



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

March 2021

Massachusetts Sierra Club Rises in Solidarity with AAPI Community Against Asian Hate

The Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter is committed to being an actively anti-racist organization. Climate justice and racial justice are inextricably linked, which is why we will continue to learn from and fight alongside racial justice organizations. Sierra Club Massachusetts rises in solidarity with [Massachusetts Asian Pacific Islanders Civic Action Network](#) (APIsCAN) and their member organizations, and their [demands on local, state, and federal governments](#).

The recent violent murder of 8 people, mostly Asian-American women, and the increased violence and hate toward Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander people in America since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic is a glaring reminder that white supremacy and misogyny are rampant in our society. Inequality has been deeply rooted in our system for centuries in the forms of colonialism, capitalism, anti-immigrant hate, misogyny, and racism, and we must collectively work harder to be anti-racist and anti-oppressive. There will be no climate justice without racial justice.

Please take a moment to consider how you can continue to learn and grow toward being more actively anti-racist and anti-oppressive. A few resources and organizations are highlighted below, and we are continually adding to the [Anti-Racism Resources](#) page on our website.

Learn

- [Act to Change](#)
- [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#)
- [Stop AAPI Hate](#)

Act

- [APIsCAN Townhall on Anti-Asian Racism, Thursday 3/25 at 6:00pm](#)
- [Hollaback Bystander Intervention Training](#)

Support

- [Asian American Resource Workshop](#) (donate)
- [Asian Community Development Corporation](#) (donate)
- [Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund](#)
- [Chinese Progressive Association](#) (donate)

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!



Our guest speaker this week will be [Kannan Thiruvengadam](#) who will be joining us to talk about upcoming legislation to establish a food justice frontline (youth and adult jobs in food security) and creating more food-growing space. Kannan will be speaking in his role as a member of the [Mass Renews Alliance](#) coalition (Sierra Club is also a member). Kannan is also the Director of Eastie Farms and a newly-elected member of the Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee.

[RSVP Here](#)

New Volunteer Welcome Webinar

Thursday, April 8 at 5:30pm

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](#)

Take Federal Action to Build Back Better!

March 31

Virtual Event

In the next few months, President Biden and Congress will be putting together a massive economic stimulus package that could be the largest investment in clean energy and transportation in US history. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make sure this legislation is as bold as possible, and that it's firmly rooted in justice.

That's why on March 31 during the Spring Congressional recess, we're holding a national Day of Action to call on our representatives to support the [THRIVE Agenda](#)—a bold new plan from the Green New Deal Network to create 15 million good jobs, counteract racial injustice and fight the climate crisis.

[Sign up now](#) to host a virtual THRIVE action party for your friends, family, or pod on March 31. We'll support you every step of the way!

[Learn More](#)

Climate Restoration Webinar

Saturday, March 27 at 3:00pm

Virtual Event

Extreme weather and related climate factors are known to increase the risk and severity of several acute and chronic health conditions; including vector-borne infectious disease, cardiovascular and respiratory illness, morbidity and mortality from exposure to extreme temperatures, and poor reproductive and birth outcomes. National, state and local public health agencies have worked diligently to collect data on environmental factors, populations at risk, and the resulting health outcomes in order to develop policies that will lead to actions to reduce these impacts on the health of communities and protect vulnerable populations at the local level.

RSVP Here



Cape Community Water Forum

April 8, 15, 22, and 29; 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm; Zoom
Pre-registration required capewaterforum.eventbrite.com

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Virtual Events

The [Cape Community Water Forum](#) is a four-part education series on Cape Cod water. The program is co-sponsored by Sustainable Practices, the Association to Preserve Cape Code (APCC), Sierra Club Cape Cod, 350 Cape Cod, and BLUE Institute Labs.

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The Cape Community Water Forum will begin April 8 and continue weekly each Thursday through April 29. Each event in the series will be facilitated by Zoom, start at 6:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm. Registration is free; interested parties can sign up for the program through Eventbrite (<https://capewaterforum.eventbrite.com>) as well as the social media channels and websites of the sponsoring organizations.

Schedule:

April 8: Efforts to Protect and Preserve the Waters of Cape Cod
Featuring: Andrew Gottlieb, executive director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod

April 15: Cape Cod Municipal Water
Featuring: Dan Pelletier, Water Superintendent, Harwich

April 22: Hydrology of the Cape's Sole Source Aquifer
Featuring: Tom Cambareri, hydrogeologist and former Director of Water Resources at the Cape Cod Commission

April 29: Issues and Solutions
Featuring: Judith Underwood, chief executive officer of BLUE Institute Labs

Sustainable Practices



The Cape Community Water Forum will begin on April 8 and continue weekly each Thursday through April 29. Each event in the series will be facilitated by Zoom, start at 6:30pm, and end at 7:30pm. [Registration is free through Eventbrite](#). Each program will start with a formal presentation that will be followed by a question-and-answer period. Resources related to each topic will be distributed to registered participants.

RSVP Here

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Carve your Path to Climate Action with Accountability

Tuesday, March 31 at 1:00pm

Virtual Event

On March 31st, transform your community's climate and energy commitments into real results centered in racial equity and justice for all. [Register for the webinar](#) to hear from climate justice and clean energy leaders from Miami, FL, Atlanta, GA, and East Bay Area, CA, who will share their experiences with local accountability processes. Activists, community leaders, and local government leaders and staff are invited as we work within the new [100% Shared Accountability Framework](#) and [Guide](#).

RSVP Here

Say No To Palmer Biomass

Wood burning is actually dirtier than coal and we are fighting bad dirty woody biomass regulations that represent business corruption at its worst. With the [Boston Globe's exposé on the planned dirty woody biomass plant in Springfield Massachusetts](#), and the fact that Municipal Light Plants from across the state have bought into the contracts of output from this plant, we need to re-amplify the egregious injustice that is proposed in this terrible project.

Our friends at the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition are launching a [new campaign website](#), a [letter-writing campaign](#), and a social media effort ([#BakerNoBiomass](#)).



Learn More

Stop the Peabody Peaker Plant

Over the past several weeks, advocates have raised the alarm about a 60 MW proposed natural gas and oil peaker power plant that is slated to be built in Peabody, MA. The project was proposed by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) and 14 municipal utilities (also called Municipal Light Plants, or MLPs) have already signed contracts for the plant's energy. MLPs are each governed by a Board, responsible for their own MLP's operations, deciding where their energy comes from, supplying clean energy, and implementing energy efficiency programs.



Information about the proposed plant is scarce—it isn't even listed as a project under development on [MMWEC's website](#), and project plans are hard to come by. Local officials, advocates, and community members alike are left in the dark about this project! We do know that the plant site is located within half a mile of at least two designated environmental justice areas. **Residents of Peabody and Danvers will bear the brunt of the particulate matter pollution from this plant, which is estimated to emit nearly 51,000 tons of**

greenhouse gases into the atmosphere every year.

Massachusetts needs to focus on clean energy sources, not building more fossil fuel capacity. At the state level, the *Next-Generation Climate Roadmap Bill* ([S.9](#)) and the [2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan](#) (CECP) could render this plant outdated—or even illegal—while lower cost and cleaner alternatives are already available.

[Take action now—sign the petition to stop the Peabody Peaker Plant.](#)

Take Action Now: Stop the Peabody Peaker Plant

Transportation Matters

MBTA Capital Investment Plan (CIP)

The MBTA is in the process of finalizing projects for [its one-year CIP](#). Initial information indicates that the T plans to double down on polluting fossil fuel infrastructure instead of investing in zero emission electric buses and electrifying the commuter rail. The CIP includes the procurement of an additional 460 polluting diesel-hybrid buses and 25 diesel electric locomotives for the commuter rail.

Projects for the CIP will be finalized in April, leaving a small window for you to influence projects that are included. Want to ensure that there is funding for electric buses in the CIP? The MBTA needs to hear from you. Submit written comments (publiccomment@dot.state.ma.us) or leave a voice message by calling 857-368-1655 for the MBTA Board meeting on 3/29. [Click here for talking points.](#)

Norwood Electric's "Double Your Discount" EV Rebate Program

[Norwood Drives Electric](#) is an outreach program to inform their electric utility customers about the savings and benefits that come from choosing an electric car and charging it at home overnight.



For a limited time, when buying a new EV you can double the state [MOR-EV rebate](#) on a new electric vehicle purchase as a Norwood Electric customer! Even if you are purchasing a used EV, for which the state rebate does not qualify, Norwood Light will match the MOR-EV rebate amount for that vehicle. Mirroring the restrictions of the MOR-EV program, all EVs purchased must have a final sale price of under \$50,000, and any PHEV purchased must have an all electric range of over 25 miles to qualify. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Stand in Solidarity

Townhall on Anti-Asian Racism

Thursday, March 25 at 6:00pm

Virtual Event

[APIsCAN](#) is hosting a forum March 25, 2021 6:00pm-7:30pm highlighting how the Asian American community in Massachusetts is organizing against racism and learning how to support our community during the pandemic. RSVP at bit.ly/townhallaar.

RSVP Here

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 25 at 5:30pm

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

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Monday, March 29 at 7:00pm

Please join us for the bi-weekly meeting of the Cape Cod Group. All interested parties are welcome.

RSVP Here

Community Outreach Team Meeting

Thursdays at 7:00pm

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

Toxics Team Meeting

Monday, April 5 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

Political Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 13 at 6:00pm

This committee researches political candidates and makes recommendations on who the Chapter should endorse.

RSVP Here

Transportation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 28 at 6:00pm

Join us to discuss and respond to critical transportation issues affecting Massachusetts, including rail, bus, bike, pedestrian, and traffic pollution policies.

RSVP Here

Friend and Partner Events

Small Scale Practices for Soil Improvement and Carbon

Sequestration

Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

Maintaining living plant cover is one of the essential practices of building soil health. This talk will provide practical guidance on using cover crops in a small-scale, non-mechanized, no-till context to improve soil health both for growing more nutritious food and for sequestering atmospheric carbon into the soil to help heal climate change. This event is part of the Climate Action Now Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration Series.

RSVP Here



2021 INTERFAITH CLIMATE SUMMIT

Healing, Helping and Building Resilience

WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BE TOGETHER, BUT WE CAN HEAL TOGETHER!

Event date: Sunday, April 11th
Event time: 2:00-4:00pm EST
Zoom registration: <https://bit.ly/3unW2ob>
CREW website: www.climatecrew.org

QUESTIONS? CONTACT VERNON@CLIMATECREW.ORG

The poster features a central grid of ten religious symbols: a cross, a Star of David, a hand with a sun, a crescent moon, a yin-yang, a Khanda, a Yin-Yang, a Star of David, a Om symbol, a Wheel of Dharma, and a cross. The background is a starry night sky.

RSVP Here

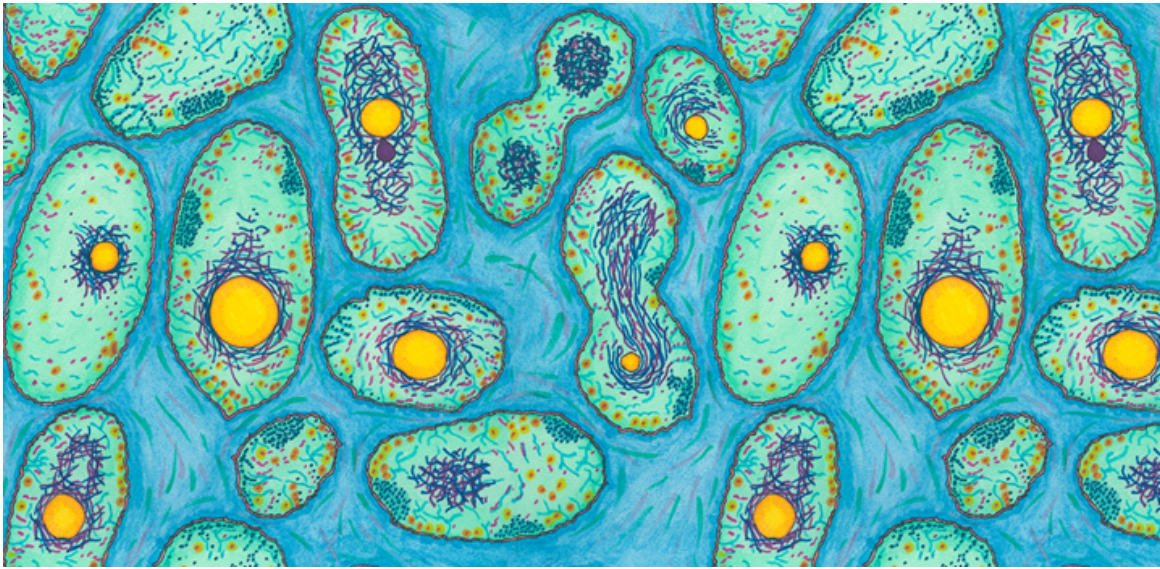
CREW 2021 Interfaith Summit

Sunday, April 11 at 2:00pm

Virtual Event

In the wake of the National Climate Assessment and UN report in 2018 on the projected serious consequences of unchecked climate change, interfaith leaders from the greater Boston area will come together with Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) to host the second annual interfaith summit on vulnerability and climate change.

This now abbreviated digital summit will focus on the role of faith communities in helping their community members build resilience, whether from future climate impacts such as floods, extreme heat, and severe storms, or more immediate concerns like a pandemic. We will share knowledge on the types of changes we are already seeing and can expect to see in the Northeast, discuss practical ways congregations can prepare themselves and their surrounding community, and discern together how our spiritual practices could help sustain not only our efforts, but also our souls, hearts, and minds, as we engage in this most critical mission.



MICROORGANISMS: A Key Solution for Climate, Soil, Food, and Our Health

Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

We routinely kill beneficial microorganisms, with disastrous consequences for human and environmental health. Instead, we can promote beneficial microorganisms to help change dangerous trends that threaten our future. Through regenerative agriculture, the interconnected microbiomes of soil, food, and humans can help stabilize the climate, rebuild degraded soils, secure our food supply, and reverse and prevent chronic disease. One of the most effective actions a person can take to help the climate is to eat healthier food. This event is part of the Climate Action Now Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration Series.

[RSVP Here](#)

Close Attention: Exploring a creative practice inside and outside the studio

Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

This free speaker series will address the challenges and importance of establishing diversity, equity, and inclusion in outdoor spaces, and will feature speakers whose work is advancing efforts to strengthen belonging and connection between communities of color and the benefits of time in nature.

Much of the Greater Boston area is home to world-class trails, conservation land, and expansive farmland. What needs to be done to ensure the benefits of green space are accessible to all? How can we ensure that people of all backgrounds feel welcome and comfortable while enjoying the outdoors?

[RSVP Here](#)

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 issues. All webinars start at 5:30pm.

Select Upcoming Webinars:

- **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



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 BUEHLER 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

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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Podcasts will be posted online following each presentation:
www.mcla.edu/greenliving

SCAN TO REGISTER

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

Learn More & RSVP

Our Reading List

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

- [President Joe Biden set to propose \\$3 trillion package for infrastructure, schools, families](#) (MassLive, 3/23/21)
- [Lawmakers seek more money for climate change](#) (Gloucester Times via SHNS, 3/23/21)
- [Fire department gets Quincy's first electric vehicle](#) (The Patriot Ledger, 3/22/21)
- [The Most Important Climate Policy Lever You've Never Heard About](#) (Sierra Magazine, 3/22/21)
- [Why A Federal Order In The Weymouth Compressor Case Has The Natural Gas World Worried](#) (WBUR, 3/19/21)
- [MBTA is rethinking service cuts and scraps layoffs after criticism from lawmakers](#) (Boston Globe, 3/19/21)
- [Legislature approves climate bill, sends back to Governor Baker](#) (Boston Globe, 3/18/21)

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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