

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.

Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

August 2020

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Weekly Advocacy Hour: Campaign Updates

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](#).

This week will feature Jessica Nemeth and Maanasa Mendu: COVID and Climate Relationships in Massachusetts. They'll present the relationships between variables like air quality, Superfund pollution sites, transportation routes, and demographics with COVID case rates. They'll present the data visualizations they've made, their data analysis process, along with maps for Massachusetts. [Check out the data visualizations here.](#)

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Our Sustainable Kitchen Cooking Class

Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30pm

Professional vegan chef Diana Goldman will



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teach you virtually how to prepare a delicious plant-based dinner. Feel free to check out Diana's repertoire of healthy recipes and cooking tips at her website: beantownkitchen.com. A list of ingredients will be sent to people who register, so you can cook along with Diana. If you'd rather just watch, that's okay too.

Clean Energy & Climate


Funding Hydropower Projects will Not Fight Climate Change

There is a new significant threat to our free flowing rivers and our climate: the promotion of hydropower under the guise that it is clean, renewable energy that will help fight climate change. But hydropower is not clean or renewable, and is not a solution, but is instead contributing to the climate crisis. [Read more here from the Water Keeper Alliance.](#)

[Contact your Congressional representatives](#) and tell them that hydropower is not clean, renewable energy, and that they should oppose any legislation that would classify new hydropower projects as renewable energy that will fight climate change.



Contact your Reps

MEGA DAMS

MEGA DAMAGE
REJECT CANADIAN HYDRO

Stop Gull Island Megadam! Informational Webinar

Thursday, September 3 at 7:00pm

Nalcor Energy plans to build Gull Island, a 2,250-megawatt hydroelectric facility, three times larger than Muskrat Falls. Learn why this Canadian hydroelectric dam is bad for the environment and communities and produces dirty energy.

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Transportation Matters

Discussion on the Allston Multimodal Project

Thursday, August 27 at 6:00pm

We are excited to have Heather Miller, Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and Harry Mattison, The People's Pike join our Chapter Transportation Committee meeting on Thursday, August 27, 6:00 p.m for a discussion on the most recent developments in the Allston Multimodal project. You can read some recent articles on the project [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

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Recommendations for Transportation Electrification

The Sierra Club led the work on [this joint letter asking the Baker administration](#) to make bold commitments to accelerate the electrification of our transportation fleets. In partnership with allies we outlined the key recommendations at the [ZEV Commission](#) meeting on 6/25. Click here for [Meeting Slides](#) and [meeting recording](#).

[Read and share the AchiEve: Model State & Local Policies Toolkit](#) with your local elected officials and city/town staff.



Read the Report

Beyond Fossil Fuels

No Weymouth Compressor



In June, the United States Court of Appeals For the First Circuit, vacated the Air Plan Approval for the Weymouth Compressor Station currently under construction, requiring the MassDEP to analyze the use of a compressor driven by an electric motor drive ("EMD").

After review, MassDEP has determined that the use of an electric motor does not represent Best Available Control Technology ("BACT"), even though an electric motor would create fewer emissions than a diesel motor. For more information, [MassDEP's proposed determination and the addendum to the BACT analysis may be viewed online](#).

There is a [public comment period](#) open until **September 8th**. It is crucial to hold MassDEP accountable for the health and safety of Fore River Residents. Comments may be submitted by email to weymouthcomments@mass.gov or by US mail to:

MassDEP, Air Permit Section
20 Riverside Drive
Lakeville, MA 02347

Every Year is an Election Year

The Massachusetts is September 1st

In Massachusetts, most state elections are determined in the State Primary on September 1st, not the November General Election. At the crossroads of multiple crises, **your vote is more important than ever this year**. Cast a vote for our health, our communities, and our planet.

There are three ways to vote this year in the Massachusetts State Primary:

- Vote by absentee ballot/by mail. Ballots must be received by your city/town by September 1 at 8pm.
- Vote early at your municipal office (through August 28)
- Vote at your polling location on the September 1 Election Day

The safest way to vote this year is by mail. You no longer need a reason to request an absentee ballot (e.g. out of state or sick), so there's no reason not to take advantage of it. Just fill out [this application](#). [Click here for more information about voting this year](#).

Under campaign finance law we are only allowed to contact current members about Massachusetts endorsements and ongoing electoral activity. [To become a member and receive future updates, click here](#).

Stand in Solidarity

YOUNG WORKERS + JUST TRANSITION
JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT NATIONAL CONVERSATION



Celina Barron
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local 11 RENEW

Eboni Preston
Greening Youth Foundation
Georgia NAACP, Labor and Industry

Judy Twedt
United Auto Workers
Local 4121

Ryan Pollock
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local 520

Yolian Ogbu
Zero Hour

HOST
ANTHONY ROGERS-WRIGHT
Policy Coordinator, Climate Justice Alliance

WED. AUGUST 26, 8 P.M. ET / 5 P.M. PT
[REGISTER BIT.LY/JTLP082620](https://bit.ly/JTLP082620)
[#justtransition](https://twitter.com/justtransition)



Young Workers and Just Transition

Wednesday, August 26 at 8:00pm

This is the 4th webinar in the Just Transition Listening Project Series of webinars. This webinar will feature the voices of young workers and activists. Find the recordings of our first three webinars [here](#).

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Public Hearing on the Suffolk Downs Development

This is the last of three (3) additional [virtual meetings](#) facilitated by the BPDA (Boston Planning and Development Agency) on the Suffolk Downs development. At each meeting, there will be a presentation by the proponent that will provide an overview of the project, anticipated impacts, and proposed mitigation. Following the presentation, members of the public will be given an opportunity

to ask questions and provide comments and feedback.

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Know Your Rights! Wednesdays at 6:30pm

The Coalition for Social Justice & Raise Up Mass coalition is running a series of webinars designed to teach people their rights on a wide number of issues. See the remaining topics below:

- 8/26: Dealing with the Public
- 9/2: College Students
- 9/9: Unity at Work - Learn about the benefits of collective bargaining and forming a union where you work.

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Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Transportation Committee Meeting Thursday, August 27 at 6:00pm

The monthly meeting of the Transportation Committee. Join to discuss and respond to critical transportation issues affecting Massachusetts.

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Executive Committee Meeting Thursday, September 10 at 6:30pm

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

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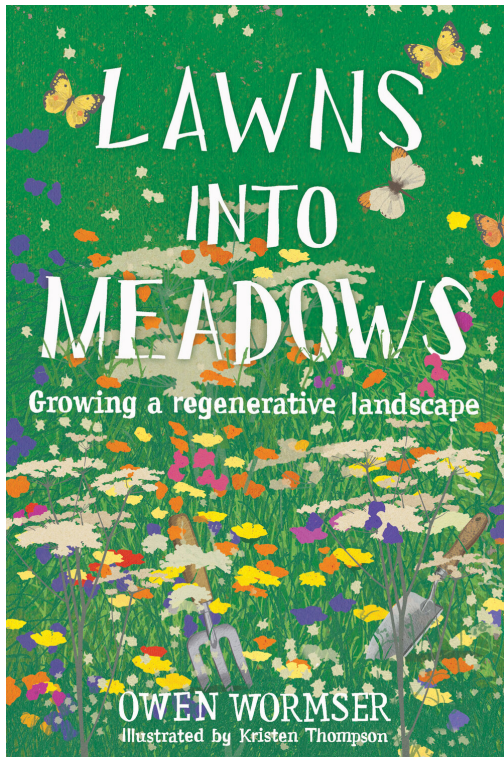
Friend and Partner Events

Lawns Into Meadows: Growing a Regenerative Landscape

Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00pm

Join Climate Action Now Western Mass to a free virtual speaker series, Beyond Stopping Emissions: How Healthy Soil and Plants Can Restore Climate Balance. Owen Wormser, author of Lawns Into Meadows: Growing a Regenerative Landscape, will be the first speaker. Owen will discuss how to transform lawns -- which wreak havoc on natural ecosystems -- into meadows. Meadows are beautiful, provide pollinator and wildlife habitats, and draw down and sequester far more carbon than manicured lawns.

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Planetary Health: Sam Myers & Living on Earth, on Protecting Nature to Protect Ourselves

Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00pm

Join the nationally-syndicated radio show & podcast Living on Earth and Sam Myers of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health for the latest Good Reads on Earth virtual event. They'll speak to Sam about "Planetary Health: Protecting Nature to Protect Ourselves" from Island Press, which he edited with Howard Frumkin.



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Our Reading List

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

- [Revealed: how the gas industry is waging war against climate action](#) (The Guardian, 8/20/20)
- [First Step: Madaro's Environmental Justice Amendment a Win for Eastie](#) (East Boston Times 8/18/20)
- [Kamala Harris brings record on climate change and environmental justice to Biden ticket](#) (Washington Post 8/12/20)
- [Massachusetts lawmakers in climate policy bill conference committee snuff out carbon emissions](#) (Mass Live 8/4/20)
- [Amendment requiring 6000 MW of offshore wind by 2035 clears Senate](#) (Wicked Local Bridgewater 8/4/2020)
- [Plum Island](#) (short story by Uzma Aslam Khan)

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.

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