



## Election results | TPP is not in our interest | Are the Koch brothers driving Mass. solar policy? + more!

Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter

Wed, Jan 20, 2016 at 8:00 AM



January 2016

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### Message from the Chapter Chair



Dear Members and Supporters,

I hope you enjoyed our balmy holiday weather. I did, although with some concern for the underlying causes. That concern was raised significantly when I read that the temperatures at the North Pole at Christmas time were about 50°F higher than the norm: above freezing rather than about 20°F below.

Many events in 2015 that address climate change were heartening, from the Papal Encyclical to the Paris climate accords. Now we must take that momentum and push forward, fast. For what we have accomplished so far is not nearly enough.

How can you help? Follow through on our action alerts below (legislators listen to constituents). If you are not a member, please [join us](#), [volunteer](#), and/or [donate](#).

In 2036, let humanity look back with pride, because a score of years before, we decided that we would do whatever was necessary to put the brakes on climate chaos. Thank you.

Cathy Ann Buckley  
Chapter Chair

### Tell U.S. Reps Moulton + Neal the TPP is Not in Our Interest



The [Trans Pacific Partnership \(TPP\)](#) is a free trade agreement backed by President Obama but requires congressional approval. Sierra Club *strongly* opposes the TPP because it undermines our transition to clean energy and threatens environmental protections.

For example, under a previous trade agreement (NAFTA), the Canadian corporation [TransCanada has announced its plan to sue the United States](#) for \$15 billion for rejecting the KXL Pipeline. This is one of the primary reasons labor, environmental and other organizations are adamantly opposed to the TPP. **We are effectively allowing financially-motivated corporations to overrule U.S. sovereign decision-making.** For more details and to find out how to help, contact Chapter Chair [Cathy Buckley](#).

**ACTION:** President Obama may sign this treaty as early as February 4th. While most of the Massachusetts congressional delegation is firmly opposed to the TPP, Representatives Moulton and Neal have not yet stated their positions. It is especially important that they hear from you, their constituents. Please click to contact [Rep. Moulton \(202\) 225-8020](#) and [Rep. Neal \(202\) 225-5601](#).

### Are the Koch Brothers Driving Massachusetts Solar Policy?



Last November the Mass. House passed [H.3854](#), a bill that would cripple our state's growing solar industry - an industry that employs nearly 15,000 workers. (Here is our guest blog about the vote.) In Nevada, one solar company recently [slashed its workforce](#) after local utility lobbyists helped enact a similar law there. Why? Because electric utilities see solar as a threat to their monopoly profits. In fact this attack on solar is exactly what is [advocated by the American Legislative Exchange Committee \(ALEC\)](#), the right wing lobby group funded by fossil fuel barons Charles and David Koch.

Fossil fuel interests receive massive government subsidies, despite their destruction of our environment and the hijacking of our political process. We should not be killing our growing solar industry, we should be supporting it!

**ACTION:**

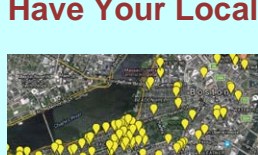
**Email** - Please [take action now](#) to tell your legislator you want a bill that will support, not cripple, solar power in Massachusetts.

**TAKE ACTION**

**Phone** - Call your State Representative (find out who they are [here](#)) and urge them to support a strong solar bill. [Use these talking points](#).

**Volunteer** - If you would like to volunteer in our efforts to support clean energy, please contact Kevin O'Brien [kevin.obrien@sierraclub.org](mailto:kevin.obrien@sierraclub.org).

### Have Your Local Electeds Voted to Stop the Gas Leaks Yet?



Let's keep up the momentum. Local elected officials representing over 20% of Massachusetts voters have already passed resolutions supporting gas leaks bills, the Gas Consumer Cost Protection Bill, [H.2870](#), and the Gas Leaks Road Repair Bill, [H.2871](#). See more information on our website [here](#).

**ACTION:** Take the lead in asking your town officials to pass supporting resolutions. Contact [Ed Woll](#) and [David Zeek](#) for support + materials.

### Sierra Club Joins Amicus Brief in Greenhouse Gas Litigation



Mass. Sierra Club is a party to an [amicus brief](#) ("friend of the court") filed in the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)'s lawsuit claiming the state has failed to take required action to comply with the Commonwealth's 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA).

At issue is whether the GWSA requires our state government to deliver real, enforceable limits on greenhouse gas pollution. The

GWSA requires we cut our greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2020. Arguments were heard by the Mass SJC on January 8. A good write up of arguments can be found in this [Cape Cod Times article](#). A video of the oral argument is available [here](#). We think you'll agree CLF attorney Jenny Rushlow knocked it out of the park.

### Ballots Are In! Chapter Election Results



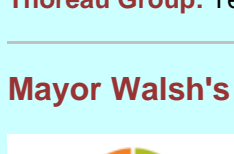
The results are in for our annual Executive Committee elections. Congratulations to all our members who were elected and thanks to everyone who participated.

**Chapter Executive Committee:** Keith Burrows, Nathan Phillips, Madeline Page, Devone Tucker and Edward Woll

**Greater Boston Group:** John Kyper, John Pitkin, Jeff Picard, and George O'Toole

**Cape Cod + Islands Group:** Chris Polloni  
**Thoreau Group:** Terry Gleason

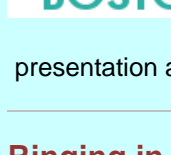
### Mayor Walsh's Office to Meet with Greater Boston Group



We are excited to announce special guests for our next monthly Greater Boston Group meeting on February 9, 7:00 PM (see Upcoming Meetings + Events below for more info).

Lauren Zingarelli and Jessica Lee Feldish from Boston Mayor Walsh's Office of Environment, Energy, and Open Space will be joining us to discuss ideas for supporting our environmental work. They will also provide an overview presentation and update on the state's [Greenovate program](#).

### Ring in the New Year with Keytar Bear



Thank you to all who attended our December holiday open house.

It was an overflow crowd and a wonderful opportunity to meet new faces and connect with so many great movers + shakers in the environmental movement and green business world. *Thank you to our contributors and to Sam Adams for donating the beer!*

The hors d'oeuvres enticed, the drinks found us well, Keytar Bear brought the funk, and fruitful conversations abounded. We look forward to hosting similar social events in 2016!

### UPCOMING MEETINGS + EVENTS

#### Chapter Transportation Committee Meeting

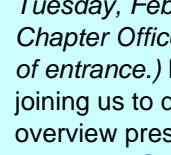
**Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 6:30-8:30 PM**  
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston (ring bell in upper right corner of entrance.) Contact John Kyper [jkyper47@gmail.com](mailto:jkyper47@gmail.com). Topics include MBTA funding, the Green Line Extension, and how to provide more capacity at South Station and the North-South Rail Link. This meeting is open to the public.

#### Chapter Political Committee Meeting

**Monday, February 8, 2015, 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston (ring bell in upper right corner of entrance.) Contact David Rudolph [dcrudolph9@gmail.com](mailto:dcrudolph9@gmail.com). Do you want to see more environmental candidates? Do you care about the future of democracy? If yes, the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter Political Committee needs YOU in our work to identify, endorse, and support green candidates. Come to our meeting and learn about our efforts. This meeting is for Sierra Club members only.

#### Greater Boston Group Meeting

**Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 7:00-8:30 PM**  
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston (ring bell in upper right corner of entrance.) Boston Mayor Walsh's Office of Environment, Energy, and Open Space will be joining us to discuss ideas for supporting our environmental work. They will also provide an overview presentation and update on the state's [Greenovate program](#). Contact Keith Burrows [kdburrows@yahoo.com](mailto:kdburrows@yahoo.com). This meeting is open to the public.



#### Do Good and 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 an even smarter 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.

[Learn more](#). Special Offer - Sign up and you'll receive a \$750 cash gift card (and Sierra Club receives \$750, too!) Request your quote now and find out how solar is more affordable than ever!

#### What Will Be Your Legacy?

Ensure your legacy by making a gift to the Massachusetts Sierra Club in your will or trust by beneficiary designation. Planned gifts are particularly important to the Chapter as they provide significant resources to continue conservation activities over an extended period of time. For more information on naming the Massachusetts Chapter as a beneficiary of a bequest or on creating life-income gifts, call (800) 932-4270 or email [giftplanning@sierraclub.org](mailto:giftplanning@sierraclub.org).