



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

October 2022

Massachusetts Equity & Justice Roadmap

In 2020, the Massachusetts Chapter—with the help of numerous volunteers, partners, and allies—wrote and publicly released an [Equity and Justice Roadmap](#). We advocate for environmental justice and climate justice across the state, but we can't do this well without ensuring that we are a just organization. Learn about the Roadmap we've created for the Chapter to become a more equitable organization and ways you can be part of the movement!

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Advocacy Hour: Campaign Updates

Wednesdays at 5:00pm
Virtual Event

Join Sierra Club Massachusetts leaders on Zoom for a campaign update, every Wednesday at 5pm. This is an opportunity to get plugged into our campaigns, learn about [timely issues](#) and ongoing projects, and talk directly to Sierra Club staff and leaders. New members and volunteers welcome!



October 26 at 5pm

Zero Net Carbon Buildings in Boston

Boston has released a draft policy that will require new large buildings in the city to be zero net carbon emissions. If passed, this policy would reduce air pollution, improving Boston's air quality and residents' health. Join this Advocacy Hour presentation to learn more about the policy and how we can ensure that it is passed!

[RSVP Here](#)

BERDO 2.0 Comment Period now open

Boston's Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) sets

[RSVP Here](#)



November 2 at 5pm

requirements for large buildings to reduce their energy use. Draft regulations are now available and are open for comments between now and 5pm on November 10, 2022. Join this Advocacy Hour to learn more about the regulations and how you can continue ensuring that Boston has the strongest building emissions laws possible!



November 9 at 5pm

The IRA in MA: the biggest climate investment in decades

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), passed this summer, aims to cut emissions substantially by 2030 by making unprecedented investments in clean energy, transportation, and good jobs. We will provide an overview of the bill and its funding opportunities - both personal and governmental - and preview the road ahead to making sure these funds are spent well here in Massachusetts.

[RSVP Here](#)



November 16 at 5pm

How do gas prices affect our elections?

Rising gas prices rank high on Americans' priority list - and they may well be the deciding issue that results in an anti-climate federal government this November. But in a world of less climate pollution, rising gas prices may be inevitable. How do we reconcile these two realities? Come engage with others on this paradox and discuss possible solutions.

[RSVP Here](#)

We need to fund the climate bill!

This past session, the legislature passed [landmark climate legislation](#). However, language to fund these programs was removed from the final bill, and added to an Economic Development bill. This bill is currently being negotiated by the legislature. A vote is not guaranteed to happen - we need to push for it. [Here is a toolkit to call lead negotiators](#). **Take action today!**

[Take Action Now!](#)

Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

Sunday, November 13 at 7:00pm
Virtual Event

Learn how to make healthy plant-based food with the Plant-based Planet Team! We'll demonstrate how to make various plant-based dishes at home. Feel free to ask us questions; we'll be happy to help you.



[RSVP Here](#)



Clean Energy & Climate



Tell Boston to require new large buildings to be net-zero carbon emissions and limit climate pollution!

Right now, Boston has an opportunity to dramatically reduce building pollution - the largest contributor to the city's carbon emissions. Boston has released a draft policy that will require new large buildings (over 20,000 square feet) in the city to achieve zero net carbon emissions. This is a key step in ensuring the city will meet its stated goal of being carbon-free by 2050—a step that the city committed to taking in its 2019 climate action plan update.

[Take Action Now](#)

Transportation Matters

Five MA School Districts Receive EPA Grants for School Bus Electrification



The EPA has announced 2022 grant recipients for their Clean School Bus program. [Five school districts in MA](#) (Fall River, Lawrence, Pioneer Valley, New Bedford, Upper Cape Cod) have received grants totaling \$29.5 million to procure electric school buses. Thanks to your advocacy, there has been a lot of interest in the program. It was oversubscribed with over 40 MA school districts applying for funding.

Additional rounds of funding are expected soon, so continue to advocate to your school district. The EPA will be announcing a grant and rebate program in Q1 and Q2 of 2023 that school districts can apply for. [Here's a handy toolkit](#) that you can use in your advocacy.

If your school district is not ready to procure electric buses just yet but is looking for an actionable plan to electrify their fleet, MassCEC is offering no-cost "[School Bus Advisory Services](#)" and is accepting applications. Ask your school district to [fill out this interest form](#) to get more information.

Every Year is an Election Year

Are you ready to vote on November 8?

The November 8 General Election is fast approaching. Cast a vote for our health, our communities, and our planet.

We have gathered some [helpful information](#) related to voting this November:

- Voter Registration Deadline: October 29, 2022
- Vote by Mail Application Deadline: November 1, 2022
- Early Voting: October 22 - November 4
- Election Day Polling Hours: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

On Ballot: Representative in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Governor's Council, State Senator, State Representative, District Attorney, Sheriff, County Commissioner (only in certain counties), statewide ballot questions.*

*Ballots in some counties and communities may have additional local offices and questions.

Not sure where to vote? [Find your current voting location here.](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Climate Research Team Meeting

Wednesdays at 6:10pm

Weekly meeting of the Climate Research Team. This team looks at municipal progress on clean energy/climate issues and seeks opportunities to leverage municipal power for state policy change.

[RSVP Here](#)

Election Team Meeting

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Every other week, we'll be unleashing the power of the Sierra Club in this election: our members! Talk to friendly Sierra Club members and motivate them to support climate champions. On the off weeks, join us for meetings to collaborate on turning out members and training for skills to organize. ***It's the last week to make a difference in our elections here in Massachusetts. Join the elections team as we remind our members to vote this Wednesday!***

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 27 at 6:00pm

Join us to discuss and respond to critical transportation issues affecting Massachusetts, including rail, bus, bike, pedestrian, and traffic pollution policies.

[RSVP Here](#)

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00pm

Please join us for the bi-weekly meeting of the Cape Cod Group. All interested parties are welcome.

[RSVP Here](#)

Political Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 8 at 6:00pm

This committee researches political candidates and makes recommendations on who the Chapter should endorse.

[RSVP Here](#)

Forest Protection Team Meeting

Thursday, November 10 at 7:00pm

The Forest Protection Team is dedicated to protecting and preserving forests and trees throughout Massachusetts through education, advocacy and community involvement. All are welcome to attend!

[RSVP Here](#)

Toxics Team Meeting

Monday, November 14 at 5:00pm

Regular meeting of the Toxics Team. This team handles toxic pollution issues, including deadly chemicals (e.g. PFAS), plastic-based pollutants, and recycling/solid waste issues.

[RSVP Here](#)

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 17 at 5:30pm

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee. All members welcome to join except for any Executive Session.

[RSVP Here](#)

Energy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 22 at 5:30pm

This committee meets monthly for conversations about energy policy. They weigh in on legislative issues, write testimony for hearings/public input sessions, and pen op-eds for media publications.

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00pm

Please join us for the monthly meeting of the Plant-based Planet Team. Come discuss strategies to promote a plant-based diet as way of fighting climate change and conserving natural resources.

[RSVP Here](#)

Friend and Partner Events

Bringing it Home: Tackling Climate Change on the Cape & Islands

Friday, October 28 at 8:30am

Virtual Event

Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative's Fifth Annual NET ZERO 2022 conference (NZ-22) will be held on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Conference sessions will focus on three major areas:

1. Offshore Wind: Impacts, Benefits & Opportunities
2. Buildings, Climate & Equity
3. Climate Action: Thinking Regionally & Acting Locally

[Register Here](#)

Governance Back: Exploring Indigenous approaches to reclaiming relationships with land

November 3 at 3:30pm

Virtual Event

Hot off the heels of a report of the same name, co-author and Professor Aimée Craft of the Decolonizing Water Project, along with Chairman Valentin Lopez, Chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, will explore how ecological and social justice can be advanced through creative initiatives that return land stewardship responsibilities, relationships and accompanying livelihoods to Indigenous Peoples. Co-author and boreal project manager at the David Suzuki Foundation Rachel Plotkin will moderate the discussion. A period of question and answer will follow.

[Register Here](#)

Our Reading List

Read the latest environmental news from Massachusetts and beyond...

- [PURA Decision Establishes Low-Income Rate](#) (CT News Junkie, 10/19/22)
- [No more excuses: New England's power grid operator needs to bring renewables online](#) (Boston Globe, 10/17/22)
- [These communities want to lower residents' electric bills — and carbon emissions. Here's what's stopping them.](#) (Boston Globe, 10/16/22)
- [The next frontier for climate action is the great indoors](#) (Vox, 10/14/22)
- [Cities Are a Big Part of the Climate Problem. They Can Also Be a Big Part of the Solution](#) (Inside Climate News, 10/8/22)
- [Lung Cancer in Nonsmokers? Study Identifies Air Pollution as a Trigger](#) (Inside Climate News, 10/5/22)
- [6 Unexpected Climate Lessons From Hurricane Ian](#) (Inside Climate News, 10/4/22)

Always be sure to check our [website calendar](#) for more upcoming events. If you'd like the Sierra Club to co-sponsor your event (and add it to our events digest), [please email us!](#)



This email was sent to: **emma.brown@sierraclub.org**

This email was sent by the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter
50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02110

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