

# The BEAT News!

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

December 15, 2021

Hi Friend,

For the final Pittsfield Green Drinks event of the year, BEAT will sit down to discuss the organization's important work of this past year and explore what we hope to do next. Come talk with us and be a part of shaping BEAT's exciting future!

This has been a monumental and vastly inspiring year for BEAT as an organization, and we want to share the highlights and let you in on our future plans. Now that BEAT officially owns our Environmental Leadership & Education Center, we're focused on green building renovations and creating a welcoming public space for gathering, learning, and fostering environmental stewardship and action.

Consider joining us for this discussion via Zoom next **Tuesday, December 21st at 6PM**. We would love to hear your thoughts!

Also, because this event will be held via Zoom, *you need to register in order to attend*. Don't sweat it, though—the link to register is below, and it only takes a second.

[Click here to register.](#)

We hope to see you there!

*With gratitude,*

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



## In The News





## Politicians and activists frustrated with DEP rules that allow business as usual for local 'peaker' plant

Meg Britton-Mehlisch | The Berkshire Eagle

"Public testimony from residents and environmentalists during a Tuesday night virtual hearing equally reprimanded the operators of a local ["peaker plant"](#) and the state's Department of Environmental Protection for what they considered out of touch and overly lax emissions regulations. [...] At issue is the air operating permit for Pittsfield Generating Company's power plant on Merrill Road. These permits, which are issued by the state's DEP, are reviewed every five years to insure that the facility is still meeting all state and federal rules around record keeping, facility monitoring and emission limits." [Read More.](#)

## Study: Business lobbying a major barrier to clean energy legislation in Connecticut

Lisa Prevost | Energy News Network

"A [new study](#) from researchers at Brown University found that powerful utility and business interests routinely oppose environmental and clean energy legislation in Connecticut, while the public overwhelmingly supports such measures. Electric and gas utilities spent \$24 million on lobbying state lawmakers between 2013 and 2020, four times that spent by renewable energy firms and more than eight times that of environmental organizations, according to the analysis from the [Institute at Brown for Environment and Society](#)." [Read More.](#)

## Red-tailed Hawk Winter Population in New England

Mary Holland | Naturally Curious with Mary Holland

"Red-tailed Hawks are "partial migrants" – some are migratory and some are not. Most Red-tails living and breeding in the northern portion of the species' range (southern Canada and northern United States) migrate to more southerly locations for the winter and are absent for three to five months. However, some are year-round residents, remaining near their breeding territories even in severe winters with extensive snow cover. In northern New England the Red-tailed Hawk winter population consists of breeding birds that don't migrate as well as Canadian birds that migrate south for the winter months." [Read More.](#)

## Lawsuit Seeks to Stop Wolf Trapping and Snaring in Idaho

Associated Press | U.S. News

"More than a dozen environmental groups on Monday filed a lawsuit seeking to block [Idaho's](#) recently expanded wolf trapping and snaring regulations. The Center for Biological Diversity and others in the



lawsuit filed against Republican Gov. Brad Little and state wildlife officials said the new regulations violate the Endangered Species Act because federally protected grizzly bears and lynx could be killed. The groups are also asking the court to prohibit wolf trapping and snaring where lynx and grizzly bears are found until the case is decided on its merits." [Read More.](#)

## The Louisiana Indigenous community fighting for hurricane justice

Delaney Nolan | Aljazeera

"...The three Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw tribes have lived in the Louisiana bayous for hundreds of years. They are all headquartered within a 25km (16-mile) radius of one another in Terrebonne Parish, and while each tribe has their own separate tribal council, members have close ties. [...] After Hurricane Ida, Chief Shirell and her tribe aim to rebuild even as sinking land and government neglect imperil their survival." [See Photos and Read More.](#)

## 10 tips for a more sustainable holiday season

Nicole Johnson | The Times and Democrat

"The holidays are filled with fantastic feasts, time with family and friends, and memorable moments that last a lifetime. They are also the most trash-filled months of the year. [According to the Environmental Protection Agency](#), household waste goes up more than 25% in the time between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day. Bins filled with shopping bags, leftover food, single-use wrapping paper, and unwanted gifts add up to 1 million tons of waste per week to U.S. landfills. [...] Find out what holiday habits and traditions can be revamped in the name of having an eco-friendly holiday season. Discover which method of transportation is the best for the environment. Learn why real trees are best when it comes to celebrating a sustainable holiday, and how renting a tree could become a new environmentally forward family tradition." [See Photos and Read More.](#)

## Airborne DNA used to detect insect species in breakthrough for ecologists

Patrick Barkham | The Guardian

"Insect DNA has been gathered from the air and for the first time used to detect 85 insect species, according to scientists from Lund University in Sweden. Bees, moths, flies, beetles, wasps and ants have been identified in a study which raises hopes that airborne environmental DNA (eDNA) could become a useful tool in monitoring insect abundance and declines in biodiversity." [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 17th



Cut & Pull Invasive Hardy Kiwi —Volunteer with BEAT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21st  
Pittsfield Green Drinks - BEAT: Looking Back & Moving Forward - Online

\*unfortunately, the Wildlife Tracking event scheduled for 12/18 has been canceled due to the lack of snow

Community Calendar:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15th  
Williamstown Lawns-to-Meadows Project Presentation  
Sharing the Adventure: Design Communications for Ecological Landscapes - Webinar  
Advanced Ecological Design Workshop with Larry Weaner - Online

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16th  
Electric Vehicle Chat: Let’s Go The Distance - Webinar  
Ready For 100: Energy 101 Training Series (Massachusetts Sierra Club) - Online

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th  
Greet the Seasons: Winter Solstice Hike  
Forest Floor Discovery Hike  
Full Moon Hike on the Range & Holiday Season Celebration  
Christmas Bird Count Tally (ABNC) - Online/in-person

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21st  
Annual Winter Solstice Mindfulness Walk

See calendar for more



JOBS

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

Environmental Campaign Canvass Director | Fund for the Public Interest | Boston (deadline 12/17)  
Ecological Restoration Specialist - Ecohydrology | Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration | Boston (deadline 12/30)  
Ecological Restoration Grants Manager | Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration | Westfield or Boston (deadline 12/30)  
Legislative Intern, Communication Intern, Transportation Intern, Boston Climate Organizing Intern | Massachusetts Sierra Club | Remote (deadline 1/1)  
Animal Care Internship | EcoTarium | Worcester (deadline 1/1)  
Head Science Instructor | Pleasant Bay Community Boating | Harwich (deadline 1/1)  
Science Instructor | Pleasant Bay Community Boating | Harwich (deadline 1/1)  
Marine Biologist/At-Sea Monitor | East West Technical Services | Gloucester/New Bedford (deadline 1/17)  
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  
Conservation Technician | Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) | Stockbridge  
Forest Program Associate | National Audubon Society | Hybrid/Troy, NY

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:

**Cumington** - **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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