



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

June 2021

[Record-breaking heat](#) in the Pacific Northwest this week is a sharp reminder that the climate emergency is already here. The Northwest has seen temperatures well over 115 degrees Fahrenheit — a place where many homes and buildings do not have air conditioner. Meanwhile, road and transit infrastructure is literally crumbling in cities like [Portland, OR](#), preventing people from traveling to and from work. We are witnessing in real time how climate justice is inherently tied to economic justice.

Read on below to get involved in the climate fight here in Massachusetts!

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!



Climate Research Presentation July 7 at 5pm

Our Massachusetts Climate Research Team has been diligently working to measure the actions that municipalities have taken to reduce emissions and environmental impacts. While they have much work to do to get a full picture of the entire state, they have already started drafting an initial report. Join us to learn about their progress and how you can get involved!

RSVP Here

New Volunteer Opportunities

Climate Progress Website Designer: The Massachusetts Chapter is seeking a volunteer

web designer to help co-create a website about municipal progress on climate policy using information collected by a volunteer research team. This person will collaborate with Chapter Staff and volunteers to plan and design the site. [More information available here](#), and contact [Jacob](mailto:jacob.stern@sierraclub.org) (jacob.stern@sierraclub.org) with questions or interest.

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

Learn More

New Volunteer Welcome Orientation

Wednesday, July 14 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

Tuesday, July 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, July 25 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

Support Clean Energy and Climate Justice in Boston!

The City of Boston has released a draft policy to accelerate decarbonization of buildings by setting new emissions reduction targets for buildings to meet, with the goal of being carbon free by 2050. Review the presentation of the [draft policy](#) and contact [Michele](#) to assist in submitting comments.



[Take action by sending a message to city leaders through our AddUp campaign here!](#)

[Take Action Now](#)

Boston Team Launch Meeting

Tuesday, July 13 at 5:00pm
Virtual Event

Join us for the launch meeting of our Volunteer Team that will be focused on Boston Advocacy work! We will be discussing our priorities for clean energy and climate justice policies in Boston, as well as beginning to formulate our action plan for our Volunteer Team.

[RSVP Here](#)

Transportation Matters

Expand Access to Nature - Urge Your Legislator to Cosponsor the Transit to Trails Act

The bill would direct millions of dollars to support expanding transit links between our public lands and green spaces and our communities nationwide. It will help support outdoor equity and reduce climate pollution at the same time as increasing access to the health benefits of

nature. People need nature near where they live.

[Read this blog post](#) on how access to local parks and green spaces is hampered due to the limitations of public transit.

[Please sign the petition](#) to urge your legislators to cosponsor the Transit to Trails Act!

MOR-EV Rebate for Trucks

The Baker administration has expanded the MOR-EV program to include a \$10 million commitment to fund electric medium-and heavy-duty vehicles. Rebate values vary by vehicle weight rating, ranging from \$7,500 for pickup trucks up to \$90,000 for tractor trailer trucks. Rebates decline over time and are available for public, private, and commercial fleets. Vehicles registered or operating in communities that meet the environmental justice income criteria are eligible for an additional 10% rebate.



[Click here for details of the MOR-EV Rebate for Trucks.](#)

Please share program details with municipal staff and local electeds in your community.

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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

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](#)

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Tuesday, July 6 at 7:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Forest Protection Team Meeting

Thursday, July 8 at 7:00pm

The purpose of this team is to protect forests from human interference throughout Massachusetts to maximize carbon sequestration, promote biodiversity and optimize human health

[RSVP Here](#)

Toxics Team Meeting

Monday, July 12 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.

Boston Team Meeting **Tuesday, July 13 at 5:00pm**

Join us for the launch meeting of our Volunteer Team that will be focused on Boston Advocacy work!

[RSVP Here](#)

Political Committee Meeting **Tuesday, July 13 at 6:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Executive Committee Meeting **Thursday, July 15 at 5:30pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting **Wednesday, July 21 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](#)

Transportation Committee Meeting **Thursday, July 22 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

Biochar: what it is and what it isn't

Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00pm

Virtual Event



Rachel Smolker is co-director of Biofuelwatch. Her work has spanned local grassroots organizing to participation in international processes, including the United Nations conventions on climate and biodiversity. She has researched, written and organized on the impacts of biofuels, bioenergy and biochar on land use, forests, biodiversity, food, people and the climate. This event is part of the Forest Speakers Series, a collaboration of Climate Action Now and Save Massachusetts Forests.

[Learn More](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [Heat emergency in Boston starts Monday with temperatures expected hit the mid-90s](#) (Boston Globe, 6/26/21)
- [Wu advocates for use of city assets for climate-resilient, affordable housing](#) (Jamaica Plain Gazette, 6/25/21)
- [Peabody commission hears concerns about planned power plant](#) (The Salem News, 6/25/21)
- [As sea levels rise, city may find stormwater has nowhere to go](#) (Dorchester Reporter via WBUR, 6/24/21)
- [Medline in Uxbridge to install the largest rooftop solar array in Massachusetts](#) (MassLive, 6/22/21)
- ['By design or neglect': Flood, climate hazards threaten MA's redlined neighborhoods](#) (Taunton Daily Gazette via USA Today Network, 6/17/21)
- [Sen. Ed Markey-led provisions on auto safety, rail upgrades that could boost East-West rail advance in proposed \\$78B transportation bill](#) (MassLive, 6/16/21)

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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