



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

November 2020

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter



New Volunteer Welcome Orientation

Thursday, December 3 at 7:00pm
Virtual Event

Join Massachusetts Chapter staff for an introduction to our current work, learn how to get involved, and meet other volunteers! After four long years, we are so pleased to welcome a new administration into the White House. While we deserve some hard-earned celebration, now is a critical junction to plan for the fight ahead: putting America back on the right track. The next four years will focus on building local and state power and to pressure President Biden on his climate policies.

[RSVP Here](#)

Weekly Advocacy Hour: Campaign Updates

Wednesdays at 5:00pm

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! *Please note that we will not be holding Advocacy Hour on November 25th, but will return on December 2nd.*

Our December 2nd Advocacy Hour will be the last general update from the Chapter, featuring updates on transportation and legislation. On December 9th, the Chapter Climate Research Team will give a presentation on what YOU can do in your community to reduce emissions and fight climate change. This event is the product of over three months of work, gathering information on municipal efforts.

[Register Here](#)

Our Sustainable Kitchen Cooking Class

Tuesday, December 8 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](#). 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.



[RSVP Here](#)



Educational Plant-Based Potluck Dinner

Sunday, December 13 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](#)

Sierra Club Massachusetts Annual (Virtual) Holiday Party!

Wednesday, December 16 at 5:00pm

Join the Massachusetts Chapter for our annual holiday party! This year we will gather virtually to celebrate our hard work in a relaxed, social environment. Attendees will have a chance to meet others and compete in an ugly sweater contest!

[RSVP Here](#)

Clean Energy & Climate

Fix the Grid 101

Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00pm
Virtual Event

ISO-NE operates the grid that supplies electricity to the six states which comprise New England. The way that the grid is operated has a profound impact on regional

carbon emissions and the role of clean energy in the electricity sector. States are calling for meaningful broad reforms to ISO-NE's operations to stop economically privileging dirty fossil fuels in our regional electricity system. Please join the Sierra Club, Acadia Center & Community Action Works for a high level discussion about the issues and opportunities to get involved.



RSVP Here

Submit Comments to Show Your Support for a Net Zero Stretch Code

At their November meeting the Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS) heard from several municipal stakeholders and industry professionals on the need to accelerate the development of a [net zero stretch code](#). Speakers voiced their support for the [updated E-Z code proposal](#) that focuses on energy efficiency, electrification and renewable energy, and offers a prescriptive zero energy compliance pathway. Applicable to new commercial construction of 5,000 square feet and larger, the [E-Z code proposal](#) was developed by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) in conjunction with the Massachusetts Zero Energy Buildings Coalition that Sierra Club is a member of.

Please consider reaching out to members of your city council or energy committee to encourage them to submit written comments to the BBRS about why a net zero stretch code is important to your community. You can find [guidance on drafting the comment letter](#) developed by our partners at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) [here](#). Don't hesitate to reach out to veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org with questions.

Transportation Matters

MBTA Service Cuts

The MBTA faces significant service cuts in 2021 unless lawmakers act to fill a budget shortfall. Without additional funding, the MBTA service cuts will cause damage to our region's environment and economy, prevent people from getting where they need to go, and make our state less equitable. The legislature will be debating the budget this week. [Please join us in asking the legislature to provide more funding to the MBTA](#) so critical service can continue to run and support our region.

Attend the virtual system-wide meeting on December 2 and tell the T how the service changes will impact your life. [Click here for details](#). Comments can also be sent using [this feedback form](#).

Read more on our coalition website [Transit is Essential](#).

Stand in Solidarity

Stop the Longmeadow Pipeline Project

[Urge Eversource to withdraw support](#) for construction of Columbia Gas' proposed large high-

pressure new pipeline from Longmeadow to Springfield, previously designated in DPU filings as the “Longmeadow Supply Strategy Project”. As Eversource assumes the mantle from Columbia Gas in providing gas utility service to much of Western Massachusetts, the company must transition away from fossil fuels and move toward energy conservation and non-combustible clean energy sources, goals proclaimed publicly in the company’s public document, “Commitment to Clean Energy & Carbon Neutrality” by 2030.

Sign the Petition

Eastie Substation EFSB (Energy Facilities Siting Board) Hearing

On December 16, 2020, the Siting Board will listen to presentations from its staff and parties, as well as comments from the public. On December 17, 2020, the Siting Board will continue listening to comments from the public, then deliberate and vote on the Tentative Decision

Context: Eversource is attempting to build an electrical substation in a residential area of East Boston, in a flood zone next to the Chelsea Creek, yards away from a playground, within 800 feet of 8 million gallons of jet fuel. This neighborhood has already been overburdened by pollution from the nearby highway and Logan Airport. Substation explosions are frequent occurrences.

Call Secretary Theoharides TODAY at (617) 626-1000 and tell her to postpone the meetings until it is safe to meet in person or to outright reject Eversource’s proposal.

Toxics and Pollution

Living Room Leadership

Learn about the strongest environmental justice bill to pass in the US! Passed by the advocacy of a community in New Jersey in response to cumulative impacts of toxic pollutants in their community. [Watch the video here](#) about how environmental justice links so many justice movements together and how they built the movement to pass monumental legislation.

Watch the Video

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, November 30 at 6:00pm

Join to discuss and respond to critical transportation issues affecting Massachusetts.

RSVP Here

Plant-Based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, December 9 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

Political Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00pm

This committee researches political candidates and makes

RSVP Here

recommendations on who the Chapter should endorse.

Energy Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 10 at 4:00pm

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

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 10 at 6:00pm

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

RSVP Here

Toxics Team Meeting

Monday, December 14 at 5:00pm

Learn about key toxics issues the chapter is working on and how to get involved in our work.

RSVP Here

Friend and Partner Events

Gas Leaks and Energy Justice

December 5 at 1:00pm

Virtual Conference



Please join Gas Leak Allies, Northeastern University's Social Science Environmental Health Institute, and the Clark University Marsh Institute for Gas Leaks and Energy Justice: a Virtual Conference Linking Civic Science to the Push for a Just Transition.

This conference will convene gas leak activists alongside lay and professional scientists for a discussion about how grassroots monitoring can support rising social movements for racial, economic, gender, housing, and energy justice. It will also highlight a family-friendly Civic Science and tree stewardship curriculum in development by Mothers Out Front-Worcester for learning about gas leaks in your community. [Learn more about the conference.](#)

Register Now

Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration

Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

Join Climate Action Now for the 3rd talk in their series: Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration: Agricultural Climate Change Mitigation with Eric Toensmeier. This presentation will be an overview of agriculture as a source of emissions and its potential to reduce emissions and sequester carbon. Part of a "balanced breakfast" of climate change mitigation

that includes transformation of transport, industry, electricity and other sectors.

RSVP Here

Our Reading List

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

- [Senators vote on state budget amendments](#) (Lowell Sun 11/22/20)
- [G.M. Accelerates its Ambitions for Electric Vehicles](#) (New York Times 11/19/20)
- [These Items in Your Home are Harming America's Sea Animals](#) (New York Times 11/19/20)
- [Boston Mayor Marty Walsh announces roadmap to curb climate change, ramp up support for electric, zero-emission vehicles](#) (Mass Live 11/16/20)
- [When Will Electricity Companies Finally Quit Natural Gas?](#) (New York Times 11/12/20)
- [Renewable Power Grows Strongly, Despite the Pandemic](#) (New York Times 11/10/20)

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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