



Clean Energy Legislative Hearing Success | Beacon Hill Drives Electric | Fuel Tracking | Climate Change Tipping Point | Leadership Award + more!



November 2015

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Message from the Chapter Chair

Much is happening right now, on many fronts.

- We are celebrating President Obama's decision to [reject the Keystone XL Pipeline](#). Such pipeline battles continue here in Massachusetts. The Sierra Club testified against the taking of conservation land for a Kinder Morgan pipeline in Sandisfield.
- The United States and other nations are preparing for the UN Climate talks to be held in Paris from November 30 to December 11.
- The only nuclear power plant in Massachusetts, Pilgrim in Plymouth, is now [scheduled to be shut down](#).
- The Sierra Club recently testified at the State House in support of a revenue-neutral price on carbon, where the collected fees would be returned to us - to individual households, businesses, municipalities. This is a very straightforward and effective way to rein in carbon pollution.

The State House rooms where we testified were packed with folks such as yourselves, dedicated to making sure we move quickly toward a clean energy future.

Thanks for all you do.

I hope you will be able to drop in at our holiday get-together where we can celebrate our progress and encourage each other to do great things in the months ahead. Details below.

Supporters Show Up En Masse to Be Heard for Clean Energy



A hearing on the Commonwealth's omnibus energy bill took place September 29th, and our voices were certainly heard. With over 350 people, nearly 10 pages of testifiers, and the momentum of a grassroots coalition, [Mass Power Forward](#), this was truly a day for clean energy. Testimony by Chapter Chair Cathy Buckley, Energy Chair Ed Woll, and National Clean Energy Organizer Drew Grande sent the message that we can no longer stifle the clean energy industry. We need an increased Renewable Portfolio Standard, to raise the cap on solar net metering, and we must wean off fossil fuels in any form.

ACTION: Tell Governor Baker you want to see Massachusetts move beyond fossil fuels with clean, renewable energy!

Putting a Price on Pollution: Mass Sierra Club Supports an Act Combating Climate Change



Nature has value - intrinsic, spiritual, social, AND economic. It is time we put a price on the natural resources we use, and the damage we cause. Chapter Chair Cathy Buckley provided compelling testimony at the October 27th hearing on Senate Bill 1747, An Act Combating Climate Change. **Not a single person that day testified in opposition.** In the words of our Chapter Chair, "Putting a price on carbon is a solution that can be compared to a great mathematical proof - simple and elegant." While carbon pricing has been successful elsewhere, Massachusetts would lead the nation in passing a bill that not only puts a price on carbon emissions, but returns the fees back to us.

ACTION: Call your legislator and tell them you support putting a price on carbon pollution! Find your legislator here.

Driving Electric on Beacon Hill: National Drive Electric Week 2015



National Drive Electric Week 2015 saw over 180 events, organized at a grassroots level by local champions in communities all across the country. In Boston, Massachusetts Sierra Club worked together with the offices of State Representatives Jonathan Hecht, Frank Smizik, Bradford Hill, and State Senator Jamie Eldridge to bring a fleet of EVs to Beacon Hill. On September 17th, Ashburton Place bustled with support for efficient electrified transportation. Secretary of Energy & Environment

Matt Beaton and Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack were among many VIPs who experienced driving electric. With costs dropping and infrastructure growing, electric vehicles are here to stay.

ACTION: Did you know Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles? Learn about the MOR-EV program at <http://mor-ev.org>. Also see our online [Electric Vehicle Guide](#) to find out which EV is best for you!

What's in Our Fuel? Fuel Tracking for Greater Transparency + Pollution Control



Over the past fifteen years, while the Mass. economy grew 68%, greenhouse gas emissions fell 16%. Yet the transportation sector continues to account for 40% of all emissions. **Increasingly efficient electric vehicles certainly help**, but to reduce emissions we must know what is in our fuel. Right now we cannot. **Bill S.456** and **Bill H.754** would establish tracking and reporting requirements for all transportation fuel sold in Massachusetts. We cannot manage what we cannot measure. Please urge your legislator to vote for this common sense bill.

ACTION: Contact your legislator and urge them to vote for Bill S.456 and Bill H.754 to establish tracking and reporting requirements on transportation fuels and their associated greenhouse gas emissions.

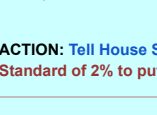
Clean Energy + Climate Change: The Avoidable Catastrophe of the Two-Degree Tipping Point



Burning global oil, gas, and coal at current rates (producing 31 billion tons of carbon dioxide annually worldwide) will push us past the 3.6 degree Fahrenheit tipping point by 2030. To quote [former NASA scientist James Hansen](#), "It is not difficult to imagine that conflicts arising from forced migrations and economic collapse might make the planet ungovernable, threatening the fabric of civilization." In order for Massachusetts to meet climate goals laid out in the [2008 Global Warming Solutions Act](#), we have to accelerate our reliance on renewables. A simple, commonsense solution is to double our **Renewable Portfolio Standard to 2%**. With an additional 2% of energy being sourced from renewables each year (the current standard is 1%), we will be on track to **cut climate pollutants by 80% by 2050**, and help ensure our emissions are kept at safer levels.

ACTION: Tell House Speaker Robert DeLeo that you support a Renewable Portfolio Standard of 2% to put us on track to meet our emissions reduction goals.

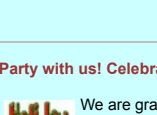
Massachusetts Sierra Club Receives Energy Leadership Award from Mass Energy



Mass Energy Consumers Alliance honored the Massachusetts Sierra Club **"for their focus on climate change, clean energy advocacy and education, particularly recent efforts to expand the Renewable Portfolio Standard and to promote electric vehicles and green municipal aggregation."**

We are grateful to receive this honor from our friends at Mass Energy.

Party with us! Celebrate the holidays with the Massachusetts Sierra Club!

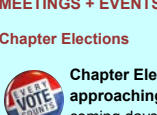


We are grateful for your support. Join us at a holiday open house **Thursday, December 17th, 4-6 PM** at our office at 10 Milk St., 4th floor, Boston.

Please **RSVP** to Chapter Coordinator, Aileen Kelley [here](#).

MEETINGS + EVENTS

Chapter Elections



Chapter Elections for Group and Chapter Executive Committees are approaching. When our members receive the Massachusetts Sierran in the mail in coming days, please vote! **Deadline to submit your ballot is December 18th.**

Committee Meetings

Transportation Committee Meeting **Tuesday, December 2, 2015, 6:30-8:30 PM**
Chapter office, use 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston
Contact John Kyper, jkyper47@gmail.com.

Political Committee Meeting **Monday, December 14, 2015, 6:00-7:30 PM**
Chapter office, use 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston
Contact David Rudolph, cpc@sierraclubmass.org.

Community Meetings

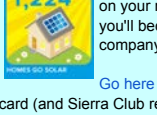
Community Forum on Carbon Pricing in Massachusetts
Thursday, December 3, 2015, 7:30-9:00 PM
First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington

Speakers:

Launa Zimmero, League of Women Voters (and Mass. Sierra Club Excom member)
Quinton Zondervan, Climate Action Business Association

Marc Breslow, Co-Director, ClimateXChange
Cathy Buckley, Chair, Massachusetts Sierra Club

Do Good and Go Solar with the Sierra Club's Home Solar initiative with Sungevity Solar



costs have come down and government incentives have made the installation of solar panels an even smarter financial decision. You can now install a solar system on your rooftop for a fraction of what it used to cost. Within minutes after installation, you'll become a clean-energy producer, even selling power back to your electric company.

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

What Will Be Your Legacy?

Ensure your legacy by giving 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. The Sierra Club is the nation's largest and oldest grassroots environmental organization with over 1 million members and supporters, of which 15,000 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 electronic newsletter to members and subscribers. [Go here](#) to view our privacy policy.