funding for Municipalities to Adapt Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery

As Massachusetts moves through its four phase reopening plan, municipalities across the state are

making changes to their streets and other public spaces in order to ensure public health and economic vitality. [A coalition of 19 organizations have developed a set of guidelines](#) to help inform local plans for adapting street space in support of public health, safe mobility, and economic vitality.

Share the [guidelines](#) with relevant departments and staff in your municipality and encourage them to apply for funding from two recently announced programs from [MassDOT](#) and the [Solomon Foundation](#) that are providing funding to municipalities to quickly adapt the use of sidewalks, curbs, parking and other elements of streets for COVID-19 response and recovery.

Every Year is an Election Year

Massachusetts needs 100% renewables & transparent leadership

We've noticed a frustrating trend. State Representatives tell us they support 100% renewables, but then the bill dies in committee. How did they actually vote? No one knows. We need:

- 100% Renewables with a just transition
- Transparent Voting so reps know we can hold them accountable!



We only have until July 1 to collect enough signatures to get two key questions on the ballot. Fortunately, we can do this electronically! Sign the petition at maclimatedemocracy.org and please share it. Any questions? Email ballotquestion@betterfutureproject.org.

[Sign the petition](#)

Stand in Solidarity

Reject Canadian Hydropower

A longtime ally of the Mass Chapter, the [North American Megadam Resistance Alliance](#) (NAMRA) works to protect rivers and their communities by resisting megadams and associated transmission corridors. NAMRA seeks to: debunk the myth that Canadian hydropower is "clean" and renewable energy, shut down markets for dirty Canadian hydropower by stopping transmission corridors to the U.S., and promote alternatives to fossil fuels and megadam hydropower.

[Sign NAMRA's petition](#) to Governor Baker in Massachusetts and Governor Mills in Maine to stop



the NECEC corridor and to NYC Mayor DeBlasio to stop the CHPE corridor.

Sign the Petition

Please also join NAMRA on Wednesday, July 8 for Part 2 of their 3 part webinar series: "[New York's CHPE transmission corridor to import Canadian hydropower cannot deliver on jobs or climate.](#)" Governor Cuomo, Blackstone Group, and the Quebec Government are promoting the proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) \$3 billion transmission corridor as an economic boon and climate solution. In reality, CHPE is neither.

Canadian hydropower is a climate disaster and emits greenhouse gases on par with fossil fuels. This webinar will expose the facts behind the effort to greenwash the CHPE project and the increasing awareness that this is not "clean renewable energy."

Part 2: Webinar: Wednesday, July 8, 2020
Social justice, climate & New York's pursuit of Canadian hydroelectricity
Presentation (recorded) 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Discussion (not recorded) 8:00-8:30 p.m.

RSVP Here

Community Support & Mutual Aid

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.](#)

Mutual Aid for Lawrence and East Boston: Two mutual aid efforts coordinated by our ally, Ania Camargo. Last week they supplied groceries to 111 people in Lawrence and 5,000 meals to residents in East Boston. These programs are bringing meals, plants, and food to people in their homes. This [GoFundMe link](#) funds both programs and this [Mutual Aid Eastie Fund link](#) goes to East Boston.

Statewide Mutual Aid: 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.

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00pm

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

RSVP Here

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 16 at 6:30pm

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee. All members are welcome to attend.

RSVP Here

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 30 at 6:00pm

Please join us to discuss and respond to critical transportation issues affecting Massachusetts.

RSVP Here

Friends and Partner Events

Christian Cooper Hosts Field Trip To Discuss #BirdingWhileBlack

Tuesday, June 30 at 2:00pm

The PBS Science series NOVA will be hosting the virtual field trip “Central Park Birder Christian Cooper on Birding and Inclusion,” next Tuesday, June 30 at 2pm ET. The field trip will feature a discussion and Q&A with Chris Cooper, avid birder and a board member of the New York City Audubon, who experienced a racist confrontation while bird watching in Central Park in late May that quickly went viral. In the livestreamed session, Chris will discuss his passion and tips for bird-watching, his experience #BirdingWhileBlack, and his advocacy work toward making birding more inclusive for people of color and the LGBTQ+ community. Since the incident, Chris has been outspoken about the racial profiling that many Black birders experience in outdoor spaces.

RSVP Here

Our Reading List

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

- [Springfield east-west rail, faster broadband internet, green technologies highlight \\$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill](#) (Mass Live 6/18/20)
- [Effort to keep state's largest power plant open fuels concern about climate, public health](#) (Boston Globe 6/14/20)
- [Commentary: Now is the right time for our legislators to act on climate change](#) (Dorchester Reporter 6/11/20)
- [Healey asks Department of Public Utilities to lead clean energy transition](#) (South Coast Today/SHNS 6/7/20)
- [Why “Green Buildings” Are A Civil Rights Issue](#) (Dallas Weekly 6/5/20)
- [Boston needs to adopt a planning equity standard](#) (Boston Globe 6/4/20)
- [Court throws out air permit for Weymouth compressor station](#) (The Patriot Ledger 6/3/20)

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!](#)

The [COVID-19 crisis](#) has not passed and continues to [disproportionately harm](#) Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people and other communities of color. The pandemic has revealed how the communities hardest hit are often the same communities that suffer from high levels of pollution and poor access to healthcare. The fight for environmental justice cannot be separated from the fight for racial justice.

ABOUT | DONATE | JOIN

