



Environmental League of Massachusetts

September 22, 2016

ELM Praises Baker Administration for Climate Change Executive Order

Last week, Governor Baker issued [Executive Order 569](#), a promising step to address the risks of climate change. As ELM Legislative Director Erica Mattison told [State House News](#) last week, ELM is pleased that the Baker administration has formally recognized the need for "proactive measures to prepare for the impacts of climate change."

Several factors helped prompt the Executive Order and statewide action to reduce emissions and improve climate resilience. The Conservation Law Foundation won a decision by the Supreme Judicial Court in the Kain case requiring statewide regulations on emissions. The need for such regulations was highlighted by the current severe drought impacting Massachusetts, and the forceful advocacy of legislative leaders and advocates. We recognize the ongoing leadership of the Chairs of the Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change, **Senator Marc Pacheco** (D-Taunton) and **Representative Frank Smizik** (D-Brookline).

The order, "Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth," directs executive agencies to:

- Take action to reduce emissions in the transportation sector;
- Establish a timeframe by August 2017 for implementation of Section 3d of the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) to achieve the greenhouse gas emission reductions needed to meet the 2020 emissions reduction requirement;
- Create a comprehensive state energy plan to account for the GHG emission reductions needed to meet the GWSA requirements; and



- Conduct a vulnerability assessment to determine what the Commonwealth and municipalities need to do to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

While ELM applauds the administration for issuing the Executive Order, it is now incumbent on the Governor to allocate the resources necessary for timely implementation. We stand ready to work with the administration and the agencies to meet our GHG reduction goals and plan for climate change impacts.

ELM Leads Advocacy Training

This week, ELM Legislative Director Erica Mattison led a training for members of the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance to help them hone their advocacy skills. Land protection and watershed groups from all over the state, ranging from the Berkshires to the Farm Coast, took part. Participants are pictured here with Erica at the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Headquarters in Westborough. Thank you to Massachusetts Rivers Alliance for hosting.



Join Us!

**Thursday, November
17th
5:30-8:00pm**

**Hosted by Blue Cross
Blue Shield of MA**

**Green Star Awards:
Senator Dan Wolf
Triumvirate Environmental**

Mothers Out Front



[Purchase Tickets Today!](#)

ELM in MetroWest

This week in MetroWest, ELM brought together legislators and groups of advocates to talk about pressing environmental issues, such as the severe drought currently impacting Massachusetts, and the relationship between environmental integrity and economic vitality. Also part of the conversations were how to raise public awareness about environmental issues and opportunities for collaboration.



Erica Mattison, ELM; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Lisa Vernegaard, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and State Representative Danielle Gregoire (D-Marlborough)



Lisa Vernegaard, Sudbury Valley Trustees; Michele Girard, MA Association of Conservation Commissions; Senator Jamie Eldrige (D-Acton); Erica Mattison, ELM; Ingeborg Hegemann, OARS Board Member; Alison Field-Juma, OARS

ELM Co-Hosts Seminar Series at State House

To raise awareness about the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and its many departments and responsibilities, this week ELM co-hosted a luncheon seminar with the Chairs of the legislature's Environment Committee, **Senator Anne Gobi** (D-Spencer) and **Representative Paul Schmid** (D-Westport), and EOEEA. Dozens of legislators and legislative staff attended to hear from agency officials and advocates. Steve Long of The Nature Conservancy and Karen Heymann of Mass Audubon provided remarks about how their organizations work with EOEEA.



Deputy Commissioner Mary-Lee King (DFG), Karen Heymann (Mass Audubon), Commissioner George Peterson (DFG), Asst. Secretary Dan Sieger (EOEEA), Erica Mattison (ELM), Stolle Singleton (EOEEA Legislative Affairs), Chairman Paul Schmid, and Steve Long (The Nature Conservancy)

"It's important for legislators and their staff to be familiar with the broad scope of responsibilities that come within the purview of our state environmental and energy agencies. Before the new legislative session starts in January, we wanted to take advantage of a slower time in the State House to do this awareness-raising," said ELM Legislative Director Erica Mattison. Today's event focused on EOEEA and the Department of Fish and Game. The next event in the series, to be held on September 28, will feature the Departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Recreation, and Agricultural Resources. For details, [contact Erica Mattison](#).

Bank of America Commits To 100% Renewable by 2020

Bank of America, a member of the ELM Corporate Council, joined a group of corporations [committed to go 100% renewable](#). The global initiative, called RE100, now has 81 members including fellow ELM Corporate Council member Biogen, and ELM supporter Walmart.

ELM commends Bank of America and all the other corporations that have pledged to take this big step forward to protect our climate.

ELM is fighting for a low-carbon future and a thriving green energy economy for Massachusetts.

This is your state. Help us protect it.

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Environmental League of Massachusetts, 14 Beacon Street,
Suite 714, Boston, MA 02108

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