September 20th Youth Climate Strike
Boston City Hall Plaza

The Global Climate Strike on Friday, September 20th marks the beginning of a week of global climate action. Youths have been leaving their classrooms every Friday in climate protest through #FridaysForFuture; now they hope adults will join them. The Sierra Club stands in solidarity with youth leaders who have been striking for the last year, and we encourage those who are able to join young people in sending a message to world leaders for our future.

Following the lead of Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, thousands of young people and adult allies will gather in Boston this September to kick off a week of climate action! Click here to learn more about the Climate Strike and check out the week of action events happening around the state!

RSVP to Join the Climate Strike

Charlie's Climate Catastrophe Tour: #NoWeymouthCompressor
September 22 at 12:00pm
Join FRRACs and 350Mass to challenge Governor Baker's on Weymouth compressor

Calling for Videos for the September 20th Climate Strike!
Create a short video about why you’re striking, why you care about the climate crisis, and why
station. Protestors will gather at the State House around 12pm and take a Gov Baker puppet on the redline to Quincy center for a rally, then march the two miles over the Fore River Bridge to the park adjacent to the compressor station site, where FRRACs will host a community dinner.

RSVP Here

**Worcester Strike (multiple actions)**
The Worcester Climate Strike Coalition is planning a variety of events leading up to the climate strikes in September. Central Massachusetts groups can still sign on to join the coalition.

- **Sept 6 @ 11:45am** - Die In for Climate ([RSVP](#))
- **Sept 20** - Youth Climate Strike ([info](#))
- **Sept 27** - General Climate Strike ([info](#))

For more information about the Global Climate Strike events happening on September 20th, [check out this map](#).

To stay up to date on Week of Action events from September 20th-27th, please visit [StrikeWithUs.org](#).

---

**What's Happening at the Massachusetts Chapter**

![Merrimack Valley Action Team Receives Leadership Award](#)

**Merrimack Valley Action Team Receives Leadership Award**

The Sierra Club Merrimack Valley Action Team received the Sustainable Lowell Community Leadership Award on August 13th, for their work on sustainability issues in Lowell. In addition, the team received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from third district United States Congressman Lori Trahan. Big congratulations to Geoff Koetsch, who has served as team coordinator since 2017. To attend a monthly team meeting or learn more, [email Geoff](#).

---

**Nature Photo Contest Winners Announced**

Thanks to everyone who entered our first annual Nature Photo Contest. See the winning photos and a slideshow of all the beautiful photo submitted from across the Commonwealth on [our website](#).
“Climate Cabaret: An Environmental Fundraiser”
Sunday, September 22 at 2:00pm
19 Carter Street, Berlin

Our chapter member, Sophie Glasser, will star in a cabaret show featuring environmentally-themed songs. She has been studying cabaret singing for 5 years and truly enjoys using her talents to benefit the environment. Sophie is a resident of the Mosaic Commons Eco-Village in Berlin, MA. She will be accompanied on the piano by professional pianist, Tom LaMark, and will have additional musical support from friends and neighbors from her community. Net proceeds from the event will benefit the Sierra Club.

Subcommittee Meetings: Call for Volunteers

Help assist the Sierra Club by attending weekday state meetings on subjects such transportation or pesticides. You can be the eyes and ears of the Sierra Club on important issues. This is an easy way to start getting involved, and is very educational! For more information and to join a list of people interested in attending state meetings, please email Aileen Kelley.

Clean Energy & Climate

Climate Advocacy Training
Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30pm
Boston Yacht Club, 1 Front Street, Marblehead
As part of an ongoing campaign, Massachusetts Sierra Club is helping encourage increased engagement across the Commonwealth on solutions to equitably expand renewable energy and reduce climate pollution. Training attendees will learn more about current Massachusetts laws, upcoming clean energy legislation, and how they can better engage with local and state officials to make real progress in their community.

RSVP Here

Boston is Ready for Community Choice Energy!

Culminating on 2 years of education and advocacy for the City of Boston to implement a municipal aggregation program, the City has submitted their plan to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for approval. At a recent public hearing held at the Department dozens of Boston residents, students, and advocates including Sierra Club members, testified in support of the City of Boston’s Community Choice Energy (CCE) plan. We asked the DPU to approve the plan AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that Bostonians can reap the benefits of cleaner air, consumer protection, and price stability in their electric bills. The resounding message was that the City of Boston is ready for CCE to be implemented! If you’re interested in learning more about our clean energy campaign in Boston, contact Michele Brooks.

Triage & Transition: Science & Policy to Move Beyond Gas

Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00pm
64 Middlesex Ave, Reading

Please join the Green Sanctuary Committee and Professor Nathan Phillips at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading to learn about the 17,500 gas leaks in Massachusetts. The forum will discuss how fixing the largest leaks (7% of leaks in Greater Boston) will cut half of the escaping gas, and how we can move from gas to renewably-sourced energy for heating our indoor spaces and cooking.

Learn more

Transportation Matters

City Council Hearing for the North South Rail Link

A hearing on Monday, July 29th was held to discuss the North South Rail Link (NSRL). Such a connection would allow for the through running of Amtrak and commuter trains, eliminating the
wasteful backup moves that are now a major cause of congestion at both terminals. Those who would benefit from such a link are invited to share their stories.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the #BuildTheLink Rally for the North South Rail Link at Boston City Hall. Thank you to all of the folks who also got a chance to go inside and testify before the Boston City Council in favor of the Rail Link.

See press stories on our rally and the testimony from WCVB Channel 5 (On their YouTube Channel), Boston 25 News and the Boston Globe.

Regional Rail: Transformational Transportation

On August 8th, Josh Fairchild, Jarred Johnson, and Ethan Finlan from Transit Matters shared their vision for a truly modern regional rail system and how it can benefit the entire Greater Boston region. Their presentation is available to watch online for anyone who was unable to attend the event.

Watch the presentation

National Drive Electric Week
September 14-21

Many communities in Massachusetts will be celebrating National Drive Electric week with a variety of events showcasing electric vehicles. Events vary by city, but people will have the opportunity to test drive EVs, as well as to learn about purchasing and using electric vehicles, and incentive programs for switching from gas or diesel vehicles. Making the switch to an electric vehicle can help reduce your carbon footprint and may also help you save money! For more information, please visit https://driveelectricweek.org/
Valley Flyer Opening Day Train Ride
Friday, August 30 at 5:45am

Opening day of the Valley Flyer Train, which has stops in Greenfield, Northampton, Holyoke, Springfield, and along the CT Rail Hartford Line. Train service will terminate at Union Station (New York City) and in New Haven Connecticut. The service is designed for people trying to commute into New York in the morning and home in the evening, and will run on a pilot basis until fall 2021, contingent on ridership.

Learn more

Every Year is an Election Year

Climate and Environment City Council Candidate Forums

It is more important than ever that municipal officials commit to tackling the climate crisis and protecting our public health. Come hear candidates answer questions and discuss their positions on critical energy and environmental issues facing Boston, Northampton, and Framingham.

Northampton Ward 1, 2, & 4 Candidate Forum
Thursday, September 11 at 6:30pm
Northampton Senior Center 67 Conz St, Northampton

Boston District 9 Candidate Forum
Thursday, September 12 at 6:00pm
Brighton Allston Congregational Church UCC, 404 Washington Street, Boston

Northampton Ward 5 & 7 Candidate Forum
Thursday, September 12 at 6:30pm
Lathrop Retirement Community, 1 Shallowbrook Ln, Northampton

Framingham Candidate Forum
Thursday, September 27 at 6:30pm
First Parish UU, 24 Vernon Street, Framingham

Boston At-Large Candidate Forum
Wednesday, October 2 at 5:30pm
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston
Beyond Fossil Fuels

Under Pressure
Upcoming Film Screenings

Numerous communities in MA are facing local battles -- with regional and global consequences -- to stop expansion of gas pipelines and infrastructure. We are co-sponsoring screenings of the powerful 2019 student-produced documentary Under Pressure to educate about the dangers of fracked gas in an era of climate change. To inquire about hosting an Under Pressure screening, please visit Under Pressure online.

Rehoboth Film Screening
Monday, September 9 at 6:30pm
Blanding Library, 124 Bay State Road, Rehoboth

Salem Film Screening
Thursday, September 19 at 6:30pm
SATV, 285 Derby Street, Salem

Athol Film Screening
Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30pm
Athol Public Library, 268 Main Street, Athol

Friend and Partner Events

Avian Collision Team: Call for Volunteers

Mass Audubon is seeking volunteers to help monitor bird-window collisions in downtown Boston. Window collisions are a surprisingly significant source of bird mortality in the US, causing up to 100 million casualties annually. While programs exist in most major cities to study and mitigate this problem, this is the first monitoring effort of its kind in Boston. Our pilot program in the spring found over 110 window-struck birds in a small area of downtown Boston over the course of the season. By volunteering as a citizen scientist, you can help us collect data on how window strikes affect birds and rescue birds that survive collisions. Read more from the Mass Audubon.

To sign up for a training and get in touch, please use this form. Please share this with anyone you think might be interested! Contact wfreedberg@massaudubon.org with any questions, or leave a message at 617-899-5525.

"REUSE Because You Can't Recycle The Planet" Movie Screening

Saturday, September 7 at 9:30am
Chatham Orpheum Theater, Chatham

This film follows Reuse Pro Alex Eaves' cross-country adventure to the 48 contiguous U.S. states. On his journey, he finds endless reuse
solutions for our waste problem that are not only sustainable, but many of which are easy and fun. And he learns just how reuse truly benefits people, planet, and wallet. Tickets cost $10.

RSVP Here

Greening the Gateway Cities Program: Quincy

Do you live in Quincy? Are you interested in getting a free tree? Greening the Gateway Cities Program is planting trees in the Wollaston and Germantown neighborhoods this fall. For more information and to get your free tree, call 617-455-1573.

For a map of the neighborhoods where we are planting, click here.

Learn more

Get the facts on PFAS at “STEEP Science Day”

Members of the STEEP center will be on the Cape to discuss the science of hazardous chemicals called PFAS and their occurrence in U.S. drinking water supplies, including on Cape Cod. The annual event will include updates from the team—what scientists are learning about the health effects from exposures and how the chemicals move through the environment—as well as a presentation on preliminary findings from the STEEP private wells study.
This is an opportunity for members of the Cape Cod community to connect with STEEP scientists, learn about research on PFAS, ask questions, and voice their concerns. The event is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

There will be two opportunities for the community to attend the program that day:

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Barnstable Town Hall
367 Main Street, Hyannis

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Yarmouth Senior Center
528 Forest Road, West Yarmouth

For more information about STEEP, please visit https://web.uri.edu/steep/

Standing in Solidarity

Boston Calling Decision Sets a Scary Precedent

On August 6th, a jury convicted Ken Brissette, the Boston’s head of tourism, of extortion and conspiracy, and Tim Sullivan, Boston’s head of intergovernmental affairs on a conspiracy charge. For those unfamiliar with the case, prosecutors alleged that Brissette and Sullivan pressured the Boston Calling music festival to staff the event union stagehands, and insinuated that they could lose permits if the organizers did not comply.

The Sierra Club, among many other allies, sees this conviction as a threat to public discourse and effective advocacy. The advocacy of public officials is crucial for pushing for strong climate and environmental justice policies. And while we are building a movement to fight climate change, we understand that the climate and labor movements are intrinsically connected and we must stand up for our allies. Read more...

Go Green With Green Energy

Enroll in Green Powered Today

With little more than a decade left to act on climate, your choices can make a difference. Our partners at non-profit Green Energy Consumers Alliance offer a green electricity option that has supported hundreds of renewable energy solutions here in New England, proving to policymakers that people want clean energy in Massachusetts, and helping to strengthen renewable energy mandates in our state. Joining this program, called Green Powered, matches your electricity use with clean renewable energy. It is one of simplest things you can do to act on climate.

Enroll Now

It’s easy to enroll with your electric account number, and if you do, Green Energy Consumers will donate up to $50 to Sierra Club of Massachusetts. You can also enroll or ask questions by reaching Green Energy Consumers at 800-287-3950 x5 or hello@greenenergyconsumers.org.

Chapter Committee and Team Meetings

Transportation Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 5 at 6:00pm
Sierra Club Office, 50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston
Join the Transportation Committee for a presentation from the recently formed Memorial Drive Alliance. The Memorial Drive Alliance has come together to present a proposal to DCR that accomplishes the following two goals: 1) reduces the number of travel lanes from 4 to 2 which allows adequate space for two separated bi-directional bicycle lanes. 2) provides protection and ongoing maintenance for existing trees and includes extensive plantings of new trees where there are gaps along the corridor.

**Plant-Based Planet Team Meeting**
**Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00pm**
**Sierra Club Office, 50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston**
Eating lower on the food chain with a healthy plant-based diet helps fight climate change. We'll discuss strategies to publicize the issue to institutions, businesses, and individuals.

---

**Our Reading List**

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

- [It's Time to Prioritize Equity in Massachusetts' Energy Efficiency Programs](#) (6/13/2019 Barr Foundation)
- [Statehouse recess don't sit well with climate activists](#) (7/29/2019 The Herald News)
- [Climate Courage—Cities and States Matter, Too](#) (8/8/2019, Common Dreams)
- [Cape Cod groups slam delay in Vineyard Wind approval process](#) (8/19/2019 WickedLocal Cape Cod)
- [Vineyard Wind project gains bipartisan support from federal lawmakers](#) (8/19/2019 Cape Cod Times)
- [Massachusetts plastic bag ban is now tied up in Beacon Hill](#) (8/19/2019 Boston Globe)
- [Editorial: It's time to ban the plastic bag](#) (8/21/2019 Boston Globe)
- [G-7 nations pledge $40 million to fight Amazon fires](#) (8/26/2019 Boston Globe)
- [Three plastic bans on warrant for Rockport Fall Town Meeting](#) (8/26/2019 Gloucester Daily Times)

*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!*

---

ABOUT  |  DONATE  |  JOIN

[Facebook](#)  |  [Twitter](#)  |  [YouTube](#)  |  [Instagram](#)