



MCAN News

Ideas and help for climate protection supporters

www.massclimateaction.net

www.massclimateaction.org (archive site)

Note: Where you see the characters <AT> in an email address, replace all these characters with an "at" symbol (@) before you send message to the person.

Executive Director's Update

Ah, November, when a [not so] young climate activist's thoughts turn to annual conferences...

Yes, it's almost conference time again; MCAN's sixth annual conference will happen this Sunday, November 18. Have you registered yet? As if on cue, at least to give us some things to talk about at the conference, our state government has lurched into action with a couple of major pieces of legislation concerning biofuels and energy reforms that have been announced amid much hoopla. (More on both of these subjects below.)

The current run-up of oil prices again shows why the work of MCAN chapters in supporting energy efficiency and encouraging clean, renewable energy generation is so important. Pointing out the economic strain of our oil-addicted lifestyle is an effective way to talk about climate change to "non-traditional" audiences. Saving green makes selling green much easier. (For more thoughts on "Framing the Climate Message," don't forget to attend our panel on that very issue at the Sixth annual MCAN Conference.)

Thanks, and keep up the good work,

Rob

MCAN Highlights

MCAN Conference, November 18

When: November 18th, 2007, 9:30am - 5:30 pm

Where: MIT's Stata Center, Cambridge, MA

This year will feature more workshops: eighteen in all, with several workshops being repeated. We're also offering three sessions for the workshops, so conference-goers will be able to attend one extra workshop this year. The reservation website is at: www.acteva.com/go/mcan, and here's the latest version of the program flyer:

<http://www.massclimateaction.net/conference>

Registration costs \$45 for MCAN members and \$75 for non-members.



Step It Up

As many of you are aware (because many of you went to some of the events), there was a "Step It Up" event last weekend. Despite the fierce winds and rain, events were held across the state, focusing attention on the issue of climate change and some of the actions needed

slow the damage we're doing to our environment. Here are two highlights:

Loie Hayes of MCAN chapter Boston Climate Action, along with Clean Water Action and climate activists from area colleges and even a high school, put together a wonderful event at St. Paul's Church in Boston, and was joined by Congressman John Tierney, Senator Marc Pacheco, and Representative Frank Smizik.

Roger Shamel of the Global Warming Education Network held a great event in Concord, where a group of hardy souls biking from Boston finished up-in a modern-day version of Paul Revere's warning ride. Despite the driving rain and raw temperatures, more than 60 people came to hear Senator Kerry, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, State Senator Pamela Resor, and Reps. William Brownsberger, Jim Marzilli, Cory Atkins, and Jamie Eldridge speak about climate change. To check out reports from the events, go to:

<http://events.stepitup2007.org/events/search>

Beacon Hill Spotlight



Biofuels Initiative

On Monday, November 5th, Governor Deval Patrick, flanked by Senate President Terry Murray, House Speaker Sal DiMasi, and Congressman William Delahunt unveiled a proposal to encourage the expanded use of biofuels in Massachusetts. The bill has three main provisions: 1) mandating increasing percentages of biofuels in transportation diesel, 2) mandating increasing percentages of biofuels in home heating oil, and 3) waiving the auto fuels excise tax on "cellulosic ethanol." Of course you can't get cellulosic ethanol at a gas pump in Massachusetts, but it's a step in the right direction

The Northeast Biofuels Collaborative prepared a biofuels report for Congressman William Delahunt. The report served as the framework for the proposed state legislation. To read the report, click here:

<http://www.house.gov/delahunt/mabiofuelsreportma.pdf>

State Energy Bill

Also released this week, after months of negotiations among parties on all sides of the energy issue, was the new version of Speaker DiMasi's omnibus energy legislation (H. 3965). The bill makes improvements in the delivery of energy efficiency, extends and enhances the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard, and makes meaningful changes in building code adoption, home energy scoring, and a number of other areas. The bill is not without some controversy; however, as it would create an "alternative energy standard" which would give benefit to coal gasification, and also dramatically changes the way the state spends the Renewable Trust money.

Supporters of the bill point out that the coal gasification language carries a requirement that coal gas-derived power meet "emission performance standards including for CO₂," but does not require carbon sequestration. This issue, as well as the movement of the Renewable Energy Trust funds from the quasi-public Mass Tech Park Corporation over to the Executive branch, will likely become contentious as the bill moves through the legislature. The House will act on the legislation this week, with Senate action to follow, either next week, or after the legislature returns to formal session in January.

Climate Change Action News from the State and Nation



New Opinion Poll Finds Growing Support for Cape Wind

An opinion survey released October 25th found that 61 percent of residents of the Cape and islands support the Cape Wind project. The survey, commissioned by the New England Institute and conducted by Opinion Research Corporation, also found bipartisan support for the offshore wind project, with 69 percent of those saying they are Democrats in favor, 54 percent of unenrolled voters. A total of 501 residents of the Cape and islands were interviewed. Read the full article at:

http://www.capecodtoday.com/blogs/index.php/headlines/2007/10/26/3_in_5_on_cape_wind

Renewable Energy Legislation

A final report containing research and recommendations for the design of a CO2 allowance auction as part of the Renewable Energy Initiative has been released by the research team from the University of Virginia, Resources for the Future, and the Center for Global Energy Policy. The report is available at: <http://www.rggi.org/auction.htm>

The RGGI Staff Working Group is soliciting comments on the auction design report by November 15, 2007. Send comments in plain text format) to: rggicomm@gw.dec.state.ny.us

U.S. Senate leaders are considering a plan to leave renewable energy out of energy legislation. There are widespread concerns that has been made, at least provisionally, to move energy legislation to the Senate floor without either a renewable energy title that extends the Production Tax Credit (PTC).

National energy legislation must aggressively promote renewable energy technologies and improved energy efficiency to combat global warming. Please call, write, and email your U.S Representative and Senators and remind them of the provisions, as well as an upgrade in the CAFE standard. (MA contacts and draft text below.)

To find your Representative, go here:

<http://www.house.gov/zip/ZIP2Rep.html>

and weblink to the Sierra Club petition addressed to Sen. Reid and Speaker Pelosi at:

<https://secure2.convio.net/sierra/site/Advocacy?JServSessionIdr009=kktwudiiy7.app23a&cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=407>

For more information about the RPS, go to:

<http://www.awea.org/legislative/#RPS>

Environmental Defense's Operation Climate Vote

Environmental Defense has launched a national program, Operation Climate Vote, an all-out campaign to maintain global warming-related bills to the floor of both the House and Senate before they recess for the year. For more info go to:

<http://action.environmentaldefense.org/campaign/climatevote07>

Wind Power

The US Department of the Interior has issued an update on its policy concerning offshore wind power. Dirk Kempthorn, Director of the Minerals Management Service, said that "offshore alternative energy is a new and highly anticipated frontier for the regulatory program for the Department of the Interior and the Minerals Management Service. This is an important industry offshore that will diversify our Nation's power supplies and open up new avenues to supply renewable energy otherwise have limited options onshore." The press release is at:

<http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2007/pressdoi1105.htm>

To read the Environmental Impact Statement, go to:
<http://www.ocsenergy.anl.gov/>

Events and Opportunities

This section includes items that we hope will interest a broad spectrum of readers around Massachusetts.

Green Roundtable Events

Where: All the events below are held at The Green Roundtable, 38 Chauncy Street, Seventh Floor, Boston.

LEED Implementation and Project Management: Using the Integrated Design Process for successful LEED Projects

When: November 28

Addresses implementation of LEED using the integrated design process, collaborative decision-making, and project management. This event introduces participants to the new ANSI standard that helps to lay out a process for green design that supports green project strategies and aspirations.

Executive Workshop: Bootcamp for Design Firms

When: November 30

Encapsulates the key aspects of company transformation from overall management to projects delivery to "all green all the time." This session provides attendees with the framework, foundation, and methodology necessary for them to move a green initiative ahead in their company.

NEXUS Exhibitor Showcase: Green is Affordable

When: December 6

Tour the NEXUS Green Building Resource Center's Exhibit Hall and talk with vendor representatives. Barbra Batshalom, The Green Roundtable Executive Director, will speak on how green building can be accessible for all and on how we can no longer afford, for the sake of human and environmental health, to not build green.

For more information, contact:

Aaron B. Desatnik, NEXUS Events and Marketing Coordinator
tel. 617-374-3740 ext. 127

www.nexusboston.com

Smart Growth / Smart Energy Conference

When: December 7, 2007, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: DCU Center, Worcester

The conference provides an opportunity for elected and appointed officials, public agency staff, non-profit agencies, private groups and individuals to gather to learn about and discuss a variety of topics related to land use, development, and conservation. This year's Conference is expanding to accommodate more attendees, provide exhibitor space, and to highlight the Administration's emphasis upon the energy and public health aspects of sustainable development. For more information, go to:

<http://www.eot.state.ma.us/smartgrowth/>

Resources

This section features educational materials, funding ideas, and commercial ventures of significance to Massachusetts or the New England region, and that relate to our mission and activities.

Halloween Redux: Keeping Track of Home Vampires

"Vampire loads," also known as "ghost" or "phantom" loads, are the electricity your appliances use when you aren't using the appliances. TVs, DVD players, digital clocks, coffee makers with timers, microwaves, and computers are among the common offenders. The Watt-Stopper Isolé IDP-3050 Plug Load Control power strip has a motion sensor for six of its eight sockets so it turns off your equipment automatically when no one is in the room. To read a New York Times article on this device, go to:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/19/technology/circuits/19power.html?ei=5088&en=4a4060d4155eba69&ex=1295326800&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&pagewanted=all>

This company also makes vacancy sensors for lights, which are available at Home Depot and perhaps other retail stores. For more product information, go to

www.wattstopper.com

Kids and Climate Change

Producers of Al Gore's documentary An Inconvenient Truth have written a book for children: The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming. It features kid-friendly science explaining the warming of the earth and tips for kids who want to do something about it. To listen to the NPR story about it, go to:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=14521112>

The Empowerment Institute has recently published a kid's guide to taking action on global warming. Children need support to translate their caring for the Earth into effective action. Journey for the Planet was created to meet these needs. The guide has five sections, dealing with garbage, water, energy, eco-wise consumerism, and empowering others. Each has its own cartoon animal guide to lead the way. Each action is worth a certain number of points. Children who complete enough actions earn a "Global Hero" certificate. An accompanying Coach's Guide allows for a school-based program. More information at:

<http://empowermentinstitute.net/journey/index.html>

http://empowermentinstitute.net/journey/index.html#JFP_coach

MCAN Highlights

Please Support MCAN

Thank you for your dedication to creating and implementing ways to fight climate change. Please take a few minutes now to help MCAN. The LoCaL program, our annual Climate Conference, and our legislative advocacy all depend on the generous help of supporters like you. It is particularly important to join MCAN as a member (\$30 per person or \$50 per household), because membership dues support our ongoing work. No matter how many grants we seek, they do not typically cover regular operating expenses and staff costs. We are a lean organization, and at this point we do not even have office space. If you are already a member, fall is a great time to make an additional gift. (<http://www.massclimateaction.org/contactus.htm>).

Please keep in mind that belonging to a community climate group (such as Anytown Climate Action Network) does *not* mean you are an MCAN member as well. MCAN helps to coordinate the climate change efforts of local groups, but those local groups operate independently from MCAN, have their own membership rules, and are considered entirely separate organizations.

Your support for MCAN's work is deeply appreciated. Thank you!

New MCAN General Information Discussion List Open

This list is for MCAN members and other climate change activists to post and discuss interesting information, and answer questions that DO NOT RELATE TO OFFICIAL MCAN BUSINESS. Information about accessing the MCAN

list follows:

Subscribe: [mcan-subscribe<AT>yahoogroups.com](mailto:mcan-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Post message: [mcan<AT>yahoogroups.com](mailto:mcan@yahoogroups.com)

Unsubscribe: [mcan-unsubscribe<AT>yahoogroups.com](mailto:mcan-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

List owner: [mcan-owner<AT>yahoogroups.com](mailto:mcan-owner@yahoogroups.com)

About the Newsletter

MCAN welcomes submissions of substantive and broad interest to the climate change community in Massachusetts. To submit an item, please send email with a short paragraph or two and contact information, including a name and email or phone, to:

[massclimateaction<AT>gmail.com](mailto:massclimateaction@gmail.com)

We reserve the right to edit all submissions, and we may not publish every submission we receive.

All material copyright 2007, MCAN, unless otherwise noted.

[Forward email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to fredschlicher@comcast.net, by massclimateaction@gmail.com
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Mass. Climate Action Network | www.massclimateaction.net | PO Box 51563 | Boston | MA | 02205