



### Governor Baker Pushes for Fracked Gas | Calls for Lifting of Health/Safety Regulations | RI Launches first US Offshore Wind Farm | Harvard Heat Week + More

Dear Aileen,

**Thanks!** If you are amongst the hundreds who have donated in response to our recent fundraising appeal, *thank you*. If you have not yet DONATED, [please do](#). There are many urgent matters to address, and these next few years are critical, both in terms of slowing and soon stopping our dependence on fossil fuels, and increasing our reliance on clean energy. Please consider going beyond what you used to think was a reasonable donation. After all, what is a habitable planet worth? Thank you for your generosity, on behalf of present and future generations.

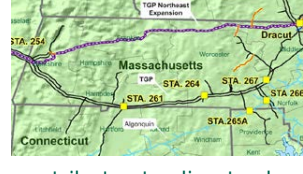
Cathy Ann Buckley  
Chapter Chair



#### Tell Governor Baker No to "Regulatory Review" That Scuttles Health and Environmental Safeguards

In late March Gov. Baker issued [Executive Order 562](#) which directs state agencies to review every state regulation and eliminate those that are not "essential to the health, safety, environment or welfare of the Commonwealth's residents." As Chapter Director Emily Norton argues in this [Commonwealth Magazine piece](#), "essential" is in the eye of the beholder, and this sweep could ensnare regulations we value, such as limits on mercury pollution, and eligibility on our state Endangered Species Act. [The Boston Globe noted](#) that Baker's action is consistent with calls by right-leaning groups such as the American Legislative Exchange Council to "undo state-imposed corporate and environmental regulations."

**ACTION: Contact Governor Baker and let him know you want Massachusetts to be a leader not a follower when it comes to safeguarding our health + natural resources.**



#### New England Governors' Energy Summit: Governor Baker Pushes for a Fossil Fuel Future?

In a disappointing development, the region's governors met on April 23 in Hartford, Connecticut, to discuss our energy challenges and [embraced the conventional wisdom](#) that such challenges can only be met by expanding natural gas pipeline capacity and exploiting "Canadian hydropower."

While natural gas has some advantages over coal, it's still a [fossil fuel that contributes to climate change](#). And the cost of new pipelines? This natural gas analyst [argues](#) that if these pipelines were such a good idea, gas producers would be stepping up to pay for them -- but they're not. The billions of dollars in costs will be borne by the ratepayer -- that means us.

In another troubling development, Gov. Baker is [siding with utilities seeking to cap](#) a solar subsidy that has helped make Massachusetts [#1 in solar capacity](#) among Northeast states. This is in direct contradiction to the recommendations of the Net Metering and Solar Task Force, which was [established in 2014 by the legislature](#) to "develop recommendations on incentives and programs to support the deployment of 1,600 megawatts of solar generation facilities in the Commonwealth."

**ACTION: Tell Governor Baker our children's future must be invested in wind, solar, energy efficiency and innovation, not more fracked gas pipelines!**



#### America's First Offshore Wind Project Breaks Ground in Rhode Island

While offshore wind has had a bumpy start in Massachusetts, the [Deepwater Wind project is moving forward in the Ocean State](#). Emily Norton, Director of Sierra Club Massachusetts and Drew Grande, Senior Campaign Organizing Representative for Beyond Coal New England, [were on hand at the April 27 ceremony to mark the official commencement of the project](#), which featured RI Governor Gina Raimondo and U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. **"The Block Island Wind Farm is our Apollo 11 moment,"** Norton observed. "I am going to remember this day, and tell my kids and grandkids that I was there when the first U.S. offshore wind farm was built -- that when we had a choice between bequeathing them a future powered by polluting fossil fuels that lead to extreme storms, heat waves and drought, we chose to power their future and smart technologies."

from the wind, and the sun,



#### More Mass. Communities Pass Bans on Plastic Packaging Waste

Add Concord, Harwich, [Northampton](#), Wellfleet AND [Williamstown](#) to the list of communities that are curbing lightweight, single-use plastic bags. That makes 15 Bay State cities and towns that are addressing the solid waste problems caused by these bags. In the last three years, Sierra Club Massachusetts has successfully raised awareness about the false convenience and real dangers of such bags. Please contact us at [office@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:office@sierraclubmass.org) or 617-423-5775 to learn more about how your community can help prevent our planet from being trashed by unnecessary plastic waste such as bags and polystyrene foam. The petrochemical industry--[which makes big money from these dangerous bags](#)--won't like it, but you will!



#### Speaking of Plastic Pollution, Next Steps with The Bottle Bill

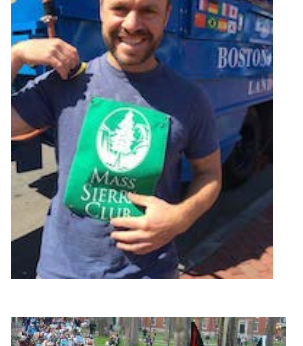
Massachusetts [House Speaker Robert DeLeo asserted in an April 14 Globe op-ed](#) that the defeat of the bottle bill demonstrated weak public support for it, and justified it being held up in the committee process. Mass. Chapter Director Emily Norton countered that view in a Boston Globe [Letter to the Editor](#): "The bottle bill expansion actually passed the Senate twice, but languished in that joint committee for years while polling showed more than 70 percent of Massachusetts voters approved it. The committee didn't express the public's will; it thwarted it." Legislative inaction allowed the beverage and grocery companies to outspend bottle-bill proponents seven to one and run ads laced with mistruths which led to the referendum's downfall.

What are the next steps with the Bottle Bill? State Senator Cynthia Creem and State Representative Gloria Fox have filed a [bill that calls for the expanded bottle bill to be automatically enacted](#) if in eight years the recycling rate for non-deposit containers (currently 23%) is not equal to the recycling rate of deposit containers (currently 80%). We think this is a common sense approach that responds to the claims of expansion opponents who said we should be tackling the litter problem by enhancing curbside recycling options.



#### Former South Carolina Congressman Bob Inglis Awarded JFK Profile in Courage for Support of Carbon Pricing

Former Congressman Bob Inglis (pictured here with Sen. Marc Pacheco) received the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award on Sunday, May 3, for speaking out on climate change -- an unpopular position in his South Carolina district that led to his defeat in the 2010 GOP primary. Representative Inglis went on to found the Energy and Enterprise Institute which seeks to put a price on carbon pollution. Mass. Sierra Club was instrumental in Representative Inglis receiving this award, as our Chapter Chair Cathy Buckley, who also volunteers as a docent at the Kennedy Library, nominated him for this prestigious honor.



#### Sierra Club Foundation Executive Director Runs Boston Marathon for Sierra Club Outdoors

This was the first **Boston Marathon** for [Sierra Club Foundation Executive Director Peter Martin](#), but we are sure it won't be his last. His team raised \$47,000 for [Sierra Club Outdoors](#), which facilitates outdoor activities for at-risk youth, military families, and veterans.

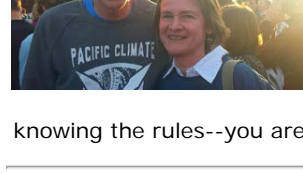
"Sierra Club Outdoors was how I originally became involved with the Sierra Club and it's what put me on my career path within the conservation movement," he said. "Finding joy, comfort, and confidence through outdoor experiences has helped shape the lives of my family members during critical times. There's no cause closer to my heart than Sierra Club Outdoors and I was proud to represent the program."



#### Harvard University President Urged to Make the Moral Choice on Divestment During "Harvard Heat Week"

During the week of April 12-17, [climate-conscious Harvard students and alumni led a series of demonstrations](#)

to call on Harvard University to divest from fossil fuel investments. The "Harvard Heat Week" events [signaled to the world](#) that members of the Harvard family believe a university known for producing moral leaders should demonstrate its own leadership by divesting from fossil fuels.



[350.org's Bill McKibben with Massachusetts Sierra Club Chapter Chair Cathy Buckley during Harvard Heat Week.](#)

Earlier in April, FossilFreeMIT sponsored a debate on divestment, featuring Harvard Professor Naomi Oreskes and MIT Professor John Sterman, amongst others. See it here: [http://webcast.amps.ms.mit.edu/spr2015/Climate\\_Change/09apr/](http://webcast.amps.ms.mit.edu/spr2015/Climate_Change/09apr/). At one point, the moderator chided a member of the anti-divestment side about knowing the rules--you are not supposed to make points for the opposition.

### MEETINGS + EVENTS

#### Committee Meetings

**Transportation Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday, June 2, 2015, 7:00-9:00 pm  
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston  
Agenda will include recap from attendees of Transportation Summit, MBTA breakdown and Gov. Baker's proposal to reorganize the agency, report on the Allston I-90 interchange project, and updates on old business. All are welcome. Contact John Kyper [jkyper47@gmail.com](mailto:jkyper47@gmail.com).

**Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, June 4, 2015, 6:00-8:30 pm  
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston  
Agenda will include updates on legislative, renewable energy, and climate issues. All are welcome. Contact Cathy Buckley [chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org).

**Political Committee Meeting**  
Monday, June 8, 2015, 6:00-7:00 pm  
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston  
Contact David Rudolph [cpc@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:cpc@sierraclubmass.org).

**Greater Boston Group Meeting**  
Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 7:00-9:00 pm  
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston  
Contact Debbie Cook [debbie@nswra.org](mailto:debbie@nswra.org).

#### Events

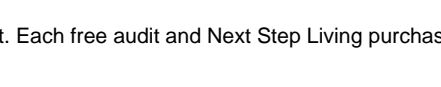
**Ponds, Pastures, and Parkways: The Emerald Necklace Walk**  
Sunday, June 7, 2015, 8:00 am-2:00 pm (free)  
Beginning in Franklin Park, this six-hour walking tour examines Olmsted's masterpiece of linear park design. Pastures, ponds, and parkways were woven into the city's fabric and combined both state-of-the-art engineering and artistic sensibility. The walk will end in the Back Bay Fens where people can ride the "T" back to Franklin Park or anywhere they wish. Please remember to bring a lunch and plenty of water. [Registration](#) is required. Sponsored by the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

**Boston ICO Event: BrewFest Fundraiser Raffle**  
Thursday, June 11, 2015, 5:00-9:00 pm (suggested donation \$20)  
Raffle tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$20  
Boston BeerWorks, 112 Canal Street, Boston ([map](#))  
An evening of celebrating Sierra Club Boston ICO's (Inspiring Connections Network) 21st year of providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. Raffle prizes from local businesses. Good local brew, music, photos, friends and a few surprises! Contact [bostonico@gmail.com](mailto:bostonico@gmail.com) for info or to donate raffle prizes.

**A Short Walk on a Long Day: The Blue Hills Reservation**  
Sunday, June 21, 2015, 5:00-7:00 pm (free)  
In his 1890 Waverly Oaks report, Charles Eliot suggested that Boston residents look beyond the city and into the suburbs for natural scenery to foster and preserve "an education in the love of beauty" and a means of "human enjoyment." Contemplate Eliot's ideas and efforts as we ascend the Great Blue Hill, which at 635 feet, is the highest point within 10 miles of the Atlantic coast south of central Maine. Prepare for a moderate hike over rugged and rocky terrain. Meets at the [Trailside Museum](#) parking lot. Sponsored by the National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

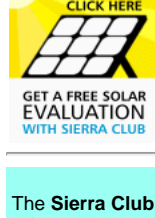
### Save Energy and Money With Next Step Living

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 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 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 subscribers. [Click here to view our privacy policy.](#)



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