



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

February 2023

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!



Toxics Team Presents: Advocacy Hour

Join the Toxics Team to kick off our Advocacy Hour Series with a presentation and Q&A with Linley Dixon, Co-Director of the Real Organic Project.

[Real Organic Project](#) is a farmer-led movement that came out of tractor rallies, protests, grassroots gatherings, and passionate voices. We are the farmers who want to produce food in line with our values in conjunction with “eaters” who care too. We are fighting to reclaim the word “Organic” -- a word that was stolen by lobbyists and agricultural corporations. Thousands of real organic farms across the country already exist - we just have to ensure they can thrive and multiply. Real Organic is a movement and a certification system that provides the transparency that we need. I will tell our story and answer your questions.

MARCH 1st at 5pm



RSVP Here

State House Walk Through

New year new climate bill! Come deliver calendars!

It's a new legislative session, which means new environmental problems to tackle. Join the Sierra Club for the session as we deliver top environmental priorities (and Sierra Club calendars) to MA state legislators! Gather at our office in downtown Boston, grab some snacks, and write a few notes on calendars before we walk over to the state house to make our deliveries. We'll give you all the information you need to deliver these with ease!



[RSVP Here](#)

We will be writing notes starting at 8:30 and will leave for the state house at 9:15.

MARCH 2nd at 8:30am

New Volunteer Orientation

Want to get involved with the Massachusetts Chapter but aren't sure where to start? Join this special welcome webinar to learn about the chapter and our various teams, how you can get involved and start making an immediate impact in your local community.



[RSVP Here](#)

MARCH 22nd at 5pm

Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

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. This event is free and open to the public.



[RSVP Here](#)

MARCH 26th at 8pm

Support the Chapter



Climate and Clean Energy

High Electricity Bills this Winter? Blame Gas Exports

By Deb Pasternak, Chapter Director

"Many residents across Massachusetts are in for a shock when they open their electricity bills this month. National Grid has already increased electric rates by 64% in November from the same time last year and while we are likely to see utilities and power companies pointing fingers, there are two main reasons for these price hikes: increased exports of so-called "natural" methane gas and energy industry greed..."

Continue Reading

ACTION ALERT: Petition drive and social media campaign!

Our new Governor, Maura Healey, has made climate one of her main goals. That's why we are asking her to declare, by Earth Day, that there is no future for gas in Massachusetts. **We urge Governor Healey to halt new gas system expansions until the state has a concrete plan for a just transition to a clean — and green — energy future.**

We envision a just and rapid transition away from gas to a future of clean heat powered by clean electricity. This is urgent for our planet and for communities currently facing expansion projects like Springfield and Longmeadow.

To get her attention, we need 10k petition signatures! Please sign the petition now and share widely:

Sign the petition now!

Spread the word far and wide, to friends, family, and the groups/organizations that you are part of! Check out our social media toolbox full of tips and instructions to get you started.

Social Media Toolkit

Transportation Matters

New AchiEVe Toolkit Released

The latest version of the [AchiEVe: Model Policies to Accelerate Electric Vehicle Adoption](#) is now out! It is designed to accelerate electric vehicle adoption in an effective and sustainable way! The toolkit shows the power of bold and strategic policies for vehicle electrification, highlighting several detailed examples from locations across the nation where policies are working.

In addition to the latest information on state and local EV policies, this fifth edition of the toolkit has sections focused on the billions of dollars in funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA.)

Check Out the Toolkit

Lobbying for State Legislation

2023-2024 Legislative Priorities

With the new state administrative leadership and the federal government's support, there is no better time to hasten our transition to renewable energy while strengthening our economy and communities.

Our Chapter has outlined legislation we will be prioritizing during the 193rd legislative session. **Each of these bills represents a step towards creating a cleaner, healthier, more equitable future for Massachusetts residents.**

[See the Full List of Priority Bills](#)

If enacted, the outlined legislation will:

- Dramatically reduce carbon pollution and protect ratepayers.
- Establish stronger environmental protections for historically marginalized communities.
- Reduce fossil fuel reliance in the transportation and building sectors.
- Restrict the use of PFAS and other harmful chemicals.
- Expand and protect our public lands.

Want to take action now? Ask your legislator to support our priority legislation by following the link below!

[Take Action!](#)

Protect the Planet and Natural Resources

Plant-based Planet Fact Sheet

What we put on our plates affects our planet! Food production is very energy-intensive. Meat, fish, dairy, and egg production use the most energy, causing more greenhouse gas production than plant foods.

Learn more about plant-based eating with our new fact sheet that draws connections between our eating habits and climate change.

[Read More](#)

PLANT-BASED = PLANET-BASED



Meat, aquaculture, eggs, and dairy use 83% of global farmland despite providing only 18% of our calories.

Poore, J., and T. Nemecek. "Reducing Food's Environmental Impacts through Producers and Consumers." Science, vol. 360, no. 6392, 3 June 2018, pp. 987-992. doi:10.1126/science.1259934.

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 23 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](#)

Toxics Team Meeting

Mondays at 5:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

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.

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

The elections team is building Sierra Club volunteer power to elect environmental champions this year and years to come!

[RSVP Here](#)

Cape Cod Group Meeting

Tuesday, March 7 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, March 9 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](#)

Political Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 14 at 6:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 16 at 5:30pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Tuesday, March 28 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

10K for Earth Day: Petition Drive to Put Gas in the Past

February 28th at 7pm

Virtual Event

Join Mass Power Forward and the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition in the 10k by Earth Day Petition Challenge! We will be kicking off our petition drive plans for March over Zoom on Tuesday, February 28th at 7 pm. Bring your competitive spirit! You won't want to miss it!

Register in advance for this Zoom meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

RSVP Here

Boston Fee Party - Rally For Clean Energy

March 2nd at 11am

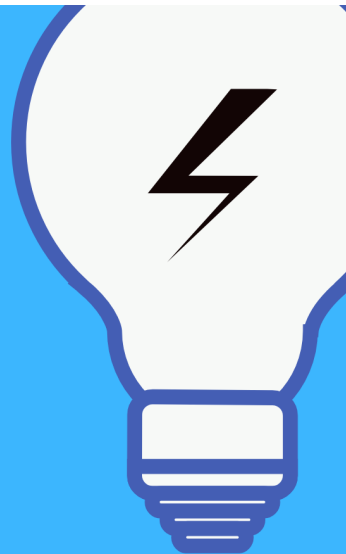
306 Congress St, Boston MA 02210

Boston Fee Party Rally for Clean Energy!

Electric bills have skyrocketed because of our dependence on fossil fuels.

Join us to call on Gov Maura Healey to lead on reforming our electric system!

Thursday, March 2nd at 11am
306 Congress St, Boston
bit.ly/grid-rally



RSVP Here

Boston Climate Strike

March 3rd at 12pm

MA State House

Fridays for Future is a global youth movement for climate justice, on March 3rd we will take to the streets all across the globe to raise awareness on the climate crisis and demand our leaders take effective and equitable climate action that centers the most affected peoples and areas.

This event is in partnership with 350Mass, XRBoston Youth, BCAN, and many others!

RSVP Here

Our Reading List

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

- [How Widespread Are These Toxic Chemicals? They're Everywhere.](#) (New York Times, 2/22/23)
- [The Ohio Derailment Lays Bare the Hellish Plastic Crisis](#) (Wired, 2/18/23)
- [Q&A: Cancer Alley Is Real, And Louisiana Officials Helped Create It, Researchers Find](#) (Inside Climate News, 2/8/23)

- [Heat pumps had their first major local test last weekend. Here's how it went.](#) (Boston Globe, 2/8/23)
- [Study Documents a Halt to Deforestation in Brazil's Atlantic Forest After Indigenous Communities Gain Title to Their Territories](#) (Inside Climate News, 2/6/23)
- [Why We Need to Stop Mixing Food Waste with Sewage Sludge](#) (Just Zero, 2/1/23)

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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