



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

February 2021

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

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 welcome!



RSVP Here

NEW

Want to get involved with the Massachusetts Sierra Club? Come to our orientation!

VOLUNTEERS

ORIENTATION DETAILS:

RSVP with the link in our bio!!
February 25th • 6:00 P.M.

We hope to see you there!!



New Volunteer Welcome Webinar

February 25 at 6:00pm

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

Our Sustainable Kitchen Cooking Class

Thursday, March 11 at 6:30pm

Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30pm

Virtual Events

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: March 11

RSVP: March 23

Detoxifying Your Life

Thursday, March 18 at 6:00pm

Virtual Event

Join Sara Sezun for "Detoxifying Your Life" on Thursday, March 18. Learn how to avoid toxic chemicals in your daily life. Sara has had Multiple Chemical Sensitivities for more than 30 years. She will share her tips on steps you can take to minimize your exposure to harmful chemicals.

RSVP Here



Educational Plant-Based Potluck Dinner

Sunday, March 28 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

ISO-NE Governance Reform Forum

Thursday, February 25 at 9:00am

Virtual Event

ISO-NE, which plays an outsized role in determining how much renewable energy is on our electricity grid, is currently undergoing a reform process of its governance structure. **This is a big deal** - as transparency in decision making is exceedingly important. Attend this webinar to understand the current governance structure of ISO-NE, including its downfalls, and ISO governance best practices. [See the draft agenda and register to attend here.](#)

Interested stakeholders are also encouraged to provide written comments following the conference. Further details regarding when and how to submit written comments will be forthcoming.

[Learn More and RSVP](#)

Ready For 100: Northeast Regional Call

Thursday, February 25 at 6:00pm

Last month we hosted our *first ever* Northeast regional RF100 call, with over 25 Sierra Club staff and volunteers! These calls are a space to share best practices, success stories, national updates and build community across our region. The next Northeast call is this week! Thursday February 25th from 6:00pm - 7:15pm EST.

Be sure to check out the new [RF100 organizing toolkit](#) and the new [AddUp map](#) on the Sierra Club's national website.



[RSVP Here](#)

Virtual Lobby Day

Thursday, March 4 at 3:00pm

The [Mass Power Forward Coalition](#) is hosting a [Virtual Lobby Day](#) on Thursday March 4th from 3pm-6pm! They will be advocating for a suite of Environmental Justice legislative priorities, 100% Renewable Energy, and the Mass Renews Build Jobs and Justice Act. It's time to build some momentum behind our environmental justice and climate action legislative priorities - and we need you!

New state-wide laws are one of many critical actions we must take to transform our state for climate and environmental justice. For the new legislative session, Mass Power Forward will be advocating for 3 main groups of bills.

1. First, we are supporting the Environmental Justice Table's priorities. We will be working to reform the Energy Facility Siting Board, Improve Air Quality for pollution hot spot communities, restore the ability to sue the government for unequal impact and clarify the definitions of environmental justice
2. Second, we are supporting the MA Renews Alliance work to rapidly retrofit homes to be affordable, efficient, electric and climate healing- with priority to environmental justice neighborhoods.
3. Third, we expect to be continuing our work from last session to get Massachusetts to 100% renewable energy.

The deadline to RSVP is March 1st at 12pm.

RSVP Here

Tell Your Legislator: Don't Water Down The Next-Generation Climate Roadmap Bill!



Earlier this month, Governor Baker sent the Next-Generation Climate Roadmap Bill ([S.9](#)) back to the state legislature, and proposed a series of amendments that would weaken and water down key aspects of the bill. The legislature now must choose one of three options to move forward and they have no timeline in which they are required to act:

1. Reject the Governor's amendments and override his veto (requires $\frac{2}{3}$ votes in both House and Senate).
2. Vote to adopt the Governor's amendments as written.
3. Negotiation further and perhaps adopt some amendments, but not others... this path is the least clear, but perhaps the most likely.

[Please email your legislator to ask them to reject any amendments that weaken the bill. The climate crisis requires urgent action and every day wasted is another missed opportunity to address carbon pollution and existing environmental injustices.](#)

After you've sent your message, please also take a moment to [call your legislator's office](#). You can use the following phone script:

Hello, this is Emma calling from Somerville. I am calling today to thank you for your leadership on climate and environmental justice issues this past year. I am calling today to ask you to request that [House/Senate] leadership move urgently to reject any of the Governor's amendments to the climate bill (S.9) that would weaken the legislation. It is critical that the legislature preserves the following parts as originally passed:

- *The 2030 and 2040 emissions targets*
- *The sector emissions sublimits*
- *The net zero stretch building code*

Climate science tells us we have only 9 years left to significantly address carbon emissions to escape the worst impacts of climate change. Please talk to your colleagues and ask them to bring the bill back for a floor vote as soon as possible with no amendments that weaken the bill. Thank you for all you do!

Tell Your Legislator: Don't Water Down The Climate Roadmap Bill!

2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan

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. More info is available at: www.mass.gov/2030CECP

The Baker Administration's [2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan has been released](#), alongside the [2030 emissions reduction target](#). See Sierra Club's recommendations for strengthening the recommendations from the [Electricity](#) and [Buildings](#) Working Groups.

Submit public input through March 22nd by:

- Completing a [Public Comment Form](#)
- Emailing written comments to gwsa@mass.gov; or
- Submitting oral comments as a voicemail to (617) 506-9630 (which will then be converted to a written comment by EEA staff).

[Learn More](#)

Transportation Matters

Tell President Biden we Need Strong Clean Car Standards Now

Transportation is the industry contributing the most to greenhouse gas pollution in the U.S., and it's threatening our health too. Pollution from fossil fuels accounted for 1 in 5 deaths worldwide in 2018.



Automakers have already been lobbying President Biden's team for the weakest, slowest commitment and seeking giveaways even though they already know they could meet these reasonable targets. President Biden needs to hear that you want the U.S. to dramatically accelerate the adoption of pollution-free vehicles this decade.

It's not a stretch to say that by 2035, all new cars can be pollution-free and by 2040, all new trucks and buses can be pollution-free. This is essential for making our air more breathable, improving public health, and ensuring a livable planet.

[Take Action Now: Send a message to President Biden](#)

Stand in Solidarity

No Toxic Biomass: Letter-to-the-Editor Workshop

Wednesday, February 24 at 5:00pm

Virtual Event

Our friends at the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition are launching a [new campaign website](#), a [letter-writing campaign](#), and a social media effort ([#BakerNoBiomass](#)) to pressure the Baker Administration to withdraw proposed harmful rule changes that would allow the large, polluting biomass plants in MA to qualify for renewable energy subsidies. This week they're hosting a [letter-to-the-editor workshop](#) to amplify awareness about issues relating to polluting biomass burning. All are welcome to attend.

[RSVP Here](#)

Webinar: What's happening the fight against Hydro-Quebec and the New England Clean Energy Connect Corridor

Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

Join the [North American Megadam Resistance Alliance](#) (NAMRA) for part one of a new three-part webinar series featuring activists and experts who are leading the efforts to expose the myth that hydropower from megadams is "renewable and green." Learn about the growing resistance to stop these projects that destroy rivers and communities while worsening the climate crisis. This webinar will focus on new developments in the campaign to stop the NECEC export corridor for Canadian hydropower through Maine to Massachusetts.



RSVP Here

Demand Action for Clean Air in Boston



Our elected officials say they're against environmental racism. It's time for them to start putting those words into action.

Our partner ACE has been fighting for clean air for Black folks and all of Roxbury and Dorchester for decades, but we're still facing dirtier air, high and rising asthma rates, more COVID deaths.

Mayor Walsh's office must enforce the diesel reduction ordinance and anti-idling laws, and follow their commitments to being transparent about reducing pollution. MBTA officials need to electrify the system while prioritizing the dirty air in Black and Brown neighborhoods. [Add your name to demand action.](#)

Add your name

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 24 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

Community Outreach Team Meeting

Tuesdays at 8:00pm

Weekly meeting of the Outreach Team. This team is responsible

RSVP Here

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.

Toxics Team Meeting

Monday, March 8 at 5:00pm

Biweekly 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

Transportation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 17 at 6:00pm

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

RSVP Here

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 24 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 Countdown 2021

Saturday, March 13 at 9:30am

Virtual Event

Carbon Countdown, organized by Sustainable Middlesex, is an annual, free event, providing an up-to-date overview of Massachusetts climate legislation aimed at reducing carbon emissions and other crucial efforts to address climate change. This year, State Senator Mike Barrett and Representative Tami Gouveia will be the featured speakers, followed by breakout sessions on a variety of related topics.

RSVP Here

Save the Date!

CARBON COUNTDOWN 2021

Saturday, March 13, 2021
9:30 am – 11:30 am via Zoom

Learn:
• How to pass critical MA climate legislation in 2021 • Current status of MA climate change initiatives • Powerful climate solutions in our communities

Program:
Sen. Mike Barrett: Climate Legislation in the Senate
Rep. Tami Gouveia: Climate Legislation in the House
Results of the 2021 Community Climate Action Survey
Breakout Rooms: Tools for Tackling Climate Change

FREE | All are welcome | Spread the word to your networks!
Sign up with [Eventbrite](#) and receive [zoom information](#)

Sponsored by Sustainable Middlesex. Co-sponsored by: 350 MetroNorth, 350MA, Action Climate Coalition, Cool Winchester, Edes Climate Action, Energize Framingham, Energize Weyland, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Green Newton, Interfaith Power and Light, KAN, Lexington Green Network, Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition (LexGWAC), Lexington HS Conservation Club, Lexington HS Make Lex Green, Mass Climate Action Network, MassEnergiez, Mothers Out Front Concord, Mothers Out Front Lexington, SUNRISE Lexington, Sustainable Belmont, Sustainable Framingham, Sustainable Wellesley, Winchester Farmers Market Community Hub

Sustainable Middlesex: *Creating Sustainable Solutions Together*
Sustainable Middlesex is a network of grassroots climate action groups focused on public awareness and advocacy for policies that support climate sustainability, mitigation and adaptation. While centered in Middlesex County and surrounding areas, we include towns from all over Massachusetts. Our goals include • Initiating collaborative effort • Sharing tested ideas and actions • Coordinating calendars of events and actions • Pooling materials and resources for broad use • Bringing activists together for networking and inspiration

Green Living Seminars 2021 Virtual Events

The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) presents the Green Living Seminar Series. Every semester the Green Living Seminars center around a different topic, timely and relevant in current sustainability



MCLA'S SPRING SEMESTER GREEN LIVING SEMINAR:
INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
 WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30 PM – ONLINE WEBINARS

- 1/27** INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: WHICH ARE MOST EFFECTIVE?
 DR. SETH WYNES
 CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, POSTDOC
- 2/3** PREVENTING UNPLANNED PREGNANCY
 RACHEL FEY
 POWER TO DECIDE, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY
- 2/10** CYCLING FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES
 DR. RALPH RUEHLER
 VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY,
 PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING
- 2/17** CONSUMER DEMAND FOR FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLES AND THE
 ROLE OF SOCIAL MARKETING
 DR. LISA WATSON
 UNIVERSITY OF REGINA, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE
 PROGRAMS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MARKETING
- 2/24** FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE DEMAND FOR GREEN POWER
 LORI BIRD
 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE,
 DIRECTOR, US ENERGY PROGRAM AND POLSKY CHAIR FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY
- 3/3** FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE ELECTRIC VEHICLE ADOPTION
 DR. ONA EGBUE
 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE,
 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INFORMATICS AND ENGINEERING SYSTEMS
- 3/10** FRAMING MESSAGES TO MAKE THEM APPEALING
 DR. NELL PUTNAM-FARR
 RICE UNIVERSITY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MARKETING
- 3/17** THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOR
 DR. CHRISTIE MANNING
 MACALESTER COLLEGE, DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY
- 3/24** HOW EMISSIONS INFORMATION CAN HELP PROMPT TRAVELERS TO PURCHASE GREENER FLIGHTS
 DR. ANGELA SANGUINETTI
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS, RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGIST
- 3/31** PROMOTING RECYCLING BEHAVIORS IN MASSACHUSETTS
 DR. JASON SEACAT
 WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY
- 4/7** FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE HOUSEHOLD ADOPTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES
 DR. CHIEN-FEI CHEN
 UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY & RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
- 4/14** INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS
 DR. ELIZABETH R. DESOMBRE
 WELLESLEY COLLEGE, CAMILLA CHANDLER FROST PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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Podcasts will be posted
 online following each
 presentation:
[www.mcla.edu/
 greenliving](http://www.mcla.edu/greenliving)



SCAN TO REGISTER

issues. All webinars start at 5:30pm.

Select Upcoming Webinars:

- **2/24: Factors that Influence Demand for Green Power;** Lori Bird, World Resources Institute, Director, US Energy Program and Polsky Chair for Renewable Energy
- **3/3: Factors that Influence Electric Vehicle Adoption:** Dr. Ona Egbue, University of South Carolina Upstate, Associate Professor of Informatics and Engineering Systems
- **3/10: Framing Messages to Make Them Appealing;** Dr. Nell Putnam-Farr, Rice University, Assistant Professor of Marketing

Learn More & RSVP

THE 2020 SERIES IS A PRESENTATION OF MCLA'S BERKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CENTER AND THE MCLA ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT.

Our Reading List

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

- [Feds to take second look at Weymouth gas compressor approval](#) (Boston Herald, 2/21/21)
- [Burning fossil fuels kills an estimated 350,000 Americans a year, including 7,600 in Massachusetts, study finds](#) (Boston Globe, 2/9/21)
- [Hydro-Quebec has left Quebec's First Nations Behind](#) (Bangor Daily News, 2/7/21)
- [As Final Vote On Electrical Substation Nears, East Boston Residents Say State's Approval Process Has Left Them Out](#) (WBUR, 2/3/21)
- [Advocates push statewide ban on plastic bags](#) (The Salem News, 2/3/21)
- [Baker Take Note: Netzero Buildings Make Sense](#) (Commonwealth Magazine, 2/3/21)
- [Boston observes its first World Wetlands Day](#) (The Daily Free Press, 2/3/21)

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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This email was sent by the [Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter](#)
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