



## Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

April 2023

### Happy Spring and Happy Earth Month!

Let's head into April with the intention of building a world we all deserve. We know the challenges we face are huge, **but we can make transformative change happen if we work together.** This Earth Month, let's celebrate change powered by people!

This month there are many ways to get involved in the chapter; [tabling with the club](#), [collecting signatures for petitions](#), [text out the vote](#), [join our plastics campaign](#), [attending team meetings](#), and much more!



## 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

### Elections Team: Call and text out the vote!

There are 41 municipal light plants (MLPs) that serve 50 municipalities in Massachusetts. These MLPs make up 14% of Massachusetts' total electricity consumption, but most still get less than 1% of their energy from solar and wind. This spring, several of these towns have climate champions on the ballot. **If enough people volunteer to contact our members, we feel confident that we can make a true difference in electing climate champions who will work to transition off fossil fuels.**

**APRIL 18th at 6:30pm**

[RSVP Here](#)



### Environmental Impact of Hog Farms on EJ Communities in North Carolina

Erin Carey of the Sierra Club North Carolina Chapter will discuss the impact of hog farms on water quality in North Carolina. This affects the environment and the health of residents in EJ communities.

**APRIL 19th at 7pm**

[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.



**APRIL 23rd at 7pm**

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Support the Chapter

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## Clean Energy & Climate

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### Gas in the Past Campaign

Right now, despite [international scientists giving us a “final warning” to rapidly transition off fossil fuels](#), **Massachusetts is still considering utility gas expansion projects across the state**. We are in a climate emergency: we should be planning to get off fossil fuels, not expanding their use by running new, big infrastructure [through towns like Springfield](#) that are already overburdened by environmental and climate pollution because of environmental injustice.

*It doesn't have to be this way.* Massachusetts has a leader who has called herself a “climate governor.” Now is the time to prove it -- Governor Healey should declare a halt to expanding our systems while we plan for a just transition to renewable energy.

Sierra Club is working with partners in Springfield and Mass Power Forward to collect 10,000 signatures directed at the governor.

#### Can you join us?

- [Sign the petition](#) calling on the governor to stop increasing the size of the gas system and instead hasten us toward a just transition with renewable energy.
- [Fill out this very short form](#) to let us know you're down to help, and we'll be in touch soon!

[Sign the Petition!](#)

[Sign up to help our campaign](#)

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## Transportation Matters

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### Massachusetts adopts the Advanced Clean Cars II Regulation

Good news! On March 30, Massachusetts adopted the [Advanced Clean Cars II \(ACC II\) regulation](#) that requires an increasing percentage of new light-duty vehicle sales to be all-electric to reach 100% zero-emission vehicle sales by 2035. Thank you for supporting our advocacy and submitting comments in support of this regulation.

Adoption of ACC II is a big win for public health and transportation emission reductions. Adopting ACC II will lower light duty NOx emissions by 73%, tailpipe PM2.5 emission by 56%, and SO2 emissions by 60% from 2021 levels by 2035. ACC II also includes provisions that make electric vehicles more affordable and accessible for environmental justice populations through community based programs.

[Read More](#)

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## Massachusetts Drive Electric Earth Day

Drive Electric Earth Day is a national campaign to share information about electric vehicles throughout the month of April. In addition to being better for the environment, electric vehicles are more fun to drive and less expensive to fuel and operate than gasoline vehicles. RSVP for an in-person or online event to experience driving electric!

[Ashland EV Show](#), Apr 08, 12:30 - 3:00 pm

[Lowell Drives Electric](#), Apr 29, 12:00 - 4:00 pm

[Fueled by Faith Meetup](#), Westborough, Apr 15, 2:00 - 5:00

[Cooler Middleborough](#), Apr 29, 11:00-2:00

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Take Action on Plastics this Earth Week

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### Million Pieces of Plastic

Plastic is permanent and toxic, and the only way we make change is with people power. That's why this Earth Week (April 16-22), we are asking you to help us bring more people into the fight to stop the oil and gas companies from continuing to accelerate the plastic crisis!

#### How can you help bring more people into our plastics reduction campaign?

1. Take a walk outside.
2. See a piece of plastic pollution on the ground, in a local stream, or up in a tree.
3. Take a picture of that plastic and upload it into our submission form. We will compile them into an interactive map to provide visual evidence of how plastic pollution is found everywhere across Massachusetts.
4. Once folks upload their pictures, we will send them easy ways to start taking action on our campaigns, and invite them to become part of our statewide plastics reduction team!

**Will you join our #MillionPiecesofPlastic campaign and share this opportunity with your networks?**

1. [Sign up for our mailing list](#) to hear more about how to submit your photos and take action as we get closer to Earth Week.
2. You can also find more information about the project and sample posts to share this opportunity in our [Million Pieces of Plastic Toolkit](#).

[Sign up for updates](#)

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## Earth Day Training Opportunities

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### How to Host a Story Slam & Share Your Story

**April 10th at 7:00pm ET**

**Virtual Event**

One of the most important actions we can take on climate change is to talk about it! People-powered movements are built when we invite our friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, and broader communities to learn and take action together.

That's why we're inviting you to join in building your skills by hosting an event, crafting your own narrative arc, and using your story to take action on the Clean Trucks Rule or other climate and environmental justice issues you care about. **This training will be specifically focused on folks planning to host a "Story Slam" gathering, which can be as large or small as you'd like. All are welcome to join, learn, and engage with others in our community of changemakers.**

[RSVP Here](#)

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### Earth Day Social Media & Storytelling Training

**April 17th at 5:00pm ET**

**Virtual Event**

This Earth Day, Sierra Club is amplifying the stories of the powerful organizing that chapters, teams and volunteers are leading all over the country to build a better future. To support this

advocacy and make sure whatever folks are planning for Earth Day is as successful as possible, we're offering training in social media and storytelling.

The training is open to everyone in the Sierra Club community – staff, chapters, and volunteers! Anyone who wants to feel more prepared to effectively tell the story of their work on social media.

*This will be a 201 level training. To us, that means you should already have at least one social media account and have an idea of what you might want to do with it.*

[RSVP Here](#)

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## Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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### 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](#)

### Elections Team Meeting

**Tuesdays at 7:00pm**

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](#)

### 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, April 11 at 6:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

### Fundraising Team Meeting

**Wednesday, April 12 at 12:00pm**

Fundraising is multifaceted and fascinating. At the Sierra Club, we are dedicated to fundraising to bring about meaningful social, racial, economic, and climate justice. Join the team!

[RSVP Here](#)

### Communications Team Meeting

**Thursday, April 13 at 5:00pm**

The "comms" team supports the chapter's wide range of campaign work through a variety of digital organizing tactics.

[RSVP Here](#)

### Forest Protection Team Meeting

**Thursday, April 13 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](#)

### Cape Cod Group Meeting

**Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00pm**

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

[RSVP Here](#)

### Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday, April 20 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, April 25 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](#)

## Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 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](#)

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## Friend and Partner Events

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### Getting to Zero Waste in the U.S. – What We're Up Against

April 13th at 3:00pm

Virtual Webinar

In the first episode of Just Zero's webinar series, Getting to Zero Waste in the U.S. – What We're Up Against, experts Kirstie Pecci (Just Zero), Judith Enck (Beyond Plastics), and Melissa Aguayo (Break Free From Plastic), discuss three of the main issues driving our country's waste crisis: Plastics Production, Environmental Injustice, and Corporate Agendas.

[RSVP Here](#)

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### Wrentham Eagle Dam Winter Tour

April 13th at 5:30pm

608 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA

Join Charles River Watershed Association, Town of Wrentham, and Weston & Sampson for a tour of Eagle Dam in Wrentham. Learn more about our ongoing work to assess flooding hazards of dam breach, opportunities for stream restoration, and feasibility of and incentives for dam removal!

[RSVP Here](#)

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### Keynote Conversation: Examining the Religious and Spiritual Implications of Climate Change

April 14th at 11:30am

Williams Chapel, Swartz Hall, Cambridge MA

Join us for the Harvard Divinity School Climate Justice Week keynote conversation. What role does religion play in the movement for climate justice? How can religious communities serve as sites of organizing and activism? Panelists will discuss these questions through the lenses of religious literacy, climate grief, climate ministry, and practices to guide communities through the perils of climate catastrophe. Panelists include Chapter ExCom member Rev. Vernon K. Walker!

[RSVP Here](#)

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### Great Trees and Forests of the Northeast, Past and Present

April 18th at 5:30pm

Virtual Event

On April 18 at 5:30 pm, "Old-growth forest evangelist" Bob Leverett will take us on a virtual tour of treasured trees and forests in New England and New York. We'll learn about the many values of old-growth forests, from both a scientific and spiritual perspective. Bob's wife and partner Monica will offer supporting insights. This presentation is a must-see for all of our tree-huggers out there.

Bob Leverett is co-discoverer of most of the known old growth in Massachusetts. Co-author of several books, including the Sierra Club Guide to Ancient Forests of the Northeast, he has been the central figure in the Ancient Eastern Forests Conference Series.

[RSVP Here](#)

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### Quantifying Carbon in a Living Tree Event

April 22nd from 1- 4pm

MacLeish Field station in Whately, MA

Bob Leverett will demonstrate how to measure the carbon sequestration capacity of a typical New England forest tree. Focusing on the 80-year-old red oak tree at the center of Artist-in-Residence

Gina Siepel's To Understand a Tree project, Bob will discuss the important role that mature trees play in the mitigation of climate change. His innovative mathematical method for calculating tree volume helps us visualize the positive ecological impact of our local forests.

Sponsored by the Arts Afield program, an initiative of the Center for the Environment, Ecological Design, and Sustainability at Smith College. "To Understand a Tree" series is curated by Gina Siepel, MacLeish Field Station Artist-in-Residence. Cosponsored by Kestrel Land Trust. Space is limited, so register to request a spot!

RSVP Here

## Our Reading List

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

- [Our sewage often becomes fertilizer. Problem is, it's tainted with PFAS](#) (wbur, 3/30/23)
- ['Heat-pump coaches' help neighbors ditch fossil heat in Massachusetts](#) (Canary Media, 3/29/23)
- [After five years of bureaucratic limbo, Cape Cod clean energy program finally comes to fruition](#) (Energy News Network, 3/27/23)
- [Republicans Propose Nationwide Offshore Wind Ban, Citing Unsubstantiated Links to Whale Deaths](#) (Inside Climate News, 3/24/23)
- [How Meat and Fossil Fuel Producers Watered Down the Latest IPCC Report](#) (Distilled, 3/23/23)
- [The Planet Can Do Better Than the Electric Car](#) (Slate, 3/22/23)
- [Don't let utilities hijack offshore wind](#) (CommonWealth Magazine, 3/22/23)
- [Following a dismal global climate report, could Massachusetts push up its net-zero goal?](#) (Boston Globe, 3/21/23)
- [Mass.' 1st environmental justice undersecretary plans to focus on communities of color](#) (wbur, 3/17/23)
- [Puerto Rico's first community-led microgrid is ready to launch](#) (Canary Media, 3/17/23)
- [An Eye-Opening Projection About America's Clean Energy Future](#) (Heatmap, 3/16/23)
- [US banks are sacrificing poor communities to the climate crisis](#) (The Guardian, 3/16/23)
- [Willow is not just an "environmentalist" concern](#) (Heated, 3/15/23)
- [EPA proposes regulations on 6 toxic 'forever chemicals' chemicals in drinking water](#) (wbur, 3/14/23)
- [Biden administration to restrict cancer-causing 'forever chemicals'](#) (Boston Globe, 3/14/23)
- [More renewables, not more gas, is our future](#) (CommonWealth, 3/11/23)
- [The Trouble With "Market-Based" Climate Solutions](#) (Drilled, 3/10/23)
- [In Atlanta, Proposed 'Cop City' Stirs Environmental Justice Concerns](#) (Inside Climate News, 3/8/23)
- [With voluntary recognition, Ed Markey's staff will be the first in the Senate to unionize](#) (Roll Call, 3/8/23)
- [Rural Communities Like East Palestine, Ohio, Are at Outsized Risk of Train Derailments and the Ensuing Fallout](#) (Inside Climate News, 3/8/23)

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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