



Dear Friends,

This is the third monthly newsletter for the Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care group. This month's focus is on both: **virtual events** that can help us learn more about how to act to reduce carbon emissions; and on **inspirational speakers** who are driving the fight against climate change. Traditionally, we lead with News about Creation Care, but for this issue we will begin with virtual events and speakers.

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, August 31, at 5:30pm**

Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 873 497 5675

Dial by Phone at: 929-205-6099



### ***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.*

## UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

This month's focus is on virtual events from informative sources and speakers who can inspire. For each of the organizations listed below, we've identified a vital podcast or webinar. But each organization produces many events so take some time to explore their sites.

We've included a description of the overall organization as well as the most recent upcoming event. *Note that this is only a small number of organizations committed to climate change. If you have organizations who you believe should be represented in future emails, please email [joshua.reynolds85@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.reynolds85@gmail.com).*

### 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.

You can learn more about Climate XChange at: <https://climate-xchange.org/>



Their Cooler Earth podcast <https://climate-xchange.org/cooler-earth-podcast/> is an intelligent and informed series of discussions with thought leaders and activists in the fight against climate change.

Climate XChange's news updates are an informative source of nationwide climate policy and trends across the US and the globe. Read more at <https://climate-xchange.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/>



## How to Buy Clean Electricity

Tuesday, Sep 22 2020, 2:00pm

The Green Energy Consumers Alliance produces multiple webinars each month. The most recent webinar is *How to Buy Clean Electricity*

Tues, Sep 22 at 2:00pm. Register at:

<https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/event/howbuycleanelectricity2>

## Environmental League of Massachusetts

The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) is committed to combating climate change and protecting our land, water, and public health. They are an educational and advocacy organization that focuses their resources on the Mass. state level, in business and government, where their expertise and reputation has the strongest impact.

ELM's advocacy efforts encompass climate issues, protection of habitats and species, land preservation, development of urban parks, smart-growth planning, protection of water resources, and curtailing exposure to toxins in everyday living. Learn more about ELM at: <https://www.environmentalleague.org/>



They conduct a Wednesday Webinar series. The on demand webinar *The Post-Virus Economic Recovery Should Be a Green One* features Ed Markey discussing the Green New Deal. View it at: [http://bit.ly/ELM-green\\_recovery](http://bit.ly/ELM-green_recovery)

## 350 Mass

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.

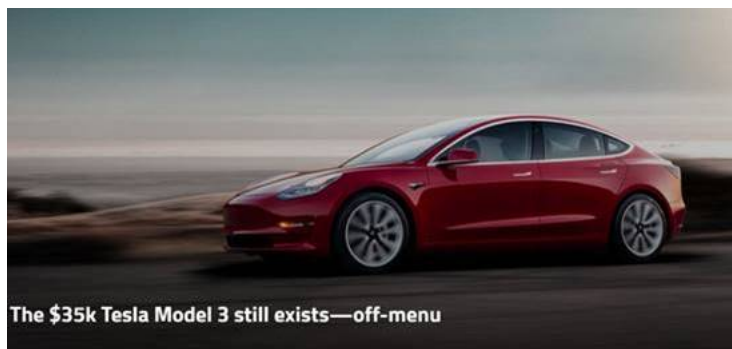
350 Massachusetts is closely aligned with the mission and values of 350.org although it is a separate organization. 350 Mass is a statewide social movement to confront the climate crisis, hold politicians accountable and reduce the influence of the fossil fuel industry. It carries out both municipal-level and statewide campaigns. Learn more about 350 Mass here: <https://350mass.betterfutureproject.org/>



350 Mass has launched a webinar focused on the Green New Deal. It describes how the Green New Deal can help to bring about a rapid decarbonization of our economy; an investment in green jobs and climate resilience infrastructure and address longstanding racial, economic, environmental inequities. Watch it at: <https://350mass.betterfutureproject.org/road2magn>

## Green Car Reports

The consummate guide to all things electric vehicle. It includes the latest news on EVs (even those that you may not have even heard of), new car reviews, tips and buying guides.



Check out the video on how to really buy a Tesla Model 3 for \$35k at <https://www.greencarreports.com/videos>

## SPEAKERS INNOVATING THE CLIMATE DISCUSSION

### Rev. Mariama White-Hammond



Mariama White-Hammond is an African-American minister and community activist working on environmental, racial and economic justice issues. She is the founding pastor of New Roots African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dorchester. Prior to her ordination in the AME Church, she was the director of Project HIP-HOP, a youth organization that uses arts as a way to communicate and educate on social justice topics.

Read the Boston Magazine article on Mariama:

<https://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/2017/08/20/mariama-white-hammond/>

Video: Hear Mariama's personal story on Environmental Justice, racial justice and bridging the divide:

<https://youtu.be/H0AmoaQd8X4>

### Rev. Jim Antal



The Rev. Jim Antal is a denominational leader, climate activist, author and public theologian. From 2006-2018, Antal led the 350 United Church of Christ churches in Mass as their Conference Minister and President. In 2013 Antal wrote and championed the UCC's resolution to divest from fossil fuel

companies, and he led the UCC to become the first religious body in America to pass a resolution calling upon our elected leaders to commit to policies that will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide to safe levels (below 350 parts per million). He has been a climate activist since the 1970s and has joined Bill McKibben and other activists in opposing the Keystone XL pipeline and natural gas pipelines on Mass.

Video: Jim Antal's keynote at the Interfaith Power and Light conference in 2019

[https://youtu.be/mt\\_A22YRcbE](https://youtu.be/mt_A22YRcbE)

## Dr. Leah Schade

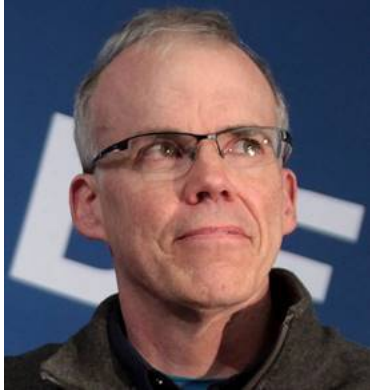


Dr. Leah Schade is the co-author of *Rooted and Rising* with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. She is an author, speaker, educator, blogger, activist. And is the Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. She is also a professional harpist. Dr. Schade writes a blog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

Video: Leah Schade addresses the Krost Symposium at Texas Lutheran University

<https://youtu.be/sLVxa5tVecE?t=409>

## Bill McKibben



Bill McKibben is an American environmentalist, author, and journalist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College and leader of the climate campaign group 350.org. He has authored a dozen books about the environment, including his first, *The End of Nature* (1989), about climate change.

In 2009, he led 350.org's organization of 5,200 simultaneous demonstrations in 181 countries. In 2010, McKibben and 350.org conceived the 10/10/10 Global Work Party, which convened more than 7,000 events in 188 countries. He was awarded the Gandhi Peace Award in 2013. MSN named him one of the dozen most influential men of 2009. In 2010, the *Boston Globe* called him "probably the nation's leading environmentalist" and *Time* magazine book reviewer Bryan Walsh described him as "the world's best green journalist".

Bill McKibben discusses fighting back on climate change with Bill Maher <https://youtu.be/V69l7zbFeAk>

## NEWS OF NOTE

### Europe's big oil companies are turning electric (NYT)



Under pressure from governments and investors, industry leaders like BP and Shell are accelerating their production of cleaner energy. Late last month, Royal Dutch Shell won a deal to build a vast wind farm off the coast of the Netherlands. Earlier in the year, France's Total, agreed to make several large investments in solar power in Spain and a wind farm off Scotland.

At the same time, the companies are ditching plans to drill more wells as they chop back capital budgets. Shell recently said it would delay new fields in the Gulf of Mexico and in the North Sea, while BP has promised not to hunt for oil in any new countries.

Read more at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/17/business/energy-environment/oil-companies-europe-electric.html?referringSource=articleShare>

## Mass. House Passes 2050 Roadmap bill



On Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a bill aimed at reducing Mass. carbon emissions. The bill would create carbon emissions targets for of 50% below 1990 emissions by 2030 and 75% below 2040. The bill also would establish a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and create a clean energy equity workforce. The House bill is now being reconciled with the Senate version to be submitted to Governor Baker's signature. Read more about the negotiations and amendments to this bill in this Sierra Club article: [http://bit.ly/MA\\_2050\\_roadmap](http://bit.ly/MA_2050_roadmap)

## Despite Deep Ties to Fossil Fuels, Texas Sets Its Sights on Clean Energy



You may be shocked to find that, despite its oil and gas heritage, Texas is in some ways leading the country in clean energy adoption. Around 22% of Texas' electricity is generated through renewable sources. And that percentage now exceeds the amount produced by coal fired power plants in the state. Texas produces 28% of the country's wind power, more than any other state, and solar power is rising quickly to match it.



Read more in the Climate Xchange blog at: <https://climate-xchange.org/2020/08/26/despite-deep-ties-to-fossil-fuels-texas-sets-its-sights-on-clean-energy/>

## RECOMMENDED 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](mailto: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](https://bit.ly/FB_CoolMASS) Sponsored by [www.massclimateaction.org](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/SustainableWinchester)

WinPower Community Choice Electricity [www.winpowerma.org](http://www.winpowerma.org)

Wright Locke Farm <https://www.wlfarm.org>