



ENVIRONMENT MASSACHUSETTS Your Fall Report

In our DNA

We relaunched Environment Massachusetts’ door-to-door canvassing offices in June, with a full set of health precautions in place to keep our staff and members of the public safe.

Our staff are visiting neighborhoods across Massachusetts to build support for the 100% Clean Act (H.3288, S.2136), filed by state Reps. Marjorie Decker and Sean Garballey, and state Sen. Joseph Boncore. This bill will transition Massachusetts to 100 percent clean electricity by 2035 and 100 percent clean heating and transportation by 2045.

I’m excited to share our plans with you and let you know how you can add your voice to this grassroots movement.

Canvassing is in our DNA

Canvassing—going door-to-door—has been a core part of our work at Environment Massachusetts since the early 1980s. We canvass to educate the public about the problems facing our environment, build grassroots support for solutions, and raise money to fund our campaigns.

Many of our senior staff got their start working on the canvass or helped direct one of our canvassing offices early in their careers.

I remember showing up on my first day as an assistant canvass director for our sister group PennEnvironment in 2013. When I walked in the front door of the Philadelphia office, it was practically empty—with nothing on the walls and no canvassers in sight.

Within just a few weeks, we had hired dozens of staff to work



Our staff are building grassroots support for transitioning Massachusetts to 100 percent clean energy, one conversation at a time.

with us, and by the end of the summer we had recruited thousands of people to join our campaign to protect Pennsylvania’s parks.

After the summer ended, I came on board with Environment Massachusetts as a campaign organizer, and helped direct canvass offices in Cambridge and Newton. I stepped into my current role as state director two years later.

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Thanks
for making it
all possible

59,000 supporters, 40 lawmakers tell Whole Foods to put 'planet over plastic'

A massive environmental crisis requires a massive call to action.

That's why our national research partners at Environment America Research & Policy Center, along with our friends at U.S. PIRG Education Fund and the Student PIRGs, delivered a letter to Whole Foods on May 6, 2021—signed by nearly 60,000 supporters,

and more than a dozen other states to follow California's lead—until the Trump administration tried to revoke their authority.

On April 26, the Biden administration started the process of undoing this action—checking off one of the “First things to fix” identified by our national research partners at Environment America Research & Policy Center, in a series of 20 recommendations shared with the Biden team before they took office.

“Thank you, President Biden, for taking this first step,” said Morgan Folger, Destination: Zero Carbon campaign director with our national research partners at Environment America Research & Policy Center. “Now it's time to reaffirm that states can and should lead the way for clean air and cleaner cars.”

Vehicle tailpipes are a major source of climate-changing, health-harming air pollution. A report by our research partners showed that in 2018, 108 million Americans lived in areas that experienced more than 100 days of degraded air quality.

Climate bill becomes law in Massachusetts

Last January, there was only one thing standing between Bay Staters and legislation that would promise a cleaner, greener Massachusetts: the governor's signature.

After a series of roadblocks and Gov. Charlie Baker's veto of a climate bill in January, the governor signed a new climate bill into law on March 26. The bill will reduce energy waste from appliances, ensure that at least 40 percent of our state's electricity comes from renewable energy sources by 2030 and—as Massachusetts has the greatest offshore wind energy potential of any state in the country—expand the Bay State's commitment to offshore wind energy.

“With Gov. Baker's signature today, Massachusetts has taken an important step toward a cleaner, healthier future,” said Environment Massachusetts State Director Ben Hellerstein. “This bill is Massachusetts' first big step on climate action in 2021—but it can't be the last step.”

Environment Massachusetts is working to make 2021 the year our state sets its sights on 100 percent clean energy.

Get more updates on our work online at <http://environmentmassachusetts.org>.

Staff



Our national network's Oceans Associate Reino Hyyppä (top, center) joined legislators and supporters for a virtual rally against plastic waste.

including 40 state lawmakers—calling on the grocer to phase out single-use plastic packaging in its stores. Once an environmental leader that stopped providing plastic bags to its customers at checkout in 2008, Whole Foods recently earned an “F” for its plastic policies in a report by environmental group As You Sow.

“Nothing we use for just a few minutes should pollute our rivers and oceans for hundreds of years,” said Kelsey Lamp, Protect Our Oceans campaign director for Environment America Research & Policy Center, our national research partners. “That's why the companies that rely on single-use plastic to package their products must adopt more sustainable packaging options or eliminate single-use plastic packaging altogether.”

“Change is possible, and Whole Foods should lead the way to a future where we put the planet over plastic.”

Back on course: Biden administration moves to allow states to set stronger vehicle emissions standards

For nearly 50 years, federal law allowed California to set stronger clean air standards



Toward a greener future

Support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future by including a gift to Environment Massachusetts or Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center in your will, trust or retirement accounts.

For more information call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org



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One of the biggest reasons we're excited to relaunch our canvass offices is to recruit the next generation of young people to join the environmental movement. We're helping college students and recent graduates develop a passion for social change, and maybe even launch a career working to protect our air, our water and our climate.

How we'll win on clean energy

Our goal is to pass the 100% Clean Act into law before July 31, 2022, the end of the current two-year legislative session. If we succeed, Massachusetts will have the strongest clean energy commitment of any state in the country.

This summer, we focused on getting the Legislature's energy committee, chaired by Rep. Jeff Roy and Sen. Michael Barrett, to give a favorable report on the bill. Once that hap-

pens, the bill can move on to consideration by the full House and Senate.

We think one of the best ways to convince the chairs and members of the energy committee to advance the 100% Clean Act is to show that their colleagues—other House and Senate members—support it.

That's why we're going door-to-door across our state. We'll build grassroots support to convince legislators that the 100% Clean Act is a must-pass piece of legislation this session. If enough lawmakers say this bill is a priority, the energy committee will listen.

Our campaign will reach thousands of households across the Bay State, and collect petition signatures supporting the 100% Clean Act.

By Ben Hellerstein, Environment Massachusetts state director



Raya on Assignment

Thank you for supporting our work to take on the vast environmental challenges we face and to create a greener, healthier, more sustainable world. In these pages, you'll find the stories of the advocacy you made possible.

Your action and support allow us to keep working for a better world. Thank you.

Ben Hellerstein
State Director

Environment Massachusetts canvassers got to embrace the wildlife and wild places they would protect if the Bay State makes a 100 percent renewable energy commitment.



Staff

294 Washington St., Ste. 500
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 747-4400

Environment Massachusetts

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Your Fall Report

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Our mission:

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Massachusetts, Inc., a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus on protecting Massachusetts' air, water and open space. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Over 47,000 supporters tell Amazon: Stop selling bee-killing pesticides

To save the bees, our staff have asked the world's largest online retailer to stop selling the pesticides that kill them. And we're not alone.

In March, Environment Massachusetts and our national network kicked off our campaign to convince Amazon to take neonicotinoid pesticides (or "neonics")—the substances linked to a troubling decline in bee populations—off its (virtual) shelves.

By August, campaigners with our network had collected more than 47,000 petition signatures online and in 10 communities across the country.

"We need to reduce the use of this pesticide that's contributing to the collapse of our most important pollinators," said Malia Libby, our national Save the Bees campaign associate. "Amazon should join other retailers in doing the right thing and taking it off its shelves."

Our ask is far from unprecedented: The Home Depot and Lowe's have already pledged to phase out the use of neonics on their live plants, and Lowe's has committed to taking the pesticides off its shelves altogether.

Our national network's summer canvassers talked to tens of thousands of people across the country about our campaign to get Amazon to stop the sale of bee-killing pesticides.



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