



Events, Updates, News, and more!
July 2024

Dear Friend,

Our Massachusetts legislative session spans two years and formally ends on July 31! Over the past 19 months, our movement has been advocating vigorously for significant climate action and justice for the most affected communities. Together with allies in the Mass Power Forward Coalition and the Environmental Justice Table, Sierra Club members like you have been advocating to advance legislation that addresses the climate crisis at the scale necessary in a way that centers the most impacted communities. Our staff has stewarded campaigns, organized legislative briefings, and lobbied on our priorities. Our members - you! - have contacted and spoke with your legislators countless times, testified at hearings, collected and signed petitions, and rallied together. Thousands of advocates have urged their legislators to take action.

We are down to the last **7** days, and the legislature still hasn't acted. **One priority, along with addressing toxics and plastics, is to pass a comprehensive climate bill that includes the priorities of environmental and climate justice organizations. Our goals are to:**

- ✓ Secure protections for environmental justice communities
- ✓ Improve indoor air quality
- ✓ Responsibly transition Massachusetts away from dangerous and expensive methane gas

Your state legislator is vital to ensuring that lawmakers put the environment over corporate interests in their bill -- will you send them a message to urge them to advocate for our critical priorities for the climate bill?


[Send a message today!](#)

Take Action and urge your legislators to advocate for these priorities in the final bill:

- **Siting and Permit Approvals tied to a robust cumulative impact analysis.** When siting new energy infrastructure, we must consider all existing burdens on a community through a cumulative impact analysis. The definition should be struck in favor of directing the Energy Facilities Siting Board to create an official definition through a public, transparent rule-making process.
- **Clean air for environmental justice populations and all.** Environmental Justice (EJ) populations are disproportionately affected by air pollution. By including air quality policy in the climate bill, we will improve indoor and outdoor air, especially for EJ populations and residents burdened by pollution from congested roadways and ports, and mold in housing.
- **A halt to large methane gas infrastructure expansion.** In addition to working against our climate goals, building new large pipelines is economically unsound and disproportionately burdens Environmental Justice (EJ) populations. The latest example is the current proposal from Eversource to construct a large-scale "redundancy" pipeline project that within the City of Springfield is entirely through EJ communities.
- **Put gas companies on a path to provide clean, non-emitting renewable energy rather than fossil gas that leaks methane into the atmosphere and into our homes and businesses.** Heating and cooling buildings contributes a third of the Commonwealth's greenhouse gas emissions, mostly a result of burning gas. There are several important

changes the Legislature can make to accelerate this transition to clean, non emitting energy.

With the current climate bill in a conference committee, there is still time for large changes and the inclusion of environmental justice priorities. Now more than ever, it is crucial for your legislators to call on leadership and the conference committee to act. Every call and email from a constituent matters to your legislator. **Together, we can show just how large our movement is.**

 [Please take action](#) and urge your legislators to fight for a strong climate bill with environmental justice priorities! 🗣️

Upcoming Chapter Events

MA Statehouse Singing and Chanting!

Multiple dates
1:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Join Sierra Club MA and the Mass Power Forward coalition to ramp up the pressure for climate action in the MA legislature with singing and chanting around the statehouse! Please RSVP to receive the day's theme and where to meet up around the statehouse. Singing and chanting has been effective at catching attention in the past and is lots of fun for those who get to know each other. Currently possible dates include July 23rd to July 25th, and July 29th to 31st.

Military Outdoors: Blue Hills Skyline Loop

Sat, July 27
8:00am

[RSVP Here](#)

Calling all veterans and their families to join us for a short hike in the Blue Hills! We will hike approximately 3 miles and hike to the top of Great Blue Hill. We will walk at the pace for the group to stick together.

Our Sustainable Kitchen Plant-based Cooking Class

Tues, July 30
7:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Join the Plant-Based Planet Team for a cooking class! Chef Diana Goldman will show you how to make delicious, plant-based food at home. She'll also be glad to answer your questions about plant-based food preparation and nutrition.

Promoting Pro-Environmental Behavior from a Social Psychological Perspective

Thur, Aug 1
7:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Dr. Joel Ginn, a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Social Influence and Social Change Lab at Boston College, will give a virtual presentation on changing human behavior to mitigate climate change. He will discuss how to encourage people towards more environmentally-friendly choices, with a focus on sustainable diets. By understanding and applying these social psychological insights, advocates can develop strategies that foster pro-environmental behavior, contributing to climate action.

Quabbin Reservoir - Walk in the Quabbin Watershed Forest

Sat, Aug 24
10:00am

[RSVP Here](#)

Please join the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter, RESTORE: The North Woods, and Save Massachusetts Forests on an educational 2 mile walk through an undisturbed forest and a [recent logging site on the Quabbin Watershed](#) public lands. After the walk, we will be offering an option to take a 3 - 5 mi hike through a beautiful northern hardwood forest with stunning views of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Upcoming Committee and Team Meetings

Check out our Events Calendar for all Committee and Team Meetings in addition to special events!

Events Calendar

Events Calendar

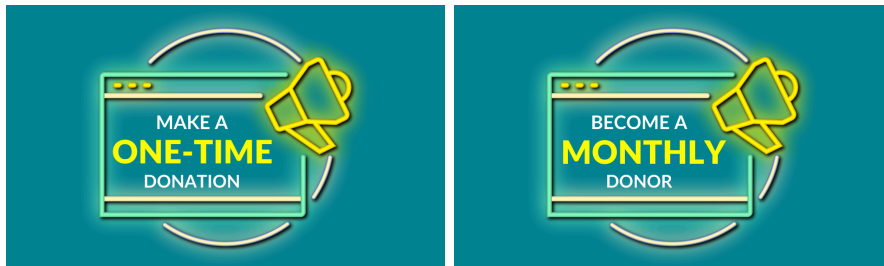


✨ Volunteer Action of the Month ✨

4 ways you can support the climate bill:

1. **Join our phone and textbanks!** We're going to call and text supporters and urge them to stand with us at the statehouse and ask them reach out to their state legislators. [Phonebanking is tonight!](#) [Textbanking is on Sunday \(7/28\).](#)
2. **Show up at the Statehouse.** Join us to ramp up the pressure for climate action in the MA legislature with singing and chanting around the statehouse! Meet up with advocates from 1-3pm on [7/24](#), [7/25](#), [7/29](#), [7/30](#), or [7/31](#).
3. **Send an email to your legislators**, urging them to support our critical priorities for the climate bill. [Action form here.](#)
4. **Send some snail mail!** Together with our friends at Mass Power Forward, we are sending a tsunami of postcards to legislators in the final week of session. [Instructions here.](#)

Support the Chapter



Climb 4 Climate Partnership

It's time to Climb! [Climb 4 Climate](#), a non-profit dedicated to flipping the doom and gloom often surrounding climate change by building community through stadium stair-climbing events. Its [inaugural event](#) is **Saturday August 10th at the iconic Harvard Stadium**, and **Sierra Club MA** is proud to be one of the beneficiaries of this event, along with **The Climate Initiative**.



Together, climbers of all ages and skill levels will climb 30 rows and 37 sections of Harvard stadium in recognition of the uphill battle we're facing with climate change - illustrating that together we CAN make a difference.

For more information and to register visit www.climb4climate.org.

Want to learn more about our current work?
Check out our [Campaign Updates Document](#) for more information!

What We're Reading

- EPA Announces \$450 Million to Massachusetts, New England Coalition from Inflation Reduction Act's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program ([Sierra Club Massachusetts](#))
- Comparison Table: Climate Omnibus Bill 2024 ([Sierra Club Massachusetts](#))
- Company can't dump nuclear plant wastewater into Cape Cod Bay, Mass. rules ([WBUR](#))
- Roxbury affordable housing development goes fully electric — even when the power goes out ([Bay State Banner](#))
- What happened yesterday with the House climate bill? ([Sierra Club Massachusetts](#))
- How Our State House Failed Climate Activists ([Mass Power Forward](#))
- A new bill in the House aims to ramp up clean energy, but advocates say it falls short ([Boston Globe](#))
- Wondering about wind farm plans east of Cape Cod? There's a public meeting coming up ([Cape Cod Times](#))
- Activists urge legislators to move forward on climate bill during State House rally ([Boston Globe](#))
- Massachusetts residents' health depends on fossil fuel-free buildings ([Energy News Network](#))



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