



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

May 2023

Happy May! 🌸

Flowers and trees are blooming and we are carrying forward our momentum from Earth Day to push for change across the state!

May brings [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#), [International Workers Day/May Day](#), and lots of opportunities to engage in action. Check out our upcoming events, campaign updates, and more!

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Toxics Team Action Hour

Join us for a special edition of the weekly toxics team meeting! We'll talk about ways you can take action on plastics and more in your own community, and mobilize our efforts from Earth Day to make meaningful change. The toxics team handles toxic pollution issues, including deadly chemicals (e.g. PFAS), plastic-based pollutants, and recycling/solid waste issues.



MAY 8TH at 5pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Bike Advocacy in Boston and Beyond

Did you know that over half of all vehicle trips in the U.S. are less than three miles? Enabling these trips to be made by bike will reduce traffic congestion, lower vehicular emissions, and improve public health outcomes. To celebrate National Bike Month, we will dive into the role bike policy advocacy and infrastructure can play in creating bike-friendly neighborhoods and how you can advocate to make Boston's bike projects safer and more accessible.



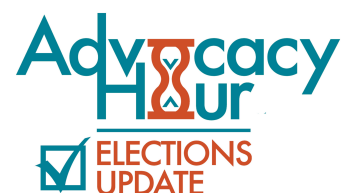
MAY 16TH at 6pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Training: How to elect climate champions

The latest reports all say the same thing - we have the knowledge we need to act on the biodiversity and climate crises. But we're lacking the political will.

Join us as we build a team that's trained to find and elect climate champions who will work to transition off fossil fuels. With your support and commitment, we can win locally and model what a clean energy future looks like for our Commonwealth.



MAY 16TH 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.

MAY 21ST at 7pm

[RSVP Here](#)



New! Energy Justice Organizing Team

The Massachusetts Sierra Club Chapter is launching a new team focused on solutions that center the needs of those who have been most affected by the climate crisis and fossil fuel pollution. Combining the strategic thinking of our energy committee and the power of our organizing, we have formed the Energy Justice Organizing Team. This is a team that will meet monthly and consist of 4 "sub-groups." Anyone interested in joining this team is invited to join our first meeting to learn a little bit about each sub-group and decide whether or not they're interested in joining a team! To start, our sub-groups will have 4 focus areas: (these may grow and change over time!)

- Energy Burden
- Gas Utility Work
- Boston Organizing
- Legislative

MAY 22ND at 5pm

[RSVP to the first team meeting!](#)

Electric School Bus Webinar

Want to replace diesel school buses with a zero-emission fleet? There's \$400 million in grant funding available through EPA's Clean School Bus Program! This program provides funding for electric school buses and charging infrastructure, with additional funds available for priority school districts. All school board members, municipal staff and officials from your school district are invited to attend this educational webinar.



MAY 24TH at 12pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Support the Chapter



Transportation Matters

EPA Hearings on Light-Duty Vehicle Regulations

The EPA has released light-duty and heavy-duty vehicle standards to cut vehicular pollution. The current proposed federal rules can achieve significant climate and public health benefits - so long as we push them to do the right thing! [Here is Sierra Club's press statement with additional information.](#)

Take Action: Tell the Environmental Protection Agency to Slash Emissions from Trucks!

[Take Action!](#)

The EPA is organizing public hearings on both these regulations. You don't need to be an expert on the regulations to testify. Just share your story on why clean air is important to

Want additional resources?

Check out our EPA Hearing Volunteer Action Toolkit! This resource will walk you through

you!

EPA light-duty vehicle hearing

May 9th and 10th
(extended to the 11th if needed)

[Sign up to share your story](#)

how to advocate for a strong light-duty cars rule from the EPA through hearing testimony, public comments, social media, and more.

[Check out the toolkit](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Spotlight: Ella Nguyen

Our first volunteer spotlight features Ella Nguyen, a sophomore in high school, environmentalist, dancer, writer and artist. Ella has written a series of 4 poems, centered around the life cycle of plastic with each poem focusing on a different stage in a piece of plastic's life. Featured below is the first poem in the series, *The Beginning*. Read her blog to check them out!

The Beginning

Lively cerulean fuses into starless navy
As my soulless remains plummet toward
The sorrow shadows of uncanny sea

Soon impenetrable blankets of silt
Imprison me in my own cage
Of blistering warmth and massive force

Morphed into a pool of viscous ebony
I now rest peacefully in silent seclusion
Able to hide from the evils of the world

But I am awakened by your blaring pulse
Surging through decaying steel
I am defenseless; naked to your abuse



[Read Ella's Blog Post!](#)

Opportunities for Action

Join Sierra Club's Community Advocates Program

The Sierra Club is launching a Community Advocates program to build teams of volunteers to harness federal funding at the state and local level, especially in communities most impacted by climate and environmental injustice. Participants will learn how to support implementation, whether it's working alongside local businesses and schools to apply for grants, spreading awareness about rebates, or holding elected officials accountable. They'll organize with others in their communities and will be supported with training, toolkits, coaching and more.

Sierra Club is hosting orientation webinars to learn how we can ensure federal climate investments lead to real benefits for everyday people!

Saturday, May 6th at 12pm ET

[RSVP Here](#)

Wednesday, May 10th at 7pm ET

[RSVP Here](#)

Amplify Your Voice: Act Now for Public Lands and Forests!

Want to learn how to write public comments to influence decision makers? We are hosting a training series on Tuesday May 16th and Tuesday May 23rd to teach you how to submit the most effective public comments!

Meaningful public comments are hugely important to this process, and we'll be going over how you write the most impactful comment and learn how to use your public narrative to influence our federal government and your community.

On May 16th we'll do a policy overview and public narrative training, then we'll come back on May 23rd to submit our comments, brainstorm ways to get our friends and family involved, and go over what else Sierra Club is working on this Spring and Summer to protect lands, water, and wildlife.

[RSVP Here](#)

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Communications Team Meeting

Thursday, May 4 at 5:00pm

The "comms" team handles the Chapters digital communications, including managing our social media accounts, sending email blasts, and other digital organizing tactics.

[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](#)

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](#)

Forest Protection Team Meeting

Thursday, May 11 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, May 16 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, May 18 at 5:30pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

New! Energy Justice Organizing Team Meeting

Monday, May 22 at 5:30pm

The Massachusetts Sierra Club Chapter is launching a new team focused on solutions that center the needs of those who have been most affected by the climate crisis and fossil fuel pollution.

[RSVP Here](#)

Plant-based Planet Team Meeting

Tuesday, May 23 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, May 25 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](#)

Friend and Partner Events

Wastewater and Water Quality on Cape Cod

May 3, 7:00pm

840 Sandwich Rd, East Falmouth



WED. MAY 3, 7 PM

"Wastewater & Water Quality on Cape Cod "



Andrew Gottlieb
Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Free talk & refreshments
UU Falmouth,
840 Sandwich Rd., E.Falmouth



Wake Up The Earth Festival 2023

May 6, 10:00am - 5:00pm
45 Danforth St, Boston MA

Spontaneous Celebrations is so excited to host the 45th annual Wake Up the Earth Festival!

La Tierra es Nuestro Hogar (The World is Our Home)... This year we wanted to move more deeply into awareness of climate resiliency and how climate change connects to low income and affordable housing access, and the racial inequities in Boston that make climate change a vitally important social justice and racial justice issue. **We invite you to join us in thinking about ACTIONS we can take together.**

[Event Info Here](#)

Westborough Environmental Action Fair

May 13, 12:00 - 4:00pm
Westborough High School

Sustainable Westborough and the Rotary Club of Westborough are pleased to host the 2023 Westborough Environmental Action Fair at the Westborough High School gymnasium and auditorium on May 13th.

The Environmental Action Fair will provide participants information about how our daily lives are impacting the environment including climate change. Our goal is to offer the community useful information and resources that could be used to make timely changes at the individual or local level to protect the environment.

[Event Info Here](#)

Clean Water Action's 2023 Annual Celebration

May 23, 6:00 - 8:00pm
Charles River Museum, Waltham MA

Honor our 2023 environmental champions, support our campaigns to protect Massachusetts' air and water, and enjoy food and drinks with allies and friends. This is our first in person event since 2019, and we are excited to finally gather together at this unique, historic venue. We are excited to announce that this year's Keynote Speaker is María Belén Power, the newly appointed Undersecretary of Environmental Justice & Equity for Massachusetts.

This event is mass transit accessible - take the Fitchburg Line to the Waltham Stop (Zone 2), a 5 minute walk from the Charles River Museum.

[RSVP Here](#)

Our Reading List

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

- [Pressley, Markey renew push for fare-free transit federal grant program](#) (Boston Globe, 4/24/23)
- [How do you tackle microplastics? Start with your washing machine.](#) (Grist, 4/19/23)

- [New US Car and Truck Emissions Standards Will Make or Break Biden's Climate Legacy](#) (Inside Climate News, 4/12/23)
- [For the First Time in Nearly Two Decades, the EPA Announces New Rules to Limit Toxic Air Pollutants From Chemical and Plastics Plants](#) (InsideClimate News, 4/6/23)

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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