



## MCAN News

Ideas and help for climate protection supporters

[www.massclimateaction.net](http://www.massclimateaction.net)

[www.massclimateaction.org](http://www.massclimateaction.org) (archive site)

October 2007

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

### ***Introduction from Rob Garrity, Executive Director of MCAN***

Greetings, fellow climate activists!



Allow me to do something I hate doing, for just a moment: talk about myself. My name is Rob Garrity, and I have the privilege of being MCAN's new Executive Director. Having worked with Marc Breslow for the last year while I was at the Conservation Law Foundation, I know well the good work MCAN has done, both at the State level and through the work of the local chapters.

I am thrilled to be joining MCAN at this critical juncture in the fight against global warming and climate change. As I mentioned, I have most recently worked for the Conservation Law Foundation as their legislative liaison for climate and clean energy issues. I joined CLF after 14 years in State government, running the gamut from an intern in the House of Representatives, to chief of staff of the Office for Commonwealth Development under Doug Foy. Having worked for both the Division of Energy Resources and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the connection between how we generate the energy to live the way we live and our impacts on our environment has always been crystal clear to me. The chance to work with the folks at MCAN, who are "walking the walk" on climate, was simply too great an opportunity to pass up.

But enough about me, MCAN is really about the work of our members. Let us know what you're doing, and how we can help. Tell us about your successes so we can share them, give us your questions so we can put them out to all and maybe help find an answer.

I hope to see you at our Sixth Annual Conference on November 18<sup>th</sup>. We've got a great variety of panels and interesting speakers and look to build on the success of last year's conference, which hosted almost 500 climate advocates from across the Commonwealth, who came to learn and share. Come be a part of climate advocates fighting the good fight, in the trenches.

Thank you, and keep up the great work.

Rob Garrity

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. Ways you can help include becoming a member or making an additional donation (<http://www.massclimateaction.org/contactus.htm>), or getting involved as a volunteer. (

[See "Volunteers Needed to Work on MCAN's New Website"](#) and "[Volunteers Needed for MCAN Grassroots Climate Conference](#)" below.) Together we are making a difference in Massachusetts!

### ***Volunteers Needed to Work on MCAN's New Website***

We need help adding content to the new website. This is not hard, it's fun, and you can do it from home. If you are comfortable with computers (you do NOT need to be an expert or a programmer) and have a fairly fast Internet connection, we would appreciate some of your time. Please contact:

[rmluoma<AT>aol.com](mailto:rmluoma@aol.com) or

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

We encourage all MCAN chapters to add resources or links to the Chapters section of the new website. Several chapters have begun doing this (e.g., Boston, Medford). If your chapter already has a website that you like, you can just provide a link from the MCAN website to that one. For an example of such a link, click on "Arlington" under Local Chapters in the box on the left, at:

<http://www.massclimateaction.net/chapters/home>

### ***Volunteers Needed for MCAN Grassroots Climate Conference***

When: Sunday, November 18

Where: MIT's Stata Center, Cambridge, MA

Thank you to all the people who have already volunteered to help out at this year's MCAN conference, which we expect to be larger and even better than last year's event. There is still time to volunteer to help us out-before and during the conference. If you would like to help, contact:

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

For details about the conference, please see "

[MCAN's 6th Annual Conference](#)" under the Events and Opportunities section of the newsletter.

### ***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 ask and answer questions that DO NOT RELATE TO OFFICIAL MCAN BUSINESS. Information about accessing the MCAN list follows:

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

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

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

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

### ***New LoCaL Training Session Being Held this Fall***

MCAN plans to hold a training workshop for new LoCaL Team Leaders, on October 27, 28, or November 4. You do not need any special skills to be a Team Leader, but the training is helpful and inspiring. Most important are your passion for reducing our climate change impacts, willingness to talk to other people in your town during the next several months, and the commitment to following up until you have brought a group together. (If you just want to *join* a LoCaL group, you don't need any training.) We will hold the training on a weekend (2 hours), but we will arrange it for a day that suits as many people as possible. If you are interested in being trained, send a message to:

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

For more information about the LoCaL program, visit [the new MCAN website](#).

### **Legislative and Climate News in Massachusetts**

*As the first year of the two-year legislative session winds down, the buzz is picking up about a possible energy bill being considered this year. The year began with the Governor, House Speaker, and Senate President all pushing for some form of energy legislation to increase efficiency, support renewable energy generation, and reduce the Commonwealth's energy dependency. With slightly over nine months left until the legislative session wraps up on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008, negotiations over the form the legislation will take are still ongoing. MCAN has been active advocating for increased efficiency funding and will continue to do so. MCAN will be an active participant in the discussion when a bill is finally released.*

## ***Cape Board Expected to Deny Permit for Wind Farm***

The Cape Cod Commission - a regulatory agency formed to slow the dizzying pace of development of the Cape in the 1980s - is expected to deny Cape Wind Associates a permit this week, potentially delaying the nation's first offshore wind farm even further. A subcommittee recommended that the commission deny the permit due to insufficient information - a ruling that prompted howls from allies of Cape Wind Associates, which has been pitching its plans to the commission and other governmental agencies for six years. The state's Energy Facilities Siting Board has the power to overturn decisions by local boards, as it did in another recent energy ruling by the Cape Cod Commission. But the siting board has six months to make a decision, which could be subsequently challenged in court, potentially costing the project another year's delay. (Copyright Stephanie Ebbert, Boston Globe.) Full article is available at the [Boston Globe](#), October 15, 2007.

## ***Environmental Defense's Operation Climate Vote***

Environmental Defense has launched a national program, Operation Climate Vote, "an all-out campaign to maintain grassroots pressure to get bills to the floor of both the House and Senate before they recess for the year." For more information or to participate, go to:

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

## ***South Shore Oil Dealer Offers Vegetable Blend for Home Heating***

Alvin Hollis, the South Shore's largest oil dealer, is now offering Bioheat® home heating oil, a mixture of traditional heating oil blended with 10% U.S.-grown vegetable oils. The company says that the new oil blend can be used in any existing oil burner. More information at:

[www.alvinhollis.com](http://www.alvinhollis.com)

## ***Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Regional Stakeholder Meeting***

A meeting of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative stakeholders will be held on November 7, in Albany, NY. The meeting will allow the research team led by the University of Virginia and Resources for the Future to present their Phase-II findings and agency staff to hear stakeholder comment on the draft report of that research and auction design issues.

The agenda for the meeting, the draft Phase-II auction research report, and instructions for submitting written comments will be posted by October 26, 2007, at:

<http://www.rggi.org>

If you have any questions about this meeting, contact:

Mark Lowery, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

[mdlwery@dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mdlwery@dec.state.ny.us)

Massachusetts-specific RGGI information, including links to Mass' draft regulations and schedules of stakeholder meetings, can be found here:

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/climate/#rggi>

## Events and Opportunities

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

### ***Moving Together 2007***

When: October 17, 2007

Where: Marriott Boston Courtyard Hotel, Boston, MA

Join people from across the Commonwealth working to improve bicycling and walking conditions locally, regionally, and statewide. Participate in workshops on current issues and initiatives. Discuss shared experiences and strategies. Enjoy an exciting array of exhibits.

For more information:

[http://www.ecs.umass.edu/baystate\\_roads/mt/](http://www.ecs.umass.edu/baystate_roads/mt/)

### ***ENERGY STAR Change a Light Bus Tour***

When: Saturday, October 20

Where: Faneuil Hall, Boston, 12 Noon to 4:00 PM

The Bus will feature fun and interactive displays and educational exhibits to learn about energy efficient lighting and how the simple, revolutionary act of changing just one light to a CFL can save energy, money and help protect the environment. Actors from the Freedom Trail Foundation dressed as famous American Revolution-era historical figures will be there to meet and greet visitors and hand out free bulbs. Receive a free ENERGY STAR qualified CFL and take the ENERGY STAR Change a Light Pledge. We will be handing out 1,776 CFLs in honor of country's revolutionary history and the new revolution in energy efficiency sweeping New England and the nation. For more information:

[www.myenergystar.com](http://www.myenergystar.com)

### ***Sunlight is Life: The Path Toward a Sustainable Future with Wind and Solar Powered Buildings***

When: Sunday, October 21, 7:30pm

Where: Cary Hall, 1605 Mass. Ave., Lexington, MA

Steven Strong, President of Solar Design Associates of Harvard, MA, will present a talk that weaves together technology, politics and social policy, humor, and compelling graphics. He demonstrates that the end of the era of cheap oil is upon us and that renewable energy is available now to help define the path to a sustainable future in the post-petroleum world. Free admission. Hosted by the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition. For more information, contact:

[www.lexgwac.org](http://www.lexgwac.org)

### ***Essex County Renewable Energy Roundtable***

When: Thursday, October 25, 5:30-8:30 pm

Where: Peter Torigian Life, Center, 79 Central St, Peabody, MA

Guest speakers, panel and discussion on successful energy projects in Essex County. Time to mingle and ask questions. Registration suggested. For more information:

[healthlink<AT>healthlink.org](mailto:healthlink@healthlink.org)  
781-598-1115

## ***Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast***

When: Sunday, October 28, 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Belmont High School Auditorium, 221 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA

A free public forum: How will global warming affect the economy, environment, and quality of life of the northeastern United States? What can we do to prevent the most severe consequences? Dr. Peter C. Frumhoff, director of science and policy at the Union of Concerned Scientists and chair of the Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment (NECIA) team, will present findings from the new NECIA report and describe the ways in which we can pursue a lower emissions pathway. State Representative Will Brownsberger (24th Middlesex District) will also present brief remarks. There will be a Q&A session with the audience. Sponsored by Sustainable Belmont. Co-sponsors: the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition, Belmont Public Schools, the Belmont Vision 21 Implementation Committee, and the Belmont League of Women Voters. For more information, email [sustainablebelmont<AT>gmail.com](mailto:sustainablebelmont@gmail.com).

## ***Tipping Point: Grassroots Training Day for Youth Climate Activists***

When: October 30, 2007, 9:00am to 4:00 pm

Where: Appalachian Mountain Club, Cabot Auditorium, 5 Joy Street Boston, MA

Hundreds of student climate activists from around the state of Massachusetts will gather for Tipping Point. We will teach participants the best ways to approach representatives to demand climate legislation, how to register fellow students to vote in order to ensure we elect global warming conscious officials, as well as discuss on campus accomplishments and campaigns of fellow youth climate activists. Possible speakers and trainers include Congressman Leach and Laura Simolaris, both of Harvard Institute of Politics, as well as Senator Pacheco, sponsor of the Global Warming Solutions Act (S. 534). Following a morning of training, participants will have the opportunity to go to the Capitol and talk to their house representatives about climate change in Massachusetts, urging them to support the Global Warming Solutions Act, as well as address regional issues that concern students. For more information, contact:  
Kendra Fortin [kfortin@smith.edu](mailto:kfortin@smith.edu)  
Alana Miller: [amiller@smith.edu](mailto:amiller@smith.edu)

## ***Step It Up 2: Who's a Leader? National Day of Climate Action***

When: November 3, 2007

Where: All around the county

The Step It Up organization is asking people to organize rallies large and small in their communities. They say, "If possible, your rally should take place in some spot that commemorates great leaders of the past. Once you've got your rally registered on our website, we'll help you gather a crowd, and invite the politicians from your neck of the

woods. We'll be available by email every step of the way to answer questions, supply materials, and help you deal with whatever obstacles arise. Rest assured won't be alone in this effort--you'll have the full support of this crucial national movement that you're helping to create." To sign up and get started organizing an event, go to:

<http://www.stepitup2007.org/>

The Boston Climate Action Network, Clean Water Action, and a number of other groups will hold an event at St. Paul's Cathedral at 10:30 with speakers and music. The event will conclude by sending off bike riders who will pedal out to the Global Warming Education Network's "Revolutionary Energy Rally" in Concord. For details of the Concord event, go to:

[www.gwenet.org](http://www.gwenet.org), for more about Boston's event, visit:

<http://events.stepitup2007.org/november/events/show/2374>

## **MCAN's 6th Annual Conference**

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

Where: MIT's Stata Center, Cambridge, MA

It's time again for the annual MCAN conference. Join climate activists from across the state and take part in the day-long series of workshops and presentations. Featured speakers include Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles; efficiency expert and the driving force behind the Cambridge Energy Alliance Rob Pratt; and Mass Renewable Trust head (and local climate activist!) Warren Leon.

Eighteen different panel workshops will be offered, and lunch will be served. Registration costs \$45 for MCAN members, \$60 for non-members, and you can join/renew and register simultaneously for a discount. The prices go up after November 9, so register today.

<http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?>

[bevaID=143327&CFID=6915889&CFTOKEN=13336492.](http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaID=143327&CFID=6915889&CFTOKEN=13336492)

## **Mass Energy's 25th Anniversary Gala**

When: Thursday, November 15, 2007, 6:00pm on

Where: Hyatt Regency Hotel, on One Avenue de Lafayette, Boston, MA

We will honor other nonprofits, companies, individuals, and public officials who are champions in our field. The keynote speaker will be Ian Bowles, the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs. A silent auction will be held at the event, with an online auction beginning a few weeks prior to the event. All proceeds will benefit Mass Energy's charitable programs: Oil Bank for emergency heating assistance, and New England Wind Fund. Buy tickets online at:

<http://massenergy25.org/gala/tickets.php>

### 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.*

## ***Global Warming Education Network***

GWEN is a new nonprofit organization dedicated to spreading awareness and encouraging action relating to global warming and its adverse impacts. For information about the organization and its upcoming events, go to:

<http://www.gwenet.org/events.htm>

## ***Greenward***

Greenward, a new retail business near Porter Square, Cambridge, sells "eco-modern" goods, which they define as elegantly designed, attractive, and functional, and at least one of the following: made from recycled materials, recyclable, made from organic materials, handmade, made from sustainable materials, energy efficient, biodegradable, or educational. Among the items they sell are: gifts, housewares, jewelry, cards and stationery, handbags, courier bags, and shopping bags, cosmetics, books and magazines, urban bicycling accessories, toys and games, things for baby, things to improve the energy efficiency of your home, and natural cleaning products.

Website: <http://www.greenwardshop.com/index.html>

Address and directions to store: <http://www.greenwardshop.com/contact.html>

### 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@gmail.com](mailto:massclimateaction@gmail.com)

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

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