

Energize Acton News

April 2026 - Earth Month

What is in this issue?

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- **Cool New Electric Vehicles! Dare we say affordable?**
- **The Good, the Bad, and the In-Between**
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- **Book/Website/Recipe of the Month**



April 17th to April 27th -- **Acton Clean-Up Week**, Sponsored by Green Acton. The Town supplies trash bags and Green Acton asks residents to collect trash, recyclables, and garlic mustard. Info [HERE](#).

Wed., Apr. 22nd, 4:30-6:00pm, The Boardwalk School -- **Clean Energy SCHOOL Tour!** Sponsored by EnergizeActon.org and Mothers Out Front Acton. Come see the amazing fossil fuel free building that has been out-performing all energy expectations. Info and registration [HERE](#).

Wed., Apr. 22nd, 7:00-8:00pm, zoom - **Heat Pumps 101**, sponsored by MassEnergize. Join two great speakers--Bob Zogg of the HeatSmart Alliance and Kit Wu of the Laminar Collective--to get a solid grounding on heat pumps. Info [HERE](#). Register at bit.ly/heat-pumps-101.

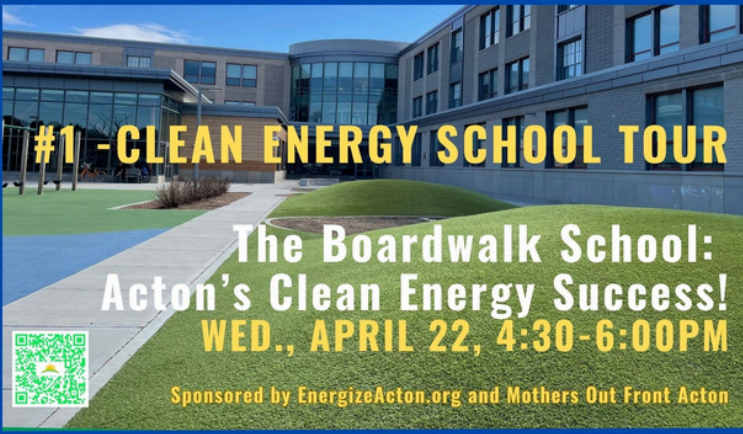
Fri., April 24th, 10am-noon, Red House, 468 Main St., Acton -- **Earth Week MiniFest**, sponsored by the Acton Sustainability Office. Municipal staff and community volunteers will have crafts, stories, animals, seedlings, and a tree planting. See other local events on p. 2.

Apr. 24-May 4, anytime in Acton and Boxborough – **BioBlitz Challenge!** Sponsored by multiple local groups. Be a community scientist. Observe and report through the iNaturalist app. Info [HERE](#).

Sun., April 26th, 2:00-5:00pm, First Parish Church, Concord – **Earth Day Walk to Walden Pond**, sponsored by Cooler Concord. Walk to Thoreau's cabin for speakers & music. Info/registration [HERE](#).

Wed., Apr. 29th, 7:00-8:00pm, zoom -- **Why Massachusetts Climate Goals Matter**, sponsored by EnergizeActon.org. Join Amanda Barker of the Green Energy Consumers Alliance to hear why climate targets are important for a reliable, affordable energy future. Info & registration [HERE](#).

EARTH DAY DOUBLE HEADER!



#1 - CLEAN ENERGY SCHOOL TOUR

The Boardwalk School: Acton's Clean Energy Success!

WED., APRIL 22, 4:30 - 6:00PM

Sponsored by EnergizeActon.org and Mothers Out Front Acton



#2 - Heat Pumps 101 Wed., April 22, 7-8pm

Zoom with Bob Zogg
and Kit Wu



www.bit.ly/heat-pumps-101

ACTON EARTH WEEK 2026!

17 - 27 — Acton Clean Up Week!
APR Learn more at ActonCleanup.info



22 WEDNESDAY
APR

Earth Week Storytime
9:30 - 10:00am
Acton Memorial Library,
Meeting Room

**Children's Climate
ChangeMakers
Workshop**
2:00 - 3:30pm
Acton Memorial Library,
Meeting Room

Earth Day Walk
2:30 - 4:00pm
Email for details!
Conservation@ActonMA.gov

23 THURSDAY
APR

**Teen Invasive Plant
Brigade**
2:00 - 4:00pm
The Red House
(468 Main Street) &
the Wilde Garden (AML)

**Invasive Plant Species
101**
5:00 - 6:30pm
Acton Memorial Library,
Meeting Room



24 FRIDAY
APR

Earth Week MiniFest!
10:00am - 12:00pm
The Red House
(468 Main Street)

**Crafts
Storytime
Free seedlings
Tree planting
& more!**

26 SUNDAY
APR

**Harmonies of Nature:
Birdsong Concert-
Lecture**
2:00pm - 3:30pm
Acton Memorial Library,
Meeting Room

16 - 24
APR

**Add a flower to the Earth
Week Pledge Meadow!**
Acton Memorial Library Lobby



For more information email
Sustainability@ActonMA.gov or call 978-929-6529



Why Climate Goals Matter! Wed., April 29, 2026, 7pm

with **Amanda Barker**
Green Energy Consumers Alliance

Do climate goals still matter? Is clean energy too expensive?
Too challenging? Hear clean energy success stories and how
climate goals are not only needed but achievable.



Sponsored by
EnergizeActon.org



Nature of Acton and Boxborough 2026

Be a community scientist!
All you need is a smartphone & the iNaturalist App!
Help record & support biodiversity in the area.

Local Observations: April 24-May 4
City Nature Challenge/Boston Area: April 24-April 27

Sign Up Here: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/nature-of-acton-and-boxborough-2026>



This is a collaboration of the Acton Conservation Trust, Boxborough Conservation Trust, Energize Acton, the Town of Acton Sustainability Office, and people from Green Acton, AB Steam, Acton Men's Outdoor Club, the Discovery Museum, and Congregation Beth Elohim. More info at EnergizeActon.org, click events.



Quick Climate Action: Buy a Trio of Native Plants

As many local groups look forward to another “bioblitz” to document biodiversity in our area (see [Nature of Acton and Boxborough 2026](#)), there is something you can do after the iNaturalist observation period ends--you can plant native perennials, shrubs, and trees. Many “good” insects depend on native plants and birds depend on the insects. Everything is interconnected. As Doug Tallamy points out in his research ([Bringing Nature Home](#) and [Nature’s Best Hope](#)), nature is not our adversary. Befriend some bees. Explore the milkweed insect community. Learn more on our “[Garden Ecologically](#)” page or visit the [Acton Arboretum](#). Another great place to start is the nearby Garden in the Woods, run by the [Native Plant Trust](#). Their garden shop/ plant sales area is free to visit and they have a terrific selection of native species. Begin with a few plants and add more each year. See diversity in your own backyard.

Electric Vehicles

Still amazing. Still on the market (sort of). Even affordable?



Jaguar



Bolt

With the administration’s attack on EVs, electric cars are a thing of the past, right? Wait! Not only is EV use [surging around the world](#), but the U.S. market will still see 32 new or upgraded electric vehicles this year. Some of them are actually affordable! And some of them are downright COOL! Matt Hogan outlines the new models [HERE](#) for *Inside EVs*. (Photos from *Inside EVs*.)

The [2027 Chevy Bolt](#) comes in at less than \$30,000, a real deal for any current auto, gas-powered or electric. It has a range of 255 miles with an upgraded battery, charging from 10-80% in 26 minutes, and a peak charging rate of 150 kilowatts (much improved over the old Bolt). Other family vehicles include two new Subaru EVs, the Trailseeker (bigger, 260 mile range) and the [Uncharted](#) (like the Crosstrek, 300 miles range and \$35,000). If you are in a 007 mood and have a lot of money, look for the [Jaguar Type 00](#) in hot pink!

There is no doubt that U.S. [EV manufacturing has taken a hit](#) with tariffs and the loss of the Biden era incentives, which created a huge wave of purchases. EV truck manufacturing, in particular, is down and associated companies, such as [battery manufacturers](#), have been left in the lurch. But MOR-EV rebates in MA still offer real savings of \$3500-\$7500. Remember to check [MOR-EV](#) for new and used vehicle rebate eligibility. Call them about new models that may not yet be listed.



Good News

Balcony Solar and Batteries: Balcony solar panels are approved in Utah and being considered in 28 states, including Massachusetts. Battery technology may move from lithium to sodium and to solid state (Donut Lab) options.



Bad News

Climate Hushing: Broadcast TV networks have dramatically reduced reports on climate. Media Matters notes that total minutes of coverage went from 1,374 (2022) to only 504 (2025). Fossil fuels were named in only 8% of reports.



In Between

EV Charging Infrastructure: In Dec. '25, 16 states (incl. MA) sued the administration to release the \$5 billion EV charger fund. On Jan. 23, a judge ruled in their favor. Now funds are being withheld citing new rules and other tactics.

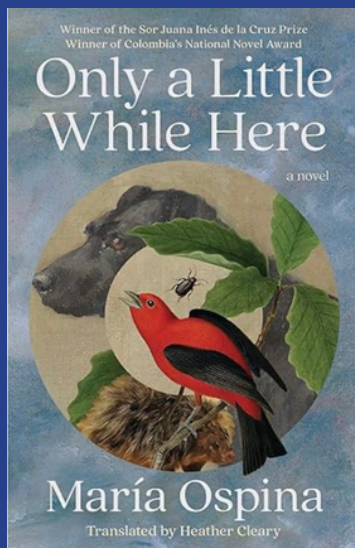
A Climate Thought: How Do We Look at Resources?

At a recent Energize Acton event, folks gathered to reflect upon the book, *Is a River Alive?*, by Robert Macfarlane. One reason Macfarlane embarked upon the book was his love for the beautiful and geologically unique chalk rivers of England and the reality of their significant deterioration. This led him to the “Rights of Nature” movement and the 2017 New Zealand Court decision to grant special status to the Whanganui River, saying that the river is an “indivisible and living whole.” (27) The decision came after a long campaign by the Maori people, for whom the watershed is sacred. Macfarlane writes, “To its recognition of the river as alive, the Act adds a second dramatic innovation: the river is also recognized as a ‘legal person, with the capacity to represent itself in court and to bear rights—the right to flow unpolluted and undammed to the sea, for example, and the right to flourish.’ The Act establishes a body of River Guardians known as Te Pou Tupua, who constitute the river’s ‘human face.’” (28)

The phrase, “the right to flourish,” is compelling. For the last few hundred years, western thought has focused on the flourishing of humans (or at least certain humans), with little consideration for impacts on the natural world or on the communities near resource extraction. Would it be possible for our lands, waters, and skies to flourish along with people? What would that look like for our priorities and our lifestyles? For those among us who have read *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, we get a glimpse of such a life. For Kimmerer, resource use is based on the concept of reciprocity and gratitude, not maximum gain for a handful of people. On the other hand, another recent book--*Abundance*, by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson--argues that continued growth, utilizing smart, clean energy technology and streamlined regulation, is essential for the United States to flourish.

Why should a clean energy group write about the “Rights of Nature”? Many would argue that our biosphere is indeed an “indivisible and living whole.” How we use energy matters for the biosphere. Can we move forward using energy more wisely, valuing both human and ecological communities? Can we build new housing that considers the integrity of the land, such as suggested in Acton’s “Habitat for All”? Is abundance about stuff? Or relationships?

Book of the Month



An award-winning novel in Latin America, ***Only a Little While Here*** looks at change in the natural world through the eyes of five animals, focusing on themes of home, displacement, belonging and healing. Just out in English.

Website of the Month



Sticking to the themes of biodiversity and of our relationships with the natural world, check out the [Homegrown National Park](#) website, born out of Doug Tallamy's book, *Nature's Last Hope*, and his effort to create healthier native habitat in people's backyards.

Recipe of the Month: Crispy Quinoa Cakes w/ Red Pepper Sauce



This is another wonderful recipe from the defunct *Vegetarian Times* magazine. It has an egg and a small amount of feta cheese, but perhaps it could be adapted into a vegan dish.

1 large egg
2 Tbs. all-purpose flour
1 ½ Tbs. tahini or nut butter
1 ½ tsp. red or white wine vinegar
1 ½ cups cooked quinoa
10 oz. pkg. frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed dry

¼ cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes
¼ chopped nuts (optional)
2 oz. crumbled feta cheese
2 Tbs. finely diced onion
1 Tbs. chopped parsley or cilantro
1 clove garlic, minced
½ tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 400F. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray or use a sheet of parchment paper. Combine egg, flour, tahini, and vinegar in a bowl. Stir in the remaining ingredients until the mixture is firm enough to shape into cakes. Shape mixture into ¼ cup patties with wet hands. Bake on prepared sheet for 25 minutes, turning once, until patties are browned.

Roasted Red Pepper Sauce

1 ½ cups roasted red peppers, drained
½ cup toasted almonds
1 clove garlic
2 tsp. red wine vinegar

Puree all the ingredients in a food processor or blender.