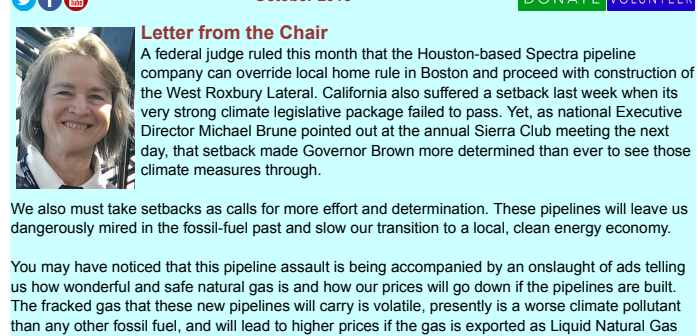


Strengthen Massachusetts' Clean Energy Economy! | New Website | Close Pilgrim | New Website | Mass Power Forward + more!



MASSACHUSETTS SIERRA CLUB

10 Milk Street, Suite 417, Boston, MA 02108-4600
(617) 423-5775 | sierraclubmass.org

Female Hump Marine right whale and calf, NOAA photo

October 2015

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Letter from the Chair

A federal judge ruled this month that the Houston-based Spectra pipeline company can override local home rule in Boston and proceed with construction of the West Roxbury Lateral. California also suffered a setback last week when its very strong climate legislative package failed to pass. Yet, as national Executive Director Michael Brune pointed out at the annual Sierra Club meeting the next day, that setback made Governor Brown more determined than ever to see those climate measures through.

We also must take setbacks as calls for more effort and determination. These pipelines will leave us dangerously mired in the fossil-fuel past and slow our transition to a local, clean energy economy.

You may have noticed that this pipeline assault is being accompanied by an onslaught of ads telling us how wonderful and safe natural gas is and how our prices will go down if the pipelines are built. The fracked gas that these new pipelines will carry is volatile, presently is a worse climate pollutant than any other fossil fuel, and will lead to higher prices if the gas is exported as Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) - which is the ultimate objective of the industry.

We need to fight these projects now. See <http://www.resistthepipeline.org> for more information. The Sierra Club is forming a core group to work on pipeline issues. Please [contact me](#) if interested. And, as always, [please donate](#) as generously as you are able - the more you give, the more action we can take. Thank you.

Cathy Ann Buckley
Chapter Chair

New Website

We are working on a new website which we expect to release within a month. We believe it will be easier to navigate, informative and more useful as a tool for activism. Stay tuned!

Tell Speaker DeLeo: Strengthen Massachusetts' Clean Energy Economy!

The Mass. Legislature held a hearing on proposed energy legislation on Sept. 29. We testified in favor of bills boosting solar, wind and energy efficiency, and against public money funding new gas pipelines. Now House Speaker Robert DeLeo needs to hear from YOU!

[Send a message to Speaker DeLeo today, urging him to make clean energy a priority for the legislature this year.](#)

Help Pass Reauthorization of The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act

Our entire Massachusetts delegation is co-sponsoring re-authorization of the [Land and Water Conservation Fund \(LWCF\) Act](#).

We put out an action alert asking you to email your Senators and Representative and you responded and sent thousands of emails resulting in the entire Massachusetts delegation signing on as co-sponsors to S.890, S.338 + H.R.1814.

By September's autumnal equinox there were 168 cosponsors of the House bill, and nearly 30 on S.890, nearly 20 on S.338. Additional co-sponsors will continue to be important as this matter will reappear in Congress soon, and every additional co-sponsor sends a stronger message to Congressional Leadership. MA is the largest state delegation in which all the members of Congress and our two Senators are co-sponsors. *We're proud!* [Please thank them!](#)

Massachusetts Sierra Club Co-Founds Mass Power Forward

The Mass. Chapter is a founding member of [Mass Power Forward](#), a new statewide coalition of over ninety organizations advocating for an energy policy that will transition the Commonwealth away from fossil fuels and toward locally generated, clean, renewable, affordable energy sources. The coalition consists of environmental organizations, faith groups, businesses, and more... and it is growing!

What You Can Do: Have your business, group or house of worship endorse Mass Power Forward by [visiting here](#).

Attorney General Maura Healy Challenges Approval of Gas Pipeline

Attorney General Maura Healy [wrote to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(FERC\)](#) to express her concern that our Department of Public Utilities is rushing approval of new natural gas pipelines without full consideration of whether they are justified, and without knowing the impact on ratepayers.

Kudos to our AG for doing her job! You can drop her a line of thanks [here](#).

National Drive Electric Week

National Drive Electric Week, September 12-20, was a nationwide week of events to raise awareness of electric vehicles (EVs) and their environmental benefits. EVs are fun to drive, less expensive to fuel, better for the environment, promote local jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Massachusetts events were held in Amherst, Boston, Brookline, Natick, Plymouth and Worcester. See our op-eds in the [Brookline Tab](#) and [Worcester Telegram](#). Car buyers in Mass. can receive a \$2,500 state rebate and \$7,500 federal tax credit toward the purchase or lease of a new EV! Go to <https://mor-ev.org/> for more details. Photo: Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs [Matthew A. Beaton](#) test driving an EV at the Boston event.

Let's Close Pilgrim!

In late August, the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's reactor [inexplicably shut down](#), marking the third such unplanned shutdown in 2015. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has downgraded the plant's safety rating to next-to-the-lowest level 4, marking it as one of the country's three worst operating reactors, all of which are owned by Energy. As our [Letter to the Editor](#) lays out, the Mass. chapter believes it is long past time to shut down this plant. It is a safety hazard to the more than four million people who live within fifty miles of it.

What You Can Do: Send an email to [Senator Elizabeth Warren](#) and [Senator Edward Markey](#) and ask them to tell the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to close Pilgrim. (Senators Warren and Markey require full address and telephone number in emails to them.)

Gov. Baker Reverses Himself, Favors Raising Solar Net Metering Cap

In a victory for solar energy and jobs in Massachusetts, Governor Baker [reversed his position and called for raising the cap on net metering](#) to 1,600 MW. Net metering is the billing mechanism that credits you for the electricity your solar panels add to the grid. It allows homeowners or companies with solar power to offset their electricity use and earn credits when they generate more electricity than they use.

Currently, the cap set by state law [has been reached](#) in National Grid territory-171 cities and towns-putting over \$70 million projects and hundreds of jobs on hold.

While we applaud Gov. Baker changing his stance, we are concerned with details of his bill that would reimburse homeowners at the wholesale rate of electricity rather than the retail rate, and thus make solar less attractive economically. [Listen to Chapter Director Emily Norton on this topic](#) with WRKO Radio host Kim Carrigan.

Gas Leaks

Sierra Club was one of several organizations who testified at a recent Boston City Council hearing, [recorded here](#). At the time of this writing, local governing bodies in Cambridge, Framingham, Newton, Northampton, Somerville and Waltham have all passed resolutions in favor of state bill [H.2870](#) which would prohibit utilities from passing along the cost of leaking and "unaccounted for" gas to consumers, which is their current practice. These leaks cost utility customers ~\$100 million per year and are a major climate pollutant. Simply, the utilities pollute our air, and we pay for the pollution.

What You Can Do: Get your local governing body to pass a resolution in favor of H.2870! [Contact us](#) for the steps to take.

Help Pass More Plastic Bag Bans

Sixteen communities, representing 7% of the state's population, have passed bans on the distribution of lightweight single use plastic bags from retail stores. Let's keep that momentum going until we get a statewide ban in place!

What You Can Do: Ask your local elected officials to pass a plastic bag ban in your community. [Contact us](#) to show you how.

Thanks! Thank You to our Fabulous Interns

We were extremely fortunate to have five talented students and recent college graduates working with us this summer: Michele Brooks, Huda Gad, Anthony Lucivero, Kevin O'Brien and Jessica Wright. They were an integral part of our team working on electric vehicle promotion, energy efficiency research, volunteer recruitment and more. Thank you!

Recent Events

This was a busy summer for the Massachusetts chapter!
We organized a local "kayaktivism" on the Charles River against Shell Oil drilling in the Arctic, see [photos here](#). And we are thrilled to report that on Sept. 27, Shell announced it has abandoned plans to drill!

We hosted a film screening of "Gwich'in Women Speak," a short film about the native American Gwich'in nation trying to protect their sacred land on the coastal plain of the arctic wildlife refuge from oil development. The screening included filmmaker Miho Aida leading a discussion after the screening.

Press

Chapter Chair Cathy Buckley appeared on WBZ radio's "Nightside with Dan Rae" to discuss the West Roxbury pipeline (scroll down to Aug. 20 show).

Op-Ed by Chapter Director Emily Norton and EV intern Kevin O'Brien about National Drive Electric Week.

Chapter Director Emily Norton's [Letter to the Editor](#) in the Boston Globe calling for the closing of the Pilgrim nuclear plant.

Massachusetts Sierra Club Call for Nominations

Massachusetts Sierra Club members are invited to submit their names or recommend others for nomination to our Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) and the Group Executive Committees (Greater Boston, Cape Cod and Islands + Thoreau).

The ExCom of the Chapter and each Group serves as its board of directors, establishing priorities, goals, strategies, and policies. For further information or to nominate yourself or another, [please contact the Nominating Committee](#). Nominations are due October 8.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Cape Cod and Islands Group Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2015, 7:00-8:30 PM
Unitarian Universalists Fellowship of Falmouth
840 Sandwich Road, East Falmouth, MA
Contact David Dow ddow420@comcast.net. This meeting is open to the public.

Transportation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 6:30-8:30 PM
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston
Contact John Kyper jkyper47@gmail.com. This meeting is open to the public.

Great Boston Group Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 7:00-8:30 PM
Chapter Office, 294 Washington Street entrance, Suite 417, Boston
Contact Debbie Cook debbiecook281@gmail.com. This meeting is open to the public.

Panel Discussion on Global Warming and Carbon Pricing
Thursday, October 15, 2015, 7:30 PM
Old Ship Church, 107 Main Street, Hingham, MA
Panelists will include: Marc Breslow, policy director for Climate XChange, whose mission "is to reduce global warming pollution and strengthen the economy through comprehensive market-based carbon pricing in Massachusetts"; Andrew Martecchini, an engineer who has consulted with several South Shore towns about the serious effects climate change has had in this region; Launa Zimmaro, who, as energy and resource conservation specialist for the League of Women Voters, testified before the state legislature in favor of a carbon fee bill after studying the successful results in British Columbia, and Cathy Buckley, chair of the Massachusetts chapter of the Sierra Club, the oldest and most effective environmental organization in the United States. A question and answer period will follow. Contact Cathy Buckley chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org for more info. This meeting is open to the public.

Blue Hills National Park Service/DCR Walk and Talk
Sunday, October 25, 2015, 1:00 PM
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site 617-566-1689 ext 238
Registration will be required because there will be a cut off on number of attendees.
Olmsted National Historic Site (NHS) and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Partnership Walks. Olmsted NHS Fall 2015 Walks and Talks series focuses on both the design and preservation of regional landscapes of the Olmsted firm, particularly that of partner Charles Eliot. Updated info forthcoming.

South Boston's Marine Park: National Park Service/DCR Walk and Talk
Saturday, November 07, 2015, 10:00 AM
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site 617-566-1689 ext 238
Registration will be required because there will be a cut off on number of attendees.
Olmsted National Historic Site (NHS) and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Partnership Walks. Olmsted NHS Fall 2015 Walks and Talks series focuses on both the design and preservation of regional landscapes of the Olmsted firm, particularly that of partner Charles Eliot. Updated info forthcoming.

Revere Beach - America's First Public Beach: National Park Service / DCR Walk and Talk
Saturday, November 21, 2015, 2:00 PM
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, 617-566-1689 ext 238
Registration will be required because there will be a cut off on number of attendees.
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (NHS) and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Partnership Walks. Olmsted NHS Fall 2015 Walks and Talks series focuses on both the design and preservation of regional landscapes of the Olmsted firm, particularly that of partner Charles Eliot. Updated info forthcoming.

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 making a gift to the Massachusetts Sierra Club in your will or trust by beneficiary designation. Planned gifts are particularly important to the Chapter as they provide significant resources to continue conservation activities over an extended period of time. For more information on naming the Massachusetts Chapter as a beneficiary of a bequest or on creating life-income gifts, call (800) 932-4270 or email giftplanning@sierraclub.org. The Sierra Club is the nation's largest and oldest grassroots environmental organization with over 1 million members and supporters, of which 22,000 are here in Massachusetts. We fight for clean air, clean water, the preservation of the Commonwealth's most precious natural spaces, and healthy, vibrant communities.

About the e-Sierran

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