

## Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

March 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!

**Did you know?** We have compiled resources on anti-racism on our website, broken into three sections: learning, taking action, and making donations. Check them out by clicking the link below.

[Anti-Racism Resources](#)

### 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!



#### 2023 Sierra Club Board of Directors Elections

The annual election for Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Each year, 5 of the 15 members of the Sierra Club Board of Directors end their three-year term. A list of candidates is selected by a combination of a nominations process and a petition process. Sierra Club members have the opportunity to vote on 5 candidates to fill the empty seats.

*If you have been a Sierra Club member since January 31st 2022, you are eligible to vote. If you joined the Sierra Club since then, you will be eligible to vote next year.*

**Ballots will be sent to eligible voters this March.** If you pre-registered to vote online, you'll receive an email from [sierraclub.mg.electionservicescorp.com](mailto:sierraclub.mg.electionservicescorp.com). Paper ballots will arrive in the mail to all other voters.



[More Info Here](#)

#### Advocating For Electric Transit Buses

Join the Sierra Club for an advocate workshop to learn more about the Federal Transit Agency's funding opportunities for electric transit buses, and how to leverage this opportunity to help take just and equitable climate action in your community!



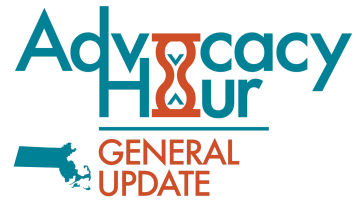
**MARCH 15th at 6pm**

[RSVP Here](#)

## 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.

**MARCH 22nd at 5pm**



[RSVP Here](#)

## 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.

**MARCH 26th at 8pm**

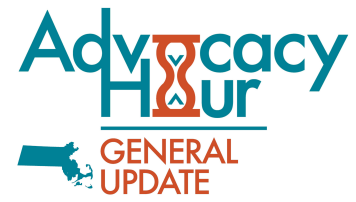


[RSVP Here](#)

## Learn About Tabling with the Sierra Club

Are you interested in volunteering with the Sierra Club? Our organization has many opportunities to "table" - bring a table and tent to a community event and share information. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with this. Come to this online meeting and learn about tabling with the Sierra Club as well as upcoming events where we will table.

**MARCH 29th at 5pm**



[RSVP Here](#)

## Support the Chapter



## Clean Energy & Climate

### 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!](#)

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](#)

## National Day of Action: Stop Dirty Banks

For years, we've been asking the big US banks -- Bank of America, Chase, Citibank, and Wells Fargo -- to do more to curb climate change. We don't want these banks to use our money to rob future generations of a healthy and livable planet. We need banks to invest in clean energy, good jobs, and climate solutions -- not new pipelines, oil drilling, coal plants, and fracking.

**Join us and our friends on March 21st, as we gather to show the strength of our movement.** The Sierra Club's new executive director, Ben Jealous, will be right alongside everyone who shows up across the country, speaking at the rally in DC!

*You don't need a credit card or bank account with these banks in order to join us -- we need people of all ages, races, and means to put the pressure on banks to stop financing climate chaos. Bring your friends, energy, and creativity! Our best chance at moving these dirty banks is through people power.*

Join an action near you!

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## Transportation Matters

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### Low or No Emission Grant Program

There is \$1.7 billion in federal funding available for electric transit buses and modernizing bus facilities through the [Low and No-Emission Vehicle and Bus Facilities](#) program this year. The current round of funding closes on April 13. Electric transit buses have public health, climate benefits and save operating and maintenance costs for transit agencies. Contact your local transit agency to highlight this funding opportunity and to urge them to go electric.

Explore the Campaign Template & Toolkit for resources to help guide local advocacy to your community's transit agencies.

Explore the Toolkit

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### Partner in our Advocacy to Fast Track Electrification of the Commuter Rail System

Our commuter rail system connects 75% of the state's population but service remains inadequate, fares are out of reach for many, and it continues to be powered by polluting diesel locomotives. These economic and public health inequities impact environmental justice communities and low-income families the most. It also results in our commuter rail system being underutilized and contributes to the worsening traffic congestion in the region.

Electrification of the commuter rail will not only enhance system reliability, it will support faster service, lower maintenance and operation costs, and reduce toxic air pollution for communities all along the route. However, the **MBTA has made limited progress to modernize and electrify the rail system and needs to directly hear from advocates like you.**

*Click the link below to be added to a list of advocates for commuter rail electrification. We will let you know as opportunities to weigh in arise, along with resources to support your advocacy.*

Sign up to be an Advocate!

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## Stand in Solidarity

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### Protect new Fair Share Amendment and state revenue in the FY24 Budget!

On November 8, 2022, after a years-long effort, Massachusetts voters passed the Fair Share Amendment. The voters spoke, and in doing so, we chose a fairer tax system that raises more than a billion dollars in annual state revenue for new investments in Massachusetts. **Contact your legislators today to prioritize and protect both the new revenue from the Fair Share Amendment, and overall state revenue in general, this year in the FY24 Budget.**

More Info Here

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## Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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**Forest Protection Team Meeting**  
Thursday, March 9th at 7:00pm

RSVP Here



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!

### **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](#)

### **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](#)

### **Political Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 14th at 6:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, March 16th at 5:30pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

### **Cape Cod Group Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 21st at 7:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

### **Transportation Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, March 23rd 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](#)

### **Plant-based Planet Team Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 28th 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](#)

### **!New! Communications Team Meeting**

**Thursday, March 30 at 5:00pm**

Join the chapter for the official re-launch of our communications team! The "comms" team supports the chapter's wide range of campaign work through a variety of digital organizing tactics.

[RSVP Here](#)

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## **Friend and Partner Events**

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### **New Massachusetts Vulnerable Road Users Laws Webinar**

**March 13th at 12pm**

**Virtual Event**

Did you know Massachusetts has new laws that will affect all road users, and make it safer to walk, bike, and roll throughout the commonwealth? In January, An Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities was signed into law and in April these new vulnerable road users laws will go into effect.

[RSVP Here](#)

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### **10k by Earth Day Petition Challenge**

**March 15th at 6pm**

**Virtual Event**

The March Madness competition of the Massachusetts environmental movement is on! 🏀

Join Mass Power Forward and the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition in the 10k by Earth Day petition challenge. We know gas is dirty, dangerous and expensive. Companies like Eversource are profiting off of Massachusetts ratepayers as they continue to expand their gas systems. We need a just and rapid transition to clean heat powered by clean electricity now. Join us to call on

our new climate Governor Healey, to declare no future for gas by Earth Day. Come ready to partake in this collective (and lovingly competitive) effort.

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Our Reading List

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

- [In 13 state parks, Mass. officials issue advisories for fish consumption due to PFAS](#) (wbur, 3/7/23)
- [A utility plan to replace gas with climate-friendly fuels is deeply flawed, according to new report](#) (Boston Globe, 3/6/23)
- ['Green Hydrogen' Would Squander Renewable Energy Resources in Massachusetts](#) (Inside Climate News, 3/6/23)
- [The world promised to phase out fossil fuel subsidies. Instead, it doubled them.](#) (Heated, 3/2/23)
- [REI will ban 'forever chemicals' from clothes and cookware in 2024](#) (Grist, 2/23/23)

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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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