



Events, Updates, News, and more!
September 2024

Dear Emma,

Sierra Club members and supporters have been busy this month continuing to advocate for strong climate legislation; showing up in the media, at the Statehouse, and in community.

This edition of the newsletter gives updates on the legislative process, an offshore wind project development, and ways to support old-growth forests as climate solutions.

🌱 Keep reading for more! 🍌

Upcoming Chapter Events

Letter to the Editor (LTE) Training: Climate Legislation

Thurs, Sept 19
6:30pm

[RSVP Here](#)

We urgently need the state legislature to reconvene for a special formal session this fall to pass a climate bill that addresses the climate crisis! Join us to write a Letter to the Editor urging your legislators to support a bill that protects environmental justice communities and responsibly moves us away from fossil fuels like methane gas. We'll set you up with everything you need!

Plant Based Cooking Demonstration

Sun, Sept 22
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.

High electric bills: what's going on and what can we do?

Mon, Sept 23
6:30pm

[RSVP Here](#)

You've probably noticed your electric bills rising over the years. As we move to an electric energy system powered by renewable electricity, higher rates are a financial burden and a barrier to transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy. Join us as we peel back the layers of our energy bills and ask: how can we make our bills fairer?

Gov. Healey, Don't Kick the Climate Can!

Tues, Sept 24
12:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Join us at the state house to call on Governor Healey to not kick the climate can down the road. We must stop expanding the for-profit gas utility system, and right now Governor Healey is proposing a flimsy climate bill with no plan for ending the expansion.

Seasonal Picnic Series: Corey Hill, Brookline

Fri, Sept 27
5:30pm

[RSVP Here](#)

We're going to welcome the Autumn by taking over Corey Hill, a small park up Summit Ave in Brookline (in between York Terrace and Jordan Road). Bring your own picnic, and join us to relax and enjoy the sunset, weather permitting!

Local Elected Leaders Climate Network Virtual Lunch Meeting

Fri, Sept 20
12:00pm

[RSVP Here](#)

Municipal elected/appointed officials are invited to join Sierra Club and leaders across the state to discuss obstacles and solutions for your community's climate goals. Our first meeting will feature Massachusetts Sierra Club intern, Tami Gordon, who will be presenting their work on Food Policy and Food Policy Councils.

Love as Labor: Community Farms for Climate and Community Resilience

Sat, Oct 5
10:00am

[RSVP Here](#)

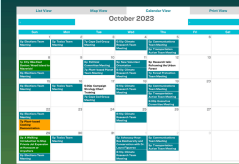
Join us for a conversation at Mack Park Farms on emphasizing the importance of climate-adaptive community farming for: (i) improved access to local, affordable, healthy food, (ii) public health, (iii) and community climate resilience. Our day will consist of an hour of volunteering, a tour of the property, and a conversation about food insecurity, urban agriculture, and intentional community building.

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



Day	Event
1	Climate Action Meeting
2	Community Resilience Workshop
3	Local Food Network Meeting
4	Public Health Forum
5	Urban Agriculture Conference
6	Food Insecurity Roundtable
7	Intentional Community Building
8	Climate Adaptation Strategies
9	Local Food Access Initiative
10	Public Health and Environment
11	Community Resilience Planning
12	Local Food Policy Councils
13	Urban Agriculture and Food Security
14	Climate Resilience and Food
15	Community Resilience and Health
16	Local Food and Climate Action
17	Public Health and Community Resilience
18	Urban Agriculture and Food Access
19	Food Insecurity and Climate Change
20	Intentional Community and Resilience
21	Climate Adaptation and Food Security
22	Local Food and Public Health
23	Community Resilience and Urban Agriculture
24	Food Insecurity and Climate Resilience
25	Intentional Community and Food Access
26	Climate Resilience and Local Food
27	Community Resilience and Public Health
28	Local Food and Urban Agriculture
29	Food Insecurity and Climate Action
30	Intentional Community and Resilience
31	Climate Adaptation and Food Security

Support the Chapter



Clean Energy News



In early September, project bids for offshore wind development in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were selected by the states' two respective energy and environmental agencies, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER).

⚡ In total, [2,878 MW – split across three selected projects](#) – were chosen in the first-of-its-kind joint procurement.

✔ The project selections mark a significant milestone in New England's regional efforts to decarbonize the grid, build clean power, and lower energy costs.

🏠 These bids represent enough renewable energy to power 1.5 million homes!

Climate Bill Update

Despite the legislative session ending on July 31st, advocates have continued to put pressure the legislature to pass a strong bill by convening for a formal fall session. Unfortunately, last week, the Governor signaled that she's willing to pass a bill that doesn't scale back the expansion of our methane gas system, which is critical to stopping climate change and lowering ratepayer bills.



This is unacceptable. We need a serious bill that protects environmental justice communities, workers, and all our communities from the ballooning costs of pollution from the expanding gas system here in MA. So let's demand that our for-profit utility companies take climate change seriously and pass a bill that moves us beyond gas and into our clean energy future.

Send a message to your legislator!

After you've sent a message to your State Legislator, consider signing up for a [letter-to-the-editor training](#) tomorrow (Thursday) or attending a [rally at the Statehouse](#) next week on Monday!

National Action Spotlight: Forests

Mature and old-growth forests are one of our best nature-based climate solutions due to these trees' ability to absorb and store carbon pollution. Unfortunately, only a fraction of old-growth forests in the U.S. remain standing.



Photo by Celeste Venolia

Volunteers from our Forest Protection Team have been working on submitting comments to the U.S. Forest Service in support of the National Old-Growth Amendment, which would significantly advance

the United States' work to “identify, inventory, and protect” mature and old-growth forests on federal lands. See *recent letters to the editor* written by volunteers in [MassLive](#) and the [Greenfield Recorder](#).



Check out our newest blog post, written by volunteers:

Tell the US Forest Service to protect Mature & Old Growth Forests!

Read on →

You can join the action by submitting a comment to the U.S. Forest Service asking them to:

- 🌲 Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut.
- 🌲 Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests.

Submit a comment!

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

Friend & Partner Events

[SPJE Statewide Campaign: What We've Achieved & What's Next](#)

📅 **September 19th at 7pm ET**

📍 **Virtual webinar**

Join the Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere Statewide Campaign for a webinar with special remarks by Susan Solomon MIT professor of atmospheric chemistry, Nobel Prize recipient, and author of *Solvable: How We Healed the Earth, and How We Can Do It Again*.

The Coalition to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere's (SPJE) [youth campaign](#) is also launching this fall! This campaign aims to create a platform for youth to make meaningful change in their communities because we recognize that their input is vital for long term, sustainable solutions to climate change.

[Framingham Repair Cafe](#)

📅 **October 6th from 2-5pm ET**

📍 **Scott Hall at 24 Vernon St, Framingham, MA 01701**

Have you got something that needs fixing or mending? Bring it to the Repair Café, where volunteers can help fix many things for free including: clothing, lamps, small appliances, computers/other electronics, bikes, batteries, toys, jewelry and sewing machines. If you know what parts are needed, please get them ahead of time.

What We're Reading

- In Boston, home energy bills are among the highest in the nation ([Boston Globe](#))
- 'PFAS . . . everywhere': A Mass. class action lawsuit may set a new standard for damages ([Boston Globe](#))
- Healey, Lamont eyeing possible nuclear/wind deal ([CommonWealth Beacon](#))
- Healey spending bill bypasses climate talks in Legislature ([CommonWealth Beacon](#))
- After 10 years, the fight to stop a substation in East Boston is over ([Boston Globe](#))
- Battle over controversial East Boston substation officially ends with court decision ([WBUR](#))

- With lawmakers at odds, Healey files new bill pressing for clean energy measures ([Boston Globe](#))
- Massport seeks millions from EPA to cut shipping emissions at its container, cruise terminals ([WGBH](#))



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This email was sent by the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter
50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02110

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