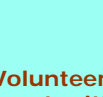




April 2015



Donate Today
Support our work in Massachusetts

Volunteer Opportunities
There are many ways you can get involved with the Sierra Club's activities. [Click here.](#)

Earth Day Cleanup, Cambridge Bans Plastic Bags and More!

Dear Fellow Sierran,

Climate hope is rising. The rate of increase of greenhouse gas emissions is slowing. For the first time, China has agreed to greenhouse gas emission reductions in its historic agreement with the US. Sierra Club members from the NE region and beyond were among the 400,000 who marched in the largest climate demonstration ever in New York City last September. That March preceded the UN Climate Summit called by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to prepare for the Paris conference this fall. Pope Francis will issue an Encyclical on Climate later this year.

With a new Chapter Director, Emily Norton, and a dedicated and energized Board of veteran and new members, the Chapter has set an ambitious agenda to build on the growing momentum for action with a laser focus on energy issues in the Commonwealth through public education, legislative action, and outreach.

By now, you will have received our annual request for donations. If you have sent in a contribution, thank you! If you have not yet done so, please be as generous as your heart and vision will allow.

We have been working hard, for many years, to get to this point. With your support, we can make 2015 a watershed year for climate action - here in Massachusetts and all over our planet.

Cathy Ann Buckley
Chair, Mass Sierra Club

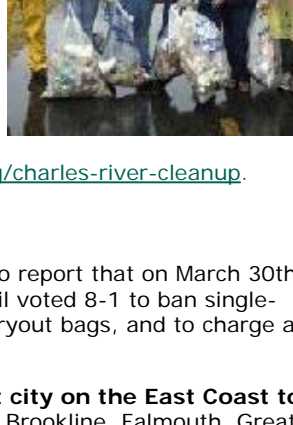
16th Annual Earth Day Charles River Clean Up

Hard to believe with snow on the ground that Earth Day is right around the corner! Please join Massachusetts Sierra Club, the Charles River Watershed Association and many other organizations, community groups and volunteers as we celebrate Earth Day by beautifying the banks of the Charles River from Bellingham to Boston.

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015
Time: 9am-12pm

Location: Various locations along the Charles River

Learn more and register online at www.charlesriver.org/charles-river-clean-up.



Cambridge Bans Plastic Bags



We are thrilled to be able to report that on March 30th the Cambridge City Council voted 8-1 to ban single-use, lightweight plastic carryout bags, and to charge a fee for paper bags.

Cambridge is the largest city on the East Coast to ban plastic bags, joining Brookline, Falmouth, Great Barrington, Manchester, Marblehead, Nantucket, Newburyport, Newton and Provincetown.

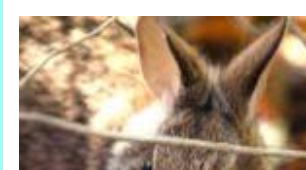
Mass. Sierra Club worked on this effort for years in partnership with Green Cambridge and it shows what hard work can accomplish. (Photo at left shows Sierra Club volunteers Phil Segó and Clint Richmond speaking in favor of the ban.)

A huge thanks to City Councillors voting in favor: Mayor David P. Maher, Dennis Benzan, Dennis Carlone, Leland Cheung, Craig Kelley, Nadeem Mazen, Marc McGovern, and Denise Simmons.

People all over Europe are in the habit of bringing reusable bags, and more and more Americans are making the switch. It is doable, and it is a tangible way to reduce plastic pollution, reduce litter and save marine animals.

If you are not in Cambridge and would like to promote a plastic bag ban in your community, contact volunteer extraordinaire Clint Richmond at crbrookline@aol.com for how to get started. (Check out this great [Letter to the Editor](#) from a Hamilton resident!)

Don't Toss That Envelope

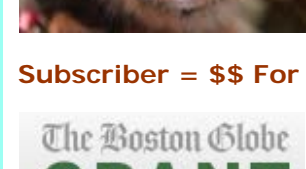


By now you should have received our annual fundraiser mailing. Our work depends on your financial support so [please be as generous as you can!](#)

Your support is what allows us to be on the ground advocating for laws and regulations to protect our wildlife, land, coastline and waterways.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Mass Sierra Club Member + Boston Globe Subscriber = \$\$ For Mass Sierra Club



Speaking of financial support, if you're a print or digital subscriber to the Boston Globe you were mailed a voucher that you can contribute to your favorite non-profit.

The **Globe GRANT** program enables readers to show their support for non-profits by choosing which ones are given free advertising space in The Boston Globe. **Mass Sierra Club is an eligible non-profit!** A free advertising opportunity in the Globe is a great way to give the Mass. Sierra Club Chapter more visibility and support for the important work of the Chapter.

If you haven't yet submitted your voucher or you can't find it, it's easy to contribute online [here](#). Just complete the online form with your subscriber information, type in Mass. Sierra Club and submit! What could be easier? The grant opportunity ends April 30th; don't delay if you have an unused voucher!

Somerset Debates Next Steps Beyond Coal

Sierra Club Beyond Coal organizer Drew Grande attended a [briefing](#) March 14th held by State Rep. Patricia A. Haddad (D-Somerset) and State Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport) to brief local residents on [pending legislation](#) related to clean energy and power plant decommissioning. When Somerset's Brayton Point is retired in 2017, Massachusetts will be completely coal-free!



Join Us for Solar Lobby Day on April 7

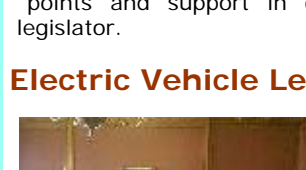
Across the country solar energy is growing rapidly -- but dirty fuel companies and some utilities are trying to hold back solar energy growth. To protect Massachusetts solar programs we're organizing a solar lobby day, Tuesday April 7 in Boston.

[RSVP today to let us know you can join the lobby day to defend solar energy in Massachusetts!](#)

Once you've signed up, we'll follow-up with talking points and support in connecting you with your legislator.



Electric Vehicle Legislative Briefing



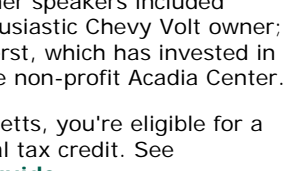
On March 24, Sierra Club's Gina Coplon-Newfield, Director of Electric Vehicles Initiative, spoke at a legislative briefing organized by Rep. Jonathan Hecht (D-Watertown) and Rep. Frank Smizik (D-Brookline).

The event was very well attended by over sixty legislators and staff. Gina made the points that electric vehicles are 50-71% lower in greenhouse gas emissions than conventional cars, even factoring in the emissions from electricity-- and run on electricity generated right here at home, thus reducing our reliance on foreign oil. Other speakers included Representative Jeffrey Roy (D-Franklin) who is an enthusiastic Chevy Volt owner; Bill Watts, Manager of Fleet Operations at UMass Amherst, which has invested in EV infrastructure; and Mark LeBel, Staff Attorney at the non-profit Acadia Center.

If you purchase or lease a plug-in vehicle in Massachusetts, you're eligible for a \$1,500-2,500 rebate in addition to the generous federal tax credit. See <https://mor-ev.org/> and www.sierraclub.org/evguide.

Carbon Tax Leader Coming to Boston on April 13

[Christy Clark](#), premier of the Canadian province of British Columbia (akin to a governor here) will be in Boston on April 13 to share BC's experience with a carbon tax. BC instituted a fee on fossil-fuel burning activities in 2008 and since then has seen greenhouse gas emissions in the province plummet nearly 20% while maintaining economic growth.

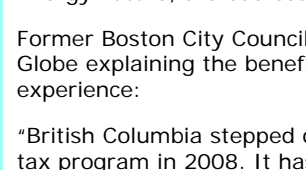


Premier Clark will be appearing with a panel of experts at MIT's Morss Hall on Monday, April 13 at 1:00 pm; the event is free and open to the public. Her visit is sponsored by the Massachusetts Campaign for a Clean Energy Future, a broad coalition including Mass. Sierra Club.

Former Boston City Councilor Mike Ross wrote a [terrific column](#) in the Boston Globe explaining the benefits of a carbon tax and referencing British Columbia's experience:

"British Columbia stepped out in front of the rest of Canada and introduced its carbon tax program in 2008. It has substantially cut emissions and also experienced high economic growth. Politically, the carbon tax has been a winner, with two-thirds of those surveyed in a recent poll in the province favoring the law. Meanwhile, the province's personal income taxes are tied for being the lowest in all of Canada."

#WageAction Rally on April 14



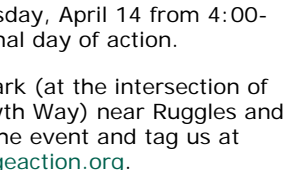
Massachusetts Sierra Club is a strong supporter of the #WageAction coalition which consists of community, labor, religious, environmental and student organizations focused on supporting workers' rights and the fight against income inequality, and in particular calls for a livable wage of \$15/hour.

A rally is taking place Tuesday, April 14 from 4:00-6:00 pm as part of a national day of action.

Rally location is Forsyth Park (at the intersection of Huntington Ave. and Forsyth Way) near Ruggles and Northeastern MBTA Stops. (Please tweet photos from the event and tag us at @masssierraclub!) For more information visit www.wageaction.org.

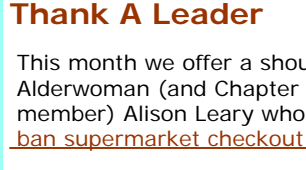
Thank A Leader

This month we offer a shoutout to Newton Alderwoman (and Chapter Executive Committee member) Alison Leary who led the successful [effort to ban supermarket checkout plastic bags in Newton](#).



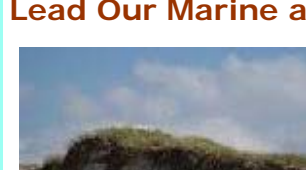
She credits this result to months of outreach to businesses to get their buy-in. Now she is working with a committee to ensure a smooth transition as affected businesses have six months to draw down their supply of bags.

Lead Our Marine and Coastal Work



Our Marine & Coastal Committee is seeking a new leader. Committee members attend public meetings, submit comments on behalf of the Chapter, advise Chapter leadership on marine and coastal issues, and coordinate action with the National Sierra Club Marine Action Team. Among the issues this committee works on: climate change and eutrophication; state/federal ocean planning; protecting North Atlantic right whales; fighting overfishing, sand and gravel mining, and navy sonar training. Contact us at 617-423-5775 or [email](#) if you are interested in taking on this important leadership position.

Outings in Massachusetts... and Beyond



Sierra Club founder John Muir said in 1901, "If people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish."

To that end Sierra Club Outings offer [environmentally friendly outdoor adventures](#) from Tahoe to Tibet, including two coming on [Martha's Vineyard in May and October](#). Click [here](#) for more details and to sign up! (And send us any photos from your trip we can share on social media!)

National Sierra Club Elections Are Underway - VOTE!



The election of Sierra Club Board of Directors is underway. A minimum of 5% participation is required for the election to be valid. Please [click here](#) for details and to vote!

Events and Meetings

Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
Sunday, April 12, 2015, 12:30-3:00 pm, preceded by noon informal get-together
Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 840 Sandwich Road, East Falmouth

The agenda will include reports on projects and issues on Cape Cod and the Islands and updates on legislative, renewable energy, and climate issues. All are welcome. Contact Cathy Buckley chapter_chair@sierraclubmass.org.

Transportation Committee Meeting

Sunday, April 7, 2015, 7:00-8:30 pm
Chapter office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston

Our highways, built to sustain our sprawling suburbs, add to our pollution and energy problems and increase our dependence on an unhealthy and unsustainable auto-centric way of life. Join us to help find out what you can do to encourage the public transit and pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly communities throughout the state. Contact David Heimann heimann.david@gmail.com.

Energy Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2015, 4:00 pm
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston

Agenda includes reports on climate change, energy justice concerns, ocean and coastal topics, and Sierra Club involvement in Cuba. Contact David Heimann heimann.david@gmail.com.

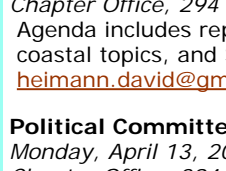
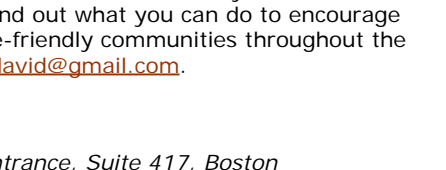
Political Committee Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2015, 6:00-8:00 pm
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston

Agenda includes discussing endorsing municipal elections this year, and meeting with Jordan Powers from Mass Alliance. Contact David Rudolph cc@sierraclubmass.org.

Save Energy and Money With Next Step Living

The Sierra Club is working with Next Step Living to promote energy efficiency measures in thousands of Massachusetts homes using federal and state tax benefits and cost cutting programs. Help yourself and your Chapter by [signing up today for a free home energy audit](#), to lower your energy bills while reducing your environmental impact. Each free audit and Next Step Living purchase initiated through [this website](#) benefits the Massachusetts Chapter!



GO SOLAR with the Sierra Club's Home Solar Initiative with Sungevity. Solar costs have come down and government incentives have made the installation of solar panels a smart financial decision. You can now install a solar system on your rooftop for a fraction of what it used to cost. Within minutes after installation, you'll become a clean-energy producer, even selling power back to your electric company. [Click here to learn more.](#) Special Offer - Sign up now and you'll receive a \$750 cash gift card (and Sierra Club receives \$750 as well!). [Request your quote now](#) and find out how solar is more affordable than ever.

The Sierra Club is the nation's largest and oldest grassroots environmental organization with over 1 million members and supporters, of which 22,000 are here in Massachusetts. We fight for clean air, clean water, the preservation of the Commonwealth's most precious natural spaces, and healthy, vibrant communities.

About the E-Sierran

The E-Sierran is the electronic newsletter of the Massachusetts Sierra Club. In an effort to reduce printing costs and the environmental impacts of print communications, the Chapter publishes this monthly e-newsletter to members and subscribers. In accordance with our privacy policy the Sierra Club does not sell or otherwise disclose emails or other such user information outside the organization. [Click here to view our privacy policy.](#)

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