

# The BEAT News!

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

November 3, 2021

Hi Friend ,

BEAT is very excited to be working with Berkshire Community College on a new Environmental Monitoring and Assessment course for the Spring 2022 Environmental Science curriculum. Lab coursework includes training by BEAT in the art of water quality monitoring and assessment. Students will help BEAT collect water samples and data and identify sources of pollution. It's valuable work stopping stormwater pollution from entering our wetlands and waterways. Collected data will augment our current work with the City of Pittsfield, helping meet EPA monitoring requirements. For more information on the course, [please click here.](#)



## In The News

### Becket Quarry transferred to The Trustees

Amy Krzanik | The Berkshire Edge

[The Trustees of Reservations](#) (The Trustees), the country's first and the state's largest land conservation and preservation nonprofit, recently announced the transfer of the [Becket Quarry and Historic Forest](#) property from the Becket Land Trust to The Trustees. This milestone follows a \$270,000 capital campaign jointly undertaken by the Becket Land Trust and The Trustees to provide a modest endowment and to fund property stewardship costs. The capstone gift to the campaign was a bequest by the Estate of Helen Brackett. Helen, who resided in New York City, passed away in 2019. She loved spending time in the Berkshires and had a strong commitment to conservation during her lifetime. In addition to Helen's gift, many generous contributions were made by the friends of the Land Trust, including the Central Berkshire Fund and the Barbara and the Gunther Stuhlmann Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. [Read more.](#)

### Controversial 'Yogi Bear' RV park proposal resurfaces in Hinsdale, where developer promises 'mutual prosperity'

Larry Parnass | The Berkshire Eagle



After two quiet months, one of the most significant zoning questions to face Hinsdale in years is back in play. A national company [wants to create](#) a recreational vehicle park on the grounds of a longtime summer camp, drawing as many as 300 visitors at a time over six months a year. It now seeks approval of a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals that would allow it to buy and spend \$10 million to \$15 million to transform the family-owned Camp Emerson. If that sounds familiar, it should. This summer, Northgate Resort Ventures LLC [presented a plan to add Hinsdale](#) to its national portfolio of 19 camping destinations. Northgate executives and consultants made their case July 28 to the town's Planning Board, before an auditorium filled with town officials and [concerned neighbors](#). [Read more.](#)

## Avangrid, NextEra duke it out over a 145-mile transmission line in the Maine woods

Ethan Howland | Utility Dive

Five power companies — Avangrid, Hydro-Québec, NextEra Energy Resources, Calpine and Vistra — have spent \$96.3 million trying to convince Mainers how to vote next week on a [ballot initiative](#) that seeks to kill the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) project, a power line designed to provide Massachusetts utilities with carbon-free electricity from Canada. The outcome of the Nov. 2 vote will create winners and losers among those companies, while also potentially affecting the options New England states will have for cutting their carbon emissions. [Read More.](#)

**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](#)*

## Thank squash bees for your pumpkins

Nicholas Dorian | Tufts

All pumpkins are a single species of squash, *Cucurbita pepo*, which is a scraggly vine native to the desert southwest. Over thousands of years, *C. pepo* was transported across North America and diversified through careful cultivation by native peoples and modern agriculture into many of the squash cultivars we love today: acorn, spaghetti, delicatta, and pumpkins. But it wouldn't have been possible without some (tiny) help along the way. [Read more.](#)

## Mesmerised brown crabs ‘attracted to’ undersea cables

PA Media | The Guardian

Underwater power cables mesmerise brown crabs and cause biological changes that could affect their migration habits, scientists have discovered. The cables for offshore renewable energy emit an electromagnetic field that attracts the crabs and causes them to stay where they are. A study of about 60 brown crabs at the St Abbs marine station in the Scottish Borders found that higher levels of electromagnetism caused cellular changes in the crabs, affecting their blood cells. [Read more.](#)

## Rare Owl Photographed in Wild for First Time

Olivia Rosane | EcoWatch

Shelley's eagle owls are the [largest owls](#) that live in Africa's [rainforests](#), according to HuffPost, but they have still managed to stay well hidden. In fact, there have been no confirmed photographs of the species taken in the wild since scientists first catalogued its existence 150 years ago. Until now. British [scientists snapped a photo](#) of the elusive [bird](#) on October 16, Imperial College London announced in a press release. [Read more.](#)



**Click Here for the  
Community Calendar**

Ongoing till November 10  
[STORY WALK® Series: From Apple Trees to Cider, Please! - Turners Falls](#)

Wednesday, November 3  
[Hike to The Boulders - Pittsfield](#)  
[Advocacy Hour: Sierra Club MA Campaign Updates - Online](#)

Thursday, November 4  
[Connecting with Americans on Climate Change - Online](#)

Friday, November 5  
[Fall Birding: Homeschool Series - Cropseyville, NY](#)  
[Log Lunch - Williamstown](#)  
[Hiking 101 - Online](#)

Saturday, November 6  
[Fall Ecology Series: Waterfowl - Easthampton](#)  
[Trees Through the Seasons: High Ledges - Shelburne Falls, WAITLIST](#)

Sunday, November 7  
[75th Bartlett Hendricks Memorial Waterfowl Census](#)

Tuesday, November 9  
[Tuesday Treks: Dyken Pond Center - Cropseyville, NY](#)  
[Learn About Trees: Springside Park - Pittsfield](#)

Wednesday, November 10 to Saturday, November 13  
[Williamstown Rural Lands "Funding Our Future" 2021 Autumn Auction](#)

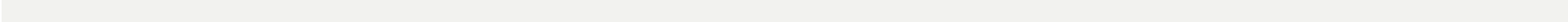
Wednesday, November 10  
[2021 Fall WasteWise Forumn Webinar - Online](#)  
[Saving Ocean Biodiversity & Confronting the Shifting Baseline Syndrome - Online](#)  
[Advocacy Hour: Sierra Club MA Campaign Updates - Online](#)  
[A Deeper Dive into the Personal Nature Essay - Online](#)  
[Talking Trash and Recycling - Online](#)

Friday, November 12  
[Hiking 101 for Families - Online](#)

Saturday, November 13  
[The Northwest Connecticut Waterfowl Census - Sheffield](#)  
[Aquatic Mammal Walk: Newcomb Pond - Cropseyville, NY](#)  
[Ecology Walk at Hand Hollow Conservation Area - East Chatham, NY](#)

Sunday, November 14  
[Bob's Way Hike - Monterey](#)  
[Campaign Rally & March: Fix the New England Electric Grid - Holyoke](#)

[See Calendar for more!](#)







[Conservation Technician](#) | Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) | Stockbridge  
[Assistant Director, Fundraising and Community Engagement](#) | Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Hybrid/Berkshires  
[Grants Specialist: Foundation, Corporate, and Government Awards \(half-time\)](#) | Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Hybrid/Berkshires  
[Volunteer and Outreach Assistant \(part-time\)](#) | Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Hybrid/Berkshires  
[Sustainability Coordinator](#) | Town of Austerlitz, NY  
[Education Coordinator - School and Summer Environmental Education Programs](#) | Mass Audubon| Lenox  
[ACE: Assistant Communications and Outreach Specialist - USFWS Northeast Regional Office](#) | American Conservation Experience | Hadley  
[Farmland Preservation Specialist](#) | Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources | West Springfield  
[Land Stewardship Coordinator with New England Forestry Foundation](#) | TerraCorps | Littleton  
[Fellowship in Nature-based Early Education](#) | Boston Outdoor Preschool Network | Boston  
[Plant Sale Coordinator](#) | Berkshire Conservation District | Hybrid Remote/Pittsfield  
[Protected Species Observer \(PSO\)](#) | Smultea Environmental Sciences | Boston  
[Ecological Horticulturist](#) | Norcross Wildlife Foundation | Wales  
[Postdoc: Chronic Wasting Disease Risk Assessment](#) | UMASS | Amherst

[Click here for more jobs](#)

## Environmental Monitor

October 22, 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:

- Windsor** - [Windsor State Forest Dam Repairs & Nature-like Fishway](#) - **ENF** - Comments due 10/28/21  
**Windsor** - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - **Eugene Moran Wildlife Management Area** - posted 10/8/21  
**Egremont** - [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate](#) - **culvert replacement under Rts 23/41 and grouting of rip rap at Mill Pond Dam** - posted 10/8/21  
**Pittsfield** - [NOI Ecological Restoration Aquatic Plant Management Pittsfield at Morewood Lake](#) - posted 10/8/21  
**Adams** - [Hoosic River Bank Stabilization and Erosion Control Project](#) -**Notice of Project Change** - comments due 10/12/21  
**New Marlborough** - [Harnett Pond](#) - **ENF** - comments due 10/22/21

Pioneer Valley Index:

- Buckland** - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - posted 10/22/21  
**Agawam** - [Tuckhoe Farm Dam Rehabilitation Project](#) - **ENF** - comments due 11/12/21  
**Westfield** - [James Hardie Building Products Manufacturing and Distribution Facility](#) - **ENF** - comments due 10/28/21 - site visit 10/25/21  
**Hampden** - [119 Chapin Rd](#) - **ENF** - comments due 10/12/21  
**West Springfield** - [Memorial Avenue \(Route 147\) Reconstruction](#) - **ENF** - comments due 10/12/21  
**Palmer** - [Roger Reed Fish Hatchery Upper Dam Repairs and Pipeline Replacement](#) - **ENF Certificate** - Does not require an Environmental Impact Report - issued 10/8/21

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](#)



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#)

