



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

October 2020

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Election Day is November 3rd: Make a Plan to Vote

The election on November 3rd is shaping up to be the most consequential election that many of us will experience in our lifetimes. 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.

You must have [registered to vote](#) by October 24 to cast a ballot, and there are three ways to vote in this election.

- [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.

[Click here for more information about voting this year.](#)

Weekly Advocacy Hour: Campaign Updates

Wednesday, October 28 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!

This week's Advocacy Hour will be a special event where we discuss the Federal Elections—what you can do to help in this final week—and also discuss how we are going to organize to elect climate champions statewide in Massachusetts in 2021 and 2022. Tonight's advocacy hour will feature discussions about building electoral power and local climate and environmental justice work across the state.

[RSVP Here](#)

Our Sustainable Kitchen Cooking Class

Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30pm

Virtual Event

Professional vegan chef Diana Goldman will teach you virtually how to prepare delicious



plant-based food. Feel free to check out Diana's repertoire of healthy recipes and cooking tips at her website:

beantownkitchen.com

RSVP Here

Educational Plant-Based Potluck Dinner

Sunday, November 15 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

Clean Energy & Climate

Stop burning wood to be labeled as non-carbon emitting by MA state legislature

The Conference committee that is conferencing two climate bills is considering adding the House's definition of wood burning as "non-carbon emitting" to our state laws to allow wood burning to receive state incentives for making electricity.

Wood burning is dirtier than coal and this is an end run against hard fought woody biomass regulations, and represents business corruption at its worst as it is specifically sought by a company which wants to place an electricity generating wood burning plant in the [environmental justice city of Springfield](#).

You can [sign this petition](#), then [contact your legislators](#) to demand they contact the Conference Committee Chairs Senator Barrett and Rep. Golden and tell them to not classify wood burning as "non-carbon emitting." For draft language and conference committee contact names, [click here](#).

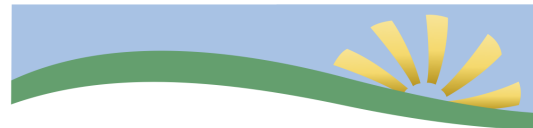
Transportation Matters

Proposal for MOR-EV Trucks Program

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) intends to revise the [MOR-EV](#) program to provide rebates to include private (personal & commercial) purchases of electric medium and heavy-duty (MD/HD)

trucks. Incentive levels will vary according to vehicle gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) in alignment with the federal classification of trucks. To assist in addressing health outcomes in environmental justice (EJ) communities, incentive recipients can receive an additional 10% rebate increase for trucks registered in a zip code that contains an income EJ criteria block or can demonstrate greater than 50% of operations occur within one. [Read the proposal here.](#)

You can [register here](#) to attend an EJ community stakeholder meeting on this proposal on **October 29, 2020, at 6:00pm.**



Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicle (MOR-EV) Program

The [Massachusetts Clean Cities Coalition \(MA CCC\)](#) and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) [Emerging Technology Department](#) are looking to engage with Environmental Justice communities and stakeholders, virtually, on the [MOR-EV Trucks program enhancement proposal](#).

As part of the State's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and expanding access to zero-emission vehicle adoption, DOER intends to revise the MOR-EV program to provide rebates to private (personal & commercial) purchases of electric medium and heavy-duty (MD/HD) trucks.

DOER will be accepting comments on this proposal until **Friday, November 13, 2020, at 5 pm.** Comments can be submitted to will.lauwers@mass.gov.

Virtual Meeting to be Held on
October 29th, 2020, 6 to 7 p.m.

[RVSP through Zoom](#)
Please submit any questions about the upcoming stakeholder event to
John.Liriano@mass.gov

Website Links:

Zoom registration: https://zoom.us/join/join?jvvd-CgrTsuE0p9yDe5yHFQITF_8AkQ8g1

MOR-EV Program: <https://mor-ev.org/>

MOR-EV Trucks Proposal: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/mor-ev-trucks-proposal/download>

MA DOER: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-energy-resources>

Emerging Technology Department: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/emerging-technology-division>

MA CCC: <https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-clean-cities-alternative-transportation>



DOER will be accepting comments on this proposal until **Friday, November 13, 2020, at 5 pm.** Comments can be submitted to will.lauwers@mass.gov.

National Grid Transportation Survey

National Grid is conducting a survey about EVs and charging stations in Massachusetts to understand their customers' transportation habits and needs. They want to hear from EV owners to plan energy solutions for future transportation needs.

The survey takes about 10 minutes and anyone who completes it will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of ten \$50 gift cards.

Please go to bit.ly/ngrid_electricvehicles by **Sunday, November 1, 2020** to complete the survey.

Please contact [Adam Wirtshafter](#) of National Grid (781-907-5862) or [Shannon Kahl](#) of ILLUME Advising (608-561-1076), the research company conducting this research on National Grid's behalf, with any questions.

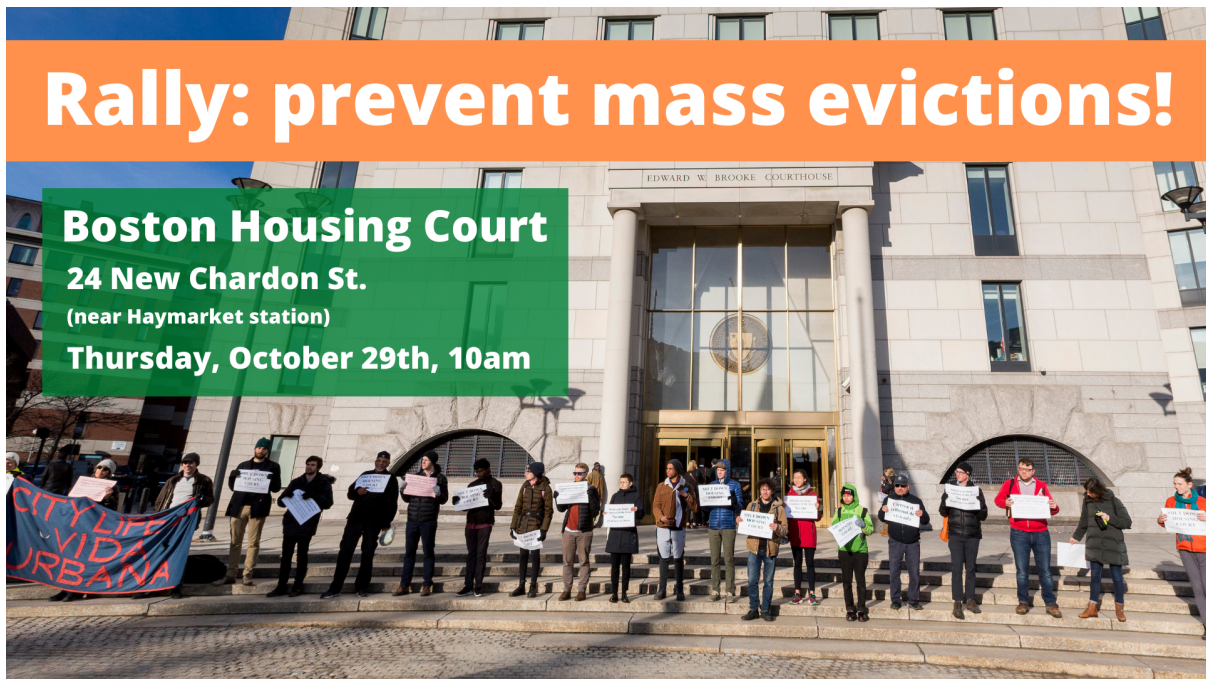
Statement and Call to Action on Potential MBTA Service Cuts

Sierra Club joined over 30 organizations in calling on the T to make no permanent or long-term decisions regarding potential service cuts before the legislature concludes the session, prioritize a means tested fare program to make transit affordable for those who need it the most, and ensure that critical transformative capital investments move forward. [Read the joint statement here.](#) Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information about the service cuts. Tell



the T how service cuts will impact your life by providing [public comments at the Board meeting on Nov 9](#).

Stand in Solidarity



ACTION ALERT: Rally at Boston Housing Court to prevent mass evictions!

Thursday, October 29 at 12:00pm

Boston Housing Court, 24 New Chardon St.

All out to a major rally this Thursday, October 29th, in front of Boston Housing Court. Massachusetts' eviction & foreclosure moratorium expired on October 17th, and over 100,000 MA households are at risk of eviction.

Governor Baker's plan to expand rental assistance will not prevent these evictions. And court-based solutions alone will not prevent these evictions. To prevent this catastrophe, Massachusetts legislators must pass the Guaranteed Housing Stability bill (H.5018) which will stabilize renters, small landlords, and homeowners for a year while we collectively survive the COVID-19 crisis.

Before the rally, call state legislators and ask them to fight for the bill. Use the easy call tool at www.housingguarantee.org.

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 29 at 6:00pm

The monthly meeting of the Transportation Committee. Join this committee to respond to critical transit issues affecting Massachusetts, including rail, bus, bike, pedestrian, and traffic pollution policies.

RSVP Here

Plant-Based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 11 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, November 12 at 6:00pm

The "ExCom" is the governing body of the Massachusetts Chapter. Voting members are volunteers who are elected for two year terms, but all are welcome to sit in on meetings

RSVP Here

Toxics Team Meeting

Monday, November 16 at 5:00pm

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

Friend and Partner Events

The Importance of Climate Resilience

Thursday, October 29 at 6:30pm

Virtual Event

Join Communities of Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) for a virtual conversation with Rev. Vernon K. Walker and Bill McKibben about the importance of climate resilience in the world today. Hear Bill's thoughts on extreme weather, what climate resilience means to him, some of his future writings, and review some of his past writings. Vernon will share the work of CREW and explore how CREW's work has been impactful.

RSVP Here

The Importance of Climate Resilience



A virtual conversation with Rev. Vernon K. Walker and Bill Mckibben

Thursday,
October 29th
6:30-7:30pm
EST



Register Here:
<https://bit.ly/31ZAMcq>



Monaquot River Restoration Armstrong Dam Removal Project Update

Monday, November 9 at 7:00pm
Virtual Public Meeting

Learn more about the restoration project including dam removal, bypass channel, public access trails, overlook and boardwalk of the Monaquot River, the main stem of the Fore River in Braintree, Massachusetts.

This project is sponsored by the Town of Braintree, NOAA, USFWS, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, FX Messina, Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP), Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration and Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game.

RSVP Here

The Role of Pesticides & Chemical Fertilizers in Changing the Climate

Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00PM

Virtual Event



The Role of Pesticides & Chemical Fertilizers in Changing the Climate

Join this talk by Ed Stockman, a biologist, 4th generation farmer, and cofounder and education director of Regeneration Massachusetts. He is the former (retired) NOFA/Mass Organic Extension Educator and served in Ecuador as a volunteer and trainer. His on farm research -- Organic Agrosystems Research -- conducts applied agricultural research in Plainfield, Massachusetts. Ed cofounded Mass Right to Know GMOs and served as the education director. Ed is a grandfather concerned with a changing climate.

This is the third in the Farms, Forests, and Food Systems Soil Speaker Series -- Beyond Stopping Emissions: How Healthy Soil and Plants Can Restore Climate Balance. Presented by Climate Action Now Western Mass.

RSVP Here

Our Reading List

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

- [INVESTIGATION: Exclusive: GM, Ford knew about climate change 50 years ago](#) (E&E News 10/26/20)
- [Plummeting water levels, fires and toxic algae; Why are we not talking more about the drought?](#) (MassLive 10/25/20)
- [Climate Change is Intersectional. That's why Bostonians Need to Mobilize and Vote!](#) (DigBoston 10/20/20)
- [In the Nation's Asthma capital, Plans to Burn Wood for Energy Spark Fury](#) (Boston Globe 10/20/20)
- ['We should be embarrassed': In quiet extended session, Legislature's unfinished work will bleed past Election Day](#) (Boston Globe 10/18/20)
- [Splendid solar: Employees buy Valley Solar, aim to expand offerings, add staff](#) (Daily Hampshire Gazette 10/13/20)

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!](#)

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