

M A S S A C H U S E T T S

# SIERRAN

Volume 18 • Number 2

Fall 2012

Fall 2012 Issue

Reaching More Than  
22,000 Sierra Club Members and  
Supporters in Massachusetts

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FROM THE DESK OF JAMES MCCAFFREY, CHAPTER DIRECTOR

## Transitions and New Beginnings

It is with both sadness and excitement that I write my last column here in the *Massachusetts Sierran* as Chapter Director. In October, I am stepping down as Director, and will begin my new position as Senior Campaign Representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign. My new role will be focused on the Club's work with members, supporters, allies, coalition partners, local communities, and citizens in a collaborative effort to help make New England a coal-free region.

It has been a great honor to be a part of the Massachusetts Chapter and our many accomplishments, beginning first as a volunteer all those years ago, and eventually serving as Director for nearly twenty years. The Massachusetts Chapter is an extraordinary family of dedicated and tireless activists whose ongoing efforts and steadfast support helped provide the necessary strength and guidance to undertake such important work.

We have accomplished much over these past two decades. Volunteers and staff, working together, have protected old growth forests, wildlife species, and state and urban parklands throughout the Commonwealth. We have fought for equitable transportation solutions for low-income communities and blocked the conversion and dismantling of parkways that connect our open space. Our efforts helped secure the cancellation of an industrial natural gas facility in the heart of a national recreation area, and withdrawal of another proposal to build second homes and golf courses in a treasured natural area at the foot of our state's highest peak. And with a little help from some other volunteers (endangered turtles) we stopped the largest proposed wetlands fill in Massachusetts. Most recently, the Chapter's efforts in partnership with our allies helped yield major changes in Massachusetts renewable energy policies that will protect communities, forests, and help fight climate change.

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#### The Massachusetts Sierran

is published twice a year by Massachusetts Chapter Sierra Club  
10 Milk Street, Suite 632  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-423-5775  
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MASSACHUSETTS

SIERRAN

Vol. 18 No. 2 • Fall 2012

The Massachusetts Sierran is published twice a year. The deadline for copy is normally eight weeks before publication.

Please submit all copy to [editor@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:editor@sierraclubmass.org). Please submit all announcements and meetings information to [announce@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:announce@sierraclubmass.org).

*Opinions, unless otherwise stated, are of the author only; positions adopted by the Sierra Club are identified as such.*

*Circulation of the Massachusetts Sierran is over 20,000 outdoor-minded, environmentally aware readers.*

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# GREEN T Anyone?

## MBTA On Track to Use More Renewable Energy

by James McCaffrey

Public transportation plays a key role in both quality of life and supporting the economy by moving people and goods efficiently throughout a region. Safe, clean, and affordable transportation systems increase mobility and unite our communities, thereby decreasing our dependency on automobiles, reducing pollution, and protecting public health and the environment all at the same time. But what are we to do about the energy used to actually power our public transportation systems?

As the largest single user of electricity in the Commonwealth, the MBTA (or "T") feels the crunch from high-energy prices just like we all do. And while the once-iconic soot-laden smoke-spewing coal-powered locomotive is clearly a vestige of the past, it surprises many to learn that the MBTA system is still partially powered – albeit indirectly – by coal. Now the MBTA is on track to leave polluting power, in all its various forms, in the dust as well.

The T helps reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter and other pollutants caused by car and truck usage by moving nearly 1.3 million riders every weekday. In addition, the T has been hard at work to "green" its fleet of vehicles by increasing efficiency, modernizing components, and using cleaner fuels for vehicles. The MBTA has even begun installing wind and solar facilities of its own to power certain parts of the system.

Perhaps most importantly, the MBTA recently took another step to help create a greener T. Earlier this year, the agency requested that bids from suppliers include renewable energy as part of a \$60 million three-year contract to supply 70% of the system's electricity needs. When the MBTA finalized the deal, it included a commitment, for the first time ever, to use at least 20% renewable energy.

The MBTA had sought proposals in the contract for both "Class I" (like wind and solar) and "Class II" (like waste-to-energy) renewables, but unfortunately received bids for only Class II. This means that, for the time being, the MBTA will be using a small percentage of less desirable renewables instead of the absolute cleanest technologies. As renewables gain more footing in the energy market place, options will improve over time in both price and environmental benefits. The Sierra Club applauds the landmark efforts of the MBTA to explore all options to provide the cleanest power possible for its services.

Long term power purchase agreements for renewables for such a large electricity customer means that

the T can save money over time. Because the cost of wind and solar are more stable, long-term contracts provide certainty for the T, and hopefully benefits for riders as well. Lower and more stable costs for the T can help alleviate or at least soften the need for fare increases and service cuts when times get tough.



Less reliance on fossil fuels like coal also means the benefits are felt far beyond the system. From Holyoke and Somerset in Massachusetts, all the way to the mountain top removal mining zones in Appalachia, less demand for coal means less health impacts and destruction in impacted communities. A "Coal-Free T" now seems a real possibility, and the Sierra Club will be working with the MBTA to help make sure that clean, safe, and affordable public transportation is one day also using only clean, safe, and affordable renewable energy for power. ❖

### Amtrak Unveils 30 Year Plan for Northeast Corridor

#### Sierra Club Testifies in Support of North-South Rail Link

At a public hearing this past summer, Sierra Club staff and volunteers were joined by elected officials and prominent rail advocates, including Governor Michael Dukakis and former MA Representative John Bussinger, to testify in support of the *North South Rail Link (NSRL)*, the only one-mile gap in the Northeast Corridor Rail System.



The NSRL would connect the north and south rail systems in Massachusetts, thereby seamlessly consolidating the region's now fragmented rail assets. Studies show the completed NSRL will remove at least 55,000 vehicle trips daily from the highways, and in turn reduce traffic congestion and pollution, including removing more than 500 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere daily.

**The North South Rail Link needs your support in the proposed *Northeast Corridor Plan*.** A few seconds of your time today could help shape the future of our transportation system in New England! Please visit the Amtrak/Northeast Corridor website to submit comments online by October 18, 2012 at: [www.necfuture.com/get\\_engaged](http://www.necfuture.com/get_engaged)

## Coalition Launches Campaign to Phase Out Coal by 2020, Support Renewables, and Protect Communities and Workers



Activists rallied in Holyoke and around Massachusetts to phase out coal by 2020 and protect public health.

The Sierra Club, in close partnership with a coalition of environmental, public health, faith and community groups, elected officials, and local citizens launched a new campaign this summer to protect public health and communities, renew efforts to make the transition to energy efficiency and clean renewable energy sources, and revitalize local economies to create more jobs.

The new coalition *Coal Free Massachusetts* represents more than 50 local, statewide, regional, and national organizations, and brought together citizens at coordinated events all across Massachusetts to celebrate the launch in Somerset, Holyoke, and Salem, – towns which each still host coal-fired power plants.

### Coal in Massachusetts

Coal burning is highly polluting and devastating from a public health perspective. The coal burning plants in Massachusetts – Salem Harbor Station, Mount Tom (Holyoke), and Brayton Point Station (Somerset) – are the largest air polluters in the Commonwealth. In 2011, coal only provided 8% of the total energy in New England but still emitted more than 8 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in Massachusetts alone.

One in 10 New Englanders suffer from asthma and MA ranks 20th in mortality linked to coal plants. A 2010 Clean Air Task Force report showed that pollution from coal-fired power plants causes 251 deaths, 211 hospital admissions, and 471 heart attacks in Massachusetts every year. Nationwide more than 112

# COAL FREE

## MASSACHUSETTS

coal plants have announced retirement under pressure from local communities and efforts to protect public health. MA spends hundreds of millions of dollars annually - \$252 million in 2008 alone - importing coal from other states and countries.

Coal Free Massachusetts wants to ensure that Massachusetts continues to make strides in renewable energy and efficiency to phase out the need for coal-fired electricity generation, as it has done under the policies of the Patrick Administration. The coalition is working closely with elected officials at the local, state and regional level to ensure robust transition plans for workers, communities and municipal revenues. Coal Free Massachusetts is calling upon Governor Patrick and municipalities to ensure enforcement of existing regulations, laws and programs, including leveraging policies like the Global Warming Solutions Act to ratchet down air pollution and to help create a Coal Free Massachusetts by 2020. ❖

### Coal Free Massachusetts Coalition Platform

- Phase out all Massachusetts coal-fired power plants by 2020
- Advance energy efficiency and clean renewable energy like responsibly sited wind and solar to support the transition from coal electricity generation in Massachusetts
- Partner with and empower community leadership and vision for clean energy and clean-tech development for our host communities, including:
  - Robust transition plans focused on the long-term health of the community
  - Innovative opportunities for growing the green economy
  - Support for workers and local revenues

To learn more about Coal Free Massachusetts, and to get involved, please visit [CoalFreeMass.org](http://CoalFreeMass.org) or follow us on twitter @CoalFreeMass.

# 2012 Legislative Report

The Sierra Club has a significant presence on Beacon Hill. The Chapter's Legislative Action Committee, made up of both staff and volunteers, works to pass key environmental bills.

Unfortunately, the 2011-2012 session will not be known as the "Year of the Environment." Despite media attention to urgent issues such as global climate change, increased toxins, and threats to the state's forests, the legislature failed to pass most bills. In many cases, the committee that heard the bill unanimously recommended passage, but leadership failed to act (quite intentionally) before the end of the legislative session.

While we were unable to get the legislature to pass the Bottle Bill Update, the Sierra Club was part of a statewide effort to make this the most talked-about environmental bill on Beacon Hill. An amazing 35,000 emails, letters, postcards, and phone calls flooded the state-house. The bill had overwhelming support among legislators and the public. As we move into the next session, this momentum will hopefully carry us to victory.

Here are some session highlights:

## Winning Good Things

Earlier in the session, an effort was mounted by commercial and industrial interests to undermine our states renewable energy laws and roll back incentives for clean energy. A united effort by the environmental community, and tireless efforts by key legislators instead yielded a largely positive bill that increased net metering and improved opportunities for renewables and long term contracts. The so-called *Act for Competitively Priced Electricity in the Commonwealth* will cost-effectively advance the Commonwealth's clean energy economy while enhancing our ability to achieve Massachusetts' clean energy goals, including emissions reductions targets required by the *Global Warming Solutions Act*.

## Stopping Bad Things

The bulk of our victories this session focused on stopping bad initiatives to undermine existing laws. This is often the most important part of our work, but of course prevents resources being used to actually help move us forward!

Here are just a few of the bad things we helped stop:

### Gut the Mass Endangered Species Act, S.1854

(S1854, Sen. Candaras) Developers wanted to gut the state's Endangered Species Act in order to maximize development profits. The bill would have limited the authority of MESA by taking away their ability to protect endangered species and their habitats, except in very limited circumstances.

**Salem Power Plant "Sweetheart Deal" (Rep. John Keenan)** A section to an otherwise good energy bill, so called "Section 42" would have been a significant step backwards by creating sweetheart deals for fossil fuels at the expense of consumers and ratepayers.

**Solid Waste "Reduction" Act, H1142** Although well-intentioned and introduced in good faith, this bill would have placed the burden of waste on municipalities and taxpayers instead of the waste producers. It's was also used by Big Business to undermine the Bottle Bill Update. A better version will be proposed next session.

## Try Again Next Year

Finally, these are just some of the bills that the Sierra Club worked to pass but which otherwise were blocked, buried, or ignored by the legislature. We will be refiling, and working even harder, or passage next session.

**Updated Bottle Bill – (H890/S1650. Rep. Wolf/Sen. Creem)** Updates the highly successful program to add deposits to water, juice, and tea beverages. Improves recycling, reduces litter. This bill passed in the Senate as an amendment to a bill designed to create jobs, but was stripped out by House leadership.

**Plastic Bag Ban – S2314 (was S353/H1990/H1159, Sen. Eldridge/Rep. Ehrlich/Rep. Smizik)** Plastic bags litter our landscape, and even when properly disposed of, they blow into our waterways, parks, beaches, and streets, and killing 1 billion animals per year.

**Producer Take-Back for Electronics ("E-Waste" S.2078)** Electronics Waste is laden with toxins, which is often handled without needed precautions. This would require manufacturers to take responsibility for proper disposal.

**Coal-Free Commonwealth – (H2614 Rep. Ehrlich)** Omnibus bill, would end coal burning in the state with a phase-out period and converting to cleaner fuels, and renewable energy, and protecting workers and communities.

**Regulate Gas Obtained by "Fracking" (H3055, Rep. Garballey)** Requires gas that's obtained by hydraulic fracturing comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

**Natural Gas Leaks Protection Bills – (H4199 - Rep. Ehrlich)** Addresses the growing issue of natural gas leaks from aging pipes.



Alice Wolf (bottom right) speaks to an enthusiastic crowd of Bottle Bill supporters.

(continued on page 14)

# Environmental Activist Rep. Alice Wolf Announces Retirement from the Legislature



for her decades of tireless work on environmental issues.

Representative Wolf is considered to be one of the most progressive legislators in the State House. The 8-term legislator announced her retirement in April. Rep. Wolf has ably represented the 25th Middlesex district, which covers most of the central portion of Cambridge.

Environmentalists are not the only ones bemoaning the departure of one of our strongest allies. Rep. Wolf championed many progressive issues and worked on countless bills. Her constituents saw Rep. Wolf as their champion on a range of issues, including early education, health care, human rights, marriage equality, immigrant rights, reproductive rights, affordable housing, and the environment. Her perseverance and ethic of hard work on behalf of those she represents is well known. When faced with barriers to progressive legislation, she identified allies, worked within coalitions, and created strategies to move forward.

Alice Wolf has been in public service for decades. She was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1996 after serving as the Mayor of Cambridge. Previously, she had served the City of Cambridge as the Vice Mayor, and multiple terms as

a City Councillor starting in 1984. She served on the Cambridge School Committee from 1974 to 1982.

As a legislator, Representative Wolf has served as the House Chair of the Committee on Elder Affairs and on the Women's Legislative Caucus. She has been recognized for her advocacy through numerous honors and awards including: the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Mental Health 2010 Certificate of Appreciation; the 2009 School-Based Health Center Legislative Champion Award; the 2007 NOW Legislator of the Year; the 2007 Byron Rushing Freedom of Religion Award from the Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry; the 2006 Massachusetts Family Planning Association Leadership Award; the 2005 Champions of Children Award from Massachusetts Advocates for Children; and the 2005 Early Education Leadership Award from the Massachusetts Association of Community Partnerships for Children.

A cornerstone of Representative Wolf's legislative legacy is her tireless work to update the state's bottle bill. Under her expert guidance, the Bottle Bill Update became the most talked-about environmental bill of recent years. The Bottle Bill Update passed the Senate in 2012, but was not supported by House leadership.

Representative Wolf, we will miss your tireless advocacy and energy in the State House. We know that the next phase of your career will see additional public service and work, and the environmental community thanks you for all that you have contributed to so many causes for so many years. ❖

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# Special Member's Section: Election Guide

A Guide to Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates in the 2012 Elections

2012 Endorsements for the General Election, November 6th

## For U.S. Senate

Elizabeth Warren

## For U.S. Congress

MA01 - Richard Neal  
MA02 - James McGovern  
MA03 - Niki Tsongas  
MA04 - Joseph Kennedy III  
MA06 - John Tierney  
MA05 - Edward Markey  
MA07 - Michael Capuano  
MA09 - William Keating

## For State Representative

5th Barnstable - Patrick Ellis  
1st Berkshire - Gail Cariddi  
2nd Berkshire - Paul Mark  
3rd Berkshire - Tricia Farley Bouvier  
12th Bristol - Roger Brunelle  
2nd Bristol - Paul Heroux  
3rd Bristol - Sherry Costa-Hanlon  
4th Bristol - Keith Carreiro  
8th Essex - Lori Ehrlich  
15th Essex - Linda Dean Campbell  
18th Essex - Barbara L'Italien  
1st Franklin - Stephen Kulik  
2nd Franklin - Denise Andrews  
5th Hampden - Aaron Vega  
1st Hampshire - Peter Kocot  
2nd Hampshire - John Scibak  
3rd Hampshire - Ellen Story  
3rd Middlesex - Kate Hogan  
6th Middlesex - Chris Walsh

7th Middlesex - Tom Sannicandro  
8th Middlesex - Carolyn Dykema  
11th Middlesex - Kay Khan  
12th Middlesex - Ruth Balsar  
13th Middlesex - Thomas Conroy  
14th Middlesex - Cory Atkins  
15th Middlesex - Jay Kaufman  
21st Middlesex - Kenneth Gordon  
23rd Middlesex - Sean Garballey  
24th Middlesex - Dave Rogers  
25th Middlesex - Marjorie Decker  
26th Middlesex - Timothy Toomey  
27th Middlesex - Denise Provost  
29th Middlesex - Jonathan Hecht  
31st Middlesex - Jason Lewis  
34th Middlesex - Carl Sciortino  
37th Middlesex - Jennifer Benson  
9th Norfolk - Daniel Winslow  
10th Norfolk - Jeffery Roy  
11th Norfolk - Paul McMurtry  
13th Norfolk - Denise Garlick  
14th Norfolk - Alice Peisch  
15th Norfolk - Frank Smizik  
6th Plymouth - Josh Cutler  
8th Plymouth - Marilee Kenney Hunt  
8th Suffolk - Marty Walz  
9th Suffolk - Byron Rushing  
17th Suffolk - Kevin Honan  
6th Worcester - Kathleen Walker  
8th Worcester - Robert Dubois  
14th Worcester - James O'Day  
15th Worcester - Mary Keefe

## For State Senate

Cape & Islands - Daniel Wolf  
First Essex - Kathleen O'Connor-Ives  
Second Middlesex - Patricia Jehlen  
Third Middlesex - Michael Barrett  
Fourth Middlesex - Kenneth Donnelly  
Middlesex & Essex - Katherine Clark  
First Middlesex & Norfolk -  
Cynthia Creem  
Second Middlesex & Norfolk -  
Karen Spilka  
Middlesex, Suffolk & Essex -  
Sal DiDomenico  
Middlesex & Worcester - James Eldridge  
First Plymouth & Bristol - Marc Pacheco  
Second Suffolk - Sonia Chang-Diaz  
Second Suffolk & Middlesex -  
Will Brownsberger  
First Worcester - Harriette Chandler

*Sierra Club endorsements are based on a candidate's record and demonstrated commitment to the environment. Candidates meriting the Club's support have also shown a realistic approach in tackling key concerns facing us. By supporting Sierra Club endorsed candidates, you can help elect a team that will protect the land, water, and air that are vital to us all. List complete as of press time, September 25, 2012. Visit [www.sierraclubmass.org](http://www.sierraclubmass.org) for an up-to-date listing.*

## Kathleen Walker

State Representative  
6th Worcester District  
[www.electkathleenwalker.com](http://www.electkathleenwalker.com)



Kathleen is an environmental superstar, widely-known as being a whistleblower who spoke out to protect the public health -- at great personal expense. In the late 1980s, while serving on a local Board of Health, she discovered that a local company had spilled trichloroethylene (a potent carcinogen and neurotoxin) into the town's water supply. When she moved to Charlton, Kathleen continued her efforts to protect the environment by initiating the Town's first household hazardous waste pickup, organizing a recycling committee, and cofounding Charlton's Earth Day Festival. Known as a woman of integrity, determination, and principle, and unwavering in her support of environmental causes, Kathleen balances her passion for a healthy and sustainable planet with an awareness of the needs and concerns of business and residents. Kathleen has given many hours to these and other causes in her community, tackling all obstacles with a positive attitude, a sense of humor, and compassion.

## Keith Carreiro

State Representative  
4th Bristol District  
[www.keithcarreiro.com](http://www.keithcarreiro.com)



Keith's list of environmental qualifications is long, but what's most evident is his profound respect for the land we live on and the air we breathe. He understands the need for sustainability - that we must utilize our resources wisely, and cherish and preserve our environment, in order to leave it for future generations to enjoy. Keith will promote local economic vitality while protecting our environment. He has pledged to fight for safer and cleaner air, water, land, and energy, to ensure conservation and preservation of our waterways, rural areas, and open space, and to address the local impacts of climate change. Keith also will address transportation and energy consumption, as we shift toward renewable energy sources. Once elected, he will clearly be an environmental leader as well as a strong advocate for the people of the 4th Bristol district.

## Barbara L'Italien

State Representative  
18th Essex District  
[www.teambarbara.com](http://www.teambarbara.com)



Having served as a state representative from 2003-2011, Barbara L'Italien wants to return to the State House and continue her excellent work in environmental stewardship. During her time as a state rep, Barbara was a strong supporter of both the Toxic Waste Reduction Act and the Community Preservation Act, as well as being a co-sponsor of the Updated Bottle Bill. She also successfully advocated to restrict ATVs (all terrain vehicles) from Georgetown State Forest. If re-elected, Barbara's goals include encouraging greater alternative energy sources and making them more accessible and affordable to the average home, and improving public transportation use and funding. Barbara has a proven record of supporting environmental initiatives, and is committed to protecting the health and safety of our communities.

# Special Member's Section: Election Guide

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## Elizabeth Warren for U.S. Senate

Website: [www.elizabethwarren.com](http://www.elizabethwarren.com)

Elizabeth Warren brings a strong belief that a healthy environment builds a strong economy. The Harvard professor and attorney promises to utilize her economic knowledge to end the \$20 billion oil subsidies if elected to the senate. Referring to climate change, she says: "The question is whether we're going to do everything we can do now to take action." "[It] endangers our health and national security, it threatens agricultural production and access to clean water, and it risks floods and droughts."



photo by Jeremy Marin

### There are real, important differences between Elizabeth Warren and Scott Brown.

- As a U.S. Senator, Scott Brown has repeatedly voted to maintain taxpayer funded subsidies for oil companies.
- As a U.S. Senator, Scott Brown says he regrets having voted to implement RGGI, the regional greenhouse gas initiative that reduces carbon emissions.
- As a U.S. Senator, Scott Brown has voted against improving auto fuel-efficiency standards.
- Scott Brown voted to prevent the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases, voted to cut EPA funding by almost 1/3, and he opposes Cape Wind.

A supporter of alternative energy projects, including Cape Wind, she has made one of her main goals, when elected, to wean us off our current reliance on carbon based fossil fuels and onto sustainable energies such as solar and wind power.

In her own words: "The choice before us is simple. Will we continue to subsidize the dirty fossil fuels of the past, or will we transition to 21st century clean, renewable energy?" Much of Elizabeth Warren's environmental agenda is supported by her vast economic experience. Warren knows that by increasing the use of alternative energies, America will increase the amount of jobs produced and maintained in this sector. As an avid hiker, she also knows the importance of preserving our national land resources for all, and for all future generations.

No novice to Washington politics (Elizabeth has been appointed Chair of Congressional oversight panels and as a special assistant to President Obama), she has steadfastly and repeatedly shown the courage to stand up to monied interests, and produced results. Elizabeth knows what she'll face if elected, and, once again in her own words: "We can't keep putting off the changes we need to make. Investing in clean energy technology is investing in our health, our environmental security, our national security, and our economic security."

Elizabeth Warren's strong personal ethos, economic knowledge, and environmental policies make her one of the most important and valued Sierra Club endorsed candidates this election.

### Tom Sannicandro

State Representative  
7th Middlesex District  
[www.tomworksforus.com](http://www.tomworksforus.com)



Elected to the House in 2004, Tom Sannicandro is a leader on environmental issues. He is dedicated to renewable energy, supports responsible offshore wind projects and ending our dependence on coal. This session, Tom sponsored legislation that would establish a task force to create a plan for 100% clean energy use by 2020. Tom has also focused on reforming public transportation - his efforts have resulted in the consolidation of transportation agencies and creation of the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority. Tom has pledged to continue to improve our state's transportation systems by securing additional funding. In his personal life, Tom enjoys sailing, camping, and hiking, and his family participates in the Ashland Community Garden. Tom understands the need for defending our environment, both in the short- and long-term, and is committed to this cause.

### Carolyn Dykema

State Representative  
8th Middlesex District  
[www.carolyndykema.com](http://www.carolyndykema.com)



Carolyn Dykema is an environmental champion. Prior to being elected to the House in 2008, Carolyn worked in financial services and environmental consulting. This experience proved invaluable when she was appointed co-chair of the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission in 2009. This year, the commission released its final report, which highlighted a \$21.4 billion funding gap over the next 20 years. Overcoming this gap will be crucial in order for communities to have constant access to the clean water they need and, thanks to Carolyn's hard work, the state has begun moving toward that goal. Carolyn is also a member of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, where she has supported countless bills that aim to protect our natural resources and open spaces.

### Josh Cutler

State Representative  
6th Plymouth District  
[www.joshcutler.com](http://www.joshcutler.com)



Josh Cutler is a strong environmental advocate. As a member of the Duxbury Planning Board, he has advocated for clean energy projects to build the local economy and reduce the threat of climate change. In a classic example of making lemonade from lemons, he successfully worked to create a solar farm on top of the town's capped landfill. Electricity generated from the farm will power, at a reduced rate, the police station. He's also worked on renewable energy issues at the state level and as a member of the local town's energy committee, including pushing for "net-metering" power purchase agreements for solar energy credits with private energy providers. He is a strong supporter of public transportation and the MBTA, with an eye toward finding a long-term financial solution to funding transit in the state.



# Special Member's Section: Election Guide

*A Guide to Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates in the 2012 Elections*

## Congressman John Tierney for U.S. Congress

Website: [www.johntierney.com](http://www.johntierney.com)

Congressman John Tierney is one of the strongest environmentalists in Congress. His record of environmental stewardship and his leadership in the area of clean energy job creation is extraordinary.

Since beginning his congressional career, John Tierney has been an unwavering advocate on critical environmental bills. He voted against the Bush administration's bills that favored big oil companies and threatened pristine wilderness areas with potential environmental disasters. He supported rail transportation, knowing that our highways cannot answer America's future transportation needs. He supported the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which takes steps to revitalize our economy by creating new jobs, increasing our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, preserving our planet and protecting our delicate wildlife by reducing the pollution that causes global warming. He voted against the effort to strip the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases.

Congressman John Tierney has always fought to protect our environment and promote alternative energy. In his own words, "We must make sure that the US is the global leader in clean-technology, we cannot settle for second place when it comes to harnessing the power of green energy." He advocates for increasing investments

in green technology and the creation of more green-collar jobs here in America.

John Tierney is the only candidate in this race with a track record of supporting environmental safeguards and working to make America a leader in clean energy. Tierney's opponent has taken money from Big Oil and has a lackluster record when it comes to protecting our environment. Richard Tisei has taken the maximum contribution from Exxon Mobil and is supported by other organizations that have even questioned the validity of climate change, advocated for the end of critical environmental safeguards, and opposed legislation designed to reduce carbon emissions and promote growth of clean energy jobs. We do not need another Congressman who supports big polluters who have consistently relied on their allies in Congress to try to roll back critical environmental protections.

We need an economy that's built to last, based on clean energy and reinvigorated economy not one even more dependent on the fuels of the past. The Sierra Club stands with John Tierney in support of tighter safeguards for offshore drilling and shares his desire to move toward long-term clean energy solutions. Tierney rejects the "drill, baby, drill" philosophy and is committed to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions through newer, cleaner, forms of energy and understands the need to end our dependence on foreign oil. The Sierra Club is proud to endorse this environmental leader.



### Denise Andrews

State Representative  
2nd Franklin District  
[www.deniseandrews.org](http://www.deniseandrews.org)



Denise is someone who understands why it is important to support clean renewable energy sources and advocate for reduced consumption: the local economy and local jobs. In her first term as a state representative Denise has been a strong supporter of critical environmental issues and recognizes that if Massachusetts is to be a leader, then we must focus attention on a smarter infrastructure, both power and transportation. She has called for alternative fuel vehicles and an infrastructure that supports them. She wants to see a pilot program to encourage development of electric car charging stations. She also supports ensuring that non-renewable energy resources are carefully monitored. At the same time she has been a strong supporter of increased recycling, through an updated bottle bill, and important measures to protect the public's health.

### Mary Keefe

State Representative  
15th Worcester District  
[www.electmarykeefe.com](http://www.electmarykeefe.com)



In addition to one of the nicest candidates we've had the opportunity to interview, Mary Keefe a strong advocate for the environment and progressive causes. Her kindness has won her plaudits and put her in leadership positions for years. As a founding member of the Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts and the Worcester-Labor Coalition, one of Mary's top priorities is to protect and build the local economy through, among other things, parks, schools and green spaces -- particularly public land and farms. She is an advocate of increased and improved public transportation through a viable long-term solution and supports programs that would bring more green jobs to Massachusetts. She will work to help pass the updated bottle bill, long overdue. A longtime community organizer but new to politics, she is a candidate who cares about the environment and open space and would make a strong addition to the state legislature.

### The Sierra Club's Endorsement Process

Throughout the summer, the Massachusetts Sierra Club investigated the voting records of incumbents, reviewed questionnaires, and discussed policy with candidates. It is crucial that Sierra Club members work hard to elect pro-environment candidates at all levels of government from local to federal races.

Some candidates had our endorsement in the past; some are new. All are candidates who will help us advocate for environmental protection. You can make a big difference by volunteering in election activities as well as voting. We urge you to support our endorsed candidates! If you have questions about the endorsement process, or can help elect environmental candidates, contact [cpc@sierraclubmass.org](mailto:cpc@sierraclubmass.org).

# Massachusetts Chapter and Group Executive Committee Elections

## Voting Instructions and Election Procedures

You elect the Sierra Club leadership each year. In this issue of the Sierran, you will find candidates' statements on the next page, and ballots below, for the Chapter and Group Executive Committee Elections. **If a candidate statement is not shown, it means it was not received in time for Sierran publication, but the member is still running for election.** All Massachusetts Sierra Club members may vote for the Chapter Executive Committee. Members residing within group boundaries may also vote in their local group election. Please contact the chapter office if you have a question about your group membership.

Mail ballots to: Sierra Club Elections, 10 Milk Street, Suite 632, Boston, MA 02108. Ballots must be received by 5:00 PM, December 15th, 2012 in order to be counted.

Vote for no more than the number of candidates indicated on each ballot. In order to validate your ballots, you must write your membership number on the upper left hand corner of your envelope. Your eight-digit membership number appears on the mailing label of the Sierran. A second ballot is provided for those households with joint memberships so that each member can vote. If you have any questions, please call the chapter office at (617) 423-5775.

**Your membership number, which appears above your name on page 16, must appear on the outside of your envelope in order for your ballot to be valid. (An extra ballot is provided for households with joint memberships.)**

## BALLOT

### Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee

Vote for no more than four candidates

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elisa Campbell | <input type="checkbox"/> Alison Leary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Heimann  | <input type="checkbox"/> John Lewis   |

## BALLOT

### Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee

Vote for no more than four candidates

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elisa Campbell | <input type="checkbox"/> Alison Leary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Heimann  | <input type="checkbox"/> John Lewis   |

## BALLOT

### Cape & Islands Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than three candidates

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Billy Bates | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Murphy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Dow   |  |

## BALLOT

### Cape & Islands Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than three candidates

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Billy Bates | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Murphy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Dow   |  |

## BALLOT

### Thoreau Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than two candidates

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Olex | <input type="checkbox"/> Launa Zimmaro |
|---------------------------------------|--|

## BALLOT

### Thoreau Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than two candidates

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Olex | <input type="checkbox"/> Launa Zimmaro |
|---------------------------------------|--|

## BALLOT

### Greater Boston Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than four candidates

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Butler | <input type="checkbox"/> David Heimann  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blossom Hoag | <input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Kinlock |

## BALLOT

### Greater Boston Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than four candidates

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Butler | <input type="checkbox"/> David Heimann  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blossom Hoag | <input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Kinlock |

## ~Massachusetts Chapter Candidate Statements For All Sierra Club Elections~

*Vote for no more than the candidates specified on each ballot on page 10. Statements are listed alphabetically.*

### **Billie Bates (Running for Cape and Islands Group)**

Billie Bates has worked on environmental issues on Cape Cod and on the Massachusetts islands for many years. Her recent work includes comments on the draft 15-year comprehensive conservation plan for the Nantucket National Wildlife Refuge.

### **Susan Butler (Running for Greater Boston Group)**

I am active in both the political process and the introduction of innovation in the form of non-carbon utilities, implementing conservation, photo-voltaics, and geothermal half a block from Cambridge City Hall. Then, I talk to City Council about these new realities, and the efforts of the Sierra Club and other groups to protect the environment. The Sierra Club's superb efforts over the decades have brought about enormous change for the good. I am delighted to participate in that process and coordinate the Sierra Club's efforts with many others locally, nationally, and internationally. I hope to continue on the Greater Boston Group of the Sierra Club, supporting their projects, coordinating parallel projects to decrease duplication of efforts and maximize benefit.

**Elisa Campbell (Running for Chapter ExCom)** I have been involved in this chapter of the Sierra Club for almost 40 years, at various times being chair of the chapter or the local group. I edited the Sierran for five years. I am running for re-election to the ExCom, where I bring a perspective from beyond the Boston metropolitan area. For 20 years I've concentrated on protection and management of Massachusetts' public lands. More recently I've added efforts to keep our privately-owned forests as forests, not developments, as part of the Wildlands and Woodlands partnership. I'm also concerned about population, consumption, and accepting responsibility for our own ecological footprints. I would appreciate your vote.

**David Dow (Running for Cape and Islands Group)** David Dow is one of the co-founders of the Cape Cod and Islands Group. He has worked on Superfund/Safe Drinking Water Act Cleanup at the Massachusetts Military Reservation for over twenty years. His interests include contaminants of emerging concern in the wastewater mitigation efforts on Cape Cod and increasing the town recycling rates for municipal solid wastes (eventually moving to the Zero Waste Concept on Cape Cod).

**David Heimann (Running for Chapter ExCom and Greater Boston Group)** I have extensive experience serving on the Excom, having been on it often in the recent and not-so-recent past. Since last being on the Excom two years ago, I formed and led the Chapter Finances Task Force, which has resulted in our finances and fundraising becoming much improved, especially with the hiring of our Development Associate and the formulation of a Chapter strategic development plan. I serve on the Chapter Development Committee that was established as a result of this effort and intend to continue to be active there. In the past two years I have also served on the Greater Boston Group Executive Committee, participated on the Chapter Strategic Planning Task Force, and participated in a significant number of Chapter Excom activities and meetings. I have also followed issues and participated in activities in my interest area of energy, and intend to continue doing so.

### **Blossom Hoag (Running for Greater Boston Group)**

I am asking for your vote to the Greater Boston Group executive committee. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1982 and have held various group, chapter, regional and national positions. I care deeply for the environment, to listen and work with members on their issues and to help make the MA Chapter strong within the organization.

**Alison Leary (Running for Chapter ExCom)** Ever since childhood I have been fascinated by the natural world. I was inspired early on to get involved in environmental action; first as a canvasser, field manager and community organizer with Clean Water Action, later as a board member with Restore Olmsted's Waterway (ROW), a group dedicated to cleaning up the Muddy River, and currently as a board member with the Newton Conservators and the League of Women Voters-Newton. I also currently co-chair the LWV-Newton Environmental Committee. Areas of interest include legislative initiatives; the updated bottle bill, reducing plastic bag use, and safer alternatives to toxic products. Locally, I'm active in sustainable transportation issues, including low impact and transit oriented development as alternatives to the automobile and prioritizing green spaces in urban settings. I have been frustrated with the constant assaults on the environmental at the state and national level, and would be honored to serve on the Sierra Club's Executive Committee.

**John Lewis (Running for Chapter ExCom)** I would like your vote for a seat on the Chapter Executive Committee where I am presently and incumbent. I have much experience using the Massachusetts Sierra Club as a strong tool in important and highly political land use environmental issues such as transportation policy, and conversion of parkland to non-park commercial or public use. I am also a commissioner on the Boston Conservation Commission. For the future, a major task, in my opinion, is to attract and retain Sierra Club activist volunteers who, by their presence, attract more volunteers and donations for our chapter. I would appreciate your vote!

### **Robert Murphy (Running for Cape and Islands Group)**

Bob Murphy is an environmental justice advocate who has worked with the Sierra Club since the early 1970s. His interests include population issues, energy issues, and environmental health and safety concerns.

### **Michael B. Olex (Running for Thoreau Group)**

I have been a Sierran since 2001 and have been interested in nature and conservation my entire life. My definition of a good day is any day spent outside whether working in the yard, visiting parks and other natural areas, or running, biking, and cross-country skiing. I live in Bedford with my wife, Pat, and my stepdaughter, Kaitlin. Professionally, I am an Electrical Engineer who has worked as a senior level manager in engineering or manufacturing roles at life science and medical device companies for the past 25 years. I am active on the Chapter's Political Committee and Thoreau Group Executive Committee. My interest in environmental issues includes preserving our natural environment and sustainability. Protecting open spaces, improving energy efficiency, and developing renewable energy sources are some of the ways we can achieve these aims. Working within the Sierra Club allows me to promote these objectives.

### **Launa Zimmaro (Running for Thoreau Group)**

I've served on the Chapter Executive Committee for the past two years as Thoreau Group Chair. My focus at the state and local level has been the reduction of waste as a significant source of harmful pollution and emissions, energy consumption and resource loss. This past legislative session, I worked extensively on passage of the Updated Bottle Bill and E-Waste Bill, specific examples of state level legislation dealing with the issues of waste. At the local level, I've served as a member of my town's Household Recycling Committee for the past 5 years and spearheaded the development of a school wide composting program involving K-8 students in sorting and composting school cafeteria food scraps. I am proud to serve as a member of the Sierra Club – the most comprehensive environmental organization in the country – and am committed to strengthening the Club through thoughtful action.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

by Bob Murphy, Cape and Islands Group Chair

The summer of 2012 was the season when millions of Americans went to hell. The economy was still weak and droughts, heat waves, massive power failures, and extreme weather events tortured much of the nation in July and August. Millions of people suffered.

Americans told stories about the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s. Attention focused on the old Route 66 in America's heartland. Think about Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arizona. Give some thought, also, to what's happening in other regions in the United States.

On August 29, Hurricane Isaac hit New Orleans on the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's arrival. On Cape Cod, West Nile virus has been found in the mosquito population. Scientists like James Hansen say, "This is what climate change looks like." Maybe Hansen and his associates are right. I won't debate the point.

I suggest, instead, that a new response to America's environmental and economic problems is needed. Climate change - or something that looks like climate change - is here and now. We can continue to talk about prevention, and the prevention discussion is still needed, but there's a need, also, to address some immediate problems. Talk with your neighbors.

The New England Environmental Justice Summit took place in Worcester in June. Most of the conference participants were representatives of low-income and ethnic and racial minority groups. I spoke about the Sierra Club's concerns. We discussed the effects of extreme heat and cold and we identified community strategies for responding to local problems.

During the summer months, volunteers on Cape Cod distributed climate change information, and provided the public with information about problems like dehydration and heat exhaustion. At the end of August, folk singer Jim Scott and I presented our "Route 66" program in Falmouth. A few days later, we were in Lawrence, Massachusetts, for the annual "bread and roses" festival. Music and community organizing came together.

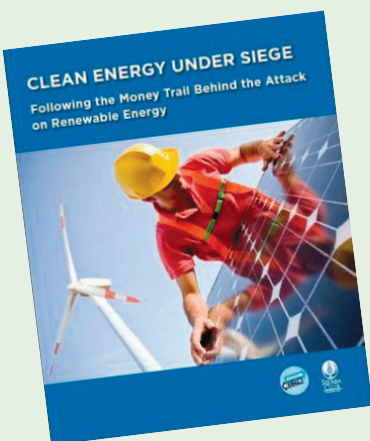
"This is what climate change looks like." Help your neighbors. ❖

*Bob Murphy is the chairman of the Sierra Club's Cape Cod and Islands Group. In 2011, Bob received a national Sierra Club Special Service Award for his environmental justice work.*



*Jim Scott and Bob Murphy bring climate change, music, and organizing together to help local communities*

### Clean Energy Under Siege: A New Sierra Club Report



Over the past decade, the fossil fuel industry has mounted a coordinated campaign to discredit renewable energy and hinder its growth, according to a new report released by the Sierra Club and available for download at [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).

*Clean Energy Under Siege* reveals how the fossil fuel industry is using tactics such as financial contributions to political campaigns, faux "think tanks," phony intellectuals, and astroturf groups to shift public opinion and discredit renewable energy. This misinformation campaign is currently evident in the struggle to renew the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind energy. The PTC helps support the more than 75,000 jobs in the wind industry, but if the tax credit is not renewed before the end of this year, as many as half those jobs could be lost.

The Sierra Club's report follows the trail of money from big polluters to politicians and non-profit front groups. For example, the oil and gas industry spent more than \$146 million on lobbying alone in 2011, while Big Oil tycoons David and Charles Koch gave at least \$85 million to 85 right-wing "think tanks" and advocacy groups over the past decade and a half. Meanwhile, organizations like the Manhattan Institute and the Heartland Institute that defend oil subsidies while attacking renewable energy have received upwards of \$600,000 each since 1998 from the oil company Exxon.

# The Rooftop Solar Revolution

## Go *Solar* with Sierra Club!



Solar rooftops are everywhere, and for good reason: 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. In some cases, you can start saving on your very first bill.

The technology used in today's solar panels work as well in Massachusetts as they do in the 'sunbelt' states. Even our mid-winter day length won't affect the net annual output. Within minutes after installation, you'll become a clean-energy producer, even selling power back to your electric company.

### Here's how it works:

Contact Sungevity through the Sierra Club by visiting the following link:

<http://www.sierraclubmass.org/gosolar/index.html>

They'll ask a few questions to help you determine if solar is right for you. When you decide to Go Solar, Sungevity will take care of all the paperwork, tax credit's "SRECs" and all other details. All you need to do is choose a payment option that makes sense for you and your budget.

After installation, some days you'll produce more than you use. Your electric company will buy this extra energy back from you at the same price you pay them. On those days when you need more than you produce, or at night, you'll still be able to buy from them. You only pay for the net usage.

The Sierra Club knows that if every American home installed solar panels on their rooftops, we'll vastly decrease our carbon output, decrease pollution, and minimize our dependency on fossil fuels. We know that this is an easy environmental step, and that it's also cost-effective.

### Financial Benefits

Besides the financial savings and huge environmental benefits, when you take advantage of the Sierra Club - Sungevity home solar initiative, Sungevity will donate \$750 to the Massachusetts Sierra Club and also give you a \$750 cash gift card (even more for October - see sidebar)! Sungevity offers multiple payment plans; each tailored to your financial goals. From a zero-down lease,

a pre-paid lease, outright purchase, and term lease, all system offer expert free installation, and a maintenance and service warranty. Your savings can start immediately. To benefit and get a free custom quote emailed to you, just contact Sungevity through us. ❖

### 5 Reasons to Go Solar!



- **Become Green!** The average American home consumes around 10,000 kwh a year – and creates over six tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Solar creates zero CO<sub>2</sub>, and you'll stop feeding the demand for fracking, coal, oil, fossil fuels and nuclear.
- **Solar is amazingly inexpensive** due to federal and state tax incentives! And with the flexibility of Sungevity's many payment options, solar could pay for itself very quickly.
- **You can increase your home's value!** If you're thinking about selling, buyers are aware of the savings that solar offers.
- **Energy Price Stability!** Worldwide events, market fluctuations, and fuel shortages will become irrelevant when you become your own electric company.
- **You'll be helping the Sierra Club!** The Sierra Club receives a donation for every new installation!

### Extra Savings and Bonus for October!

Take advantage of Sierra Club's innovative Home Solar initiative with Sungevity. Sungevity will give a \$750 (\$1,000 for October!) cash gift card to each homeowner who goes solar with our initiative and donate \$750 (\$1,000 for October!) to the Massachusetts Sierra Club for each installed system to support our environmental efforts. For additional information on solar's benefits visit our website.

[www.sierraclubmass.org/gosolar](http://www.sierraclubmass.org/gosolar)

## 2012 Legislative Wrap-Up

(continued from page 5)

**Wind Siting Reform – (H1775/S1666, Rep. Smizik/Sen. Finegold)** This bill facilitates the siting of land-based wind energy projects while still retaining local control by cities and towns.



James McCaffrey, Senator Hedlund, Janet Domenitz, and Deirdre Cummings are all smiles after the Senate passes the Updated Bottle Bill.

**Electric Vehicles – (S.1490, H.1798, H.1986, H.353)** Every bill to encourage the purchase or use of electric cars was killed in committee.

**Safer Alternatives – (S2079 Sen. Tolman/Rep. Kaufman)** Creates a program to support businesses and manufacturers to transition away from using / selling products containing toxic chemicals.

**Reinstate the Landfill Moratorium – (H1998, Rep. Gobi)** Continues our state moratorium on new landfill sites.

**Article 97/Public Lands Protection Act – (H3438 Rep. Balse/Sen. Eldridge)** Requires “no-net-loss” replacement of lands for parks being used or transferred from protected status.

For a complete listing please visit [www.sierraclub-mass.org/issues/legislative/legislative.html](http://www.sierraclub-mass.org/issues/legislative/legislative.html) ❖

## Thank You Summer Interns!

It is with a tearful eye that we bid farewell to our Summer 2012 interns, Hannah Sedgwick, Anisha Kalyani, and Rachel Gould, but we know they'll continue their green endeavors. All three were instrumental in our Bottle Bill Update Campaign, our work to Ban Plastic Bags, and to help elect environmental candidates. They worked to establish and strengthen our Twitter and Facebook presence, and to update our blogs and numerous webpages and printed flyers. Thank you all for your hard work and the progress you've made. We hope to see you as you continue your studies.



## Transitions and New Beginnings

(continued from page 2)

These are just a few of our achievements, but there is still much to do. Subterfuge and gridlock in politics has become a very real barrier to achieving victory on Beacon Hill and in Washington. Even legislation with overwhelming public support and sufficient votes to pass now has little chance of prevailing unless a select few in leadership also deem it worthy of their attention and approval. The very principles of democracy are fundamentally at risk right here in the birthplace of freedom.

Corporate polluters have doubled-down on efforts to buy politics with well-coordinated, and well-funded, attacks on our agenda, including our efforts to protect habitat, fight climate change, and promote clean energy. For example, we know conservation of open space benefits the environment and the economy, but some now brand our efforts to protect communities and public health as a fundamental “assault on liberty”. How on earth did we get *here*? I submit it is the corporate and personal greed of monied interests that is fueled by (or in many cases *fueling*) campaigns of lies and misinformation.

Fortunately, Sierra Club members are present in every legislative district in Massachusetts, and we need you to help by raising your voices, *because your voice does count*. While the polluter's agenda is driven by money, it is further enabled by our silence. The Chapter is embarking on new programs to organize even more effectively at the local and town level in order to hold our elected officials accountable and move our agenda forward. We do not just need to occupy Wall Street or Main Street; we need to occupy Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill by electing new leaders with a shared vision that lifts all.

The challenges before us now as a society are far more complicated than in the past. When rivers once caught fire from toxic dumping, the choice seemed obvious – *clean it up*. But today's efforts to protect earth's delicate balance are at times more nuanced. Will we choose to allow appropriately sited wind turbines on select ridgelines in Massachusetts, or instead continue to sanction, through our actions or inactions, *hundreds of miles of ridgelines* to be decimated with mountain top removal mining for coal in Appalachia?

My new role creates new opportunities for me to work with – if no longer *for* – the Massachusetts Chapter. We have the opportunity to make New England the first coal-free region in America, but it is a heavy-lift and we will all need to pull together just as we have done so many times in the past. I am excited to begin my next journey with the Sierra Club, and grateful that my relationships with the tremendously dedicated volunteers here, and with you, our members, will endure. Your wisdom, passion, and dedication to our common cause remain a daily inspiration to me, and I thank you for your guidance, support and wisdom over the years. JBM 9.19.12 ❖



*Snowy Owl Downbeat*

© Deborah A. Venuti, used by permission



## SUPPORT THE MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER THROUGH EARTHSHARE NEW ENGLAND

The Massachusetts Chapter recently became a member of EarthShare New England. Representing the spirit of caring and sharing at the workplace Earthshare provides a simple, convenient way for you to support the Chapter by giving through a workplace charitable giving campaign.

Workplace giving is a means by which employees donate primarily through payroll pledges. With EarthShare there are three ways to give.

**One Gift** - Make a payroll contribution through your workplace giving program that will be shared among EarthShare New England's member charities.

**Give to your favorite** – You can give specifically to one charity whose cause is most important to you.

**Give to many** – If you have several charities you wish to support you can give to any combination.

For twenty years EarthShare and its affiliates have worked with National and local environmental nonprofits to focus attention and funding on those issues that are so important to all of us. Regardless of your budget, even two dollars a pay period, will make a difference.

If EarthShare is not available to you at your workplace, ask your employer about adding it as an additional choice. It can run side-by-side with United Way and many other federations in hundreds of campaigns across the country.

For any further questions about supporting the Massachusetts Chapter Sierra Club through Earthshare, please contact EarthShare New England directly ([info@earthsharenewengland.org](mailto:info@earthsharenewengland.org)).

Dear Fellow Sierrans:



The Sierra Club is unique in that local volunteer leaders set the agenda and path that each Chapter takes to protect their local environment. In Massachusetts, our work on fisheries policies and forest biomass regulations have reverberated across the nation and influenced national Sierra Club policy. Local leaders across the nation also set the national Sierra Club agenda and policy through our Board of Directors elected by you, our members. This in turn creates the foundation for the largest and most effective grassroots environmental organization in the world. No other non-profit entity empowers, motivates, and inspires so many individuals to become leaders in the fight to protect earth's delicate balance.

*You, our members and supporters, are the Sierra Club.* All our efforts, challenges, and victories depend on your support, and we need you now more than ever. Whether you can write a Letter to the Editor on an important issue, or write a check to the Massachusetts Chapter to support an important program, the Sierra Club simply cannot survive without your participation, no matter how small. Please contact us via the web site to get involved, visit [sierraclubmass.org/donate](http://sierraclubmass.org/donate) to make a donation, or use the envelope in this issue to send in a contribution.

Thank you for your support!

*James McCaffrey*

### Chapter Election Schedule--2012

- July 22 – Nominating / Election Committees Appointed
- Sept. 1 – Notice of the election to members.
- Sept. 15 – Petition Candidate deadline
- Sept. 16 – Ballot Statements due
- September 27 – Obtain election mailing list
- Oct. 1 – Election materials sent to members
- December 15 – Ballots receipt deadline
- December 21 – Ballots counted at Chapter office, 3:00 pm.

MASSACHUSETTS

# SIERRAN

Reaching More Than 20,000  
Sierra Club Members in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Chapter  
Sierra Club

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[www.sierraclubmass.org](http://www.sierraclubmass.org)

SIGN UP FOR THE

## E-SIERRAN

Want to become more active and stay informed about Massachusetts' environmental issues? Subscribe to the *E-Sierran*, the Chapter's monthly email newsletter, and you'll receive receive alerts and announcements regarding critical environmental issues:

- Environmental news from around the state
- Alerts on import legislation, and when to contact your elected officials
- Events, film showings, and gatherings
- Announcements regarding critical environmental issues
- Club meetings, and lots of other great ways to get involved in protecting our environment


Just visit [www.sierraclubmass.org](http://www.sierraclubmass.org) and click on "E-Sierran".

Privacy: E-mail addresses of members of the lists will not be shared, rented, sold or otherwise provided to any non-Sierra Club entities. The list will be used only for Sierra sponsored and cosponsored events and actions.

### Become a Fan on Facebook!

Join our online community! Share your environmental concerns, thoughts, and ideas!  
[facebook.com/MassSierraClub](http://facebook.com/MassSierraClub)

### Follow Us on Twitter!

Live green tweets, news bulletins, and important environmental tidbits!   
[twitter.com/MassSierraClub](http://twitter.com/MassSierraClub)

For a complete list of our Twitter and Facebook accounts, please visit [www.sierraclubmass.org](http://www.sierraclubmass.org)

### \*\*\* Three Stars Next to Your Name?

This means that we don't have your email address. By providing your email address, you'll save trees, save postage, and you'll be able to opt-in to the chapter's important email alerts. You can opt in or out of any mailings. Don't worry - we won't share your address with any others. Sign up at: [www.sierraclubmass.org](http://www.sierraclubmass.org)



## Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway  
Director, Gift Planning  
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:  
[planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)