

# The BEAT News!

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

December 29, 2021

Hi Friend,

Did you know the average person throws away nine times their own body weight in waste every year?! As much as 30% of that waste is in the form of food scraps and yard waste that could otherwise be used in composting. If you haven't tried composting before, then today is the perfect day to start turning your organic waste into valuable nutrients.

**Tommy's Compost** is a local composting service started by Mary Stucklen, the creator of Berkshire Zero Waste Initiative. Tommy's Compost offers residential and commercial compost pick-up services year-round, as well as Christmas tree composting on January 2nd & 9th.

By signing up for Tommy's Compost not only will you reduce your waste production, but you will also be supporting a local small business AND supporting BEAT! Because whenever you sign up for Tommy's Compost and use the code **1FORBEAT** at checkout, BEAT receives \$1. If you're interested in signing up for Tommy's Compost, you can check out their website [here](#), or contact them through email:

[Tommyscompostservice@gmail.com](mailto:Tommyscompostservice@gmail.com).

Lastly, we want to wish you all a very Happy New Year! May the upcoming year bring you health and happiness.

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

## IN THE NEWS



Photo credit: [Housatonic Heritage](#)

### Beloved Monterey Landmark Preserved Forever — 180 Acres of Land at Bidwell House placed into Conservation Restriction

Jenny Hansell | Berkshire Natural Resources Council

"The Bidwell House Museum, set deep in the woods on 192 acres of forests, fields, and gardens in Monterey, has announced the preservation of about 180 acres of its property. Berkshire Natural Resources Council and the Monterey Preservation Land Trust will co-hold the Conservation Restriction. The CR was signed and made official on December 15, 2021." [Read More.](#)



## How the pandemic pushed a party mom, a nature lover and a gardener to reinvent their Berkshire work lives

Larry Parnass | The Berkshire Eagle

"Mary Stucklen says she loves teaching middle school. But, since the pandemic hit, and since she had her baby, Tommy, a year ago, she's been wondering: Is teaching what she'll do her whole life? I doubt I would have met Mary, a 30-year-old single mom from Hinsdale, if work habits weren't coming loose in this time of pandemic. When the coronavirus arrived, Stucklen started a garden. Things changed that year in her job at school. Routines broke down. New ones began. 'I started stopping to breathe fresh air,' she told me. 'We weren't doing the normal grind anymore. It just hit me. I needed to be knocked out of my normal grind.'" [See Photos & Read More.](#)



## Massachusetts taps Vineyard Wind, Mayflower Wind to deliver an additional 1.6 GW

Iulia Gheorghiu | Utility Drive

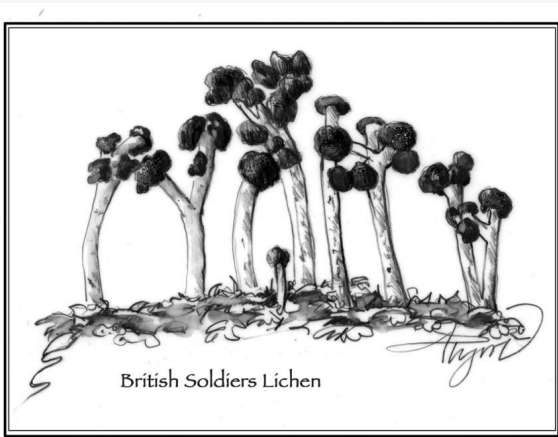
"Massachusetts on Friday announced the [selection of two offshore wind projects](#) totaling 1,600 MW of new capacity, bringing the state to 3,200 MW of a 5,600 MW offshore wind procurement goal by 2027. The state's third offshore wind procurement awarded two developers that are already working on large-scale projects in the area, Vineyard Wind and Mayflower Wind, doubling the amount of offshore wind secured by the state. As of Friday, U.S. states have procured over 17,100 MW of offshore wind, nearly double the January total of 9,100 MW, according to the Business Network for Offshore Wind." [Read More.](#)



## What goes around comes around as Springside Park bike course saga ends the year on agenda (it began it there, too)

Meg Britton-Mehlisch | The Berkshire Eagle

"...The project has consumed the commission this year — all without ever breaking any ground in the much-loved park. [...] As the proposal has grown and changed, so has the opposition to it. Critics of the course first cited lack of public participation in the commission's early virtual meetings as a reason to slow the process. Then, opponents of the project raised concern over impacts to park wetlands, wildlife and fauna." [Read More.](#)



## Lichen Colors Offer Protection

Rachel Sargent Mirus | Northern Woodlands – The Outside Story

"...Lichens come in a wonderful range of colors, from the subtle pale green of old man's beard to the brilliant yellow of goldspeck lichens. While these colors can be beautiful, they are also useful, as the pigments block harmful ultraviolet rays, allow lichens to absorb light as heat, and protect them from harmful microbes. All lichens are a partnership of at least two microorganisms: a fungus and a photosynthesizer. Some of a lichen's apparent color comes from the presence of pigments, or colored chemicals, within the protective skin." [Read More.](#)



## Cooking with Chemicals: The Toxic Lifecycle of PFAs Use in Nonstick Kitchen Products

Melissa Cooper Sargent | Toxic-Free  
Future

"Let's begin with the muffin pan—nonstick, 12-cup, heavy-weight steel. It is proudly made in the USA and even comes with a plastic lid and handles. And at less than \$20 on Amazon, it seems like the perfect gift for your office's White Elephant exchange. The skillet, made in China, highly coveted on wedding registries, may seem like a good choice as well. What's truly remarkable about these seemingly innocuous products is hard to detect at first glance. Before they enter the kitchen, they leave a toxic trail around the globe of water pollution and human health risks." [Read More.](#)



## Five good-news environmental stories from 2021

Chris Arsenault | Al Jazeera

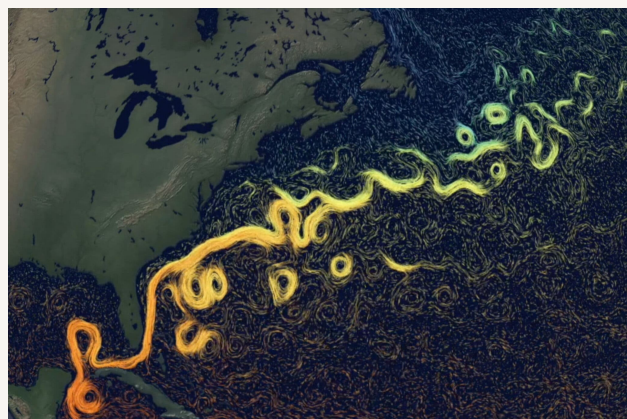
"From record heatwaves causing [devastating wildfires](#) in Russia's Siberia, to a prolonged drought hitting South America and the [worst floods to hit South Sudan](#) in 60 years, there has been plenty of bad news when it comes to the state of the [global environment](#) in 2021. But amid a year of worsening environmental stress – including [mostly ineffective](#) international climate negotiations in Glasgow, locust plagues ravaging crops in East Africa, and an entire town being [destroyed by fire in western Canada](#) – some small shoots of hope have emerged." [See Photos & Read More.](#)



## Why the collapse of Biden's Build Back Better would be a major blow to the climate fight

Nina Lakhani | The Guardian

"The collapse of Joe Biden's Build Back Better legislation would have disastrous consequences for the global climate crisis, making it almost impossible for the US to comply with its greenhouse gas reduction pledges made under the Paris accords. [...] It would be almost impossible for the US to comply with its greenhouse gas reduction pledges without the \$1.75tn package that Manchin refuses to support." [See Photos & Read More.](#)



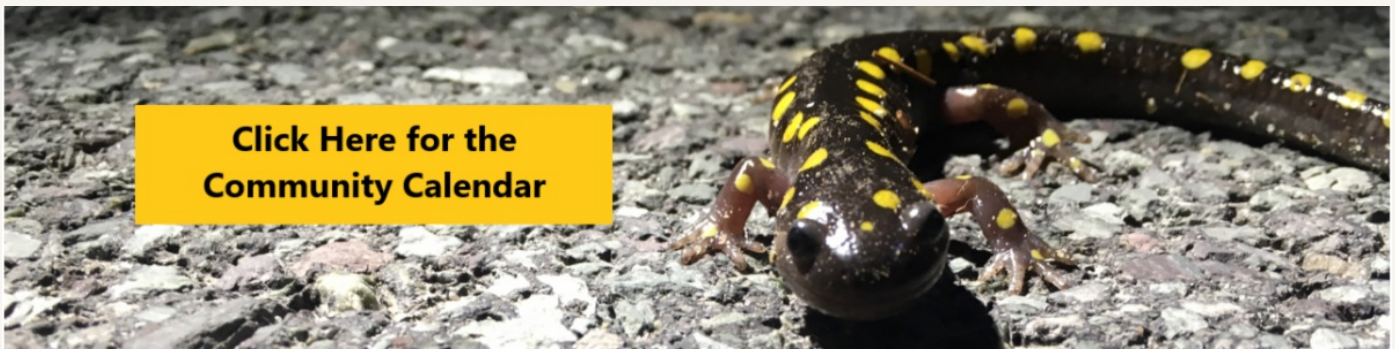
## The Year in Climate News

The New York Times

"2021 was yet another year that felt like five. It began with a presidential transition, riots at the Capitol and a blackout in Texas. Before summer had even begun, drought, heat and fires had already torn across the West. The Biden administration faced a number of challenges to its climate agenda at home. And then came the United Nations international climate conference in Glasgow in the fall. Feel like a blur? Here's a recap of the year in our coverage." [See Photos & 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](#)



## 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 29th

**Sunset Hike to Sunset Rock on the Hoosac Range** – North Adams

**Advocacy Hour: Campaign Updates (MA Sierra Club)** – Online/Zoom

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st

**South Berkshire Bird Count**

**Wilderness Survival — B**

**Early–Winter Tracking Programs**

[See calendar for more](#)



## JOBS

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

**Head Science Instructor** | Pleasant Bay Community Boating | Harwich (deadline 1/1)

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**Legislative Intern, Communication Intern, Transportation Intern, Boston Climate Organizing Intern** | Massachusetts Sierra Club | Remote (deadline 1/10)

**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)

**Ecological Restoration Specialist – Ecohydrology** | Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration | Boston (deadline 1/28)

**Ecological Restoration Grants Manager** | Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration | Westfield or Boston (deadline 1/28)

**ACE: Biological Member(s) – Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge** | American Conservation Experience | Chatham (deadline 1/30)

**ACE: Biological Member – Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge** | American Conservation Experience | Sudbury (deadline 1/30)

**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 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:**

Lenox – [Lenox Valley Waste Transfer Facility](#) – ENF – submitted 12/22/21

**Pioneer Valley Index:**

Wales – [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate](#) – posted 12/22/21

Agawam – [Agawam Distribution Facility](#) – ENF – comments due 12/28/21

Whately – [Hannum Family Property](#) – ENF – comments due 12/28/21

Westfield – [Westfield Target Supply Chain Facility](#) – ENF – comments due 1/11/22

Cummington – [Bryant Cemetery Expansion](#) – ENF Certificate – Does not require an Environmental Impact Report – issued 12/10/21

**Statewide Index:**

[New MEPA Protocol Relative to Environmental Justice](#) (click on link, then attachments tab) – posted 12/22/21

**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**



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See what's happening on our social sites:

