

# The BEAT News!

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

December 8, 2021

Hi Friend,

Your voice matters! And today is your chance to voice your opinions and concerns to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the proposed PCB dump in Lee. Learn more about how you can get involved in our "Spotlight" section below.

In other news, we are looking for donations of bird feeders, binoculars, and field guides to help bolster our emerging wildlife observation station—the first of many educational exhibits BEAT hopes to install! Do you have any you could send our way? [Email us](#).

Finally, heating costs are expected to rise substantially this winter season. If you have not had a home energy efficiency assessment, now is the perfect time! Take advantage of Mass Save incentives for insulation, efficient heating equipment, smart thermostats, and more. Ener-G-save/Cooler Communities is a local non-profit working with home-performance contractors that are eager to take you through the necessary steps. This no-cost assessment will not only save you money and energy, it will help our state inch closer to its climate goals! To learn more, visit [Cooler Communities - HomeWorks Energy](#).

Thanks for all you do to protect the environment!

*With gratitude,*

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

## Spotlight: CCC Meeting About the Proposed PCB Dump in Lee

We hope you will be able to **join us tonight (12/8)** for the very informative public meeting about the proposed PCB dump in Lee. The EPA will give a presentation about what the General Electric Company (GE) is proposing for tests of soil, groundwater, wildlife habitat, invasive species, and cultural resources at the site of the dump, as well as the staging area north of the dump towards Woods Pond. **This is an opportunity to ask the EPA to require GE to look for, or test things, you are concerned about.**

These meetings, called CCC (Citizens Coordinating Council) meetings, occur about four times a year and are always open to the public. This is a good way to stay UpToDate on what is happening with the remediation of PCBs from the Housatonic River watershed.

### Housatonic CCC December Meeting

Time: Dec 8, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cbuilding.zoom.us/j/91925658360>

Meeting ID: 919 2565 8360

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,91925658360# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,91925658360# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

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."*

## In The News



### Route 7 reopened after truck transporting aluminum sulfate leaked material

Stephanie Zollshan | The Berkshire Eagle

"A hazardous spill from a truck transporting aluminum sulfate that started in North Adams and ended in Pownal, Vt. shut down part of Route 7 near the Stewart's Shops convenience store just north of the Williamstown border early Saturday morning." [Read More.](#)

### With regional transportation pact stalled, what's next for Massachusetts' climate strategy?

Sarah Shemkus | Energy News Network

"In the wake of Massachusetts' decision to withdraw from a regional plan to curb transportation emissions, environmental and transit advocates see a chance to create policies and programs that could be even more equitable and effective at fighting climate change. [...] As Massachusetts pursues its ambitious goal of going carbon-neutral by 2050, controlling transportation emissions — currently about 40% of the statewide total — is going to be essential. The regional transportation plan was expected to be a major part of the strategy. The multistate agreement, which now faces an uncertain future, grew out of the Transportation and Climate Initiative, a group of 13 states and Washington, D.C. that collaborate on solutions to problems related to transportation and climate change. In late 2018, nine of these states and Washington, D.C. announced they were working together to develop a cap-and-trade plan to limit and eventually lower greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources." [Read More.](#)

### Inside Clean Energy: Here's How Compressed Air Can Provide Long-Duration Energy Storage

Dan Gearino | Inside Climate News

"A grid that runs mostly on wind and solar, part of the future that clean energy advocates are working toward, will need lots of long-duration energy storage to get through the dark of night and cloudy or windless days. Hydrostor, a Canadian company, has filed applications in the last week with

California regulators to build two plants to meet some of that need using “compressed air energy storage.” The plants would pump compressed air into underground caverns and later release the air to turn a turbine and produce electricity." [Read More.](#)

## The Rights of Rivers

Sara Van Note | Yes! Magazine

"...What's a river without water? For rivers in New Mexico, it's not just a philosophical question, but a literal one. Across the United States and the world, state and federal laws require that water managers maintain flows in rivers to support endangered species and to ensure that farms and cities have adequate supplies. But until recently, rivers rarely had water rights of their own. Their value lay simply in their ability to transport water to others, no matter the cost to the rivers themselves or the ecosystems they support. Now, as water managers, Indigenous communities, and environmental groups pioneer laws and policies that keep water in rivers for the rivers' sake, that's beginning to change." [See Photos and Read More.](#)

## A Commonsense Proposal to Deal With Plastics Pollution: Stop Making So Much Plastic

James Bruggers | Inside Climate News

"A report from leading scientists found that the U.S. is the world's leading generator of plastic waste, at 287 pounds per capita. It's clogging the oceans, and poisoning plankton and whales. [...] A committee of academic experts who wrote the report at the request of Congress described an environmental crisis that will only get worse as plastic production, nearly all from fossil fuels, continues to soar. In fact, the first of the study's main recommendations is to stop making so much plastic—especially plastic materials that are not reusable or practically recyclable. It suggested a national cap on virgin plastic production among other strategies, all of which the report concluded will be needed to control pollution from plastics and all of the related health and environmental issues." [Read More.](#)

## Nurdles: the worst toxic waste you've probably never heard of

Karen McVeigh | The Guardian

"When the X-Press Pearl container ship caught fire and sank in the Indian Ocean in May, [Sri Lanka](#) was terrified that the vessel's 350 tonnes of heavy fuel oil would spill into the ocean, causing an environmental disaster for the country's pristine coral reefs and fishing industry. Classified by the UN as Sri Lanka's "[worst maritime disaster](#)", the biggest impact was not caused by the heavy fuel oil. Nor was it the hazardous chemicals on board, which included nitric acid, caustic soda and methanol. The most "significant" harm, according to the UN, came from the spillage of 87 containers full of lentil-sized plastic pellets: nurdles." [See Photos and Read More.](#)

## Defra may approve 'devastating' bee-killing pesticide, campaigners fear

Helena Horton | The Guardian

"The UK government may be about to approve the use of a controversial bee-killing pesticide, wildlife groups fear. [...] The pesticide, which is lethal to bees and other insects, is prohibited under European Union law except in extreme circumstances. The insecticides act by binding strongly to receptors in the central nervous system of insects, causing overstimulation of their nerve cells, paralysis and death. The sugar beet industry says it needs the pesticide to protect seeds from a disease called virus yellows, which reduces yield and sugar content." [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 10

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

**Wildlife Tracking Outing with BEAT**

(Spaces are limited; please contact [noah@thebeatnews.org](mailto:noah@thebeatnews.org) for more info.)

### **Community Calendar:**

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

Landowner Webinar: What's my land worth financially and ecologically? - Online

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Eco-Friendly Healthy Eating: Nutrition to Support Landscape Professionals and Gardeners - Webinar  
Berkshire Community Land Trust Annual Meeting - Online

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Nature Writing Half-Day Workshop - Online  
Yule Log Celebration and Campfire

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Sharing the Adventure: Design Communications for Ecological Landscapes - Webinar  
Advanced Ecological Design Workshop with Larry Weaner - Online

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



**Click Here for the Jobs Board**

# JOBS

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

**Zero Waste Campaign Associate** | US PIRG | Boston (deadline 12/10)  
**Executive Director** | ClimateXChange | Boston (deadline 12/12)  
**Aquatic Biologist** | MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife | West Boylston (deadline 12/14)  
**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)  
**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:

**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](#)



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