



Events, Updates, News, and more!
August 2024

Dear Emma,

After a year and a half of legislative session, hours of testimony, briefings, citizen lobbying, and over two thousand calls and emails from Sierra Club members to their legislators, the Massachusetts legislature passed....next to nothing addressing climate and environmental crises, claiming they “ran out of time.”

That’s just not true.

This failure is the product of a dysfunctional process, politicians captured by for-profit utility corporations, and Governor Maura Healey’s unwillingness to flex her power and deliver on the broad emissions reductions her own administration says are necessary. Per the legislature’s cultural rules, the remainder of 2024 is an “informal session,” but legislative leaders, House Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka, could change that at any time by opening a “formal session” to pass more bills.

[Read our full breakdown of the end of the legislative session →](#)

If they return for a formal session, they must also pass a robust climate omnibus bill that makes meaningful progress on our reduction goals by phasing out fossil fuels like methane gas, increasing renewables, protecting environmental justice communities, and benefitting workers.

You can take the first step by telling your legislator you are upset they didn’t pass a robust climate bill and that they **MUST** return to a formal session to pass a true climate bill - one that makes meaningful progress on our reduction goals by phasing out fossil fuels like methane gas, increasing renewables, protecting environmental justice communities, and benefitting workers. [Find their contact information here.](#)

To every one in our community who has been part of this effort so far - THANK YOU. It’s because of you that a meaningful climate bill is still possible.

Upcoming Chapter Events

Phone Outreach Team: Text the Vote!

Wed, Aug 7
5:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

We will be texting folks likely to be leaving for college to make sure they have their mail-in ballot and a plan to vote! In Massachusetts, our most competitive elections don’t happen in November. Because one party dominates, the State Primary is when most elected offices are decided. This year, the State Primary is on Tuesday, September 3rd.

Old Growth Walk, Bryant Homestead, Cummington

Sat, Aug 10
10:00am

[RSVP Here](#)

Join us for a short 1.4 mile walk in one of the few remaining old growth forests in MA! We will stop along the way to soak in the beauty and talk about some of the characteristics of old growth forests we observe, the

[National Old Growth Amendment comment period](#) currently open, and [state forest advocacy in MA](#).

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.

Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

Sun, Aug 25
7:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Join the Plant-Based Planet team to learn how to make delicious plant-based food in the comfort of your home! Please RSVP to participate, instructions for joining via Zoom or phone will be sent one day in advance.

Horn Pond Bring-Your-Own Picnic Party!

Fri, Aug 30
6:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

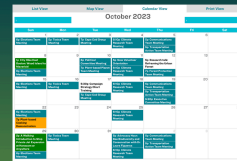
Come celebrate the end of August with a picnic at Horn Pond Recreational Park! All that is required of you is to bring yourself but bringing food/drinks and a blanket is suggested. And of course, gather up all of your friends too if you would like because the more the merrier! The plan is simply to eat food, meet new friends, and have fun discussions.

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 ✨

Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut are set to [select offshore wind projects](#) by next month!! Tell your Governor to support this process and select a project to move forward with, so our families and businesses can benefit from cleaner and cheaper energy to power our lives.

[➔ Send a message to Gov. Healy today!](#) 

Support the Chapter



Make your voting plan today!

The Massachusetts State Primary Elections are coming up on Tuesday, September 3rd 2024! Make sure you are registered to vote by August 24th. You can check your registration status, update your address, or submit your voter registration form using the [online voter registration system](#).



There are three ways to vote in the MA primary election:

- 1 Vote by absentee ballot/by mail. Ballots must be received by your city/town by September 3rd at 8pm. [Deadline to apply is August 26th](#).
- 2 Vote early at your municipal office (August 24th-30th)
- 3 Vote at your polling location on the September 3rd Election Day

[Read our MA primary election lowdown!](#)

From the Field

Last week the [Boston Green New Deal Coalition](#) held its second annual gathering with City of Boston officials to discuss our shared priorities related to energy, transportation, housing, workforce development, and nature-based solution initiatives.



Photo credit: Emma Tavolieri

We focused our conversation on federal funding opportunities to advance Boston's vision for a green new deal, and efforts for coalition member organizations to collaborate with the city on funding proposals. The event was well-attended by senior officials from numerous city departments, and our coalition members had productive discussions about partnering together to advance the city's vision for a green new deal which is rooted in equity and justice for communities who bear a disproportionate amount of environmental pollution.

As a co-coordinator of the Boston Green New Deal Coalition, our Senior Organizer, Michele Brooks, played a lead role in organizing and facilitating this event!

From the Press Room



Massachusetts Legislative Session Ends without the Passage of a Climate Bill or Other Key Environmental Priorities

[Read on →](#)



EPA Announces \$450 Million to Massachusetts, New England Coalition from Inflation Reduction Act's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

[Read on →](#)

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

What We're Reading

- In the Massachusetts Legislature, nearly everyone is a leader. Just look at their paychecks. ([Boston Globe](#))
- Why does the Massachusetts Legislature wait so long to do so much? ([WGBH](#))
- Massachusetts awards \$53 million to help affordable housing operators cut emissions and make homes healthier ([Energy News Network](#))
- Environmental advocates frustrated by Mass. Legislature's failure to pass climate bill ([WGBH](#))
- Legislature's Failure to Pass Climate Bill Means ZIP Code Will Continue to Determine Pollution Exposure in Commonwealth ([MA EJ Legislative Table](#))
- Heat pumps are the pathway to energy affordability ([Boston Globe](#))
- National Grid halts energy savings program. Here's what to know in Worcester ([Telegram & Gazette](#))
- Time for action on PFAS on Beacon Hill ([CommonWealth Beacon](#))



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