



## Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

May 2021

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### What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

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#### 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!



#### Volunteer Update

**June 2 at 5:00pm**

Join Massachusetts Chapter staff to hear about our Chapter teams and committees, and to learn about different volunteer opportunities!

[RSVP Here](#)

#### Boston Update

**June 9 at 5:00pm**

Hear from Chapter staff about proposed building emission policies that will seek to accelerate decarbonization in Boston buildings, which account for roughly 70% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

[RSVP Here](#)

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### Volunteers Needed!

Our work is as crucial as ever—for environmental justice, racial justice, housing justice, and transit justice; for indigenous rights, immigrant rights, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, labor rights, and so much more. The Massachusetts Chapter is looking for a wide range of [volunteers](#) to help build our power. Here are a few opportunities to get involved:

**Represent Sierra Club at the Fare-Free Bus Coalition:** Do you love public transit? Interested in advocating for equitable transit solutions by representing Sierra Club in the fare-free buses coalition led by Livable Streets Alliance? The coalition has also set up different sub-groups to do a deep dive on different aspects of fare-free buses that will inform advocacy strategy. Contact [Veena](#) ( [veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org](mailto:veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org)) for more info and if you're

interested in participating.

**Join the Fundraising Team:** Want to help keep the Massachusetts Chapter fighting to bring about environmental and climate justice here in the Bay State? Interested in expanding our work to get better regulation and remediation of toxics and plastics? Want to help continue building the power to elect climate and environmental justice champions across the state? Join our Fundraising Team! We will give you the tools and skills to fundraise for a social justice non-profit while you help to build our power! Interested? Contact [Deb](mailto:deb.pasternak@sierraclub.org) ([deb.pasternak@sierraclub.org](mailto:deb.pasternak@sierraclub.org))!

**Join the Communications Team:** Interested in content creation? Do you have strong writing and/or editing skills? Are you a social media whiz? Join our communications team! We're looking for folks who can help with social media, newsletter writing, blog writing, and other digital organizing tactics. Contact [Emma](mailto:emma.brown@sierraclub.org) ([emma.brown@sierraclub.org](mailto:emma.brown@sierraclub.org))!

**Volunteer Opportunity with Youth Outings:** Boston Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) is the Chapter's youth outreach program. Working with community partners, ICO has been leading hikes, paddles, and camping trips since 1994. The group is looking for a new Chair to champion the effort and for new trip leaders. Experience working with kids is required for a leadership role, and training is available for any interested volunteers! [www.bostonico.org](http://www.bostonico.org)

If you're interested in any of these opportunities, or want to learn more about other Sierra Club Massachusetts [Teams and Committees](#), please fill out our [volunteer interest form](#).

I want to volunteer!



RSVP Here

## New Volunteer Welcome Orientation

Thursday, June 10 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.

## Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

Sunday, June 27 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

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## Let's Pass Climate Legislation in 2021!

Thursday, May 27 at 7pm

Virtual Event

We need your help to pass Massachusetts' **100% Clean Energy Act**. It will ensure Massachusetts runs on 100% clean electricity by 2035. This spring and summer is crucial for this legislation. During this time, it will receive a public hearing and based on the discussion, the bill will either move forward or not.

Join our conversation on Thursday, May 27 to learn what exactly is in the bill, why it's so important to fight climate change, and how we can take action to pass it. Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring your family — help us create a greener, sustainable future for Massachusetts!

RSVP Here

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## Weymouth Compressor Shuts Down Again

Last week, the Weymouth Compressor station shut down for the fourth time in less than a year. On Thursday, May 20, Enbridge, the company that owns and operates the compressor, posted a notice that the compressor station had "experienced an outage" and in a separate notice declared a "force majeure." Loosely translated as an "act of God," a force majeure usually means the shutdown occurred for reasons out of the company's control. [Read more from WBUR.](#)



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## Transportation Matters

### Tell EPA it's time to restore state authority to reduce tailpipe pollution



Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, and vehicle emissions have largely continued to grow. To reverse this trend and meet our climate and public health goals, we need ambitious policies that set us on a clear path to electrifying all cars.

As a critical first step, the EPA must restore state authority to reduce tailpipe climate pollution and advance national efforts to electrify the transportation sector. The EPA needs to hear from you because if state authority is restored, it will mark a powerful step towards cleaning up dirty vehicles.

Take Action Now

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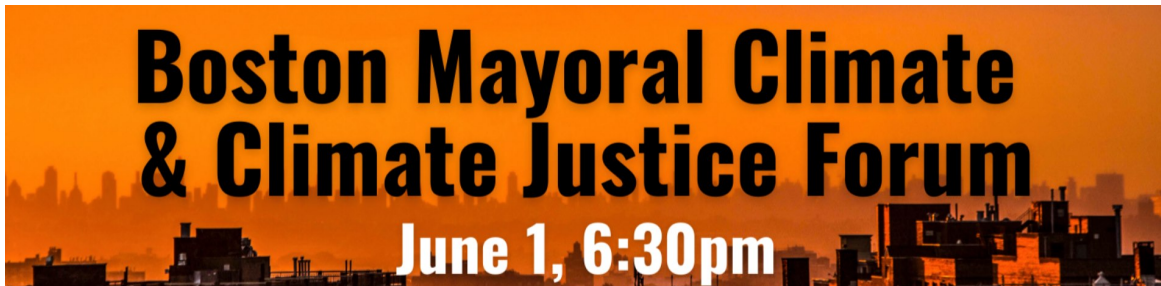
## MassDOT FY22 Capital Investment Plan (CIP)

MassDOT released [the draft FY22 Capital Investment Plan \(CIP\)](#) for public comments on May 25. The FY22 CIP includes planned investments in transit reliability, modernization, and expansion projects in the Commonwealth. These investment decisions impact access to transit and other mobility options across the state. Weigh in in support of projects like the Red-Blue Connector, I-90 Allston Multimodal Project, South Coast Rail, Green Line extension. Advocate for swift electrification of the bus fleet and commuter rail and sustainable funding to modernize bus garages. [Click here to register](#) for any of the six virtual public meetings that will be held between May 25 and June 3. Comments will also be accepted directly on proposed projects through the [CIP Online Comment Tool](#) and can be emailed to [MassCIP@state.ma.us](mailto:MassCIP@state.ma.us)

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## Every Year is an Election Year

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### Boston 2021 Mayoral Candidate Climate/Climate Justice Forum

**Tuesday, June 1 at 6:30pm**  
**Virtual Event**

A wide collection of Boston climate, environmental, climate justice, and community groups are sponsoring the 2021 Boston Mayoral Climate & Climate Justice Forum on Tuesday, June 1st at 6:30 pm. The candidates for mayor will speak to and be asked important questions about climate change, climate justice, zero carbon emission buildings, flooding, and more.

Join your community virtually, to ask the candidates to speak on how they plan to address climate and climate justice issues in Boston including: reducing pollution impacts on frontline neighborhoods, affordable and zero emission transportation, green development and retrofitting with an emphasis on gentrification prevention and job creation for Boston residents.

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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### 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](#)

### Climate Research Team Meeting

**Mondays at 6:00pm**

[RSVP Here](#)



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.

## 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](#)

## Toxics Team Meeting

**Monday, June 7 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, June 8 at 6:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

## Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

**Wednesday, June 16 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, June 17 at 5:30pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Friend and Partner Events

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**INVESTING IN CLIMATE JUSTICE**  
MAY 27TH, 11:00-12:00PM ET

**CROATAN CONVERSATIONS**

- Christi Electris, Croatan Institute
- Omar Blayton, Sunwealth
- William Barber III, Climate Reality Project
- Vonda Brunsting, Initiative for Responsible Investment
- Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, New Roots AME Church

## Investing in Climate Justice

**Thursday, May 27 at 11:00am**

**Virtual Event**

Right now we have an opportunity to invest in a just transition toward a sustainable future & clean energy economy that promotes community resilience. In this Conversation, hear from environmental justice leaders and investors about how climate solutions investments can have a social impact multiplier effect, and how important it is for advances toward a clean energy economy not to leave frontline communities behind.

RSVP Here



## Federal Transportation Policy for Massachusetts - Building Back Better

Thursday, May 27 at 3:00pm

Virtual Event

What's next for Federal transportation policy -- and what does the future hold for Massachusetts? Please join T4MA, Congressman Seth Moulton, and Bedford Town Manager Sarah Stanton for an important discussion. The federal government is playing an increasing role in transportation policy. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress provided unprecedented support for transit agencies. Now, the Biden Administration has proposed ambitious plans to rebuild the nation's transportation infrastructure as part of the American Jobs Plan Act. Register at [t4ma.org/federal\\_transpo](https://t4ma.org/federal_transpo).

RSVP Here

## On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces: Coloring the Conservation Conversation

Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event

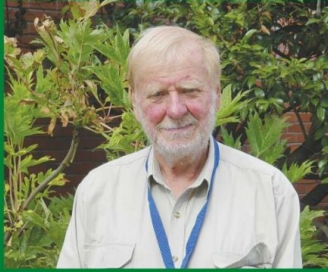
Much of the Greater Boston area is home to world-class trails, conservation land, and expansive farmland. What needs to be done to ensure the benefits of green space are accessible to all? How can we ensure that people of all backgrounds feel welcome and comfortable while enjoying the outdoors?

RSVP Here

# Nature's Solutions as National Policy

A virtual conference hosted by Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

June 5, 2021 9:00 am – 11:00 am EDT



Walter Jehne



Vijay Kumar



Rep. Chellie Pingree

Join us on Zoom and learn from our panelists  
how collaboration between citizens & governments can restore our planet

## Nature's Solutions as National Policy

Saturday, June 5 at 9:00am

Virtual Event

This June, join us at Biodiversity for a Livable Climate for a mini-conference exploring how we can leverage nature's solutions to shape policy on climate action and resilience. This is the first in a series of mini-conferences on nature's solutions as national policy, bringing together global experts in soil, water and biodiversity regeneration with environmental advocates.

[Learn More](#)

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## Our Reading List

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

- [A Tiny Fund Has Scored A Historic Win Against ExxonMobil Over The Future Of Oil](#) (NPR, 5/26/21)
- [A remarkable turnaround for Green Line extension](#) (Commonwealth Magazine, 5/25/21)
- [More Communities are Finding Toxic Chemicals in their Drinking Water](#) (Boston Globe, 5/23/21)
- [The Surprising Root of the Massachusetts Fight Against Gas](#) (Eos, 5/21/21)
- [A summer weather pattern has set up early this year, leaving us at the mercy of high pressure off the coast](#) (Boston Globe, 5/19/21)
- [Federal government approves offshore wind project off Massachusetts that would create enough to power 400,000 homes](#) (Berkshire Eagle via the AP, 5/11/21)
- [Proposed Natural Gas Plant In Peabody On Hold, For Now](#) (WBUR, 5/11/21)

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*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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