



Events, Updates, News, and more!  
October 2024

Dear Friend,

We've been following the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, and it is increasingly clear that the the cost of climate inaction is far too high. Hurricane Helene has impacted the lives of millions of people from the Gulf to Appalachia, highlighting the urgent need to get off fossil fuels and protect vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change.

Some resources and places to donate for hurricane relief can be found here:

- Blue Ridge Public Radio: [Ways to donate and help flood victims in Western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene](#)
- Appalachian Voices: [Hurricane Helene relief for southern and central Appalachia](#)

Here in Massachusetts, we continue our push for clean energy and strong climate legislation that will guide us to an equitable transition off of polluting fossil fuels. Keep reading for more!

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## Upcoming Chapter Events

### Letters to the Editor (LTE) working session

**TONIGHT!**  
**Mon, Oct 7**  
**6:15pm**

[RSVP Here](#)

Writing letters to the editor can feel scary, but letters to the editor are an impactful way to urge our legislature to pass a comprehensive climate bill. Brainstorm ideas, receive real-time editing assistance, and get your article submitted in the paper and on our blog!

### Protecting Wild Salmon and Orcas from the Impacts of Mixed-stock Fisheries

**Tues, Oct 8**  
**7:00pm**

[RSVP Here](#)

Wild Pacific salmon and the endangered Southern Resident killer whales who depend on them are currently heading toward extinction, threatening the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the Pacific NW. Join us for a presentation by Emma Helverson, Executive Director of Wild Fish Conservancy, who will discuss their new initiative which asks you to reimagine one of the cornerstones of today's salmon management: mixed-stock ocean fisheries.

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

**Tues, Oct 15**  
**6:30pm**

[RSVP Here](#)

You've probably noticed your electric bills rising over the years. The state is working to address the problem of high bills by reforming how our rates are structured. Join us as we peel back the layers of our energy bills and ask: how can we make our bills fairer?

### Environmental and Health Benefits of a Plant-based Diet

**Mon, Oct 21**  
**7:00pm**

Meat production and commercial fishing consume lots of natural resources while generating significant amounts of

[RSVP Here](#)

pollution. Learn how to minimize your environmental impact, and benefit your health, with a plant-based diet. Led by Sara Sezun, volunteer leader with the Plant-based Planet Team.

## A Walden Walk to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere

Sat, Oct 26  
10:00am

[RSVP Here](#)

Join us, along with partners [Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere](#) and [The Walden Woods Project](#), on a walk & talk around gorgeous Walden Pond. We will learn about the history of Walden Woods and the importance of the campaign to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere.

## Fall Hike in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Forest

Sat, Oct 26  
11:00am

[RSVP Here](#)

It's fall in New England and a perfect time to be in the woods! 🍁 Join us on a 3 mile hike in the forest near the Quabbin Reservoir (Petersham, MA). There are beautiful views of the reservoir along the trail and at the summit of the hike. We will also discuss the Quabbin Reservoir, its history, the watershed public lands, and their benefits.

## Plant-based Cooking Demonstration

Sun, Oct 27  
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.

## Upcoming Committee and Team Meetings

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

[Events Calendar](#)



## Support the Chapter



## Where does the climate bill stand?

After a few rough weeks, legislators report [they are negotiating again](#). It's clear that our advocacy is working. As a reminder, if you haven't already, [send your representatives a message](#), to let them know you are watching and you care! In an effort to send a clear message, most of the Massachusetts environmental movement has coalesced around two main things that absolutely MUST be in the bill. Here's what they are:

1. **The legislature must pass something that stops expanding the methane gas system!** Some want to exclude this from the bill and only reform how we site energy infrastructure, but that is not enough.
2. **Include measures to prevent building new infrastructure in already overburdened communities.** As we decide where to put new electric

infrastructure, we can't follow the historic pattern of placing it in communities that are already heavily polluted due to racial and economic injustice.

Our final ask is that the legislature reconvene for a special formal session and pass a comprehensive CLIMATE bill, not a flimsy piece of siting reform tucked into an economic development bond bill or a supplemental budget. To pass a climate bill, they would likely need to call a special session.

*Want to stay up to date with what's going on in the MA legislature? We now have an email list dedicated to keeping folks connected with the latest news on climate and clean energy legislation in Massachusetts! [Sign up here.](#)*

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## Experiencing Offshore Wind



**Offshore wind turbines are big, the blades alone are over 300 feet long, but with the ocean as a scale, how large do they really feel?** Last week, Sam Lambert, our Political and Municipal Coordinator, had the opportunity to join a boat tour of the South Fork Offshore Wind Farm, New York's first commercial-scale offshore wind site. Read more about her experience in our newest blog post!

[An Energizing Day at Sea: Visit the South Fork Wind Farm with us →](#)

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## How do we curb rising utility bills?



*Photo: Erik Liu*

**Curious about your skyrocketing electric and gas bills?** The state is currently working to address the problem of high bills by reforming how our rates are structured. We are gearing up for 3 separate Department of Public Utilities (DPU) proceedings that are going to completely change how your bills are calculated.

We'll be hosting an [introductory webinar on October 15th](#) to learn more about what is happening at our state government to change how utility bills are calculated and what you can do to pay less, switch from methane gas to electric appliances, and make our system more fair for everyone. Join us as

we peel back the layers of our energy bills and ask: *how can we make our bills fairer?*

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

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## Friend & Partner Events

### [Boston Marches for Indigenous Peoples Day](#)

 **Saturday, October 12th at 12pm**

 **Park St. Station, Boston MA**

Rally and March for a statewide Indigenous Peoples Day in Massachusetts! Rename Faneuil Hall! Hosted by IndigenousPeoplesDayMA, UAINE (United American Indians of New England), NAICOB (North American Indian Center of Boston), Cultural Survival, New Democracy Coalition, MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda.

### [Harvest Your Energy Festival](#)

 **Saturday, October 19th from 12-3pm**

 **McGlynn Middle School at Riverside Park, Medford MA**

The event is a perfect opportunity for businesses, residents, and organizations to come together and learn about energy savings, environmentally friendly practices, and innovative climate change solutions. The festival will include exhibits and activities from a number of exhibitor tables, food and live music as well as tours of the wind turbine.

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## What We're Reading

- More good news for heat pumps in Massachusetts, as regulators order National Grid to develop special rate ([Energy News Network](#))
- Advocates hope utility's winter heat pump rate discount becomes model for Massachusetts utilities ([Energy News Network](#))
- Commentary: Who knocked out Massachusetts' climate bill? ([Energy News Network](#))
- State House climate negotiators resume talks ([CommonWealth Beacon](#))
- Massachusetts Governor Signs Bill to Unlock State Funds for Federal Grants in Infrastructure and Climate Projects ([Hoodline](#))
- In narrow Decker win, a pointed message to her and Legislature ([CommonWealth Beacon](#))
- Over 40 State and Local Electeds Call On Gov. Healey To Stop Algonquin Pipeline Expansion ([Food Water Watch](#))

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50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02110

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