

# The BEAT News!

"because an informed and engaged public is the environment's best defense"

August 25, 2021

Hi Friend ,

If you follow us every week, you've no doubt heard about our [Putting Peakers in the Past campaign](#). For the last seven years, we've been opposing new/existing fossil fuel and other new proposed fuel-based infrastructure.

We've already convinced owners of three peakers in Mass (two in Berkshire County), to make the transition to cleaner energy. We continue to work to put pressure on the **largest peaker in the region** - Pittsfield Generating.

Please join us by coming to our [Saturday Stand-Outs](#) and [signing the petition](#)! If you're in an environmental, school, community or faith group or an area business that would like to join our Peaker Coalition, [sign up here](#). And as always, learn more on [NoFrackedGasInMass.com](#).

Now is the time to #PutPeakersInThePast!

Rosemary Wessel  
Program Director, No Fracked Gas in Mass

## Saturday Stand-Out Protest

10:30 - 11:30 AM - Dalton Ave. Plaza, Pittsfield



### BEAT's RIVER CLEANUP CANCELLED DUE TO HIGH WATER LEVELS

We are regretful to report that we are going to have to cancel our river cleanup that was scheduled for this Sunday from 1-4pm. Unfortunately, the hurricane storm has risen the water levels too high making it unsafe to perform a river cleanup. We are very thankful for our volunteers that helped us with our river cleanups in May and June which helped remove hundreds of pounds of trash out of the river! Sincerely, Noah - Stewardship Manager

**Spotlight: Study finds [blue hydrogen](#) worse for climate than burning coal or gas**



Emissions associated with producing blue hydrogen from gas were actually greater than emissions from burning gas or coal directly. This was because of the significant extra energy required for processes to produce hydrogen and power carbon capture and storage. The hydrogen industry is a significant source of climate pollution globally, responsible for around 830 million tons of carbon dioxide every year... That’s because nearly all hydrogen produced and used today comes from fossil fuels, and is classed as either ‘grey’ (from gas) or ‘brown’ (from coal). ‘Blue’ hydrogen involves producing hydrogen from coal or gas with the addition of carbon capture and storage. ‘Green’ hydrogen is produced using a process called electrolysis powered by renewable energy. [Read More](#)

**Stand Out: St. James Parish Activists Win 'Important Victory for Environmental Justice' vs. Petrochemical Plant**







The Formosa Plastics plant had been on hold since the fall of last year when the Army Corps suspended an earlier permit in response to a lawsuit brought by local activists. The EIS could take years to complete and its requirement is a major win for activists fighting to protect their community from the major polluter. [Read More](#)

## In The News

### Surface Water Vulnerable to Widespread Pollution From Fracking, a New Study Finds

Bob Berwyn | Inside Climate News

Years of research has shown how the fracking boom has contaminated groundwater in some areas. But a study published on Thursday in the journal *Science* suggests there is also a previously undocumented risk to surface water in streams, rivers and lakes. After analyzing 11 years of data, including surface water measurements in





Credit: Bob Berwyn

408 watersheds and information about more than 40,000 fracking wells, the researchers found a very small but consistent increase in three salt compounds—barium, chloride and strontium—in watersheds with new wells that were fracked. [Read More](#)



(credit: Dawn Vilella/AP)

## Biden Backs The End Of Protections For Wolves. But Worries About Hunting Grow

The Associated Press | NPR

President Joe Biden's administration is sticking by the decision under former President Donald Trump to [lift protections for gray wolves across most of the U.S.](#) But a top federal wildlife official on Friday told The Associated Press there is growing concern over aggressive wolf hunting seasons adopted for the predators in the western Great Lakes and northern Rocky Mountains. [Read More](#)



(credit: Berkshire Eagle File)

## Stockbridge Bowl's problem of killing invasive weeds, but not these endangered snails, could be solved with high-tech weed wacker

Clarence Fanto | The Berkshire Eagle

A GPS tracking unit is aboard to map out designated routes for removal of [invasive Eurasian milfoil](#) from 9 acres of the 398-acre state-owned “Great Pond.” Roxanne McCaffrey explained that the navigation device enables the harvester to avoid lakeshore areas protected by [MassWildlife’s Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program](#). The state is involved because a snail species, the *Marstonia lustrica*, inhabits portions of the shoreline, and is considered rare and endangered in Massachusetts. [Read More](#)



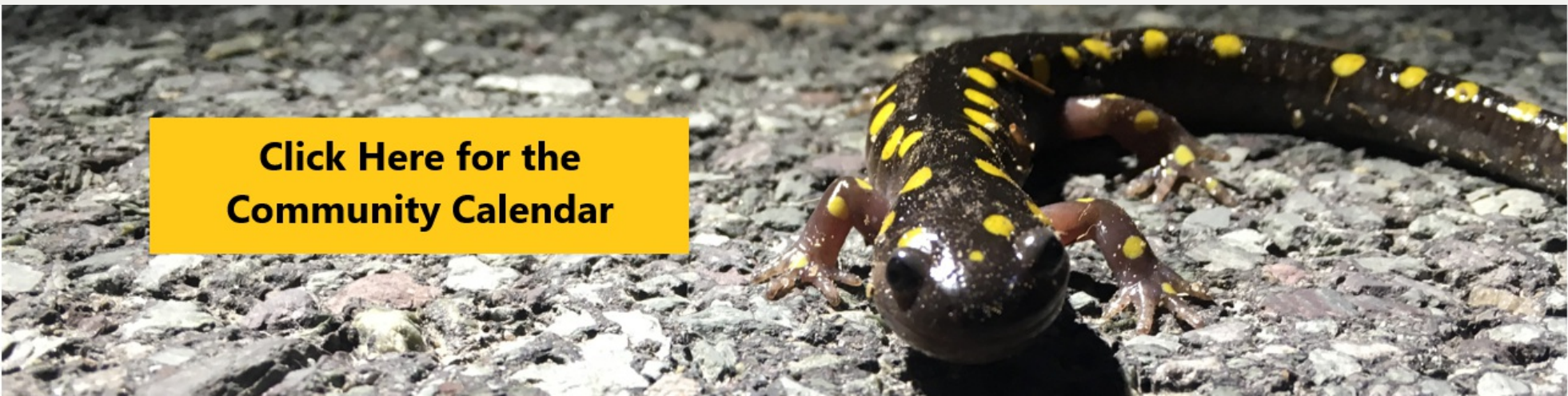
TONY ANDERSON/ISTOCK

## Rattlesnakes change their rattle frequency based on nearby threats

Megan Marples | CNN

Have you ever heard a rattlesnake rattling up close? While visiting an animal facility, lead study author Boris Chagnaud noticed rattlesnakes changed their rattling to a higher frequency when he approached them and lowered it when he walked away, [according to a new study](#) published Thursday in Current Biology... Rattlesnakes prey on small animals like rodents and vibrate their tails when they feel threatened. [Read More](#)





We list events from a variety of local and regional organizations and individuals.  
Submit events to [news@thebeatnews.org](mailto:news@thebeatnews.org)

## Jobs

We list jobs related to the environment from a variety of organizations.  
[Click Here for Complete Job Board Online](#)  
Email [news@thebeatnews.org](mailto:news@thebeatnews.org) to submit an open position.

[Communications & Digital Coordinator](#) | Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts | Remote/Hybrid  
[Research Assistant - Rangeland](#) | Woodwell Climate Research Center | Falmouth  
[Chief Program & Academic Officer](#) | Sea Education Association | Woods Hole  
[Postdoctoral Researcher Position: Aquatic Biodiversity](#) | UMASS Amherst | Amherst  
[Apprentice Farm Conservation Planner](#) | American Farmland Trust | Wareham (posted 8/1)

[Click Here for Complete Job Board Online](#)

**The fight against fossil fuels is here!**  
**SUBSCRIBE HERE for the No Fracked Gas in Mass newsletter**

*More articles on climate and energy in the [Weekly News Check-In](#)*

## Environmental Monitor

July 23, 2021

The Environmental Monitor provides information on projects under review by the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office, recent MEPA decisions of the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, and public notices from environmental agencies.

### Berkshire Index:

- **Mount Washington** - [Becker Pond Dam Removal](#) - **SEIR Certificate** - Adequately and properly complies with MEPA - issued 7/2/21  
**Sheffield** - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - **use of drawdown for control of invasive species and flood control in Mill Pond** - posted 7/23/21

### Pioneer Valley Index

- **Westfield** - [West Parish Filters Clearwell and Backwash Pumping Station Project](#) - **ENF** - comments due 8/12/21  
**Holyoke** - [Notice of Submission of a Yearly Operational Plan](#) - **City of Holyoke Gas & Electric to use herbicides to control vegetation** - posted 7/23/21  
**Ware** - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Aquatic Plant Management Program \(pdf\)](#) - **Beaver Lake using herbicides** - posted 7/9/21  
**Ludlow** - [Stony Brook Solar Project](#) - **ENF** - remote site visit 7/21/21 - comments due 7/29/2021  
**Chicopee** - [Chicopee Abbey Brook Restoration Project](#) - **ENF Secretary's DROD - Secretary Proposes to Grant an EIR Waiver** - comments due 7/23/21

### Statewide Index

- nothing new

**We couldn't do our work without you.**  
**Thank you for helping protect the environment!**  
**~Support our programs & our future today~**

### Public Notices

Public Notices listed here are from a variety of sources, from town conservation commissions and select boards to state and federal agencies. These listings are for Berkshire, Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin counties. Listings are only posted if they are environmental in nature. You can find all public notices for Massachusetts [here](#).

[BEAT Public Notices PAGE](#)

How are we doing? We'd love your feedback on this newsletter. Send us your thoughts or suggestions by replying to this email. Also, send it to your friends, or tell them to subscribe here. Thanks!



20 Chapel St. Pittsfield, MA 01201 | (413) 464 9402 | [team@thebeatnews.org](mailto:team@thebeatnews.org)

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