

The BEAT News!

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

November 24, 2021

Hi Friend,

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Native American Heritage Day, and Happy Hanukkah! We are thankful for all our readers, volunteers, and donors who care about the environment and take action to make the world a better place!

With gratitude,

Jane, Rose, Jake, Noah, and Chelsey

In The News



Protesters call for Berkshire Gas to move off fossil fuels. The company called police.

Danny Jin | The Berkshire Eagle

"Calling for Berkshire Gas to move from fossil fuels to clean heating sources, climate activists Wednesday did not get the meeting they desired with the company's leadership. Instead, they got a brief visit from police, who responded to a call from the company after protesters arrived at the Berkshire Gas headquarters on Cheshire Road. The state, which [has set a goal](#) of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, [requires](#) all local distribution companies, including Berkshire Gas, to submit a decarbonization plan by March 2022 to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities." [See Photos and Read More.](#)

No impacts reported in Hoosic River after leak from Specialty Minerals, MassDEP says

Greta Jochem | The Berkshire Eagle

"...Industrial waste from Specialty Minerals leached into the Hoosic River on Tuesday, turning the water milky white as it flowed from the company's Adams location and into North Adams and to the Vermont border. (...) The state Department of Environmental Protection said Thursday that it has not found any fish kills. 'No other impacts have been reported,' a DEP spokesperson said in an email. Authorities will monitor the river for a week, the DEP said." [Read More.](#)

Three southern Berkshire communities receive funding for habitat management

Amy Phillips | WWLP-22 News

"The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program (MHMGP) has awarded \$184,400 in state grant funds to eight organizations and municipalities to improve wildlife habitat on 276 acres of land across the state. The Berkshire County communities of Lenox, Sheffield and South Lee will be receiving a combined \$60,000 for projects." [Read More.](#)

Peabody Generator Opponents Petition State For Additional Reviews

Scott Souza | Patch

"North Shore elected officials joined opponents of a planned 55-megawatt surge capacity generator at the Peabody Waters River substation in demanding additional environmental and health reviews of the fossil fuel-powered generator on Wednesday. State Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) and State Rep. Sally Kerans (D-Danvers) joined more than 30 advocates and community representatives in delivering a petition with more than 1,200 signatures to the office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Katherine Theoharides calling on the state to reopen the state Environmental Protection Agency process based on current regulations and the status of portions of Danvers, Peabody and Salem as state environmental justice communities." [Read More.](#)

Advocates vow to fight 'outrageous' decision rejecting New Hampshire efficiency program

Jason Plautz | Utility Dive

"New Hampshire utilities and clean energy groups are vowing to appeal a [state Public Utilities Commission \(PUC\) decision](#) to reject a \$350 million energy efficiency spending plan for electric utilities. In a decision late Friday, the PUC denied a three-year plan that would have increased funding for rebates and incentives to homeowners and businesses that adopt energy efficiency measures. Under the order, rates that fund the efficiency program would instead be lowered to their 2017 levels by 2023. (...) The plan also called for utilities to reduce electricity sales by about 4.5% and natural gas sales by nearly 3% over three years." [Read More.](#)

Monarch butterflies may be thriving after years of decline. Is it a comeback?

Gabrielle Cannon | The Guardian

"On a recent November morning, more than 20,000 western monarch butterflies clustered in a grove of eucalyptus, coating the swaying trees like orange lace. (...) Just a year ago, this vibrant spectacle had all but disappeared. (...) Last year less than 200 arrived at this site in 2020 – the lowest number ever recorded – and less than 2,000 were counted across the California coast. But ahead of the official annual count that takes place around Thanksgiving, early tallies show monarchs may be thriving once again across California. The rise has sparked joy and relief, but the researchers, state park officials, and advocates say that doesn't mean the species is safe." [See Photos and Read More.](#)

"Earthshine" from the Moon shows our planet is dimming, intensifying global warming

Zack Savitsky | Mongabay

"For 20 years, researchers stared at the dark side of the moon to measure its faint but visible "earthshine," a glow created by sunlight reflecting off Earth and onto the lunar surface. Their new analysis, published recently in [Geophysical Research Letters](#), revealed that this ghostly light has darkened slightly, confirming satellite measurements that our planet is getting dimmer." [See Photos and Read More.](#)

Ten ways to confront the climate crisis without losing hope

Rebecca Solnit | The Guardian

"The world as we knew it is coming to an end, and it's up to us how it ends and what comes after. It's the end of the age of fossil fuel, but if the fossil-fuel corporations have their way the ending will be delayed as long as possible, with as much carbon burned as possible. If the

rest of us prevail, we will radically reduce our use of those fuels by 2030, and almost entirely by 2050. We will meet climate change with real change, and defeat the fossil-fuel industry in the next nine years. (...) The emotional toll of the climate crisis has become an urgent crisis of its own. It's best met, I believe, by both being well grounded in the facts, and working towards achieving a decent future – and by acknowledging there are grounds for fear, anxiety and depression in both the looming possibilities and in institutional inaction. What follows is a set of tools I've found useful both for the inward business of attending to my state of mind, and for the outward work of trying to do something about the climate crisis – which are not necessarily separate jobs." [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:

Check back next week!

Community Calendar:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

[Advocacy Hour: Sierra Club MA Campaign Updates](#) - Online

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

[125th Anniversary Hike-a-thon](#) (Mass Audubon)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

[Hike to Grandfather Rock: the Glacial Erratic](#)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Tuesday Treks: Dyken Pond Center

Misunderstood Wildlife: Opossums – Online

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Advocacy Hour: Sierra Club MA Campaign Updates - Online/Zoom

Advanced Ecological Design Workshop with Larry Weaner - Online

MAPN (Mass Pollinator Network) Monthly Meeting - Online/Zoom

[See calendar for more](#)



JOBS

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

Volunteer and Outreach Assistant (part-time) | Berkshire Natural Resources Council | Hybrid/Berkshires

Conservation Technician | Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) | Stockbridge

Education Coordinator – School and Summer Environmental Education Programs | Mass Audubon | Lenox

Urban Ecologist | Mass Audubon | Lincoln

Protected Species Observer (PSO) | Smultea Environmental Sciences | Boston

Social Media Lead | Power Shift Network | Remote

Research Fellow | UMASS Family, Forest Research Center | Amherst (posted 10/12)

Project Manager, Fine Gardener/Horticulturist, Organic Lawn Care Technician, Landscape

Construction and Garden Maintenance Team Members and Leaders | Nature Works (posted 11/16)

River Restoration Director | Neponset River Watershed Association | Canton (appl. preferred by 11/29)

Visual Design Manager | Open Space Institute | Albany, NY (deadline 11/30)

Director of Market Transformation | Building Decarbonization Coalition (BDC) | Remote (deadline 11/30)

[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

