

Dear Friends,



This is the October monthly newsletter for the Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care group. With the election less than a week away, this month's issue will focus on the election and news affecting Climate in this country. We hope this will help you to learn more about climate change, and to fight against it. We try to include a mix of informative and uplifting news.

This newsletter discusses environmental and sustainability topics with a focus on Massachusetts and the greater Boston area. If you know of others who you believe should receive this email, please forward it to them, and let me know who, so I can add their name to the email list.

In Faith,

Josh

CREATION CARE FORUM : SUNDAY NOV 22 (11:15 am)

Dr. Leah Schade Adult/Youth Forum Sunday November 22

Dr. Leah Schade (the co-author of *Rooted and Rising* with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas), will preach the Sunday sermon and speak with the Epiphany community in our Adult/Youth Forum November 22 at 11:15 am.

The Forum will be a Zoom call here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81446413887?pwd=djVlQnVvY3FRRzNQTUlFYmJ1MlFOQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 4641 3887

Passcode: 655245

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,81446413887#,,,,,0#,,655245#

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Josh Reynolds Joshua.Reynolds85@gmail.com

About Leah Schade

The Rev. Dr Schade is an author, speaker, educator, blogger, activist. And is the Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. She is also a professional harpist. Dr. Schade writes a blog entitled "EcoPreacher" that explores religion, politics, ecological justice, women's issues, LGBTQI and gender issues, race, and culture:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ecopreacher/> .

What she'll discuss

At the Zoom Adult Forum, she'll be leading a conversation entitled: Beyond 'Creation Care': Clarity, Compliance, Compassion, and Commitment. She'll make the case that we need to expand and deepen

our understanding of the phrase “Creation Care” so that it conveys the urgency needed to act on what is happening. She will explore how we can act to respond to the climate crisis.

We hope you can join us!

Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care Group Meetings



The Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care Group Meetings are held the last Monday of each month from 5:30pm – 6:30pm. Through December they will be Zoom Meetings.

The **next Zoom meeting** will be **Monday, Nov 30, at 5:30pm**

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8734975675>

Meeting ID: 873 497 5675

Dial by Phone at: 929-205-6099

Our Commitment to Racial and Environmental Justice

We believe that environmental justice and racial justice go hand-in-hand - that those who are the victims of racial justice are often most likely to be impacted by environmental justice. We commit to educating ourselves on the historic and current systems of racism in New England We call for racial justice, accountability and an end to violence. We stand with those most affected by racist structures and systems. And we advocate for policies and elected leaders that are willing to address these issues.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Biden pledges ambitious climate action. Here’s what he could actually do.

**Without racial justice,
there can be no
environmental justice.**



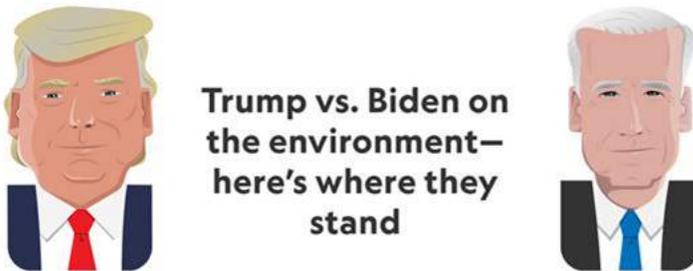
Joe Biden’s \$2 trillion plan to fight global warming is the most ambitious climate policy proposed by a leading presidential

candidate. It was spotlighted in the recent debate when he stated that it would “transition” the country “from the oil industry.” But no one knows better than Mr. Biden, the former vice president, that it almost surely will not be enacted.

If elected, Joe Biden and his allies are preparing to pass climate change legislation, piece by piece — knowing full well that the candidate’s \$2 trillion plan would be a tough sell. Still, it could have real impact: solar panels and wind turbines spread across the country’s mountains and prairies, electric charging stations nearly as ubiquitous as gas stations and a gradual decrease in the nation’s planet-warming greenhouse pollution.

Read more in the New York Times article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/25/climate/biden-climate-change.html>

Comparing Trumps and Biden’s position on Climate



The two presidential candidates couldn’t be further apart on their actions and plans for the environment. President Trump has called climate change a hoax and has taken steps to remove the U.S. from the 2015 Paris climate agreement which voluntary limits on greenhouse gas emissions. Joe Biden considers climate change an emergency and has promised to rejoin the Paris Agreement. He also plans to convene a global climate summit to persuade leaders to set more ambitious and enforceable targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Read more in the National Geographic article <http://bit.ly/trump-biden-climate>

State News: Politics loom over the delayed Climate plan



It's been 64 days since the House and Senate entered into negotiations on a climate bill, and its status remains unknown to the public. A 6-member conference committee appointed to reconcile the different Senate and House bills is likely stuck on differing approaches to reducing emissions.

The Senate bill seeks a broader approach that focuses on transportation and building emissions, while the House largely stuck with measures that reduce pollution in the electric sector. The Senate bill also includes policies like an economy-wide carbon price and creating a new watchdog agency for climate policy. The House bill also incorporated a popular environmental justice policy. But policy considerations (and the need for climate action) are most likely taking a backseat to political considerations.

Read the full article: <http://bit.ly/MA-climate-bill-update>

Solar – ‘New king of electricity markets’ says International Energy Agency



Get ready to witness a new kind of solar eclipse. In 2025, solar power is expected to overtake coal as the largest means of energy production, according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) annual World Energy Outlook report. Over the next decade, the IEA predicts renewables will account for 80% of new power generation. The combined share of solar and wind in global generation will rise to almost 30% in 2030 from 8% in 2019, it said, with solar capacity growing by an average 12% a year.

This is because the economics have changed. Solar projects are getting cheaper to manufacture and install.. In most countries, solar is already cheaper than coal and gas. And investors are growing more

skeptical of oil and gas projects. 2020 investments have fallen by a third compared to last year. Coal's share of the global energy supply is expected to dip below 20% in 2040 for the first time since the industrial revolution.

Bottom line: "I see solar becoming the new king of the world's electricity markets," commented the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency.

Read the full story in Reuters: <http://bit.ly/solar-electricity-king>

Good News: Fighting Climate Change, One Building At A Time



Donnel Baird was in his 20s, he had twin passions. "I vowed that I was going to try to combine my passion for Black civil rights with trying to do something about climate change," he says. He's doing it now, with a company that he founded called [BlocPower](#) - a Brooklyn-based energy technology startup rapidly greening American cities. He's attacking one of the seemingly intractable sources of America's greenhouse emissions: old residential buildings. And he's focusing on neighborhoods that don't have a lot of money to invest. BlocPower conducts energy projects to install heat pumps in small apartment buildings, community centers, and churches, almost exclusively in low-income neighborhoods.

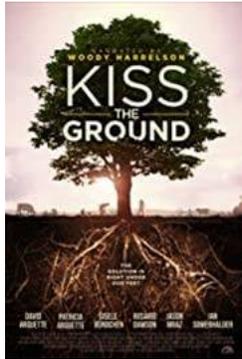
Since 2012, the company has completed energy projects in nearly 1,000 buildings. [BlocPower](#) utilizes its proprietary software for analysis, leasing, project management, and monitoring of urban clean energy projects and its customers are saving 20-40% on their energy bills each year. The company is backed by the world's top investors, including early investors in Uber, Facebook, Twitter and AirBnB.

"We're going to be like Uber!" Baird says, "We're going to be a big company! On heat pumps!" But the biggest change he says, is "the shift in the building owners' dialogue from kilowatt-hours to carbon." They now understand that the goal is not just saving energy. They're helping to save the world from catastrophic climate change.

Read the full article: <http://bit.ly/1-building-at-a-time>

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

Good News: Kiss the Ground (the movie)



Searching for some uplifting climate news? Look under your feet... the "Kiss the Ground" documentary is available on Netflix.

Narrated and featuring Woody Harrelson, Kiss the Ground is an inspiring and groundbreaking film that reveals the first viable solution to our climate crisis.

By regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies.

Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle. This movie is positioned to catalyze a movement to accomplish the impossible - to solve humanity's greatest challenge, to balance the climate and secure our species future.

<https://kissthegroundmovie.com/>

Climate Xchange – Cooler Earth podcast series



Climate XChange was founded in 2013 by a group of concerned citizens frustrated by the lack of progress in the fight against climate change and seeking effective and viable policy solutions to reduce carbon emissions. Their Cooler Earth podcast is an intelligent and informed series of discussions with thought leaders and activists in the fight against climate change.

On the recent podcast, Cooler Earth talks with Adrienne Bloch and Kim Smaczniak of EarthJustice, who are harnessing the power of the law to fight climate change.

Listen to all 4 seasons of the podcasts at: <https://climate-xchange.org/cooler-earth-podcast/>

Environmental League of Massachusetts climate webinars



The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) is committed to combating climate change and protecting our land, water, and public health. They are an educational and advocacy organization that focuses their resources on the Mass. state level, in business and government, where their expertise and reputation has the strongest impact.

They conduct a Wednesday Webinar series and replays of these webinars are available at:

www.environmentalleague.org/news/

Watch the replays of the recent webinars:

- Session 8: Perspectives on Climate Policy
- Session 9: Corporate Sustainability & Public Policy
- Wednesday Webinar Session 10: A New Era for State Climate Action

350 Massachusetts Metro North bi-weekly meeting



350 Massachusetts for a Better Future is building a powerful statewide social movement to confront the climate crisis, hold our politicians accountable and undermine the destructive influence of the fossil fuel industry. Our name comes from 350 parts per million, the safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

350 Mass is made up of several local volunteer-led chapters we call “nodes” around the state that carry out both municipal-level and statewide campaigns, coordinated by a Statewide Steering Team (SST). The local node for Winchester and surrounding towns is the Metro North node.

350 Mass Metro North bi-weekly Zoom calls - Wed 12:00 Noon (Nov 11 is next call)

<https://zoom.us/j/820610637?pwd=RzdURlhYRWJEb3VSK3FTEWJncklCZz09>

Meeting ID: 820 610 637

Password: 350ma

Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS

Here are some organizations committed to climate change. This is only a small sample of the many environmental groups. If you have other groups that should be included on this list, please email joshua.reynolds85@gmail.com

350 Mass <https://www.betterfutureaction.org/>

Climate XChange <https://climate-xchange.org/>

Cool Winchester <http://www.coolwinchester.org/Home.html>

In other towns: Cool Mass https://bit.ly/FB_CoolMASS Sponsored by www.massclimateaction.org

The Environmental Voter Project <https://www.environmentalvoter.org/>

The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) <https://www.environmentalleague.org/>

Heat Smart <http://heatsmartccl.org/>

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) <https://www.gbio.org/>

Green Car Reports <https://www.greencarreports.com/>

Green Energy Consumers Alliance <https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/>

Mass Clean Energy Center <https://www.masscec.com/>

Mass Interfaith Power & Light <https://www.massipl.org/>

Mothers Out Front.org <https://www.mothersoutfront.org/>

Sustainable Winchester www.facebook.com/SustainableWinchester
WinPower Community Choice Electricity www.winpowerma.org
Wright Locke Farm <https://www.wlfarm.org>