



Monthly E-Sierran Newsletter

July 2023

Dear Emma,

Summer is in full swing! ☀️ There is lots of action happening at the Chapter and beyond; including new action teams, legislative hearings, and outing leader trainings. Read on to see updates and how you can get involved!

What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter

Outdoor Leader Training (Virtual Series)

Virtual version of the outdoor leader training. Participants must attend all three sessions to be certified.

If you are unable to attend one of the three dates, please reach out to celeste.venolia@sierraclub.org.

JULY 10th from 7:00PM - 9:00PM

JULY 17th from 7:00PM - 9:00PM

JULY 24th from 7:00PM - 9:00PM

[RSVP Here](#)



New! Transportation Action Team First Meeting

The Massachusetts Chapter is launching a new Transportation Action Team to increase the impact of our transportation work. This team will meet twice a month, and will start by focusing on Electric School Bus Advocacy and Regional Transit Electrification.

Volunteers can expect to work on issue-based campaigns with staff and to build organizing skills. Please join us for our first virtual meeting to learn more about this exciting new team!



JULY 12TH at 5PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Outdoor Leader Training (In Person Event)

Are you interested in volunteering as an outdoor trip leader?

Outings Leader Training is designed to provide participants with the knowledge required to lead day trips and overnight car-camping trips for the Sierra Club. The goal is to create trip leaders who lead safe and fun trips while inspiring their participants to become more involved in protecting their environment.

JULY 15th from 9:00AM - 3:30PM

[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.

JULY 16TH at 7PM

[RSVP Here](#)



PFAS & Public Health, featuring Senator Julian Cyr

Sierra Cape Cod's virtual speaker series continues Tuesday, July 18 at 7 pm with a talk by Senator Julian Cyr addressing the intent and impact of "An Act to Protect Massachusetts Public Health from PFAS," the proposed legislation he coauthored after leading a state-chartered commission. This event is free and open to all; time will be reserved for audience Q&A.

JULY 18TH at 7PM

[RSVP Here](#)



Plight of North Atlantic Right Whales: New England Gem on the Edge of Extinction

Krill Carson, founder and Director of the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance (NECWA), will discuss the plight of the North Atlantic Right Whale, the most endangered baleen whale of the western North Atlantic, which numbers fewer than 350 individuals. Krill will describe the threats the whale faces from ship strikes, reductions in food supply, and entanglements in fishing gear, as well as actions people can take to ensure their safety



JULY 27TH at 7PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Support the Chapter



Every Year is an Election Year

Help elect environmental champions!

This fall, we're building a new Elections Team. Join us as we mobilize the Sierra Club's most powerful asset - our members - to support environmental champions. Between record heat waves, flooding, and habitat loss, environmental chaos is here. And the sad truth is that Massachusetts is falling behind. With new districts and a new governor, we have the opportunity this year to elect champions who will put us back on track to being a national leader.

Join the team! Reach out to Sam Lambert (sam.lambert@sierraclub.org) for meeting information.

Next Meeting: TOMORROW, July 11th at 7pm

[RSVP Here](#)

City Hike 2023 kicks off this month!



The 2023 City Hike will begin at Belle Isle Marsh, work through East Boston and end at the East Boston harbor walk. Anyone is welcome to walk the route, using our provided materials to guide you along the way!

In addition, we will be holding 3 “Chapter Days” where staff and volunteers will lead a guided walk through part of the route. (*All transit accessible!*) Chapter day hike segments are listed below - dates will be confirmed soon!

- Belle Isle Marsh through Wood Island Park (3 miles)
- Waterfront loop, starting and ending at Maverick (2.07 miles)
- Wood Island to Maverick (1.7 miles)

Bookmark this page for more information coming soon!

Executive Committee Updates

Join us in Welcoming our newest ExCom Member: **Alan Gordon!**



"I have been a strong believer in environmental issues, joining the Sierra Club in the late '80s, and later the Appalachian Mountain Club. I participate in the MA Sierra Club toxics team; am a member of the Newton Sustainable Materials Management Commission, a mayor-appointed commission that advises the mayor and city council on issues related to residential solid waste; and an active participant of a plastics reduction working group in Newton working to reduce the use of single use plastic in the city. I am excited to join the Executive Committee!"

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

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](#)

Political Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 11th at 6:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Elections Team Meeting

Tuesday, July 11th at 7:00pm

Join our elections team! We are building Sierra Club volunteer power to elect environmental champions this year and in years to come!

[RSVP Here](#)

New! Transportation Action Team - First Meeting

[RSVP Here](#)

Wednesday, July 12th at 5:00pm

The Massachusetts Sierra Club Chapter is launching a new Transportation Action Team focused on solutions to decarbonize our transportation system, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve public health outcomes.

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](#)

Communications Team Meeting

Thursday, July 13th at 5:00pm

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

[RSVP Here](#)

Forest Protection Team Meeting

Thursday, July 13th 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, July 18th 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, July 20th 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, July 25th 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, July 27th 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

Plastics & The Future Of Our Planet: A Conversation With Bill McKibben and Elizabeth Kolbert

July 12th at 7pm

Virtual Event

Join us on July 12, 2023 on Zoom for a conversation about plastics and the future of our planet with environmental leader and author, Bill McKibben, and Pulitzer prize-winning journalist, Elizabeth Kolbert, moderated by Beyond Plastics president and former U.S. EPA regional administrator, Judith Enck.

[RSVP Here](#)

Plastic Free July Storytelling Contest

July 31st at 7pm

Virtual Event

Sierra Club [Grassroots Network Single Use Plastic Plus Subteam](#) invites all Grassroots Network Issue Teams, Sierra Club Chapters, and activists to call for reducing plastic pollution, act on climate, as well as the related carbon footprint and harm to biodiversity through newsletters, letters to the editor, and social media posts during Plastic Free July (and throughout the year). We want to hear all kinds of stories from our fellow Sierrans across campaigns!

On July 31 at 7PM ET we will host a storytelling contest. Similar to a public comment, each story will get three minutes. Please bring your stories. Your children are welcome too since children are often some of the powerful speakers. The categories of the competitions are:

- Creative
- Heartfelt
- Inspiring
- Spot On
- Timely
- People's Choice

Please RSVP to receive Zoom info by 7/30.

RSVP Here

Our Reading List

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

- [Bald eagles are America's national symbol. Let's stop poisoning them.](#) (Boston Globe, 7/3/23)
- [Report ranks Massachusetts fourth in the country on electric vehicle policies](#) (WBUR, 6/29/23)
- [Show this to anyone who says renewables are unreliable](#) (Heated, 6/29/23)
- [Why Heat Pumps Are Such an Important Climate Solution](#) (Distilled, 6/26/23)
- [Q&A: Heather McTeer Toney Reflects on the Ongoing Struggle for Environmental Justice in America](#) (Inside Climate News, 6/24/23)
- [3M reaches historic settlement over PFAS contamination](#) (Grist, 6/22/23)
- [EPA sued for failure to act on state's air pollution plans](#) (The Salem News, 6/22/23)
- [Lawmakers hope to 'turn off tap' of PFAS forever chemicals in Mass.](#) (MassLive, 6/22/23)
- [Healey announces a new green bank to fund climate-friendly affordable housing](#) (Boston Globe, 6/13/23)
- [Finally, a solution to plastic pollution that's not just recycling](#) (Vox, 6/7/23)
- [Healey-Driscoll Administration Launches New Climate-Focused Forestry Initiative](#) (Mass Gov, 6/7/23)
- [The landmark trial that could determine who pays to rid America's drinking water of PFAS](#) (Grist, 6/2/23)
- [State program to fund new schools allows for fossil fuels, despite climate goals](#) (Boston Globe, 6/1/23)

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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