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TOP STORIES

Utilities Set Back the Commonwealth's Quest for a Clean Energy Economy



The attempt by the two major utilities, Northeast Utilities and National Grid, to terminate their contracts to purchase Cape Wind's clean power from offshore wind is a serious setback in the Commonwealth's quest for a clean energy future. A successful offshore project will put Massachusetts squarely in the forefront of clean energy and will loosen the volatile-priced natural gas choke hold that controls 65% of the energy for the Commonwealth's economy. We continue to export our dollars to import fossil fuels via pipeline, LNG tanker, barge, tank cars and trucks rather than investing in

homegrown energy and jobs. The offshore wind project would be a shot in the arm for the Massachusetts economy, the State's southeast coast and New Bedford area and for clean and renewable energy investments. This setback must be promptly reversed so that offshore wind development in Massachusetts goes forward unencumbered.

The Mass Sierra Club Is Your Stakeholder at the Dept of Energy Resources (DOER) and Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP)



Our goals in the currently on-going DOER and DEP proceedings include:

1. reducing our dependence on natural gas;

2. eliminating the need for even more natural gas pipelines, preventing pipelines from scarring our landscape and preventing the Commonwealth from being a natural gas export highway;

3. developing clean thermal energy at an affordable cost;

4. promoting solar and properly sited wind generated electricity;

5. achieving the Commonwealth's greenhouse gas emission goals to combat climate change by reducing carbon dioxide and methane emissions and leaks; and6. preserving our environment and keeping it free of fossil fuel degradation.

The Mass Sierra Club is leading on these issues in the DOER and DEP proceedings. To read our submissions <u>click here</u>.

Kinder Morgan Is Holding New "Open House" Meetings in January and February



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) sends representatives to these meetings to understand public concerns. The more people who attend these meetings, the more FERC will get the message we don't want or need this pipeline.

The need for more gas and/or oil is grossly overstated by Kinder Morgan and the utilities. Efficiency and conservation can more than make up what a new pipeline would contribute. This pipeline is not needed and will add a further possible source of a rupture

causing severe contamination to the surrounding area. Please make your voice heard by attending one of these meetings. For more info <u>click here</u>.

Newton Makes a Plastic Bag Ban Work



The Newton Board of Aldermen voted Tuesday night Jan 20th, to ban single-use, point of sale plastic bags at retail stores, 3,500 square ft. or larger. The unanimous vote made Newton the 8th Massachusetts community to enact such a ban. It came after many months of research and careful consideration about

now such a ban could impact the City as part of a movement to make Newton more sustainable. For the full story <u>click here</u>.

Chapter Election Results



Congratulations to all our members who were elected in our recent election and thanks to all who participated. Joining the state Chapter Executive Committee are Cathy Buckley and Jerry Frenkil as well as re-elected members, Elisa Campbell

and Alison Leary. These four join Executive Committee members Terry Gleason, Ed Woll, Roxanne Zak, and Launa Zimmaro.

At its first meeting on January 8, the 2015 Executive Committee elected Cathy Buckley Chair, Elisa Campbell Vice-chair, Ed Woll Conservation Chair, David Heimann secretary, and Laurie Burns Munroe Treasurer.

Elected to the Chapter's three Group Executive Committees were the following: Greater Boston Group: Keith Burrows, Susan Butler, David Heimann, Blossom Hoag, and Benjamin Pignatelli; Thoreau Group: Michael Olex; Cape Cod & Islands Group: Billie Bates, David Dow, and Robert Murphy.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways you can get involved with the Sierra Club's activities. Click here.







Activists' Blog Post your opinions and ideas!

Other Mass Chapter Pages

Facebook: Mass Chapter Beyond Coal Mass Ban Plastic Bags

Twitter @MassSierraClub @BeyondCoalMA @banbags

Special Events

One Cape: Designing Solutions for Clean Water Conference *Thursday, February 26, 2015, 8:30 am-4:30 pm Resort and Conference Center, 35 Scudder Avenue, Hyannis* This is a free meeting and lunch, but registration is required through the Cape Cod Commission, <u>click here</u> to register.

The Cape Cod Commission is sponsoring this conference to discuss its Section 208 report on a watershed approach to address wastewater mitigation challenges. There will be a general session in the morning and breakout groups in the afternoon. This meeting, which includes lunch, is free, but *registration is <u>required</u>*.

The Cape Cod & Islands Group submitted the Sierra Club comments on the draft Clean Water Act Section 208 report. A revised report will be submitted to EPA Region 1 and the MA Department of Environmental Protection. Contact David Dow <u>ddow420@comcast.net</u> or 508-540-7142.

Committee Meetings

Thoreau Group Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 7:00-8:30 pm Bedford Public Library, 7 Mudge Way, Bedford

Transportation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 7:00-9:00 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 public transit and pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly communities throughout the state. Contact John Kyper <u>jkyper47@gmail.com</u>.

Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 2015, 12:00-2:30 pm

Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston The agenda will include legislative and renewable energy and issues. Ask questions, make suggestions, find out what you can do. Updates on our work to promote climate action. Contact Cathy Buckley <u>chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org</u>.

Cape Cod and Islands Group Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2015, 7:00-8:30 pm Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Falmouth, 840 Sandwich Road, East Falmouth The agenda includes climate change and energy concerns, coastal and ocean issues, and discussion of Sierra Club involvement with Cuba. Contact Bob Murphy <u>murphydalzell@aol.com</u>.

Greater Boston Group Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7:00 pm Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston Agenda includes setting priorities for the new year and engaging activist members. Contact Debbie Cook debbiecook281@gmail.com.

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 though this website benefits the Massachusetts Chapter!



VITH SIERRA CLUB

Now is the time to Go Solar!

GO SOLAR with the Sierra Club's <u>Home Solar initiative</u> 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 cleanenergy producer, even selling power back to your electric company. <u>Click here to learn more.</u> 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.

Twitter: @MassSierraClub

Facebook: Mass Sierra Club



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. <u>Click here to view our privacy policy</u>.

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