



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

December 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

Happy Winter Solstice!

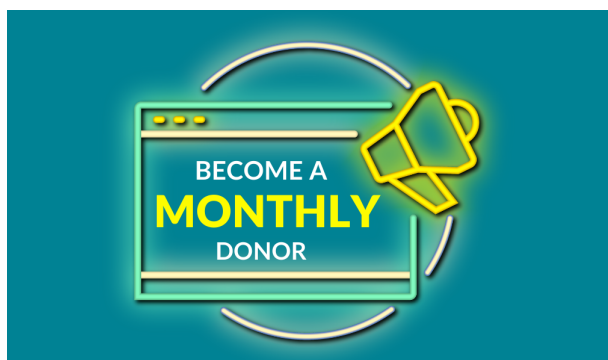
We are drawing to the end of another busy year, and have accomplished so much together:

We passed a major [Massachusetts climate bill](#) and strengthened regulations on a ["no net loss" policy for protected open spaces](#) in Massachusetts. We also supported 32 candidates, including plastics champion Senator Becca Rausch, who was re-elected in a new, competitive district, and Rep-elect Margaret Scarsdale, an advocate from Pepperell who won her election by 7 votes.



Reminder that the Sierra Club offices are closed from December 23rd, 2022 to January 2nd, 2023. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and are excited to carry this momentum forward into the new year!

Help Sustain Our Work!



Clean Energy & Climate

All-Electric Homes are Cheaper and Cleaner than Gas in Massachusetts

Stay alongside us in 2023 to advance clean energy for all across the state, while working to halt the expansion of our gas system.

[Check out this report by RMI](#) showing that it's cheaper to build homes with all electric rather than gas in Massachusetts, which would help us save carbon emissions and lower utility costs.

We look forward to continue working with you all in the new year to help communities advance this climate and health solution!

Gas Stoves and Your Health

U.S. PIRG Education Fund and Sierra Club (with support from our partners at Sunstone Strategies) released a [new report](#) on December 14, 2022 on gas stove pollution and what information consumers are getting at point of sale through a survey of major retailers.

There is currently no health protective standard for indoor air pollution, and despite being aware of gas stove pollution risks for 40 years, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has failed to act. Given this, the information folks receive from retailers (or lack thereof) on gas stove pollution, the need for external ventilation, and healthier cooking alternatives becomes more pronounced. **As today's [report](#) finds, consumers aren't getting the information they need to protect their health from retailers, highlighting the urgent need for CPSC to set mandatory performance standards, require warning labels, and educate consumers on gas stove pollution.**

[Read Sierra Club's press release here.](#)

Environmental Justice and Equity

Hearing on State Environmental Justice Strategy

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) led a task force to develop an Environmental Justice (EJ) strategy that would “proactively promote environmental justice in all neighborhoods in ways that are tailored to their agencies’ mission.” [Read the strategy here.](#)

The EEA is accepting public comments on the strategy until January 27, 2023. Comments on the Draft EJ Strategy are accepted at [this portal](#) or can be submitted through email to ej.inquiries@mass.gov.

There will also be an in-person listening session on January 19th, 2023 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. Location: [Bruce Bolling Building](#)

Protect the Planet and Natural Resources

Proposed Regulations to Benefit Water Quality on Cape Cod

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed new regulations, which would strengthen the rules governing the use of septic systems. On Cape Cod, the Islands, and parts of Southeastern Massachusetts, septic systems in particular are a large source of nitrogen pollution that impact our aquatic systems. These regulations would have a big impact on water quality and set up the region for a cleaner future!

MassDEP are accepting written comments from the public until January 30th, 2023 with additional public hearings to be held in the new year.

All written comments must include the name and contact information of the person providing the comments. **Please submit comment by e-mail to dep.talks@mass.gov and include Title 5 & Watershed Permit in the subject line.**

Public Hearings Held by MassDEP

January 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Remote Only

[Register Here](#)

January 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Remote Only

[Register Here](#)



Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 19th at 5:30pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Climate Research Team Meeting

Wednesdays at 6:00pm

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](#)

Toxics Team Meeting

Mondays at 5:00pm

Weekly 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](#)

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 26th 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](#)

Energy Committee Meeting

No meeting in December - Check back in the new year!

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.

Political Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 10th at 6:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Wednesday, December 20th 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](#)

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Forest Protection Team Meeting

Thursday, January 12th 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](#)

Friend and Partner Events

Pittsfield Green Drinks

December 20 at 6:00pm

Virtual Event

“Protecting What Sustains Us All: a conversation with Berkshire Environmental Action Team”

Join the December Pittsfield Green Drinks event to talk with Berkshire Environmental Action Team staff about BEAT's important work of this past year and explore what comes next as the new year approaches! Be part of the discussion and hear about ways we hope to get Pittsfield residents involved in their upcoming air quality monitoring; how we're currently working with the City to remediate pipes that discharge pollution into the Housatonic River; the findings from coldwater streams monitoring; and next steps in our continuing fight to shut down peaking power plants.

[Register Here](#)

NOFA/Mass Winter Conference

January 14 and 15

Hybrid/Virtual Event

The 2023 NOFA/Mass Winter Conference is the 36th annual winter gathering of the Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association. This year, the NOFA/Mass Winter Conference will be held in person at Worcester State University (WSU) and online on Saturday, January 14 and online only on Sunday, January 15.

[Register Here](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [Big Banks are Driving the Climate Crisis, so We're Pushing Back](#) (The Crucial Years, 12/5/22)
- [Study: Maine is a leader in New England when it comes to preparing for climate change](#) (Energy News Network, 12/5/22)
- [Low-income families don't get a fair share of energy-efficiency funds](#) (Canary Media, 12/2/22)
- [Public hearing on new Peabody peaker plant's emissions set for next week](#) (The Salem News, 12/2/22)
- [How capitalism crushed the environment, according to historian Douglas Brinkley](#) (Boston Globe, 12/1/22)
- [A causal link between air pollution and lower earnings](#) (Boston Globe, 12/1/22)
- [Boston, state must act on home heating changes](#) (Boston Globe, 12/1/22)
- ['A great local solution': Should Quincy add curbside compost to its trash pickup?](#) (The Patriot Ledger, 11/30/22)
- [Could the New Governor Breathe New Life Into the T's Regional Rail Plans?](#) (Streetsblog MASS, 11/29/22)
- [Boston buildings not reporting greenhouse gas emissions, city reports](#) (MassLive, 11/21/22)
- [Majority of US affected by climate disasters, but nation is moving in the wrong direction \(Boston Globe, 11/18/22\) Study touting hydrogen — a technology favored by gas firms — was funded by gas interests, e-mails show](#) (Boston Globe, 11/16/22)
- [Study touting hydrogen — a technology favored by gas firms — was funded by gas interests, e-mails show](#) (Boston Globe, 11/16/22)

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!](#)

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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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