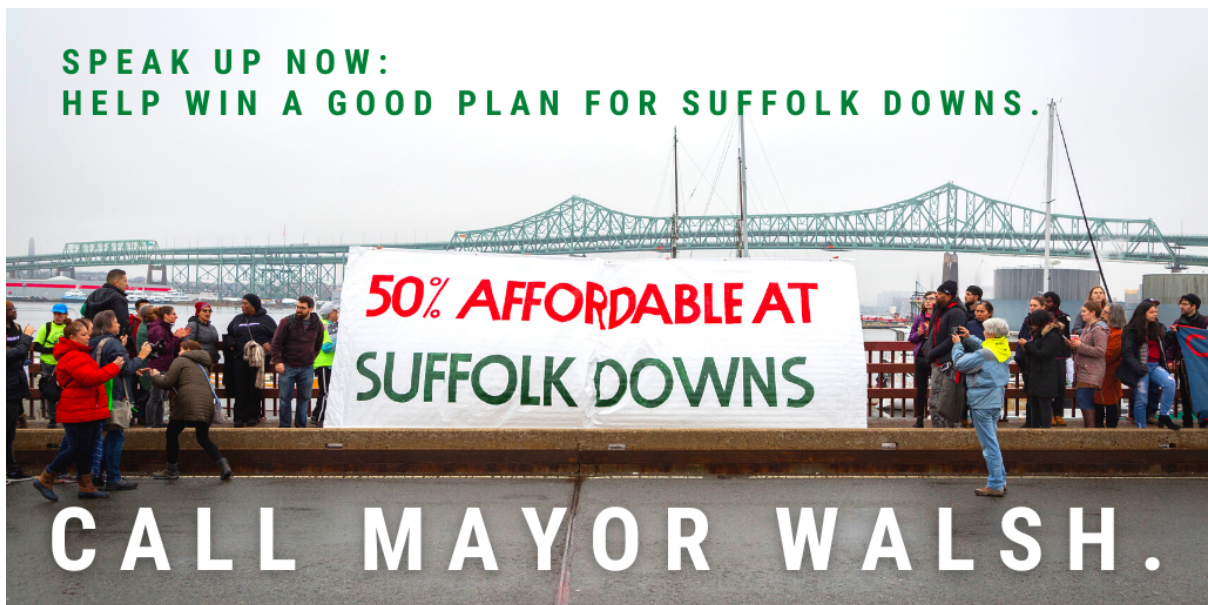




Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

September 2020

Call Mayor Walsh TODAY about Suffolk Downs!



The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) is planning to vote on the Suffolk Downs development on September 24th, when the Planned Development Area document has only just been released. The proposal includes 7,000 units of luxury housing, commercial development, but only 13 percent income restricted housing on-site, the City of Boston's minimum requirement under

the Inclusionary Development Policy. That means 87 percent of housing units would be too expensive for any family earning less than \$80,000 per year and open space. There has not been time for local residents to digest this before BPDA to approve it, and local resident organizations are very against this approval.

We are asking you to take two actions for Suffolk Downs. First, please [call Mayor Walsh](#) and tell him that Suffolk Downs needs more affordable housing and net-zero carbon development. Second, please [register to attend the BPDA meeting](#) on Thursday, September 24th at 5:30pm, and to speak, simply to ask questions like: “How much carbon will this project release over the next thirty years?” or make a statement like: “The BPDA vote on this project must be delayed to give impacted residents a say and understanding of this massive proposal.” If you have any questions or would like some more talking points, please reach out to [Deb](#).

[Call Mayor Walsh](#)

[Attend the BPDA Meeting](#)

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Weekly Advocacy Hour: Campaign Updates

Wednesday, September 30 at 5:00pm

Virtual Event

Join Sierra Club Massachusetts leaders on Zoom for a campaign update, every Wednesday at 5pm. This is an opportunity to get plugged into our campaigns, learn about [timely issues](#) and ongoing projects, and talk directly to Sierra Club staff and leaders. New members and volunteers welcome!

[View Upcoming Advocacy Hour Events](#)

Massachusetts Sierra Club Fall Fundraiser

Thursday, October 8 at 5:30pm

Virtual Event



Please join us for a powerful (virtual) evening of celebration and inspiration featuring special guest, **Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley**. Doors open at 5:30pm for those who would like to socialize with peers and staff in dynamic breakout rooms themed around Chapter work. The formal program will begin at 6:00pm. All guests will be entered into a drawing for the chance to win a special gift - a stay at The Trustees of Reservations beautiful bed & breakfast, the [Field Farm](#)!

[Purchase Your Ticket](#)

[Can't Attend - Donate](#)



Educational Plant-Based Potluck Dinner

Sunday, October 11 at 6:00pm
Virtual Event

Eat in with the Plant-based Planet Team! Learn how to make healthy plant-based food, while we demonstrate how to make various dishes at home. Feel free to ask us questions; we'll be happy to help you.

RSVP Here

Our Sustainable Kitchen Cooking Class

Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30pm
Virtual Event

Professional vegan chef Diana Goldman will 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.

Last month, Diana showed the class how to make a beautiful vegan hors d'oeuvres board (pictured to the right). If you missed the class, you can [check out the video here](#).

RSVP Here



Clean Energy & Climate

Stop Dirty Fuels on National Forest Lands

On September 1st, the Trump administration published proposed revisions to its regulations governing Federal oil and gas resources on National Forest System lands. The rule change would undermine public participation and limit the environmental review to assess oil and gas development risks on these delicate landscapes. The move eliminates safeguards important to ensuring the Forest Service will properly assess oil and gas activities' impacts and inform its decisions to allow or prohibit them. This action continues the thread of reckless environmental rollback attempts during a public health crisis. [Tell the Trump Administration that this rollback is terrible](#). **Forests should be protected, not opened for oil and gas drilling!** The comment period is open until November 2nd.

Take Action Now!

Transportation Matters



Tell Your State Legislators: Less Road, More Transit in Allston Mass Pike Project!

MassDOT is gearing up to replace the elevated Mass Pike viaduct in Allston. The section of this roadway between Boston University and the Charles River is nicknamed “the throat” because the Pike and Soldiers Field Road are squeezed into it, leaving minimal space for pedestrians, cyclists or parkland. The replacement of the Mass Pike viaduct in Allston will affect thousands of residents and commuters. Take action now by emailing your state legislator to urge MassDOT to do it right by reducing lanes for cars while boosting transit, walking, and cycling.

Take Action Now!

National Drive Electric Week (NDEW)

September 26 - October 4

National Drive Electric Week, Sep 26-Oct 4, 2020, is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. This year, for the 10th annual National Drive Electric Week, we will be adding online events for the first time, including the [NDEW Kick-Off event](#) on Sep 24, 2020. For highlights of online events, [click here](#).



Find an Event

Toxics and Pollution

Opt-Out Of Toxic Mosquito Spraying In Massachusetts

Protect pollinators and let the state know that you do not want your home and property sprayed by [opting out of truck-based mosquito pesticide spraying](#). We hope that the state will see this opt out as opposition to spraying as the primary way to control mosquitoes. Broad spraying [damages the entire ecosystem](#) including natural mosquito predators and vital pollinators.

If you're interested in getting more involved, [RSVP for the Toxics Team Launch Call](#) on October 1st at 5:00pm.

Take Action Now!

Every Year is an Election Year

Election Day is November 3rd

The 2020 election will be the most consequential of our lifetimes, and are a critical step to establishing a **CLIMATE MAJORITY** in the Massachusetts legislature where majority of State Representatives and State Senators support urgent climate action. You must be [registered to vote](#) by October 24 to cast a ballot, and there are three ways to vote in this election. [Click here for more information](#).

- [Vote by absentee ballot/by mail](#). Ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020.
- [Vote early](#) at your municipal office from October 17-30.
- Vote at your [polling location](#) on the November 3.

Stand in Solidarity



Indigenous Peoples Day Massachusetts

Saturday, October 10 at 12:00pm

Join a rally and march on Saturday, October 10 2020 to demand that the city of Boston honors Indigenous Peoples Day and commits to not returning the Columbus statue to Boston's waterfront. Please also [sign this petition](#) for the permanent removal of the Columbus statue in Boston.

RSVP Here

Oregon Wildfires

A million acres have burned in Oregon. Across the state ten people were killed by the fires, and 40,000 people have evacuated from their homes. Many of them are still sleeping outside without any gear, in air so toxic it's breaking the sensors. Thousands of people have lost their homes, several towns have been burned to the ground. The governor says this will likely be the largest loss of life and property in the state's history. Rural, poor and working class communities, BIPOC, people with disabilities or chronic health conditions, farmworkers and people working outside, houseless people were hit the hardest. The need is **enormous** right now.

Here's how you can help with mutual aid wildfire relief, from afar!

- [Purchase an air purifier for people with asthma, or other supplies](#)
- [Donate to the Rogue Valley Relief Fund](#)
- Mail your extra inhalers (contact [Laura Stevens](#) for mailing info)
- Share these requests with your people! ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#))

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Energy Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 24 at 3:30pm

Virtual Meeting

The Energy Committee meets monthly for conversations about energy policy. They weigh in on legislative issues, write testimony for hearings/public input sessions, and pen op-eds for media publications.

RSVP Here

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 24 at 6:00pm

Virtual Meeting

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

RSVP Here

Toxics Team Launch Call

Thursday, October 1 at 5:00pm

Virtual Meeting

Join Clint Richmond, Toxics Lead and Deb Pasternak, Chapter Director for the official launch of the Massachusetts Chapter Toxics Team. Learn about key toxics issues the chapter is working on and how to get involved in our work.

RSVP Here

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00pm

Virtual Meeting

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, October 16 at 6:30pm

Virtual Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee. All members are welcome to join except for any Executive Session.

RSVP Here

Friend and Partner Events

Climate Preparedness Week 2020

September 24 - 30

Join Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) for the 3rd annual [Climate Preparedness Week](#) - virtually this year! Climate Preparedness Week is dedicated to learning, service, and actions that better prepare our communities for extreme weather events. By coming together to host events, CREW provides the resources and space to think about the ways that climate change disadvantages some communities more than others. This year, the theme of Climate Prep Week is **Social Resilience is Climate Resilience**. In light of the recent critical conversations around racial justice in society, several of the central events will be focused around the intersections of climate resilience, racial justice and social resilience.

Learn More & RSVP

Radically Rural

Thursday, September 24

Radically Rural is a national summit dedicated to empowering rural communities to tackle the challenges that have prevented them from recovering from the 2008 recession as quickly as more urban areas. Our rural communities are [older, poorer, less](#)



[connected and healthy than the rest of the nation](#). The pandemic has only exacerbated these vulnerabilities. Radically Rural, now entering its third year, is focused on identifying the unique strengths and opportunities of living and working in rural communities and sharing inspiration on how to use those strengths to bolster prosperity and vibrancy.

[Learn More](#)

15-Minute Cities for Pandemic Recovery? Start with Streets!

Friday, September 25 at 9:30am

Virtual Event

Join GBH Reporter Bob Seay and MassINC Researcher Dr. Tracy Corley as they host a panel discussion about 15-Minute Cities, a COVID-19 recovery tool lauded by mayors around the globe, which puts more residents' needs within a 15-minute walk or bike ride from home. In Massachusetts, many Gateway Cities lack safe sidewalks and bike lanes. Parks, grocery stores, places of worship, and pharmacies are far away, making car travel a must. That need to travel far for daily essentials is making it hard to contain the spread of COVID-19.

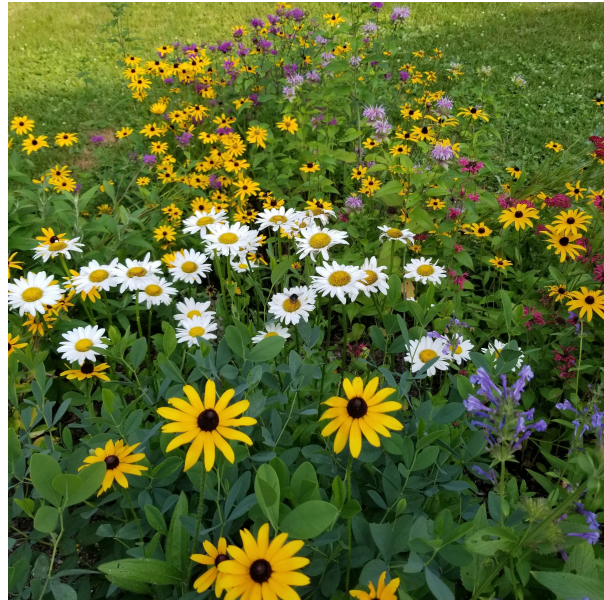
[RSVP Here](#)

The Magic & the Mysteries of Climate, Soil, Plants & Trees

Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

Join Climate Action Now for the second talk in the Farms, Forests & Food Systems Soil Speaker Series. Presented by Kate O'Connor, long-time homesteader, educator, musician & part of Climate Action Now. Kate has a passionate interest in getting people excited and hopeful about the potential for helping heal climate change by removing damaging atmospheric climate gasses and storing them in plants and healthy soils.



[RSVP Here](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [Markey, Warren join call for compressor shutdown](#) (Patriot Ledger 9/22/20)
- [Ranked-choice voting is a better way to vote](#) (Boston Globe Opinion 9/18/20)

- [Michelle Wu makes it official: She's running for mayor of Boston](#) (Boston Globe 9/15/20)
- [MBTA will boost commuter rail service to Lynn, Brockton](#) (Boston Globe 9/14/20)
- [Lauren Stevens: Grappling with plastic](#) (The Berkshire Eagle 9/11/20)
- [Massachusetts experiences warmest recorded summer in 2020](#) (Boston Globe 9/9/20)
- [Attleboro Considering Comprehensive Environmental Bill To Curb Plastic And Other Pollutants](#) (WBUR 9/8/20)
- [How to Stop Giving Your Native Classmates a Migraine Every Time You Speak](#) (Kisha James)

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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