

joshua.reynolds85@gmail.com

From: joshua.reynolds85@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 3:39 PM
To: Bryn Hollenbeck; Fred Spencer; Hannah Niswonger; 'Ingrid Geis'; 'Pamela Chester'; 'Susan Almquist'; David McSweeney; 'Miriam Gelfer'; 'Sarah Conner'; 'Sarah Twiss'; Suzanne Owayda
Subject: September Sustainability and Creation Care Newsletter

Dear Friends,

This is the September monthly newsletter for the Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care group. In this month's issue, we'll spotlight some of the many organizations that you can participate in to learn more about climate change, and to help fight against it.

This newsletter discusses environmental and sustainability topics with a focus on Massachusetts and the greater Boston area. If you know of others who you believe should receive this email, please forward it to them, and let me know who, so I can add their name to the email list.

In Faith,

Josh

Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care Group Meetings

The Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care Group Meetings are held the last Monday of each month from 5:30pm – 6:30pm. Through December they will be Zoom Meetings.

The **next Zoom meeting** will be **Monday, Sept 28, at 5:30pm**

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8734975675>

Meeting ID: 873 497 5675

Dial by Phone at: 929-205-6099



**Without racial justice,
there can be no
environmental justice.**

Our Commitment to Racial and Environmental Justice

We believe that environmental justice and racial justice go hand-in-hand - that those who are the victims of racial justice are often most likely to be impacted by environmental justice. We commit to educating ourselves on the historic and current systems of racism in New England. We call for racial justice, accountability and an end to violence. We stand with those most affected by racist structures and systems. And we advocate for policies and elected leaders that are willing to address these issues.

NEWS OF NOTE

Dr. Leah Schade to preach Sunday November 22



Dr. Leah Schade (the co-author of *Rooted and Rising* with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas), will speak with the Epiphany community November 22. She's been invited to preach the Sunday sermon.

She is an author, speaker, educator, blogger, activist. And is the Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. She is also a professional harpist. Dr. Schade writes a blog entitled "EcoPreacher" that explores religion, politics, ecological justice, women's issues, LGBTQI and gender issues, race, and culture: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ecopreacher/>.

Mass State House Roundup: Baker Pushes Climate Resilience Bill



Speaking at a press conference in Fitchburg on Sept 15 Governor Baker called on lawmakers to pass a \$1 billion climate adaptation bill that he had first proposed in 2019. According to the State House News Service, which first reported on this, the "legislation (S.10) would increase the excise tax paid on real estate transfers to help fund \$1 billion in investments over the next decade. Funding would go toward infrastructure designed to cope with the impacts of climate change."

Read more: <https://climate-xchange.org/2020/09/18/september-18th-baker-pushes-climate-resilience-bill/>

Companies should be given 'green ratings' European Central Bank recommends



Companies should be assigned credit score-style “green ratings” to push them to cut CO2 emissions, the central bank to the world’s central banks, the Bank for International Settlements, has said.

Research in the BIS’s quarterly report on Monday showed ‘green bonds’ were not having a lasting impact on firms’ “carbon intensities” as they often tended to rebound after an initial dip. Therefore, a rating system that focused on a company’s overall CO2 efficiency that could be used by investors and policymakers to compare firms would provide a better incentive. Read more from Reuters: <http://bit.ly/green-ratings>

Connecticut sues ExxonMobil for deceiving public about Climate



Last week, Connecticut Attorney General William Tong filed a lawsuit against ExxonMobil, one of the world’s largest international oil and gas companies, for intentionally deceiving the public about the connection between fossil fuels and the climate crisis.

“ExxonMobil sold oil and gas, but it also sold lies about climate science. ExxonMobil knew that continuing to burn fossil fuels would have a significant impact on the environment, public health, and our economy. Yet it chose to deceive the public. No more,” said Tong in a press release. Read more: <https://climate-xchange.org/2020/09/24/exxonmobil-sued-for-decades-of-lies/>

This month's focus is on organizations leading the fight against climate change. We're providing this info in the hopes that you can join some of these groups so you can personally become involved in fostering sustainability. Each of these organizations provides information to help you better understand the impact of climate change on the earth as well as action you can take to fight it.

If you have other organizations that should be promoted, email joshua.reynolds85@gmail.com.

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization



The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is a broad-based, non-partisan, interfaith, multiracial power organization rooted in Greater Boston's neighborhoods and congregations. GBIO works to improve housing and healthcare, reform our criminal justice system, address racial disparities in our city, and rebuild schools and neighborhoods, among other issues. They are focused and effective at holding legislators accountable for supporting social and environmental policy.

GBIO is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the nation's first and largest network of multi-faith citizen organizations. The IAF has secured the construction of thousands of units of affordable housing, pioneered work on health care reform, transformed dilapidated and underperforming urban area schools, and gained a whole host of other victories.

GBIO has both institutional and individual memberships. As an individual, you can join a GBIO issue team. To learn more or to join a campaign visit: <https://www.gbio.org/>

350 Massachusetts



350.org was founded in 2008 by a group of environmentalists with author Bill McKibben, who wrote one of the first books on global warming for the general public. The goal was to build a global climate movement. The name comes from 350 parts per million, the safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

350 Massachusetts is closely aligned with the mission and values of 350.org although it is a separate organization. 350 Mass is a statewide social movement to confront the climate crisis, hold politicians accountable and reduce the influence of the fossil fuel industry. It carries out both municipal-level and statewide campaigns.

Learn more about 350 Mass here: <https://350mass.betterfutureproject.org/>

Climate XChange



Climate XChange was founded in 2013 by a group of concerned citizens frustrated by the lack of progress in the fight against climate change and seeking effective and viable policy solutions to reduce carbon emissions. From their offices on the second and third floors of historic Old West Church on Beacon Hill, they have created an international audience for content, policy analysis and editorials to amplify action on climate change.

ClimateXChange is one of the best sources I've found for news, blogs and informed podcasts on Climate issues. Try out some of their content at: <https://climate-xchange.org/>

The Environmental Voters Project



Polls show that tens of millions of Americans strongly prioritize progressive environmental policies – yet many of these people do not vote.

The nonpartisan Environmental Voter Project aims to significantly increase voter demand for environmental leadership by identifying inactive environmentalists and then turning them into consistent activists and voters. Last year, the Environmental Voter Project ultimately persuaded 58,961 eco-conscious voters in six states — CO, FL, GA, MA, NV and PA — to cast ballots for the first time. With such crucial elections one month away, visit <https://www.environmentalvoter.org/> to learn how you can increase voter turnout.

Mothers Out Front



Mothers Out Front is founded on the conviction that there is no more powerful force for change than women mobilizing to protect their children. They know that when they come together for social and racial justice to tell our stories and

share our dreams for their children, mothers cannot fail. Mothers Out Front shows up. Everywhere. State Houses. Town halls. On the steps. At the tables. they serve as a constant reminder that decisions made today have consequences for tomorrow.

There are countless opportunities to get involved in this dynamic organization . <https://www.mothersoutfront.org/>

Green Energy Consumers Alliance



The Green Energy Consumers Alliance enables everyday people to make green energy choices in the most cost-effective, practical and seamless ways possible. The Alliance also advocates for energy policies that benefit the greater good. They offer education to help people stay in-the-loop on all things energy and boil down key information for New England consumers. And they provide programs to help people get discounts on electric cars, choose green electricity, install solar and reduce heating fuel consumption.

You can learn more at: <https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/>

Sustainable Winchester



Sustainable Winchester (SusWin) is a nonprofit organization founded for the purpose of educating and raising awareness about sustainability, It's your source for all information related to Climate: green electricity, sustainable waste management; farm-to-table; EVs; green heating and cooling; etc. For those in Mass communities outside Winchester, SusWin provides links to related content in surrounding towns. The Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/SustainableWinchester

Mass Climate Action Network



The Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN), a 501(c)3 non-profit, fights the climate crisis one town at a time, with the help of local MCAN chapters – and you! MCAN focuses at the municipal-level to promote town-level projects that improve communities, decreasing climate change-causing pollution, and reducing development time for those projects. MCAN speaks on behalf of all chapters to improve Massachusetts energy and climate policies and programs.

Despite the municipal focus, MCAN produces an informative set of podcasts, blogs newsletters and events/webcast that are directly relevant to fighting Climate Change in Mass communities. Investigate these podcasts, newsletters and more at <https://www.massclimateaction.org/blog>

Interfaith Power and Light



Interfaith Power and Light is a multifaith organization focused on developing meaningful action for climate justice. Their mantra is : pray, act, mobilize, and they've undertaken a mission to educate people on why climate change is a matter of morality and justice as well as fostering public understanding of policies that will lead to a sustainable future. They work with faith communities and their members to be better environmental stewards of their buildings by providing technical expertise and assessing ways they can lower their carbon emissions and save money.

Led by Fred Small, a Unitarian Universalist minister, musician, and environmental lawyer who serves as Minister for Climate Justice at Arlington Street Church in Boston. Interfaith Power and Light consists of member parishes and organizations, but also works with individuals through its Faith In Action teams and Faith Climate Voter Campaign. Learn more at <https://www.massipl.org/mobilize>

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS

Here are some organizations committed to climate change. This is only a small sample of the many environmental groups. If you have other groups that should be included on this list, please email joshua.reynolds85@gmail.com

350 Mass <https://www.betterfutureaction.org/>

Climate XChange <https://climate-xchange.org/>

Cool Winchester <http://www.coolwinchester.org/Home.html>

In other towns: Cool Mass https://bit.ly/FB_CoolMASS Sponsored by www.massclimateaction.org

The Environmental Voter Project <https://www.environmentalvoter.org/>

The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) <https://www.environmentalleague.org/>

Heat Smart <http://heatsmartccl.org/>

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) <https://www.gbio.org/>

Green Car Reports <https://www.greencarreports.com/>

Green Energy Consumers Alliance <https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/>

Mass Clean Energy Center <https://www.masscec.com/>

Mass Interfaith Power & Light <https://www.massipl.org/>

Mothers Out Front.org <https://www.mothersoutfront.org/>
Sustainable Winchester www.facebook.com/SustainableWinchester
WinPower Community Choice Electricity www.winpowerma.org
Wright Locke Farm <https://www.wlfarm.org>