



# The BEAT News

Because an informed and engaged public is  
the environment's best defense.

**July 21, 2021**

Hi Friend,

The amount of rain we have received here in western Massachusetts feels overwhelming... until you look at what happened in Germany. (At [this BBC link](#) they even mention, "Scientists have repeatedly warned that human-induced climate change would bring pulses of extreme rainfall such as this.") And then look at California [drought](#) and [fires](#) and [heat waves](#). Welcome to this year's effects of the Climate Crisis.

At least locally we are doing so much to try to make a real difference. Transitioning peaking power plants from fossil fuels to clean energy and storage is just one piece of the puzzle. We are also replacing undersized culverts (pipes under roads) with bridges that allow at least the "100-year storm" to flow under the road. This means that most of the time, terrestrial wildlife can pass safely under the road as well - and animals need to be able to move in response to our dramatically changing climate, as well as for their daily, seasonal, and dispersal needs.

We have postponed our [River Cleanup](#) in partnership with Housatonic Valley Association to Sunday, August 29 from 1 to 4 pm. Hopefully by the end of August we will have lower water so we can do a thorough cleanup!

Thank you for all you do to protect the environment,

*Jane, Rose, Jake, and Noah*



**THIS FRIDAY & EVERY FRIDAY! Speak out for Clean Air!** Come join our Put Peakers in the Past Coalition for this stand-out protest to let folks know about Pittsfield Generating's peaker power plant, now filing for renewal of its Air Quality Permit. We're standing out in the streets of Pittsfield to let everyone know that this aging fossil fuel plant is polluting our air and needs to convert to zero emissions. The Mass Department of Environmental Protection needs to deny the Air Quality Permit, and we need folks in our community to demand this when the time for the permit hearing comes.

To everyone who came to last Friday's Peaker Stand-Out — **THANK YOU!!** As the ample honks and waves of support showed, your voice matters, and this issue matters to so many in our community.

We'll be holding Stand-Out Peaker Protests every Friday, 4:30 - 5:30 (yes, a little shorter than before)

at the same location, corner of Thorndyke and Dalton Ave. in Pittsfield. Come, and tell your friends and neighbors!

More art builds will be scheduled as well. Details yet to be determined, but we still have a stack of signs to repaint, paints, stencils and some art materials.

More info at [tinyurl.com/EndPeak](https://tinyurl.com/EndPeak)

[Put Peakers in the Past Info Here](#)

We couldn't do our work without you. [Click to contribute.](#)

## In The News

### Some want to stop pollution from local power plants. How does that pollution impact health?

**DANNY JIN | BERKSHIRE EAGLE**

PITTSFIELD — Air pollution might not come up often in conversations between medical doctors and patients. Yet, doctors say that pollutants, including those emitted by local “peaker” power plants, can play a role in worsening heart and lung health.

Exposure to pollutants is associated with greater rates of developing asthma and other ailments that reduce lung function. Small particles known as particulate matter are especially concerning, and those levels also are linked with heightened risk for suffering a heart attack. [READ MORE](#)

Find more climate and energy articles featured in this week's No Fracked Gas in Mass Weekly News Check-In. [Find the news and subscribe here.](#)

### Advisory: Report Dead Birds and Remove Feeders

**MARION LARSON | MASS WILDLIFE**

MassWildlife and Mass Audubon are recommending the public to stop using bird feeders and bird baths at this time. Birds congregating at bird feeders and bird baths can transmit diseases to one another.

In late May, wildlife managers in Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky began receiving reports of sick and dying birds with eye swelling and crusty discharge, as well as neurological signs. More recently, additional reports have been received from Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. While the majority of affected birds are reported to be fledgling common grackles, blue jays, European starlings, and American robins, other species of songbirds have been reported as well. No definitive cause(s) of illness or death have been determined at this time.

While there is always an increase in reports of dead birds at this time of year due to natural high mortality rates of young birds, MassWildlife is encouraging the public to report any observations of sick or dead birds (with unknown cause of mortality) as a precaution to help track this widespread mortality event. However, the mystery disease is not known to be in any of the New England states at this time. It is not necessary to report dead birds where strong evidence links the mortality to collision with glass or vehicles or predation by cats. Please email reports to [mass.wildlife@mass.gov](mailto:mass.wildlife@mass.gov) and include your location, number and species of birds, symptoms observed, and any photos. [READ MORE](#)

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# Efforts to pursue climate goals in Mass. clash with incentives offered that promote fossil fuels

**SABRINA SHANKMAN | BOSTON GLOBE**

Mass Save, is run by utility companies with oversight by the state, and hands out between \$640 million and \$700 million a year in rebates that are funded by a surcharge on utility customers’ bills. It is credited with successfully reducing carbon emissions from home heating across Massachusetts since its inception in 2008. But in the past, those cuts have come largely by encouraging conversions from oil to gas, a less-dirty fossil fuel that the state plans to phase out.

In a set of proposed new incentives that would take effect next year, Mass Save is again planning substantial incentives to install gas systems and, in some instances, oil. And at a time when record-breaking heatwaves are scorching the country and the amount of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere is at an all-time high, experts said incentives must now move sharply in the other direction.

[READ MORE](#)

Keep up with the fight against fossil fuels at the No Fracked Gas in Mass Newsletter

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

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# Greylock Glen project coming together in the Berkshires after decades-long delay

**MATT MURPHY | STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE, in MASS LIVE**

The headlines in the Sept. 17, 1974 edition of the Berkshire Eagle brought news of a delay in the Greylock Glen project in Adams. The timeline, according to Sen. Adam Hinds, had been pushed back two years to 1976.

“Wouldn’t that have been nice,” said Hinds on Wednesday, standing with Gov. Charlie Baker and other officials in the town of Adams to celebrate \$6.5 million in funding to construct a new 10,000 square foot Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation and Nature Center that will finally bring the project to fruition.

The center is slated to be the “hub” for outdoor activity in the northern Berkshires, with access to the Department of Conservation’s Mount Greylock State Reservation. [READ MORE](#)

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# Birds Need Clean Air Safeguards Just as Much as We Do. Here’s Why

**ARIEL WITTENBERG | LIVING BIRD MAGAZINE**

For decades, songbirds were used to signal hazardous air.

Caged canaries brought deep underground into coal mines served as living, breathing carbon monoxide detectors for workers throughout the last century. Still today, the mention of “canaries in the coal mine” connotes a warning of imminent danger to humans.

But the reverse of that maxim is rarely considered: How does bad air that harms human health affect birds? [READ MORE](#)

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# JOBS

**We list jobs related to the environment from a variety of organizations.**

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Email [news@thebeatnews.org](mailto:news@thebeatnews.org) to submit an open position.

- [Property Worker](#) | Mass Audubon | Lenox (posted 6/28)
  - [Operations Manager](#) | Mass Audubon | Easthampton (posted 6/28)
  - [Community Engagement Coordinator](#) | Mass Audubon | Springfield (posted 6/28)
  - [Administrative Assistant](#) | Great Barrington Land Conservancy | Remote (posted 6/26)
  - [TerraCorps Openings](#) | TerraCorps | New England (posted 6/26)
  - [Executive Director](#) | Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) | Williamstown (posted 6/22)
  - [Deputy Director](#) | Community Action Works | Currently Remote
  - [Organizing Coordinator](#) | Community Action Works | Currently Remote
  - [S•M•Art Studio Director](#) | Flying Cloud Institute | Southern Berkshire County
  - [Youth & Community Engagement Coordinator](#) | Kestrel Land Trust | CT River Valley
  - [Conservation Commission Positions Open](#) | Town of Adams, MA (posted 5/25)
  - [Director of Development](#) | Berkshire Agricultural Ventures | Berkshire County (posted 5/18)
  - [Environmental Analyst III](#) | MassDEP | Springfield (posted 5/4)
  - [Seasonal Stewardship Crew](#) | Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Pittsfield (posted 5/4)
  - [Board of Supervisors & Associates - Open Positions](#) | Berkshire Conservation District | Berkshire County (posted 4/19)
  - [Trails Team Leader](#) | The Trustees | Western MA (posted 4/19)
  - [Market Manager](#) | Pittsfield Farmers Market | Pittsfield (posted 4/7)
  - [Director & Research Professor](#) | Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) | Lowell (3/23)
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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

We list events from a variety of local and regional organizations and individuals. BEAT events are in **bold**. Berkshire County events are listed north to south by location, out of county events are listed alphabetically by location. Submit events to [news@thebeatnews.org](mailto:news@thebeatnews.org).

JULY 17 - JULY 25  
National Moth Week - where ever you are

JULY 18 - JULY 24  
Freshwater and Diadromous Fishes of New England: Identification, Distribution and Conservation Status - Steuben

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21  
Weeding Wednesdays - Pittsfield  
Beginners’ Paddle Trip - Lenoxdale  
What’s in a Pollinator Garden Kit? - Zoom  
The World of Insects: Dragonflies and Damselflies - Online

THURSDAY, JULY 22  
Full Moon Series - Online

FRIDAY, JULY 23  
**Cutting Invasive Hardy Kiwi - Pittsfield**  
**Put Peakers in the Past Stand-Out Protest - Pittsfield**  
Tremendous Tree Walk - North Adams  
MothBall - Athol

SATURDAY, JULY 24  
Thoreau Hike - Mount Greylock  
Natural Bridge History Tour - Natural Bridge State Park, North Adams  
Discovery Table - Natural Bridge State Park, North Adams  
Tasting Tour at Red Fire Farm - Granby

SUNDAY, JULY 25  
Aquatic Entomology, with an Emphasis on the EPT Taxa: Ephemeroptera, Trichoptera, and Plecoptera  
- Steuben  
Natural Bridge History Tour - Natural Bridge State Park, North Adams  
Life in the Quarry - Natural Bridge State Park, North Adams  
Guided Fern Walk - Athol

JULY 26 - JULY 29  
National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration - Online

MONDAY, JULY 26  
Building the Bridge - Natural Bridge State Park, North Adams

TUESDAY, JULY 27  
A Three Pronged Approach to understanding the defensive mechanisms in Green Ash resistant to EAB  
- Online

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28  
Weeding Wednesdays - Pittsfield  
Cyanobacteria: What You Need to Know - Online  
The Climate Activist Toolkit Pt. 1 - Online  
The World of Insects: Beetles and Bugs - Online

THURSDAY, JULY 29  
Learn to Fish Class - Westfield

FRIDAY, JULY 30  
**Cutting Invasive Hardy Kiwi - Pittsfield**  
**Put Peakers in the Past Stand-Out Protest - Pittsfield**  
Tremendous Tree Walk - North Adams

SATURDAY, JULY 31  
Natural Bridge History Tour - North Adams  
In Search of TURTLES: Woods Pond - Lenoxdale  
Discovery Table - Natural Bridge State Park, North Adams  
Honoring the Land – Protect Our Forests & Water - Greenfield

Complete Community Calendar

# ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR

July 9, 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:**

- **Otis - [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate \(pdf\)](#) - Tannery Road over the West Branch Farmington River** - posted 6/23/21 & 7/9/21
- **Mount Washington - [Becker Pond Dam Removal](#) - SEIR** - comments due 6/25/21

Pioneer Valley Index

- 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
- Hadley - [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate \(pdf\)](#) - Reconstruction of Russell Street (Route 9) from Middle Street (Route 47) Intersection to North / South Maple Street Intersection - issued 6/23/21
- Chicopee - [Chicopee Abbey Brook Restoration Project](#) - ENF Secretary’s DROD - Secretary Proposes to Grant an EIR Waiver - comments due 7/23/21
- Hampden - [Town of Hampden Landfill Solar](#) - Secretary’s Certificate ENF - Does Not Require an Environmental Impact Report - issued 6/25/21
- Holyoke - [Connect. Construct. Create: A Plan for the Revitalization of Center City Holyoke](#) - Notice of Project Change - Secretary’s Certificate - Does Not Require an Environmental Impact Report - issued 6/25/21
- Westfield - [Notice of Submission of a Yearly Operational Plan \(pdf\)](#) - City of Westfield to use herbicides on city streets’ rights of way - comments due 6/27/21

Statewide Index

- nothing new

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

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