

# The BEAT News!

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

December 1, 2021

Hi Friend,

BEAT's Environmental Center is starting to take shape. We are setting up our first educational exhibit with an immersive wildlife observation station that will have an emphasis on experiential learning. We are looking for donations of bird feeders, binoculars, and field guides.

We want to encourage people to work on their observation and bird identification skills: Who's there? Do you see different species? Can you identify individual bird songs and calls? What is the highest number of a given species that you can see at one time? What are they doing? (Expect the unexpected!) Then, participate in Cornell's Project FeederWatch and count feeder birds for science.

*With gratitude,*

*Jane, Rose, Jake, Noah, and Chelsey*

## Spotlight: Opportunities for Input on Housatonic Rest of River Permit Submittals

Dear Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) members and other interested stakeholders,

In accordance with the Consent Decree and the December 2020 Rest of River Permit, **EPA has the approval authority over General Electric's (GE) Housatonic Rest of River Permit submittals for the Housatonic River cleanup work**—after reasonable opportunity for review and comment by Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). Although there is no formal public comment period on Rest of River Permit submittals, EPA has committed to making certain GE's submittals available to the public and other stakeholders prior to EPA formally responding to GE whenever practical.

On November 24, 2021, **GE submitted the following Rest of River document to EPA: Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan for the Upland Disposal Facility** <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/01/661267>

**Comments on this document should be sent to [R1Housatonic@epa.gov](mailto:R1Housatonic@epa.gov) by January 21, 2021.**

*\*\*\*For all documents subject to public input, see [EPA's web page](#) button titled "Opportunities for Input on Housatonic Rest of River Permit Submittals."*

**The next Housatonic CCC Meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 8th at 6PM via Zoom.**

## In The News





## Blue Feathers

Mary Holland| Naturally Curious with Mary Holland

“The colors in the feathers of a bird are formed in two different ways, from either pigments or from light refraction caused by the structure of the feather. Red and yellow feathers get their color from actual pigments (carotenoids) that come from the bird’s diet. Blue, however, is a structural color, created by the way light waves interact with the feathers and their arrangement of protein molecules, called keratin..” [Read More.](#)

## Biden administration approves second major offshore wind project, to provide power to N.Y.

Dartunorro Clark | NBC News

"The Biden administration [said](#) Wednesday it plans to build a wind farm off Rhode Island to supply power to New York.The approval from the Interior Department paves the way for the country's second large-scale offshore wind farm after a similar project got underway [in Massachusetts](#). The administration aims to put the U.S. on a path to generate 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030, powering about 10 million homes.” [Read More.](#)

## In San Francisco’s Bayview-Hunters Point Neighborhood, Advocates Have Taken Air Monitoring Into Their Own Hands

Elena Shao | Inside Climate News

"A community program tracks air pollution in real time. Burdened by polluting facilities, 86 percent of



Bayview’s children developed severe asthma before kindergarten. [...] For decades, state and local agencies have tried—halfheartedly, advocates say—to monitor and clean up the polluted air in Bayview-Hunters Point, a neighborhood in the southeastern corner of San Francisco. These ineffectual efforts have sown deep distrust among the residents for the polluters, and the government. So, advocates launched their own community-owned air monitoring program in September to do what government agencies haven’t been able to." [Read More.](#)

## How to celebrate sustainably

Tanja Vidovic, Grace Benke & Evan Greenfield | WMNF

"...A short documentary released in 2007, *The Story of Stuff* with Annie Leonard, focused on the impact of our addiction to stuff. Leonard ask the question, 'Guess what percentage of total material flow through this system is still in product or use 6 months after their sale in North America. Fifty percent? Twenty? NO. One percent. One! In other words, 99 percent of the stuff we harvest, mine, process, transport—99 percent of the stuff we run through this system is trashed within 6 months'. Leonard says, 'All of this garbage [stuff we bought] either gets dumped in a landfill, which is just a big hole in the ground, or if you’re really unlucky, first it’s burned in an incinerator and then dumped in a landfill. Either way, both pollute the air, land, water and, don’t forget, change the climate.'" [Read More.](#)

## Biden sets out oil, gas leasing reform, stops short of ban

Matthew Daly | Associated Press News

"The Biden administration on Friday recommended an overhaul of the nation’s oil and gas leasing program to limit areas available for energy development and raise costs for oil and gas companies to drill on public land and water. The long-awaited report by the Interior Department stops short of recommending an end to oil and gas leasing on public lands, as many environmental groups have urged. [...] The new report seeks a middle ground that would continue the multibillion-dollar leasing program while reforming it to end what many officials consider overly favorable terms for the industry. [...] The administration has proposed another round of oil and gas sales early next year in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana and other states. Interior Department officials proceeded despite concluding that burning the fuels could lead to billions of dollars in potential future climate damages. Emissions from burning and extracting fossil fuels from public lands and waters account for about a quarter of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, according to the U.S. Geological Survey." [Read More.](#)

## Climate change causing albatross divorce, says study

Manish Pandey | BBC News

"...Like humans, albatrosses also have an awkward growing-up phase, trying (and sometimes failing) to figure out the best way to get into a relationship. But ultimately, when they find a good match, they normally stick together for life. Just 1% of albatrosses separate after choosing their life partner - much lower than [the human divorce rate](#) in the UK. [...] But can climate change cause break-ups? [...] There are more bird break-ups in years with warmer water, a study of 15,500 breeding pairs has found." [See Photos and Read More.](#)

## ‘Declaration of war’: Pacific islands blast COP26 pledges

Catherine Wilson | Aljazeera

"The United Nations COP26 Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow this month was billed as the last chance to save the future of life on earth by ensuring global warming did not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). [...] For many Pacific Islanders, the summit failed on the decisive action needed to guarantee the containment of global warming and denied justice to nations that are among the most vulnerable to climate-induced poverty. [...] 'To anyone in the world who is still listening to the Pacific, let me remind them that 1.5 is the last possible compromise that the Pacific can offer the world,' Satyendra Prasad [Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations] added. 'Beyond that, you are asking their leaders to sign away the right to exist as countries on our shared planet. To lose 1.5 is a declaration of war on Pacific Governments, it is a declaration of war on our communities and on our peoples. It is that simple – period.'" [See Photos and 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](#)*



**Click Here for the  
Community Calendar**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

We list events from a variety of local and regional organizations and individuals.

### Events with BEAT:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

**Cut & Pull Invasive Hardy Kiwi —Volunteer with BEAT**

### Community Calendar:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Advocacy Hour: Sierra Club MA Campaign Updates - Online

Advanced Ecological Design Workshop with Larry Weaner - Online

MAPN (Mass Pollinator Network) Monthly Meeting - Online

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

Conservation Law Foundation: A Webinar Discussing the Beverage Industry's Broken Promises - Online

Local Insects and Spiders in Winter - Online

Inside the Lodge: The Unknown World of Beavers - Online

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

Ecological Plant Conference - Online

Log Lunch Lectures: The Trust for Public Land, "Community Centered Land Conservation"

Comment Writing Workshop for the Air Quality Permit Hearing - Online

HVA's Annual Meeting: "Henri and Ida: Siblings of Changing Climate" - Online

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Pittsfield Peaker Air Quality Permit Hearing - Online

Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) Rule: The Road to Electrifying Trucks in MA - Online

Misunderstood Wildlife: Ravens - Online

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Taking on the Big Places: How to Build and Maintain Self-Sufficient Landscapes - Online

Healthy Watersheds with the EPA - Online

Housatonic River PCBs Meeting - Online

Athol Bird & Nature Club Members' Night - Online/in person

**[See calendar for more](#)**





## JOBS

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

**Ecological Restoration Grants Manager** | Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration | Westfield (posted 11/30/21)  
**Development and Communications Manager** | Wild Seed Project | Hybrid/North Yarmouth, ME (deadline 12/3/21)  
**Environmental Educator** | Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust | Lowell (deadline 12/6/21)  
**Zero Waste Campaign Associate** | US PIRG | Boston (deadline 12/10/21)  
**Executive Director** | ClimateXChange | Boston (possibly elsewhere) (deadline 12/12/21)  
**Environmental Campaign Canvass Director** | Fund for the Public Interest | Boston (deadline 12/17/21)  
**Marine Biologist/At-Sea Monitor** | East West Technical Services | Gloucester/New Bedford (deadline 1/17/22)  
**Forest Program Associate** | National Audubon Society | Hybrid/Troy, NY  
**Development Director** | Environmental League of Massachusetts | Boston  
**Development Coordinator** | Environmental League of Massachusetts | Boston  
**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  
**Education Coordinator - School and Summer Environmental Education Programs** | Mass Audubon | Lenox  
**Conservation Technician** | Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) | Stockbridge

[Click here for more jobs](#)

## Environmental Monitor

November 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:

**Becket - Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate** - culvert under Rts. 20 & 8 over a tributary to Shaw Pond (submitted 11/10/21)  
**Windsor - Windsor State Forest Dam Repairs & Nature-like Fishway** - ENF Certificate - Does Not Require an Environmental Impact Report (issued 11/08/21)

Pioneer Valley Index:

**Cummington - Bryant Cemetery Expansion** - ENF (comments due 11/30/21)  
**Agawam - Tuckhoe Farm Dam Rehabilitation Project** - ENF (comments due 11/12/21)  
**Westfield - James Hardie Building Products Manufacturing and Distribution Facility** - ENF Certificate - Does Not Require an Environmental Impact Report (issued 11/08/21)

Statewide Index:

**National Grid - Notice of Submission of a Yearly Operational Plan** (comments due 12/24/21)

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)

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