



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

January 2021

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan Presentation & Discussion

Thursday, February 4 at 6:30pm

Virtual Event

As part of the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act, the Baker administration is tasked with developing our statewide emissions reductions target for 2030 and the policies to get us there. How ambitious that 2030 target is, and how comprehensive the policies are depends on grassroots engagement. The Baker Administration's [2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan](#) has been released, alongside the [2030 emissions reduction target](#).

Sierra Club is coordinating with a number of allies to submit comments and also determine top priority talking points to better improve the plan. Join the Massachusetts Chapter for a presentation and discussion about how Massachusetts residents can use their voices to advocate for clean energy and climate in the upcoming [Clean Energy and Climate Plan](#).

RSVP Here



Advocacy Hour: Campaign Updates

Wednesdays 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 are welcome!

This week (January 27), join Chapter Director of Transportation, Veena Dharmaraj for an update on some of the ongoing transportation campaigns she's been working on, including advocacy around the proposed multi-state Transportation Climate Initiative.

Next week (February 3), Clint Richmond, Chapter Toxics Lead, will give a presentation on the State Pesticide Board and process.

RSVP Here

Southcoast Virtual Town Hall

Wednesday, February 3 at 5:00pm

Virtual Event

Join the Sierra Club Cape Cod Group and Congressman Keating (MA9) for a Virtual Town Hall, moderated by Massachusetts Senate Ways and Means Chairman, Senator Michael Rodrigues. A coalition of Cape Cod organizations have been [working to oppose](#) a proposed Multipurpose Machine Gun Training Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). [Join this Town Hall event](#) to learn more and voice opposition to the range.

RSVP Here

Zoonotic Transfer of Disease Caused by Environmental Degradation

Thursday, February 4 at 5:00pm

Virtual Event

Zach Burns , a 4th-year medical and public health student, is the founding Plant-based Health Liaison at [Medical Students for a Sustainable Future](#). Overlapping with our food system's role in climate change, is its role in zoonotic disease transmission. From HIV to mad cow disease, and from the Ebola virus to COVID-19, industrial farming and wildlife encroachment are spawning new pathogens every day. With reverence for science, Zach will discuss how a healthy plant-based diet can bolster personal immunity and minimize society's carbon footprint, while slashing our collective risk of future pandemics.

RSVP Here

Educational Plant-Based Potluck Dinner

Sunday, February 21 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

Update on the Next-Generation Climate Roadmap Bill

The road to passing comprehensive climate legislation in Massachusetts has been a long one. Here's a quick recap: the Massachusetts

Senate passed their original climate bill (S.2500) in January 2020. Five months later, the Massachusetts House passed their proposed re-written version. (H.4912). Finally, on January 3, 2021, House and Senate leaders reached a compromise and sent a final version of the bill (S.2995) to Governor Baker's desk for signature. The final version of the bill included important provisions, such as interim emissions goals for 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045; codified environmental justice policies into law; and implemented a municipal net zero stretch building code.



We were then massively disappointed by Baker's 11th hour decision to VETO the bill .

Despite receiving overwhelming and bipartisan support for the legislation in both the House and Senate, the Governor undid years of work in a single moment. Baker falsely claimed that the bill would halt new affordable housing construction and criticized features of the bill, such as the proposed new high-performance building code, despite the fact that his own agencies have proposed a similar policy. [Check out this blog post from Green Energy Consumer Alliance's Larry Chretien for a deeper dive into the Governor's thin reasoning for a veto.](#)

Unfortunately, due to restrictions caused by the two-year legislative cycle, the chambers were not able to meet again to potentially override the Governor's veto. Instead, the Senate and House must vote AGAIN to send the bill back to the Governor's desk. Thankfully, House Speaker Ron Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka, Chairman Tom Golden, and Chairman Barrett have already moved to re-file the bill (now called S.9). To return to the Governor's desk it must pass both the House and Senate once again.

On Tuesday, January 26, Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ronald Mariano confirmed that both branches plan to vote Thursday (January 28) on the climate change bill. Stay tuned for further updates.

2050 Climate Roadmap

The [MA 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap report](#) has been published. This is the Baker administration's study to support their plan to reduce emissions in the next three decades. There are six technical reports to read through: [Buildings](#), [Economic & Health](#), [Energy Pathways](#), [Land, Non-Energy](#), and [Transportation](#).

Abridged versions of the report are also available in [English](#); [Português/Portuguese](#); [Tiếng Việt/Vietnamese](#); [中文/Chinese \(Traditional\)](#); [Kreyòl ayisyen/Haitian Creole](#); and [Español/Spanish](#).

EEA will also be posting additional resources and videos in the coming weeks: www.mass.gov/2050Roadmap.

[Learn More](#)

ISO-New England Grid Reform Tuesday, February 2 at 1:00pm 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. [The states have set up a website for the ISO-NE reform process.](#) [Join a technical forum on Transmission Planning](#): February 2 from 1-6pm.

[RSVP Here](#)

Eastie Substation EFSB (Energy Facilities Siting Board) Hearing

Monday, February 1 at 1:00pm
Virtual Event

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. The environmental justice organization [GreenRoots](#) has been actively opposing the substation for years, and they are currently very busy administering mutual aid in their community, which has been hit hard by COVID-19, so they could use our support!

If you previously signed up to comment and have not commented, you will be invited to comment in the order you signed up. If you have not signed up to comment, and wish to comment at the Board meeting, please send an email to Geneen.Bartley@mass.gov with your full name, email address, and mailing address by **Thursday, January 28, 2021**.

GreenRoots will be hosting a [community meeting via Zoom](#) to prepare for next week's Energy Facilities Siting Board hearing **tonight, Wednesday, January 27 at 6:00 pm**.

[Learn More](#)

Transportation Matters

The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI-P) Update

Massachusetts joined Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Washington D.C. in signing [the final memorandum of understanding for the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program \(TCI-P\)](#), a cap-and-invest program for reducing transportation emissions in the Northeast. The compliance period begins on January 1, 2023 with the emission cap declining by 30% in each jurisdiction by 2032, by equal amounts each year. The MOU requires each jurisdiction to invest a minimum of 35% in overburdened and underserved communities, establish an Equity Advisory Board, and report annually on emissions, investments and progress towards environmental justice.

In 2020, Sierra Club took some time to re-evaluate our position on TCI through the lens of the Jemez principles and the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform. [Click here to read our statement](#). While Sierra Club is not supporting the final MOU due to concerns around policy and process, we will continue to advocate for strong equity and environmental provisions in the

implementation of the MOU in Massachusetts.

Transit Equity Day

February 4, 2021

Virtual Event

This year [Transit Equity Day](#), a day to highlight the rights of all people to affordable, high-quality public transportation run on clean/renewable energy, is going virtual. The [Transit Equity Network](#) is organizing a [community hearing on February 3 and 4](#) for transit users, workers, and all who rely on transit, to testify about their needs and hopes for safe, reliable, affordable transit. Are you a transit user? Have you been impacted by the service cuts? Do you want to see zero emission electric transit buses in your neighborhood? Your voice will help guide our asks to decision makers to make transit affordable and accessible for all. [Register here to testify](#).

Learn More



MBTA Bus Fleet Electrification and Facilities Plan

The MBTA's [bus fleet and facilities modernization plan](#) doubles down on the procurement of fossil fuel powered buses and fails to commit to a timeline for 100% bus fleet electrification. Sierra Club together with 15 members of the Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) coalition [sent this letter to the MBTA Board](#) with recommendations to accelerate the adoption of electric buses and fast track the modernization and replacement of bus facilities.

Want to get engaged in our MBTA bus fleet electrification campaign? [Contact Veena](#).

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 28 at 6:00pm

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

RSVP Here

Climate Research Team Meeting



Mondays at 6:00pm

Weekly meeting of the Climate Research Team. This team looks at municipal progress on clean energy/climate issues and seeks opportunities to leverage municipal power for state policy change.

[RSVP Here](#)

Outreach Team Meeting

Tuesdays at 8:00pm

Weekly meeting of the Outreach Team. This team is responsible for person-to-person outreach to Sierra Club members and supporters. They use a variety of tools, including phone calling, peer-to-peer texting, and email blasts.

[RSVP Here](#)

Transportation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 3 at 6:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Toxics Team Meeting

Monday, February 8 at 5:00pm

Monthly meeting of the Toxics Team. This team handles toxic pollution issues, including deadly chemicals (e.g. PFAS), plastic-based pollutants, and recycling/solid waste issues.

[RSVP Here](#)

Energy Committee Meeting

Friday, February 12 at 2:00pm

The monthly meeting of the Energy Committee. They weigh in on legislative issues, write testimony for hearings/public input sessions, and pen op-eds for media publications.

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-Based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 17 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](#)

Friend and Partner Events

Carbon Farming: Impact of Agrochemicals on Soils and Climate

Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

Join Climate Action Now for the next event in their Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration Series: Beyond Stopping Emissions: How Healthy Soil and Plants Can Help Restore Climate Balance. The topic of this presentation is *Carbon Farming: Impact of Agrochemicals on Soils and Climate*, with Ed Stockman of NOFA & Regeneration MASS.



[RSVP Here](#)



Virtual Grassroots Campaign Training

Saturday, March 13 and Sunday, March 14
Virtual Training

This intensive two-day training introduces future campaign leaders, activists, and candidates to the theory and practice behind successful grassroots campaigning. Campaign workers with all levels of experience and potential candidates for any level of government and at any stage in the process (from curious to ready to take the plunge) are welcome.

Attendees will learn from some of the best progressive campaign operatives in Massachusetts. Sessions will include field organizing, message development, working with the press, and other time-tested tactics for winning campaigns.

The workshop is great training for full-time paid work on campaigns, people wanting to volunteer for campaigns, leaders thinking of running for office, or issue and neighborhood activists who are hoping to enhance their understanding of how to influence the outcome of campaigns.

[Learn More](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [Schumer says Biden should consider declaring a 'climate emergency'](#) (Boston Globe, 1/26/21)
- [On some buses, the first signs of a new MBTA fare system](#) (Boston Globe, 1/24/21)
- [It's time for the nation's oldest trash incinerator, in Saugus, to go](#) (Boston Globe, 1/23/21)
- [Lawmakers revisit climate bill after Baker veto](#) (Eagle Tribune, 1/23/21)
- [Massachusetts should say 'no' to biomass incineration in future energy policy](#) (Mass Live Opinion, 1/21/21)
- [Boston scraps plans for Melnea Cass Boulevard following uproar over potential removal of trees](#) (Boston Globe, 1/21/21)
- [Governor Baker - Your Climate Bill Veto Was Based On Bad Accounting](#) (Green Energy Consumers Alliance Blog, 1/21/21)
- [After years of protests, a glimmer of hope for opponents to the Weymouth gas compressor](#) (Boston Globe, 1/19/21)

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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