



# The BEAT News

Because an informed and engaged public is  
the environment's best defense.

July 28, 2021

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**THIS FRIDAY & EVERY FRIDAY! Speak out for Clean Air!** Come join our 'Put Peakers in the Past Coalition' for this stand- out protest to let folks know about Pittsfield Generating's peaker power plant. They are filing for renewal of their Air Quality Permit, which would give them permission to keep polluting our air - we must stop it!

When: Every Friday, 4:30 - 5:30

Where: At the corner of Thorndyke and Dalton Ave. in Pittsfield

Contact Information: Rose at [rose@thebeatnews.org](mailto:rose@thebeatnews.org)

Read all about it at **No Frack Gas in Mass**

We couldn't do our work without you. [Click to contribute.](#)

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## In The News

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### That smoky haze you see over the Berkshires?

#### Get used to it, researchers say

**BEN GARVER | THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE**

Smoke from wildfires in the western U.S. and Canada is blanketing much of the continent, including thousands of miles away on the East Coast. And experts say the phenomenon is becoming more common as human-caused global warming stokes bigger and more intense blazes.

Pollution from smoke reached unhealthy levels this week in communities as far east as the Berkshires, Boston and most of New England. Get used to it, researchers say. “These fires are going to be burning all summer,” said University of Washington wildfire smoke expert Dan Jaffe. “In terms of bad air quality, everywhere in the country is going to be worse than average this year.” [READ MORE](#)

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### A Watershed Moment: How Boston’s Charles River Went From Polluted to Pristine

**DERRICK Z. JACKSON | INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan officially announced earlier this month that the Biden administration will reinterpret the Trump administration’s definition of what constitutes “waters of the United States”—waterways that are deserving of federal protection.

The Trump definition was actually a reinterpretation (or rejection) of what the Obama administration delineated as waters worthy of federal oversight. Obama had sought to increase protections under the Clean Water Act, based on EPA science conducted under both his administration and that of his predecessor, George W. Bush. The agency’s researchers had determined that many wetlands and rain-fed intermittent and ephemeral streams were significantly connected to larger bodies of water than met the eye—and thus those tributaries warranted protection. [READ MORE](#)

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### Vanishing: Song for the Bobolink

#### In the diminishing refrains of a bird's call, signs of our world disappearing around us.

**THE REVELATOR | ECOWATCH**

We didn't see bobolinks that spring. Or the next. Maybe our timing was off, we thought. Most likely bobolinks were absent from those fields because they were suffering, their status "declining." During my lifetime alone, the global population of bobolinks has fallen by more than 65% — this according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which includes bobolinks in a list of species "most at risk of extinction without significant conservation actions." [READ MORE](#)

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### Climate change is making poison ivy stronger and itchier

**ZOYA TEIRSTEIN | GRIST**

If you live in areas where there is a lot of poison ivy, you may have noticed that the plant appears to be thriving lately. The leaves are looking leafier, the vines more prolific. Your poison ivy rash may even feel more itchy. It’s not your imagination. Research shows that the main culprit behind climate change — increased concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere — is supercharging poison

# GM leaves owner owing \$12K after Bolt EV battery fire last year

SEAN GRAHAM | ELECTREK

Details are emerging from a dozen Chevy Bolt EV fires that have occurred in a little over the past year. ***Electrek*** sat down with the owner of one of the first to get his story. More than a year later, he is still making car payments on a car he doesn't own. GM confirmed his case to be a battery fire.

GM again exploded into the mainstream news last week with an announcement that it was no longer safe to charge the Chevy Bolt EV unattended and that owners should park outside and away from structures out of fire concerns. This all started with a recall of 68,000 Bolt EVs in November of last year. While Hyundai had a similar problem and eventually elected to replace all Kona EV batteries with newer ones, GM decided that software could fix their problems. There have been at least two Bolt EV fires that had the final software update installed, which prompted GM's recent announcement. [READ MORE](#)

Keep up with the fight against fossil fuels with the No Fracked Gas in Mass Newsletter

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More articles on climate and energy in the [Weekly News Check-In](#)

## JOBS

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

Email [news@thebeatnews.org](mailto:news@thebeatnews.org) to submit an open position.

[Political & Legislative Coordinator](#) | Mass Sierra Club | Remote & Boston (posted 7/2)

[Property Worker](#) | Mass Audubon | Lenox (posted 6/28)

[Operations Manager](#) | Mass Audubon | Easthampton (posted 6/28)

[Community Engagement Coordinator](#) | Mass Audubon | Springfield (posted 6/28)

[Administrative Assistant](#) | Great Barrington Land Conservancy | Remote (posted 6/26)

[TerraCorps Openings](#) | TerraCorps | New England (posted 6/26)

[Executive Director](#) | Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) | Williamstown (posted 6/22)

[Deputy Director](#) | Community Action Works | Currently Remote

[Organizing Coordinator](#) | Community Action Works | Currently Remote

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

We list events from a variety of local and regional organizations and individuals.

BEAT events are in **bold**. Berkshire County events are listed north to south by location, out of county events are listed alphabetically by location. [Submit events to news@thebeatnews.org.](#)

JULY 26 - 29 and AUGUST 2 - 5

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

Weeding Wednesdays - Pittsfield

Evening at the Beaver Ponds - Lenox

Cyanobacteria: What You Need to Know - Online

The Climate Activist Toolkit Pt.1 - Online

MAPN Summer Seminar Series: The Secret Lives of Wild Bees by Nick Dorian - Online

The World of Insects: Beetles and Bugs - Online

THURSDAY, JULY 29

- Birding at Clam River - Sandsfield
- Learn to Fish Class - Westfield
- Webinar: Polluting peaks and how to avoid them - Online

JULY 30 - AUGUST 18

- Story Walk® The Busy Tree - Turners Falls

FRIDAY, JULY 30

- Cutting Invasive Hardy Kiwi - Pittsfield**
- Put Peakers in the Past Stand-Out Protest - Pittsfield**
- Tremendous Tree Walk - North Adams
- After Sundown at Arcadia - Easthampton

SATURDAY, JULY 31

- Natural Bridge History Tour - North Adams
- Discovery Table - North Adams
- Honoring the Land – Protect Our Forests & Water - Greenfield & Wareham
- The Nature of Summer - Easthampton
- Damsels and Dragons - Easthampton
- In Search of TURTLES: Woods Pond - Lenox
- Housatonic River Family Paddle - Lenox & Stockbridge

AUGUST 1 - 7

- Potamogetonaceae: Diversity and Ecology of the Pondweeds - Steuben, ME

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

- Natural Bridge History Tour - North Adams
- Life in the Quarry - North Adams

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

- Building the Bridge - North Adams

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

- Beginners’ Paddle Trip - Lenox
- HVA BEGINNGER’S Paddle - Lenox (Deckers Landing)
- Almost Full Moon Paddle - Lenox

Complete Community Calendar

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR  
July 23, 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:

- **Mount Washington - [Becker Pond Dam Removal](#) - SEIR Certificate** – Adequately and properly complies with MEPA – issued 7/2/21
- Sheffield - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - use of drawdown for control of invasive species and flood control in Mill Pond** – posted 7/23/21



Pioneer Valley Index

- Westfield** - [West Parish Filters Clearwell and Backwash Pumping Station Project](#) - **ENF** - comments due 8/12/21
- Holyoke** - [Notice of Submission of a Yearly Operational Plan](#) - **City of Holyoke Gas & Electric to use herbicides to control vegetation** - posted 7/23/21
- Ware** - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Aquatic Plant Management Program \(pdf\)](#) - **Beaver Lake using herbicides** - posted 7/9/21
- Ludlow** - [Stony Brook Solar Project](#) - **ENF** - remote site visit 7/21/21 - comments due 7/29/2021
- Chicopee** - [Chicopee Abbey Brook Restoration Project](#) - **ENF Secretary’s DROD - Secretary Proposes to Grant an EIR Waiver** - comments due 7/23/21

Statewide Index

nothing new

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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