



2023 GBPSR End-of-Year Newsletter

Climate Program

Working in partnership with many devoted grassroots allies, Greater Boston PSR advocated successfully to raise public awareness of the climate and health benefits of electrification, and continued to highlight the importance of safeguarding the health of residents by protecting our indoor and outdoor air quality. We focused on the indoor air pollution from gas stoves and the dangerous health of blending with alternative fuels like hydrogen. GBPSR supported efforts at the local and state levels to transition away from fossil fuels and invest in clean and safe renewable energy technologies and preservation of our natural environment, which is the greatest and most important carbon sink.

GBPSR's successful climate educational efforts this year include:

- Speaking with [NPR about hydrogen blending](#), our board member Wynne Armand, MD testimony was quoted in [RTO Insider: Massachusetts Considers Legislation to Ban Gas in New Buildings](#). Our Board Chair Brita Lundberg, MD published three articles in Commonwealth on air pollution and climate change: [Pollution inequality must stop: enforce roadmap](#); [Braintree Chemical Fire](#); and ["Why is the US locking down for climate change?"](#). GBPSR added a new website page on the health risks [gas stoves](#) and was quoted in [Boston Globe](#) and [WBUR](#) on this topic. GBPSR assisted with a [published report](#) on how green hydrogen will hijack clean energy from the grid. GBPSR experts spoke to the Boston Globe and the New York Times about gas stoves and the health benefits of electrification.
- Developing [a video](#) satire about how expensive and dangerous hydrogen blending is.
- Developing new website pages on the negative health effects of outdoor air pollution due to [biomass](#); and white papers [pesticides, plastics and PFAS](#) as drivers of climate change.
- Board members Sydney Engel, Brita Lundberg and GBPSR member Philip Landrigan drew attention to the negative climate and health risks of artificial turf in an article in [Commonwealth magazine](#).

GBPSR's climate policy successes this year include:

- Opposing the blending of dangerous hydrogen gas with natural gas in Massachusetts in testimony to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and the state legislature.
- Working alongside the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition, helping to successfully block the development of a new Eversource pipeline, which would have run through environmental justice communities in Springfield.
- Collaborating with the City of Boston and allies to ensure health and equity provisions were included in the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) 2.0 regulations.

- Advocating for Boston to follow through on its new building electrification promises and to participate in the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Project and to pass the Zero Net Carbon Building Zoning Code (still pending).
- With Gas Transition Allies, authoring the [Impact of Green Hydrogen Production on the Availability of Clean Electricity for the Grid](#) report.
- Attending the **Climate & Health Day at the State House** organized by GBPSR Climate Ambassadors, who highlighted important climate bills.*

Coalition work:

- We worked in coalition with organizations sharing the same goals, including: Gas Transition Allies, East Boston Climate Coalition, Boston Clean Energy Coalition, and Massachusetts Climate Action Network's (MCAN) building electrification network, Green New Deal, and others.
- We helped coordinate and support environmental justice allies to assure that the benefits of electrification are accessible to diverse, underserved and low-income communities.
- On social media we shared allies' information and their events with our members.

Nuclear Program

Members of our nuclear program committee have been working diligently to advocate for nuclear war prevention measures, as part of our "Back from the Brink" campaign:

- GBPSR members have spoken at numerous institutions and testified at statehouse hearings about the threats of nuclear weapons and war.
- Helped draft and secured introduction of H. Res 77 — a Congressional Resolution "Embracing the Goals and Provisions of the TPNW" and the Back from the Brink policy platform. As of November 8th, the resolution has 42 total national co--sponsors, including 4 from MA. Our chapter conducted an extensive campaign to get those 4 members of congress to co-sponsor.
- Secured introduction of S. 1487, the state-level Back from the Brink resolution, in the Massachusetts legislature.
- Testified at State House Hearing for S. 1487 and organized many letters to Committee members asking for speedy release for floor vote, which is still pending.
- Our members helped write and organize the publication of an important medical editorial calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons in [153 medical journals world-wide](#).
- Our members spoke about nuclear war advocacy efforts in front of the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) members at their annual convention. We were able to secure MNA's endorsement of Back from the Brink and related Congressional and State resolutions.
- Worked with high school students in New Hampshire and California to launch Students for Nuclear Disarmament a fledgling student group supporting Back from the Brink
- Board member Joseph Hodgkin, MD co-authored an [invited commentary in JAMA Cardiology](#) on the urgent need for the medical community to advocate for nuclear disarmament. Dr. Hodgkin and Dr. Olga Mironova from Russian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War discussed the article at a journal club event in the Massachusetts General Hospital Department of Medicine.
- Conducted on-going dialogue with young Russian doctors and medical students about the need to abolish nuclear weapons, including an [in-person meeting](#) between GBSPR and IPPNW physicians in Baku, Azerbaijan.

2023 Changes, New Additions & Events

- This year, we were excited to add four new dynamic new members to our Board: Margaret Woodruff and Drs Joseph McCabe, Wynne Armand and Vijai Bhola, who are committed to working on both climate and nuclear issues and are already helping us advance our goals.
- After four terrific years, our Climate & Health Program Manager, Andee Kraser, will be leaving her position with us. During her time at GBPSR, the health impacts of gas stoves came out of the shadows and were recognized by the American Medical Association, the Massachusetts Medical Society, and the American Public Health Association. We saw the passage of two state climate bills and started the important discussion of how to wind down the natural gas system in Massachusetts. We successfully passed BERDO 2.0 (building emissions standards for large buildings) in Boston! We are so grateful for Andee's contributions to our chapter and have no doubt we will continue to partner with her going forward.
- Also in 2023, we held a three-part CME webinar series: [The Overlapping Health Impacts of Climate Change, Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power](#). Speakers included global atmospheric research and climate scientists, locally impacted community members, renowned authors, academic faculty from MIT and CU-Boulder, and physicians. Stay tuned — recordings of these webinars and ongoing CME credit will be made available for this series in the next couple of weeks.
- In addition to our regularly held monthly meetings via Zoom, in 2023 we finally got together in-person! We had a wonderful potluck gathering at the Boston Nature Center in July and held our 6th Annual Global Health and Peace Awards event at Harvard's Countway Library in October, honoring Massachusetts Senators Warren and Markey. Watch their acceptance speeches [here](#) and [here](#).

Many of us agreed that the youth were the stars of the evening. We plan to continue the youth awards in subsequent years. You can watch their acceptance speeches here:

—[Nuclear Youth Award Acceptance Speech](#) by Rishi Gurudevan

—[Climate Youth Award Acceptance Speech](#) by Eliana DaCunha

—[Written Remarks](#) by Dr. Scott Podolosky, Director, Center for the History of Medicine, Harvard's Countway Medical Library

This in-person event, which featured a quartet from the Longwood Symphony Orchestra and was held in partnership with International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, was not only a successful fundraiser but left us all feeling energized and united.

Communications

Becca Philips, our Communications Manager, has been working hard behind the scenes to increase our social media following this year to amplify our efforts and help connect us to younger individuals. Please follow us on social media if you haven't already!

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

* Those bills include:

[H.3232/S.2365](#): Zero Carbon Renovation Fund (Vargas/Gomez) ([Bill Summary](#)) - Allocate \$250 million or more of ARPA funds or other funds to create a Zero Carbon Renovation Fund.

[H.3150/S.2117](#): An Act Advancing Clean Energy, Equity, and Innovation within Municipal Utilities (Cataldo/Elridge) ([Bill Summary](#)) - Require municipal light plants to adhere to the same clean energy requirements as private utilities company.

[H.764/S.2090](#): An Act Incorporating Embodied Carbon into State Climate Policy (Ciccolo/Owns/Comerford) ([Bill Summary](#)) - Establishes a state advisory board to address embodied carbon, required the Department of Energy Resources to recommend best practices for measuring and reducing embodied carbon, and requires reduction of embodied carbon to be incorporated in codes.

[H.3187/S.2113](#): Energy Facilities Siting Reform (Madaro/DiDomenico) ([Bill Summary](#)) - Gives communities greater say over energy facility siting with a focus on environmental justice and public health.