



Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition Purpose Statement

The **Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition (MYCC)** is a diverse, youth-led, adult-supported, network of organizations, clubs, and hubs founded in February 2020 and committed to centering the voices of Massachusetts's young people in the climate movement. MYCC provides a supportive place for youth-led groups (generally 14-24 year olds) and their committed adult staff to collaborate and influence the local decisions that shape our global future.

VISION

A thriving, interconnected world in which we direct resources to meet the needs of all beings now and in the future. We build this world with an intergenerational, intersectional climate movement that welcomes, empowers, and centers young people across race, class, geography and other intersections just as they are:

- Vital - overflowing with life force; growing; a fresh source of power, autonomy, & purpose
- Visionary - can see further; easefully and actively imagine and invent with less baggage
- Strategic - exist across all geographies, social and political structures; able to elicit new and necessary responses from people in power in and outside the movement
- Impacted - will proportionately live through more challenges and carry more of the work than older people

WHAT WE DO

Resilient movements are like ecosystems: interconnected networks of diverse members, each with their own missions, visions, and tactics. To grow an ecosystem of youth-led climate solutions, MYCC members:

- Connect, mobilize, and build partnerships between youth leaders and their clubs and organizations across the state
- Collaborate on rallies, lobby days, summits and other large-scale, intersectional projects
- Meet, create, and share common resources, plans and agendas to support these projects
- Balance our needs for frequent coordination and protecting our capacity with transparent,



MYCC's first action: delivering the 1st draft of our policy principles to the Senate President after the 2020 "Next Gen Climate Bill" ignored the requests of the next generation.



MYCC's first partnered phonebank during Earthweek of 2020 shortly after it's founding.



adaptable [rules and processes](#) that work for all members.

As a state-wide coalition, we are all invested in passing, enacting, and enforcing bold, transformative, and equitable climate solutions at the state level. Many of our members share a commitment to these [Policy Principles](#) and [Policy Priorities & Endorsements](#).

HOW WE WORK



MYCC's first official rally post-pandemic as part of Fridays for Future's Global Rally on Sept 24, 2021. Divya Nandan from FFF MA speaks to the crowd which includes members of MYCC and adult ally organizations.

We, youth leaders and adult supporters, empower youth across the state to replace the current extractive, profit-based fossil fuel economy of Massachusetts with an equitable, regenerative economy, in ways that will ripple out across the world. As we grow this vision, we consistently navigate many systems of power that affect our work from the outside and the inside.

Intergenerational Justice: Throughout history and in this moment, adults control, limit, and otherwise disempowered young people. Ageist and adultist ideas are codified in law, central to cultural concepts of education and family, and rampant even in the organizing spaces that seek to serve young people. School and other responsibilities consistently compete

with and limit our capacity to engage. We navigate this against a backdrop in which our generations are unfairly burdened by the impacts of a crisis we did not cause—a crisis made worse by the failed leadership and inaction of adults in power. Even in the spaces we facilitate, we witness how experience and seniority often dictate who has power. We have intentionally shaped our own [rules and processes](#) to help dismantle and replace that system. We work from the understanding that if we align and coordinate, we strengthen our collective visibility, power and political influence as young people.

Other climate justice intersections: We recognize that intergenerational climate justice is inextricably linked to racial, class, gender, migrant, LGBTQ+ justice—all forms of oppression are linked and cannot be solved independently.

We specifically name Indigenous (colonized) communities, cultures, and knowledge—past, present, and future—as fundamental to a just, thriving world. We seek to integrate these critical perspectives with perspectives from “Western” science, economics, etc to inform our solutions and strategies.

We also specifically acknowledge and seek to dismantle classism and Anti-Blackness, which constantly challenge our ability to center the people most impacted by climate change. We capture our beliefs in our [shared understandings](#) and continuously revise ways to make our



MYCC members meeting with Rep. Roy, chair of the Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy Committee.



resources and projects as accessible and meaningful to our members from Environmental Justice communities.

We intentionally redistribute capacity to and amplify the voices of our Environmental Justice members, including Boston Student Advisory Council, VietAID, REEP, and Greenroots ECO Team.

WHO WE ARE

Like ecosystems, coalitions are interconnected networks of members, each of whom plays unique roles and offers unique strengths to the larger whole. Here are some of our members roles and strengths:



Andover Climate Lobby (ACL) - student-led, staff-assisted club at the independent school Phillips Academy at Andover that educates the student body on lobby practices, youth advocacy, and climate policy; provides youth lobby opportunities through partnerships with groups including Our Climate, Citizens Climate Lobby, Open Air, Spring Forward, and MYCC



Belmont High School Climate Club - student-led club at Belmont High School that seeks to engage BHS students in climate action through both school and local initiatives. Some of our ongoing projects include implementing compost, middle school climate education, and planting a new forest on our school's lawn. Some future projects we hope to embark on are signing Belmont onto the MA Climate Leader Communities program, advocating for electric school buses, and transitioning to biodegradable utensils in the cafeteria.



Boston Latin School Youth Climate Action Network (BLS YouthCAN) - high-school-student-led, teacher-assisted club at Boston Latin School that empowers youth to connect with climate action organizations; has hosted climate summits for hundreds of students for the past 15 years



Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) - high-school-youth-led and staff-assisted multi-issue student governance body serving youth across Boston Public Schools. Many of the youth come from frontline, EJ, and POC communities; strong focus on equity, educational empowerment, and Boston-community-based projects



Boston University Environmental Student Organization (BU ESO) - student-led organization that raises awareness about environmental justice issues and climate mitigation to create beneficial environmental change on BU's campus and in the surrounding community of Boston; weekly meetings provide students the opportunity to drive change, specifically focused on making environmentalism inclusive and accessible

Brighton Urban Gardeners (BUGs) - A gardening club based at Brighton High School that helps students grow their relationship to the land.

Brimmer & May Environmental Club - high-school-youth-led, teacher-assisted club at Brimmer & May School that advocates for environmental change at all levels of society from local to international

Climate Voices (Cambridge Ringe and Latin School) - Through education, advocacy, and action, CRLS Climate Voices builds a diverse and inclusive climate change movement that forefronts underrepresented frontline communities.



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Conserve Our World - Conserve Our World (COW) is The Winsor School's student-led environmental club. COW works to educate students about local and global environmental topics and take action for issues both in and outside of the Winsor community.



Climate Activism Newton South (CANS) - high-school-student-led, teacher-assisted club at Newton South High School that seeks to empower NSHS students in climate action



Fridays for Future MA (FFFMA) - State chapter of the youth-led international climate justice organization founded by Greta Thunberg, Fridays for Future often uses strikes and rallies to encourage policymakers to listen to the existing science and address the impacts of the climate crisis on frontline communities



Four Rivers Climate Club - student-student led, teacher- assisted club working towards increasing climate action and involvement in Four Rivers Charter school. Additionally working with school admin and local community to encourage climate education.



Green Heifers - student-led, teacher-assisted club at the private Jewish school Gann Academy, dedicated to creating a more sustainable school, involving and educating the Gann community on climate action, and advocating for state level climate legislation



Greenroots ECO Team - a youth-led crew affiliated with the Chelsea, MA-based Environmental Justice nonprofit Greenroots; engage other youth in campaigns and projects to bring about environmental, economic, and social justice for their community



Lorax Climate Lobby - student-led, staff-assisted club at the private school Milton Academy that educates the student body on climate awareness and lobbying, advocacy, and climate policy; provides youth lobby opportunities through partnerships with Our Climate and MYCC



MASSPIRG Students - college-student-led and staff-assisted program in our state Public Interest Research Group that empowers students to vote and advocate for specific policies their student board selects, including an extensive 100% Clean Energy campaign; UMass Amherst is there most active hub in MYCC



Massachusetts Youth for Climate Justice (MAYCJ) - formerly Boston Climate Strikes; youth-under-20yo-led; mobilizes large numbers of young people and adult partners for large strike, art, and political demand actions that center equity and apply strategic pressure



MassCOSH Youth Environmental Branch - The Youth Environmental Branch mobilizes young workers at the intersection of environmental justice and workplace health. Its mission is to create greener, safer schools and job sites by reducing exposure to heat, air

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pollution, and toxic chemicals. Youth lead assessments and outreach, deliver right-to-know and heat-safety trainings, gather data, and advocate for practical fixes and policy change with community and labor partners.



Middlesex School Biology Club, is a youth-led organization fostering curiosity and advocacy for the natural world, empowering students to engage with their community, raise awareness about climate change, and take action toward a more sustainable future.



New England Aquarium ClimaTeens - a group of 14 to 18 year-olds who are united by a desire to learn about and participate in climate advocacy work and are committed to engaging public audiences in climate change awareness.



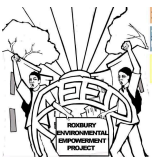
Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) Youth Organizers - a group of youth aged between 14 to 18, training in Leadership Development with a focus on environmental justice projects. They involve themselves in community organizing and direct service in East Boston.



Northampton High School Environmental Club - The Northampton High School Environmental Club is an organization led by students with the goal of encouraging sustainability and environmental awareness within the community.



Our Climate - youth-led and staff-assisted nonprofit focused climate justice policy education, advocacy and coalition-building; supports youth across the coalition to strategically engage state level politicians; youth and staff help convene MYCC



Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP) - a youth-led, adult staff supported, environmental-justice, community-organizing project affiliated with the adult-led nonprofit Alternative for Community and Environment (ACE); develops leadership and builds youth power, membership and movement of primarily youth of color from Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan

Salem High School Environmental Club - The Salem High School Environmental Club aims to connect the students of Salem High School, within the environmental justice community of Salem, to environmental service and environmental justice education.



Speak for the Trees, Boston (SFTT) - an urban forestry nonprofit working alongside community members to care for, advocate for, and expand the tree canopy in EJ neighborhoods. SFTT provides the Teen Urban Tree Corps (TUTC) program to Boston youth throughout the year that provides them with an opportunity to explore green careers and assist SFTT staff on tree care, advocacy, outreach, and research projects.



Spring Forward - youth-created and led organization that delivers peer-to-peer instruction on climate science, solutions and justice in MA schools, camps, private workshops and other youth programs, all through a social justice, empowering mindset.



Sunrise Movement - large multi-hub youth-movement-building organization that draws public attention to the moral urgency and lack of action on climate at the national and state level; uses visible pressure to “strategically break things,” earn media coverage, and build and brand the Green New Deal; Amherst is our most active hub as of 2023, though others include Boston, Cambridge, and Northeastern



Sustainable Energy Alliance (MIT SEA) - an undergraduate-led club at MIT that build curriculum in sustainability for K-12 audiences; hosts workshops and an annual nation-wide sustainability challenge (often, hackathons) for high school students build clean energy, social justice, and technology-related solutions



Sustainable Sharon Coalition Youth - We inspire, educate, connect, and catalyze the youth of Sharon and its surrounding communities to protect and restore the planet.



VietAID - adult-led, Dorchester-based organization with a youth team; focused on community-building and local projects to develop affordable housing, promote civic engagement, and address community needs like food security and sustainability for Vietnamese Americans and their neighbors



Wayland High School Green Team - Green Team is a student-led club at Wayland High School. With a focus on local action, Green Team promotes sustainability in the school and town communities by working with groups like Energize Wayland, advocating for a comprehensive school committee legislation on climate education, organizing events and fundraisers in the school and town, running and funding an industrial composting program in the cafeteria, and taking care of the school garden. Green Team pushes students to be leaders in the community and promotes collaboration in all areas of its work.



Weston High School SEA Club: Youth-led club at Weston High School that leads the town’s student engagement on climate and sustainability issues by expanding climate education, providing multidisciplinary opportunities for climate action, supporting local green initiatives, and working with state-level organizations including Our Climate and MYCC.



Youth Climate Action Now (YCAN) –student-led organization based in Western MA, is dedicated to empowering youth to add our voices to the climate conversation through intersectional, creative, non-violent direct action. Committed to advocating for a livable future by prioritizing environmental justice and inspiring others to think bigger. Seeks to cultivate intersectional community-based partnerships to learn how we can together move toward systemic change.



Eastie Farm – Eastie Farm is a community-based non-profit organization that pursues climate justice, food security, and community resilience through urban agriculture, education, and the building of an equitable local food system.

We also acknowledge the historical contributions of member organizations that are no longer active:



Is your organization or club interested in joining? Fill this [out!](#)

Supporters (a.k.a. adult-led organizations that support our work)



Coalition Membership Note: Updated 9/27/22

In the spirit of transparency, we try to honor how our members' capacity and connections wax and wane. As of the above date:

- *Several Sunrise Hubs (Boston, Western MA, and Worcester) are inactive as organizations*
- *Mass Audubon's membership is undergoing a transition to recognize the adult-led nature of the organization and is not currently an official member. However, we partner with adults and youth in their programs often and are investigating them becoming supporter organization*
- *Boston Student Advisory Council has undergone a staff transition and we haven't reconnected since*
- *VietAID has very limited capacity*