



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

April 2021

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Support Massachusetts Sierra Club's Legislative Priorities!



Following the passage of S.9, the Massachusetts Chapter will be re-focusing on the current legislative session. Over the next 18 months, we will be working to address buildings sector emissions, while also continuing to advocate for increased stronger environmental protections for historically marginalized communities, halt clean energy incentives for dirty biomass generation, reduce fossil fuel reliance in the transportation sector, expand public transit options to Western MA, restrict the use of PFAS and other harmful chemicals, protect our public lands, and establish new state drought protections.

But we can't win any of these policies without your help. [Please email your State Representative and State Senator](#) and ask them to co-sponsor the Massachusetts Sierra Club's 2021-2022 environmental priorities!

Take Action Now: Ask your legislators to support our priorities!

Support Environmental Justice, Healthy Affordable Homes and 100% Clean Energy

May 4 - 7

[Mass Power Forward](#) (MPF) is a grassroots coalition of over 200 environmental groups, community development organizations, clean energy businesses, faith groups, neighborhood health and safety advocates, and Massachusetts families fighting for our future. **Our mission is to organize the grassroots and build power for climate justice campaigns through collaboration and relationship with frontline organizations.**

We are working this year to pass critical laws for climate justice. Right now we need to [invite our legislators to educational briefings](#) about 3 of our priorities.

1. Access to Justice with the Environmental Justice Table
2. Building Justice with Jobs with the MA Renews Alliance
3. 100% Clean Act with Environment Massachusetts

[Send a letter now](#) to your legislators urging them to attend these briefings!

Tell your legislators to attend these briefings!

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 Volunteer Welcome Webinar

Thursday, May 13 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](#)



Our Sustainable Kitchen Cooking Class

Thursday, May 13 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](#)

Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

Sunday, May 16 at 6:00pm
Virtual Event

Learn how to make healthy plant-based food with the Plant-based Planet Team! We'll

demonstrate how to make various plant-based dishes at home. Feel free to ask us questions; we'll be happy to help you.

RSVP Here

Clean Energy & Climate

Biomass Victory!

On April 2, Baker's DEP revoked the building permit for the Springfield Biomass Plant!! A hard won victory by [frontline leaders](#) and [PFPI](#).

Governor Baker is still trying to designate wood burning power generation (which will emit carbon and is dirtier than coal) as eligible to receive the state's renewable energy subsidies. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Keep fighting biomass in Massachusetts:

Call Governor Baker at 888-870-7770 and Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Patrick Woodcock at 617-626-7332 to tell them that you are opposed to making biomass subject to renewable energy subsidies.

No Weymouth Compressor Public comments due May 4

TRC, a consultant for Enbridge, has been reviewing the clean up process for contamination at the site of the compressor station and neighboring beach area. Years ago, community members raised concerns with MassDEP about known oil and arsenic contamination on this site. This complaint led to the opening of a PIP (public involvement plan) to begin addressing the issue. TRC has been overseeing the process since then. MassDEP has designated the north parcel as a toxic waste site.



There have been a series of public meetings and written comment periods for community members to express the comments, questions, and concerns. Although it often feels like lip service, it's important to submit comments, even if to just create a paper trail of documented concerns.

[Submit a comment to TRC in response to their draft plans for the cleanup of toxic waste](#) at the compressor site. **Comments are due by May 4.** [Instructions and sample comments here.](#)

Learn More

Transportation Matters

MassDEP Listening Session on Medium-and Heavy-Duty Vehicles

MassDEP will hold [two online public stakeholder meetings on April 28 and 29](#) to share

information on upcoming regulatory efforts to address criteria pollutant, greenhouse gas, and toxic air contaminant emissions from medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) on-road vehicles. The meetings will cover the planned adoption of a multi-state MHD zero emission vehicle (ZEV) agreement and California regulations addressing advanced clean trucks, large entity fleets reporting, and more.

[Register here](#) for April 29 listening session from 9:30-11:30 pm

[Learn More](#)

Toxics and Plastics

Mosquito Control

Monday, May 3 at 11:00am

Virtual Event

The Massachusetts Mosquito Task Force will be holding a [listening session](#) on May 3rd from 11 am to 1 pm, to hear from the public about issues and concerns with mosquito control in Massachusetts. You can also [submit comments](#) through 5pm on May 5, 2021. [Please click here for more information and comment talking points.](#)

[RSVP Here](#)

Stand in Solidarity

Let Us Breathe Online Rally

May 4 at 6:00pm

Virtual Event

A graphic for the #LetUsBreathe rally. It features a blue-to-cyan gradient background. The text "#LetUsBreathe" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below it, "MAY 4, 2021" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

#LetUsBreathe

MAY 4, 2021

[RSVP Here](#)

On May 4th, World Asthma Day, join the Green Justice Coalition for an online rally to bring to light the compounding struggles faced by low-income communities and communities of color due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a lack of access to clean air and to public transit. Speakers will include advocacy groups, health professionals, and grassroots leaders working on the frontlines to address the need for meaningful energy efficiency, public transit, and clean air access in Massachusetts' EJ Communities like Taunton, Springfield, Chinatown, Worcester as well as state legislators at the forefront of environmental justice campaigns

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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, May 3 at 5:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

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.

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](#)

Political Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 11 at 6:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, May 12 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](#)

Energy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 19 at 2:00pm

This 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, May 20 at 5:30pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Transportation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 2 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

CLIMATE RESILIENCE 101 FOR MUNICIPALITIES



How Can We Build Climate Resilience?

Thursday, April 29 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

Charles River Watershed Association, in partnership with Congressman Jake Auchincloss has organized this evening briefing for Charles River Watershed elected and appointed leaders about climate-related threats to the Charles River Watershed community, and to share ideas about **concrete actions** that can be taken to **reduce these risks**.

[RSVP Here](#)

100% Clean Act Campaign Launch

Tuesday, May 4 at 1:00pm

Virtual Event

Today, most of our energy comes from fossil fuels, polluting our air and warming our climate. But it doesn't have to be that way. Instead of burning oil and gas, we can harness pollution-free power from the sun and the wind. When our communities run on renewable energy, our air will be cleaner, our families will be healthier, and we'll help prevent the worst impacts of global warming.

Environment Massachusetts is launching a statewide campaign to pass the 100% Clean Act ([H.3288](#), [S.2136](#)), which will transition Massachusetts to 100 percent clean electricity by 2035 and 100 percent clean heating and transportation by 2045.

Join us via Zoom for our [virtual campaign launch](#) for the 100% Clean Act on Tuesday, May 4 at 1:00 PM.

[RSVP Here](#)



Updates on the climate impacts of Canadian hydropower

Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

Hydropower has always been a false solution to the climate crisis: large dams and their reservoirs emit potent greenhouse gas emissions, flood thousands of acres of carbon-sequestering forests and trap sediments that impair the ocean's ability to act as a carbon sink.

This webinar will review new science that confirms why hydropower should not be part of any climate action plan or the Green New Deal.

[RSVP Here](#)

On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces: Dr. Monica White

Wednesday, May 12 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](#)

Spotted Lanternfly Webinar Series

May 18 at 10:00am

Virtual Event

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is hosting a series of webinars to educate the green industry and environmental groups about Spotted Lanternfly. Organized as quarterly updates, these free webinars will provide attendees with the most current information about this invasive pest.

Dates:

- Spring Update: 5/18/2021 (Register now at <http://bit.ly/MDARSLFMay21>)
- Summer Update: 8/17/2021
- Fall Update: 11/16/2021
- Winter Update: 2/15/2022

All presentations will be held from 10AM to 11:10AM.

Learn about the invasive spotted lanternfly (and earn up to 4 FREE continuing education credits (CEUs))!



Sign up for our FREE quarterly webinar series to get the most up-to-date info about Spotted Lanternfly in Massachusetts. Learn about current control efforts, and how you can help.

Spotted lanternfly is a growing threat to MA's environment and economy, and you are an important first line of defense!

Each quarterly session is approved for the following credits: 1 Mass. Pesticide License credit (Category 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 35, 36, 40, 48, and CORE (L)), 1 MCA credit, 1 MCH credit, 1 MCLP credit, 1/2 MQTW credit. ISA credits pending.

Webinars will be held quarterly from 10:00-11:10AM on:

5/18/21, 8/17/21, 11/16/21, 2/15/22

May 18th registration link: <http://bit.ly/MDARSLFMay21>

Email joshua.bruckner@mass.gov with any questions



RSVP Here

Our Reading List

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

- [By investing in electric Silver Line buses, MBTA would be investing in healthier neighborhoods](#) (Boston Globe Op-Ed, 4/27/21)
- [A battle to get more clean energy into New England's electric grid is underway. Here's what you need to know.](#) (CT Mirror, 4/26/21)
- [Baker Order Outlines Greenhouse Gas Requirements For State Agencies](#) (WBUR via SHNS, 4/23/21)
- [In Framingham, Gov. Baker signs executive order calling for cut in emissions](#) (MetroWest Daily News, 4/22/21)
- [Mass. Backtracks On Renewable Energy Subsidies For Wood-Burning Biomass Plants](#) (WBUR, 4/16/21)
- [With 20% of Massachusetts in drought, Northampton issues water-use restrictions, immediately bans nonessential outdoor use](#) (MassLive, 4/15/21)
- [Janey backs fare-free bus rides, eyes Mattapan-Ruggles pilot](#) (Dorchester Reporter via SHNS, 4/15/21)

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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