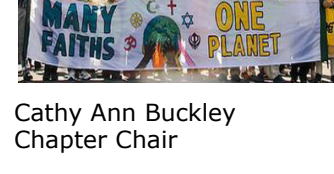




July 2015 DONATE VOLUNTEER

Pope Calls for Climate Action | Let's Stop Paying Utilities for Leaked Gas | Don't Forsake Our Public Lands | Raise the Solar Net Metering Cap | Time to Divest Fossil Fuel Stocks + More

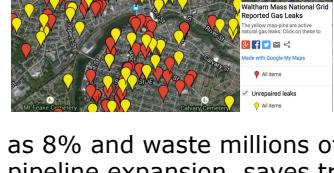
Dear Aileen,



Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, subtitled *On Care For Our Common Home*, is an encouraging, all-encompassing, and urgent call to action. Written by a leader of one religion, it is a universal message for all. Upon the encyclical's release on June 18, Pope Francis said: *Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.*

Cathy Ann Buckley
Chapter Chair

Let's Stop Paying the Utilities for Leaked Gas



Cambridge, Framingham, Somerville, Waltham and Northampton are rallying around the Gas Consumer Cost Protection Bill, H.2870, and the Gas Leaks Road Repair Bill, H.2871 to save you money and cut greenhouse gases. These bills ensure that gas consumers - residences, businesses, and municipalities - will no longer pay for gas leaked from neglected, obsolete and decrepit pipes.

By requiring the utilities to pay for the leaked gas, they will have a greater incentive to recover this wasted resource. Leaks around Boston range as high as 8% and waste millions of dollars according to a Harvard University study. Stopping leaks also stops pipeline expansion, saves trees, prevents gas explosions and removes greenhouse gas to slow climate change. To see your community's gas leaks, contact your legislator or read more about the bills, click [here](#).

Don't Forsake Our Public Lands, Support the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA)



Our state Constitution (Article 97) is supposed to protect designated public lands in perpetuity. And yet, the two-thirds votes of each branch of the General Court needed to remove that protection are now routine. One infamous case: three acres of the Blue Hills Reservation, protected since 1936, were relinquished for a restaurant parking lot expansion in 2002. In FY 2014 alone, 82 parcels lost protected status.

The Sierra Club [testified](#) in favor of the PLPA, which mandates replacement land of comparable quality plus review by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The bills ([S.402](#) and [H.623](#)) will help keep designated land intact as forests, watersheds, and wildlife corridors.

Help Raise the Solar Net Metering Cap + Encourage Our Growing Solar Industry



We are hitting the ceiling + need your help NOW to lift the solar net metering cap from 400 MW to 1600 MW over the utilities' opposition. Massachusetts currently has 368 solar companies employing nearly 9,500 people! The delay is throttling over 70 MegaWatts of in-state solar projects. Halting those projects puts 1,200 jobs and \$250,000,000 of business on ice. Support an interim lift to 1600 MW by asking the [Joint Committee on Transportation, Utilities and Energy](#) and your legislator to support [H.2852](#) and [S.1770](#). For Sierra Club testimony on these bills, click [here](#).

Time to Divest Fossil Fuel Stocks



The Sierra Club [testified](#) in support of Massachusetts bills [S.1350/H.2269](#) that would require the Massachusetts Pension Fund to divest from fossil fuel stocks over the next five years.

While this is primarily a moral action akin to the divestment campaign in response to South African apartheid decades ago, it is also advanced as a sound financial action. Coal stocks already have plummeted in value. If enacted, Massachusetts would be the first state to divest, following action taken by many universities, communities, and places of worship worldwide. If you own stocks, please divest your fossil fuels, too.

Close the Pilgrim Nuclear Reactor in Plymouth



The Massachusetts Sierra Club participated with a coalition formed by Massachusetts Downwinders to urge the closure of the obsolete Pilgrim Nuclear Reactor power plant in Plymouth. The name "Downwinders" denotes that, if an accident were to occur at the plant, the Cape might very well be downwind that day, but people would be prevented from leaving because the emergency plan calls for closing the Cape Cod bridges to allow mainlanders to escape first.

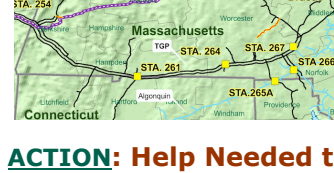
A 'March For Our Children' began in Plymouth on June 13 and culminated in a rally at the State House on June 16. The Massachusetts Sierra Club spoke at the rally and sent a [letter](#) to Senators Warren and Markey and Governor Baker, citing among other things, not only the human risk of this outmoded, under-regulated facility, but also the terrible effects of water discharge on Cape Cod Bay. But most importantly, the urgent need to go full-speed ahead to build a clean, renewable energy economy to assure our future.

Contact Your Legislator



To contact your legislator about Gas Leaks, The PLPA, The Solar Cap, Divestment, or any other issues, click [here](#).

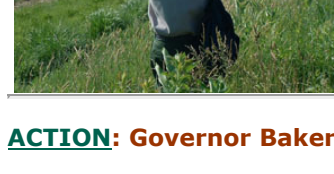
ACTION: Governor Baker Wants More Fossil Fuel Pipelines in Massachusetts



We want a clean energy future powered by solar, wind and energy efficiency--yet our governor is going in the [opposite direction](#), saying we need to invest billions in natural gas pipelines across Massachusetts.

Please tell Governor Baker to safeguard our children's future, not sacrifice it!

ACTION: Help Needed to Fund Future Conservation Purchases



The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), used since 1964 to purchase land for parks and wildlife refuges throughout Massachusetts and the country, will expire in September unless reauthorized by Congress. We need co-sponsors for S.890 and H.R.1814.

Tell Senator Markey and your Representative to join Senator Warren and Representatives Tsongas, Moulton, McGovern, Neal, Capuano, and Kennedy to permanently reauthorize the LWCF.

ACTION: Governor Baker's Regulatory Reform Puts our Health, Safety at Risk!



Governor Baker issued [Executive Order No. 562](#), calling for a review of all existing regulations and the **elimination of any state regulations that are more stringent than their federal counterparts**.

When it comes to our air, our water and our lands, **Massachusetts has a tradition of safeguarding our natural resources above and beyond federal requirements**. We lead the nation in clean and renewable energy, energy conservation, and resulting job creation. Leaders don't adapt to the least common denominator.

Tell Governor Baker: Massachusetts must continue to lead, not follow: Protect public health and irreplaceable natural resources, and develop a clean energy economy!

Mass Sierra Club Chapter Political Committee Needs Volunteers



The Political Committee identifies candidates who we think would best represent Sierra Club's goals on environmental issues and legislation, at every level of government. Endorsement is based primarily on three criteria: overall environmental record and platform; performance on these issues, if an incumbent; prospect of winning or mounting a credible campaign.

Meeting monthly, this highly active committee welcomes volunteer participation to assist with research, phone calls, and interviews. We are particularly interested in members who have knowledge of Massachusetts' politics or want to learn more. If interested, contact David Rudolph cpc@sierraclubmass.org.

MEETINGS + EVENTS

Committee Meetings

Energy Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2015, 4:00-5:00 pm
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston
Contact Ed Woll ewoll@sierraclubmass.org.

Political Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2015, 6:00-7:00 pm
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston
Contact David Rudolph cpc@sierraclubmass.org.

Greater Boston Group Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2015, 7:00-9:00 pm
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston
Contact Debbie Cook debbie@nswra.org.

Events

Award Winning Short Film Screening and Talk: Gwich'in Women Speak
Friday, July 10, 2015, 6:30 pm, doors open at 6, \$7.50/get tickets [here](#).
Theatre 1 @ the Revere Hotel Boston Common, 200 Stuart Street, Boston.
Film about a Native American people trying to protect their sacred land in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Sierra Club sponsored event.

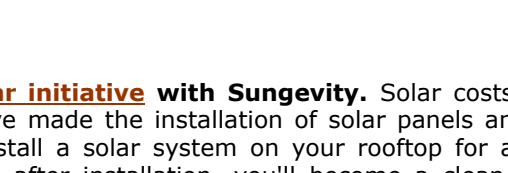
Filmmaker Miho Aida is riding her bicycle from DC to Bar Harbor, showing her film along the route (1,000 miles for 1,000 allies) and will arrive just before screening time by bicycle + will speak after the film.

What Will Be Your Legacy?

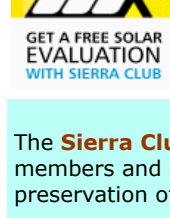
Ensure your legacy by making a gift to the Massachusetts Sierra Club in your will or trust by beneficiary designation. Planned gifts are particularly important to the Chapter as they provide significant resources to continue conservation activities over an extended period of time. For more information 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.

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!



Now is the Time to Go Solar

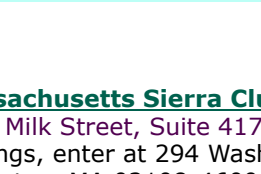
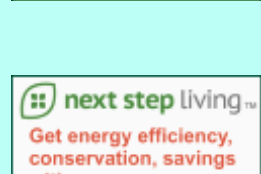


GO SOLAR with the Sierra Club's Home Solar initiative with Sungevity. Solar costs have come down and government incentives have made the installation of solar panels an even smarter financial decision. You can now install a solar system on your rooftop for a fraction of what it used to cost. Within minutes after installation, you'll become a clean-energy producer, even selling power back to your electric company. [Click here to learn more.](#) Special Offer - Sign up now 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.

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 Chapter of the Sierra Club. In an effort to reduce printing costs and the environmental impacts of print communications, the Chapter publishes this e-newsletter to members and subscribers. [Click here to view our privacy policy.](#)



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