

**Dear Fellow Members + Supporters,**

We are witnessing the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel age.

This industry is in a frenzy to sell as much of their product as they can, and block our clean-energy future. Intense lobbying is going on at the State House from utilities, pipeline companies, and the oil and gas industries to bury us in a fossil-fuel future.

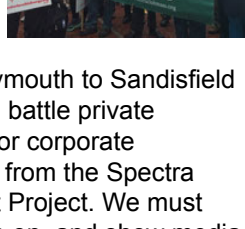
If there was ever a time when your help was needed, it is now. Please take action using the alerts below (the omnibus energy bill, stopping the pipeline tax, putting a price on carbon). If you are available to meet with legislators and their staff, please contact us. We have a short window of opportunity to get good energy legislation and to stop dangerous, expensive, unnecessary fossil-fuel projects.

It's serious. Take a vacation day. Bring the kids - they're great lobbyists, and they'll remind our representatives of what we are fighting for.

Cathy Ann Buckley  
Chapter Chair

**Kinder Morgan Puts Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Pipeline On Hold**

We were ecstatic to hear the news + just before Earth Day, no less! Although Kinder Morgan cited "lack of customer demand" as their reason for suspending NED, we know our work paid off. Multiple protests, letters of opposition, and news coverage were testament to the strength of the anti-pipeline community in fighting this unnecessary, profit-driven corporate project. See the chapter's official statement [here](#).



**Much Remains To Be Done**

Communities from West Roxbury and Weymouth to Sandisfield and Acushnet still battle private eminent domain for corporate fracked-gas profit from the Spectra Access Northeast Project. We must keep the pressure on, and show media and decision-makers that increased investment in fossil fuels is economic and climate folly.

**What? They Want Us to Pay for Pipelines?!**

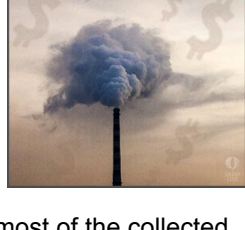
The Dept. of Public Utilities has already decided it would be fine to charge electricity users for fracked-gas pipelines. We have to make sure that this unprecedented, outrageous charge never happens. Why don't pipeline companies want to pay for these new pipelines themselves, as they always have? As one member of the MA Supreme Judicial Court put it at a hearing on May 5, "Because they [pipelines] are risky." Thus the fossil-fuel industry, including utilities, figure they can convince our elected officials to force us to pick up the tab. Profits but no risk for them.

**ACTION: Say NO to fracked-gas pipelines!** Take action to send a message to your legislators that you oppose new fracked-gas pipelines, and support onshore + offshore wind, solar power, and aggressive energy efficiency measures.

**ACTION: Join our Clean Energy Action Brigade** and help us keep the pressure on to keep high-pressure pipelines out!

**Put a Price on Carbon**

We have a chance to get the MA Senate to pass a bill that would put a price on carbon. All or most of the collected revenue would be given back to us. Pricing carbon is the most straightforward and elegant way there is to accelerate our march to a clean, renewable future. And it has been [proven successful](#) in British Columbia and elsewhere.



**ACTION: Take action** to urge Governor Baker + your legislators to put a price on carbon.

**June 14 Hearing for Greening Up Building Codes**

Some buildings are big energy hogs, and thus pose great opportunities to reduce emissions by increasing efficiency and design standards.



With our voluntary "stretch" building energy code, Massachusetts has been a leader in energy efficiency in the built environment. The Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) has proposed updating the stretch code with a version we and others find much too weak.

**The public comment period is now open, and a hearing will be held in Boston on June 14.** Find the draft stretch code [here](#). We need to urge a strengthening of the stretch code, ensuring that our buildings become more and more efficient. We sent this [coalition letter](#) to Energy and Environment Secretary Matthew Beaton last October.

In addition, the BBRS is considering adding EV-ready wiring and solar ready roofs to the base building code. We strongly support these changes. Visit [here](#) for the changes, and click [here](#) for an FAQ on the EV-ready wiring piece.

**ACTION:** Please submit comments to [felix.zemel@state.ma.us](mailto:felix.zemel@state.ma.us).

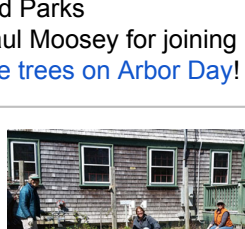
**Celebrating Arbor Day with the Worcester Tree Initiative and EcoTarium**

On Arbor Day, we gathered for a celebratory tree planting in Worcester. Partnering with the Worcester Tree Initiative and EcoTarium, we facilitated tree donations from [Bigelow](#) and [Busy Bee](#) nurseries, and joined in the planting! Thank you to all who came out with us on Arbor Day, [we made the local news!](#) Special thanks to Worcester City Manager Ed Augustus, State Representatives Mary Keefe and James O'Day, City Councilor Candy Mero-Carlsson, and Paul Moosey Commissioner for joining us to [celebrate the trees on Arbor Day!](#)



**Cape Cod + Islands Group Cleans Up Waquoit Bay**

On April 30, 2016 the Cape Cod + Islands Group celebrated Mass. Park Serve Day with a cleanup program at the [Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#). We had a hearty crew who spruced up the grounds around the boathouse, weeded and mulched and did general cleanup. Most had not been to the reserve before and were impressed with the facilities and extent of the grounds. Special thanks to Jim Rassman and Nancy Church for hosting our event!



**On the hunt for a new car? Join the Rev Up EVs Campaign**

The Sierra Club has just launched [Rev Up EVs](#), an exciting new campaign that will get more electric vehicles on the road across the country. We need people like you to be a key part of and **all you need to do is check out electric cars near you and help us understand how well auto dealers are doing to sell these cars.** We'll make it easy, and we think you'll have fun doing it, too.



You'll be provided with a list of dealerships near you, a two-minute [how-to video](#) and the online questionnaire with a few simple questions to answer about your car dealership or store experience.

Only with your first-hand accounts can we ensure that our EV goals are reached and that emissions standards are protected for years to come.

The campaign will be ending in late May. To join the campaign for clean transportation, visit [www.sierraclub.org/rev-up-evs-signup](http://www.sierraclub.org/rev-up-evs-signup) or contact [mary.lunetta@sierraclub.org](mailto:mary.lunetta@sierraclub.org) to learn more.



**Our Stance on the Impending "Omnibus Energy Bill"**

Lawmakers will soon be debating critical energy legislation. As we prepare to close our state's last coal and nuclear power plants, we are facing an unprecedented

opportunity for renewable energy to flourish.

The impending "omnibus energy bill" will lay out guidelines for how Massachusetts' utilities may procure electricity for decades to come. With Massachusetts already overly-reliant on fracked-gas, and with methane leakage an increasingly alarming climate threat, we need to do everything we can to stop new pipelines. Generating electricity is responsible for over 20% of our greenhouse gas emissions. We must show support for onshore + offshore wind, solar power, energy efficiency and conservation measures, all the local jobs that come with those industries, and the clean air that follows. On Earth Day, the Massachusetts Sierra Club sent [this letter](#) to every state legislator, outlining what we do and do NOT want to see in the omnibus energy bill.

**ACTION: Say NO to fracked gas pipelines!** Take action to tell your legislators that you oppose new fracked gas pipelines, and support onshore + offshore wind, solar power, and aggressive energy efficiency measures.

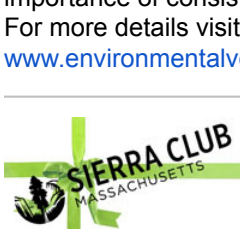


**Get Out the Green Vote**

Did you know 280,000 Massachusetts voters who care about the environment sat out the last gubernatorial election? And over fifteen million

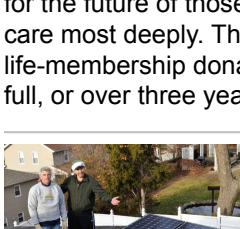
environmentalists across the country are not in the habit of voting.

The Environmental Voter Project (EVP) is a new Boston based nonprofit that uses big data to identify people who care about the environment, but don't vote -- and then uses cutting edge techniques to get them to become habitual voters. EVP met with the Mass. Chapter Executive Committee in April to share data and talk about ways to work together. EVP is non-partisan and does not endorse candidates, but uses volunteer canvassers to contact these environmentally-concerned non-voters and talk about the importance of consistent voting habits. For more details visit [www.environmentalvoter.org](http://www.environmentalvoter.org).



**A Great Gift for a New Baby, Graduate or Newlywed - for a Bright Future**

Consider a gift that will reverberate for a lifetime. A [Sierra Club life membership](#) says you want your loved ones to continue to enjoy the wonderful habitat that Mother Nature has provided us all. This gift will never break or get lost, and will only increase in value. It is a solid, caring investment for the future of those for whom you care most deeply. The \$1,000 life-membership donation is payable in full, or over three years, interest-free.

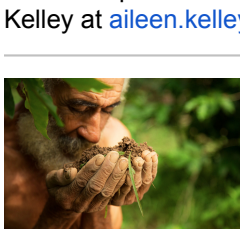


**Sungevity Customers! Show Off Those Panels!**

Sungevity and Sierra Club Massachusetts have teamed up to support a greener, cleaner future. Many Sierra Club members are powering their lives with sunshine through Sungevity Solar, stepping closer to a more sustainable tomorrow. For every Sierra Club member who teams up with Sungevity Solar, Sungevity donates to the local chapter!

If you have already gone solar, please consider [emailing us](#) a brief testimonial about living with solar, or sending a picture of you with your solar panels. Help us encourage others to join you in going solar.

**Would you consider hosting a solar event?** Say "yes" and we'll provide the food, fun, & festivities, and the MA Chapter will bring the friends, family, and fellow Sierra Club members. If you can host a solar house party, please email Chapter Coordinator Aileen Kelley at [aileen.kelley@sierraclub.org](mailto:aileen.kelley@sierraclub.org).



**Love Thy Nature Film Screening on April 20**

On April 20, in celebration of Earth Day, we screened the film [Love Thy Nature](#), narrated by Liam Neeson. The film is a cinematic immersion into the beauty and intimacy of our relationship with the natural world. With mesmerizing artistry and fascinating details, the film explores how nature nourishes us. Thank you to everyone who attended and we hope to host similar events in the future. Please contact Chapter Coordinator Aileen Kelley at [aileen.kelley@sierraclub.org](mailto:aileen.kelley@sierraclub.org) if you have a venue we can use or would like to help organize events.



The lover of nature is he whose inward and outward senses are still truly adjusted to each other; who has retained the spirit of infancy even into the era of manhood.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nature

**Meetings + Events**

**Chapter Executive Committee Meeting**

Saturday, May 21, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM  
294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston, MA 02108  
All are welcome. For more info or questions contact Cathy Buckley at [chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org).

**Tree Spotters Needed at The Arnold Arboretum**

Sunday, May 15, 2:00-4:00 PM  
Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, 125 Arborway, Boston, MA 02130  
Your observations will assist Arboretum scientists in their studies of the effects of a changing climate on plants. All levels of experience are welcome.

**The Summit on Race and Equity: A Call to Government and Community**

Monday, May 16, 8:00 AM - Tuesday, May 17, 5:00 PM  
Curry Student Center, North-eastern University  
360 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115  
Led by a collaborative of community residents, organizations, and government leaders committed to transformation and healing, the City of Boston has joined a national movement to ensure that policies and practices that impact the lives of residents are just and equitable. This is a two-day summit in partnership with Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh to advance racial equity in the City of Boston.

**Chapter Greater Boston Group Meeting**

Tuesday, May 17, 6:00-7:30 PM  
294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston, MA 02108  
All are welcome. For more info or questions contact Keith Burrows at [kdburrows@yahoo.com](mailto:kdburrows@yahoo.com).

**Chapter Transportation Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, June 7, 6:30-8:30 PM  
294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston, MA 02108  
All are welcome. For more info or questions contact George O'Toole at [gotoole721@verizon.net](mailto:gotoole721@verizon.net).