

JUNE 2016

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**Dear Members and Supporters,**



Energy legislation is moving through the Mass. legislature. Massachusetts Sierra Club volunteers and staff have spent many hours to ensure that the energy and other environmental bills we are supporting are as good as can be. **Thank you for taking action when we have asked you to, and please keep it up! It is making a difference.**

Cathy Ann Buckley  
Chapter Chair

**Mass. House & Senate Each Pass Bills to Establish Offshore Wind**



In May the Mass. House passed its version of the "Omnibus" energy bill. It requires electric utilities to solicit bids and purchase 1200 megawatts of offshore wind power, 1200 megawatts of **hydropower**, and also set strict timeframes for utilities to repair gas leaks. In June the Senate passed their version which upped the offshore wind purchase to 2000 megawatts, boosted renewable energy purchasing requirements on electric utilities, and included aggressive energy efficiency and storage provisions.

**These initial bills are an important victory for Sierra Club and our allies who worked to encourage expansion of renewable energy resources - and no new pipelines for fracked gas!**

We organized meetings in cities and towns across Massachusetts for Sierra Club members and supporters to urge legislators to support clean energy - everywhere from E. Longmeadow to Provincetown, Hingham to Haverhill, Sandwich to Lowell, Melrose, Quincy, Brockton and more. [Watch a video](#) of Chapter Chair Cathy Buckley speaking about pipelines to a group in Haverhill.

The Senate will vote on their bill TODAY (June 30), then the two bills will go to a Conference Committee to hash out the differences, and this all has to happen by July 31. **Stay tuned!**

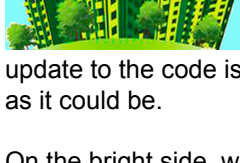
**Fracked Gas Pipelines**



We are still celebrating the demise of the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Pipeline while working to stop many others. See the comments your Sierra Club chapter submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) questioning the need for two other pipelines: [Access Northeast](#) and the [Atlantic Bridge](#). It is not only these pipelines that are of great concern, but also related infrastructure, such as a major compression station in Weymouth and two huge liquified natural gas (LNG) tanks in Acushnet.

**Baker Administration Considering Greener Building Codes**

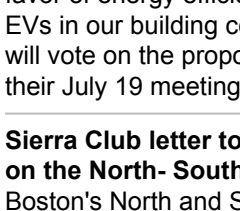
[Massachusetts is #1 in energy efficiency](#) five years running. Now this leadership is at risk. Mass. was the first state to institute a voluntary, more energy efficient "stretch" building code, but the proposed update to the code is not as ambitious as it could be.



On the bright side, we do support two proposed changes to the base code - requiring that new construction be wired for electric-vehicle charging, and that roofs be solar-ready. The Massachusetts Sierra Club sent this [joint letter](#) in October to Energy & Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton and [this letter](#) to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) last month. They outline our concerns on updates to the "stretch code." **Thanks to YOU**, the BBRS received over 850 comments in favor of energy efficiency, solar and EVs in our building codes! The BBRS will vote on the proposed changes at their July 19 meeting.

**Sierra Club letter to Governor Baker on the North- South Rail Link**

Boston's North and South Station terminals host commuter rail and Amtrak service. Plans to add capacity at South Station will not relieve all the growing congestion. Linking these two stations will unify Boston's commuter rail hubs and extend direct Amtrak service to Maine. We recently [wrote Governor Baker](#) to reiterate our support for the North-South Rail Link as an effective regional transportation solution for our residents, workers, visitors and economy. Visit our [North-South Rail Link page](#) on our website for a lot more info.



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**Powered by Interns**



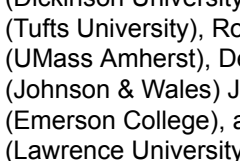
Welcome to our summer interns: Michele Brooks (Westfield State University), Amanda Brangwynne (Dickinson University), Luca Guadagno (Tufts University), Robert Kearns (UMass Amherst), Deaniah Malcolm (Johnson & Wales) Julia Tranfaglia (Emerson College), and Emma Walter (Lawrence University).

**We will give them an enriching experience like no other and look forward to an exciting, inspiring summer with these future environmental leaders!**

**More Municipalities Vote to #BanTheBag**



To date 35 Massachusetts municipalities have passed plastic bag bans and the State Senate passed a bag ban in May as an amendment to their budget bill. We have incredible momentum to reduce this form of plastic pollution along roadways and especially in rivers, streams and our oceans. We are especially inspired by the Ipswich [high school students](#) who worked hard to enact a ban there. It began as a school project, but when the semester ended, these students did not stop, they took their cause to Town Meeting. Also in plastics news, Sierra Club volunteer Larry Stoodt was quoted in [this article](#) about Framingham and our Plastics lead Clint Richmond was quoted in [this article](#) which profiles the new Mass Green Network of which Sierra Club is a charter member. **Onward!**



**TAKE ACTION to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators**

[Urge your legislators](#) to support a bill that would help protect bees from neonicotinoid pesticides by removing them from consumer use. This would be a huge step forward in the fight to save bees!



**Please Take Action Now!**

**Take Action!**

**TAKE ACTION to Ban Flame Retardants**

Click here to urge your legislators to support a bill that would BAN toxic flame retardants. Last month, the Senate passed a bill that would ban eleven harmful flame retardants from children's products and household furniture. The MA House must follow suit by the close of the session so the bill can become law. [Please contact your State Representative today](#) to urge support for legislation banning harmful flame retardants in Massachusetts.



**Please Take Action Now!**

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**Recent Press Coverage**

- Cathy Buckley, Chair, and Nathan Philips, Executive Committee Member, are quoted in this article "[Study Shows Hundreds of Gas Leaks in Merrimack Valley](#)" that draws attention to the environmental consequences of pipeline gas leaks, and the impact on ratepayer utility bills.

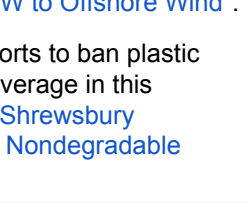


- Read Chapter Director, Emily Norton's views on the Energy Omnibus legislation in "[Proposed Mass Energy Bill Devotes 1.2GW to Offshore Wind](#)".

- Sierra Club's efforts to ban plastic received news coverage in this Telegram article "[Shrewsbury Approves Ban on Nondegradable Bags](#)"

**Environmental Movie Night**

On Thursday, **July 14, 2016, from 6:00-8:00 PM**, we are hosting an environmental movie night with MCAN (Mass Climate Action Network) at Atlantic Wharf, Boston.



We will be screening two short films by children's book author Lynne Cherry then **Oscar-winning filmmaker Charles Ferguson's** new film **Time to Choose** featuring Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

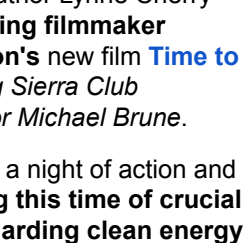
Please [join us](#) for a night of action and negotiation **during this time of crucial negotiations regarding clean energy in Massachusetts.**

**Sign Up**

The event is free but you need to [register](#) and please bring your checkbooks to help support the great work the Sierra Club and MCAN do!

**JOIN the "People Over Pipelines" March July 14-18**

With the climate crisis growing more serious by the day, we need leadership and bold action - and it's going to have to come from us.



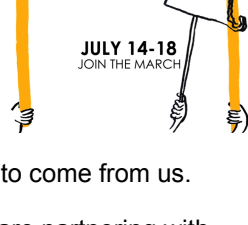
This summer we are partnering with 350 Mass and Mass Power Forward on an epic, **five-day, 43-mile march against new gas pipelines.** We'll walk the route of the Spectra pipelines and onward to the State House to show our leaders that if they don't stop the pipelines, the people will! **JOIN US for a summer to remember.**

**Sign Up**

and [check out](#) the website for full details on the route, housing, transportation, and more.

**Launching of "Park & Pedal" Lots for Commuters**

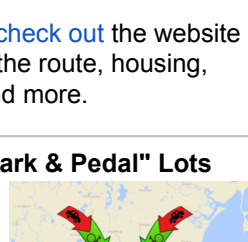
There is now a large network of FREE parking lots for commuters to keep their cars out of the city, and ride their bikes instead. We were happy to attend the official June launch. The [Park & Pedal program](#) offers commuters a way to reduce their environmental emissions (which account for over 30% of our state's greenhouse gases) while getting some great exercise, and avoiding traffic. [Find the Park & Pedal lot best for you.](#) For an even greater impact, [drive electric to the lot.](#)



**Cambridge Arts River Fest** [The Cambridge Arts River Festival](#) is a great Cambridge combo: diversity + entrepreneurial spirit, infused with love for the environment. We shared information on many issues facing us in Massachusetts - clean energy legislation, stopping fracked gas pipelines, and plastic bag bans in Boston. Folks got to check out an electric car, and even register to vote. We're already looking forward to next year!

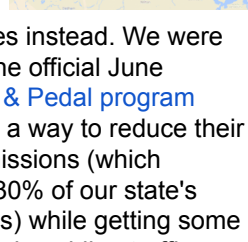
**Engaging the Music Community for Environmental Action**

We listened to the beat of enthusiasm from the music community, the artists and their great fans, about the urgent environmental issues facing Massachusetts. Through our friends at [Reverb](#), the Dave Matthews Band and The Barenaked Ladies turned out some incredible people at two inspiring concerts. Big thanks to our new friends and these terrific bands for creating music for a great cause, and fun times!



**Help Green the Music Scene with our Friends at the Reverb**

Hope you'll join us at Mansfield's live music scene this summer. **Be a REVERB volunteer** at the Xfinity Center summer concerts - support sustainability & catch a show! You'll help eliminate single-use plastic bottles and learn about sustainability in music. [REVERB volunteers](#) receive a t-shirt and a pass to watch the headlining act.



**Sign Up**

**Meetings + Events**

*Please check our website for updates*

**Chapter Political Committee Meeting**

*Tuesday, July 5, 2016, 6:00 - 7:30 PM*  
Massachusetts Sierra Club Office  
294 Washington Street, Suite 417, Boston, MA 02108

Do you want to see more environmentalists elected to public office? Do you care about the future of democracy? If yes, the Sierra Club's Political Committee Needs YOU - especially in this busy election year - in our work to identify, endorse, and support green candidates. Chapter political committee meetings are open to active Sierra Club, or Sierra Club members only. [Join today!](#) Contact David Rudolph [dcrudolph@ieee.org](mailto:dcrudolph@ieee.org).

**Transportation Committee**

*Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 10:00 AM - noon*  
Massachusetts Sierra Club Office  
294 Washington Street, Suite 417, Boston, MA 02108

All are welcome. Contact George O'Toole [g\\_otoole@verizon.net](mailto:g_otoole@verizon.net).

**6th Annual Clean Energy Festival**

*Sunday, July 31, 2016, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM*  
Berkshire East Mountain Resort  
66 Thunder Mountain Road, Charlemont, MA 01339

Join Mass Energy, People's Power & Light, and the Center for a wind turbine tour, solar array tour, electric vehicle test drives, and mountain-top adventures at Berkshire East Mountain Resort! Register [here](#) and for additional information.

**Chapter Executive Committee Meeting**

*Saturday, August 6, 2016, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM*  
Massachusetts Sierra Club Office  
294 Washington Street, Suite 417, Boston, MA 02108

All are welcome. Contact Cathy Buckley [chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org).