

The BEAT News!

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

December 22, 2021

Hi Friend,

Thank you to all who attended our year-end Green Drinks to hear about what we have accomplished and what our plans are for next year! If you missed it, we will have a video up on our YouTube channel hopefully by the end of the year.

If you celebrate Christmas, we wish you a very merry one filled with peace and happiness!

And a special thank you to everyone who has donated! We are so grateful for your support. If you haven't yet donated, there's still time. [Click here to go to our donate page.](#)

With gratitude,

Jane, Rose, Jake, Noah, and Chelsey

IN THE NEWS



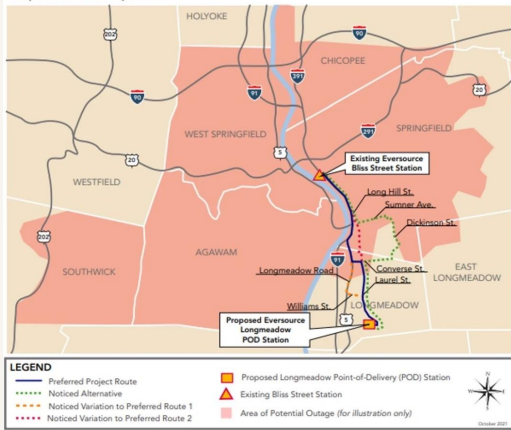
Appalachian Trail Conservancy awards \$50,000 to Greenagers

[Amy Krzanik | The Berkshire Edge](#)

"The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has awarded a Wild East Action Fund grant of \$50,000 to Greenagers in support of the Bow Wow Woods project. Bow Wow Woods comprises 54 acres along Route 41 and Bow Wow Road where Egremont borders on Sheffield, and the project is a partnership among the Egremont and Sheffield Land Trusts." [Read More.](#)



Western Massachusetts Natural Gas Reliability Project
Proposed Route Options



Eversource natural gas pipeline proposal listening session held in Springfield

Ashley Shook | 22 News – WWLP

"Advocacy groups in Springfield expressed their concerns over a [proposed natural gas pipeline](#) that would run through their local streets. [...] Many who live in the area where the pipeline would be constructed oppose the project because of the potential dangers it could pose. Eversource has proposed a roughly \$33 million, 16-inch diameter gas pipeline that would be constructed underground between Longmeadow and the South End of Springfield." [Read More.](#)



New York becomes largest US city to ban new gas hookups

Justine Calma | The Verge

"...New York City Council passed a [bill](#) today that prohibits the combustion of fossil fuels in new buildings, effectively phasing out the use of gas for cooking and heating. Addressing building emissions is critical to New York City meeting its [climate goals](#); they're responsible for [70 percent](#) of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. The ban will apply to structures under seven stories tall starting in 2024 and to larger buildings in 2027." [Read More.](#)

A Cape Cod efficiency compact wants to bundle solar, storage, and heat pumps — but state regulators rejected the plan

Sarah Shemkus | Energy News Network

"A Cape Cod energy organization is appealing the state's rejection of a proposal to provide a package of heat pumps, solar power, and battery storage to low-income customers. The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities ruled in early November that the plan would violate state laws regarding the use of energy efficiency funding by supporting technologies that do not improve efficiency. The department also argued the plan would have uncertain financial impacts. Supporters of the plan, however, argue that the state has fundamentally misunderstood both the law and the proposal." [Read More.](#)



The Real Reasons Heating Costs Are Soaring

NRDC | Top of Mind

"...There are few commodities as susceptible to price fluctuations as oil and gas. So that's always a factor. But the latest price surge can be traced to pandemic-related disruptions. With fewer domestic customers in 2020, natural gas producers in the United States turned their attention to Europe and Asia, where their product could fetch a higher price and sustain the industry during the pandemic. Following vaccine rollouts and economic improvements in 2021, U.S. demand for natural gas came roaring back. But fossil fuel companies didn't want to leave the lucrative foreign



The Millions of Tons of Carbon Emissions That Don't Officially Exist

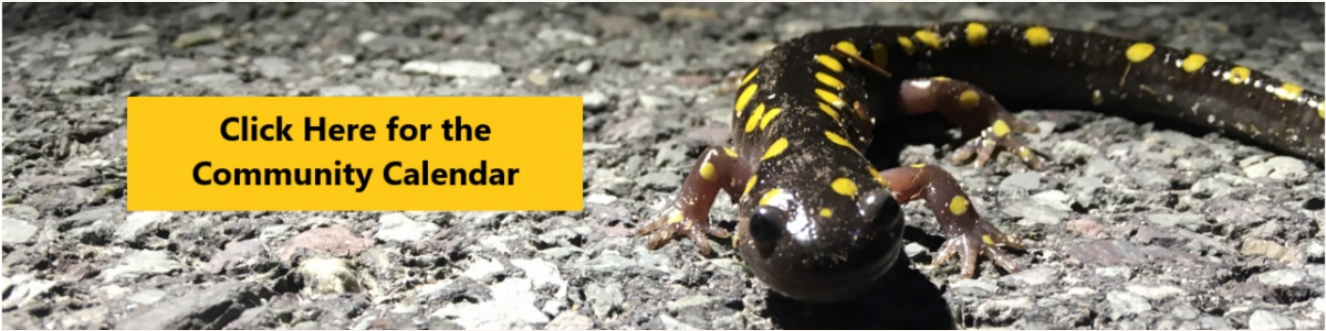
Sarah Miller | The New Yorker

"In the North of England, in a tiny village called Drax, there is a power plant, also called Drax. [...] In essence, Drax is a gigantic woodstove. In 2019, Drax emitted more than fifteen million tons of CO2, which is roughly equivalent to the greenhouse-gas emissions produced by three million typical passenger vehicles in one year. Of those emissions, Drax reported that 12.8 million tons were “biologically sequestered carbon” from biomass (wood). In 2020, the numbers increased: 16.5 million tons, 13.2 million from biomass. Meanwhile, the Drax Group calls itself “the biggest decarbonization project in Europe,” delivering “a decarbonized economy and healthy forests.” [Read More.](#)

markets they’d entered. The result? High domestic demand, lagging domestic supply—and rising prices.” [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:

Check back next week!

Community Calendar:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd
Action Alert! Stand-Out at the X: Protesting the Eversource Longmeadow-Springfield Pipeline – Springfield

See calendar for more



JOBS

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

- 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)
- Campaign Associate** | U.S. PIRG | Boston (deadline 1/14)
- Field Office Director** | Fund for the Public Interest (deadline 1/14)
- Marine Biologist/At-Sea Monitor** | East West Technical Services | Gloucester/New Bedford (deadline 1/17)
- Seasonal Ecology Field Assistant** | Science and Stewardship | Nantucket (deadline 1/28)
- 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

December 8, 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:

nothing new

Pioneer Valley Index:

- Agawam – **Agawam Distribution Facility** – ENF – comments due 12/28/21
- Whately – **Hannum Family Property** – ENF – comments due 12/28/21
- Cummington – **Bryant Cemetery Expansion** – ENF (comments due 11/30/21)
- 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**



Berkshire Environmental Action Team
20 Chapel St., Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 464-9402
team@thebeatnews.org
www.thebeatnews.org

See what's happening on our social sites:

