



Energize Acton News

June 2026

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- **Resilience and Preparedness**
- **Good News, Tough News, and In-Between**
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Mon., June 1st, 4:30-5:30PM, Zoom – **The Road Ahead for Electric Vehicles**. Sponsored by Harvard Univ. Voices on Climate Change. This will cover changes in the energy market, charging infrastructure, user behaviors and availability. Info and registration [**HERE**](#).

Wed., June 3rd, 7:30pm, Zoom, -- **Lament for the Earth**. Sponsored by the BTS Center of Maine (formerly the Bangor Theological Seminary) with the Catholic Climate Covenant. Faith-based (mostly Christian) gathering to acknowledge grief for the natural world (including humans). Info and registration [**HERE**](#).

Wed., June 10th, 6:00-7:00pm, Acton Town Hall Room 204 – **Heat Pump Pizza Party**. Sponsored by the Acton Sustainability Office. Learn how heat pumps work, their cost & maintenance, and why they may be the heating/cooling source of the future. Hear about incentives available to all, plus special incentives via the Turnkey Program for middle income families on oil, propane, or electric resistance. Free pizza! Info and registration [**HERE**](#).

Tues., June 16th, 5:00-7:00pm, NARA Park Bathhouse – **Acton Emergency Preparedness Fair**. Sponsored by the Acton Sustainability Office, Fire Dept., and Human Services Office. Free food, children's activities, and emergency preparedness resources. Please drop by!

Wed., June 17th, 7:00-8:00pm, zoom – **From Gas Pumps to Charging Stations: EV Basics for Everyday Drivers**. Sponsored by MassEnergize and EnergizeActon.org. All the latest info! Register at www.bit.ly/EV-101.



HEAT PUMP PIZZA PARTY

Wednesday, June 10th | 6:00 - 7:00pm
Acton Town Hall Room 204

Join us for a talk with heat pump experts to learn about how they work and the incentives that can help you pay for them. Pizza and snacks will be provided!

Register at bit.ly/HeatPumpParty



JOIN US FOR THE

ACTON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR



¡Acompáñanos en el evento de Preparación para Emergencias en el parque de NARA! --- Junte-se a nós para o evento de Preparação para Emergências no parque em NARA! --- 欢迎参加在NARA公园举办的应急准备活动

Emergency preparedness resources, free food & kid-friendly activities!

Organized by the Acton Sustainability Office, Fire Department, and Health & Family Services



TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 5:00-7:00PM
(POP IN WHENEVER, RAIN OR SHINE!)

NARA PARK BATHHOUSE PAVILION

Contact us if you need transportation!
Sustainability@actonma.gov



From Gas Pumps TO CHARGING STATIONS: EV Basics for Everyday Drivers

Wed., June 17th, 7pm, Zoom

Save money on fuel & maintenance!

Better for your wallet. Better for our community.

Better for our future.

Register: www.bit.ly/EV-101

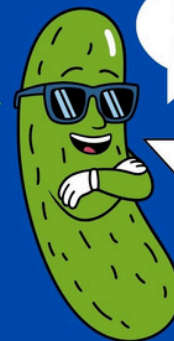
Sponsored by MassEnergize and EnergizeActon.org.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE "PETTING ZOO"

COMING IN JULY!

4TH ANNUAL PLANT-BASED POTLUCK



Fun community picnic at NARA.

Downright delicious and good for the environment.

July
22

A Climate Thought – An Acton Youth Voice



As a young adult belonging to the Gen Z generation, I know very clearly that we are tasked to solve serious climate problems that corporations, politicians and nations have created long before we were born. Now is not the time to ask why, rather it is time to put talk into action, even if it means starting change on a very small scale.

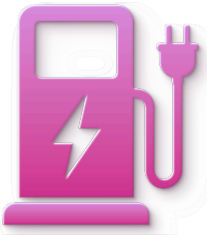
My name is Zayna Gilani and I am a resident of Acton. I went to middle school in Concord and now attend high school in Weston. I eat lunch and spend time with my friends in Wellesley, Natick, and Framingham and come back home to peaceful Acton. Across all these towns, I notice that young adults don't want to talk much about Climate Change, maybe because the effects of it have not been felt yet, but I think there is an unrealized fear of the uncertainty associated with a hurricane, snowstorm, or other extreme weather event hitting closer to home.

Having parents who grew up in the Asia, I consider myself an international citizen. I have seen climate change affect some regions more than others. Seeing the imbalance in support and awareness in regards to climate change made me inclined to do something about it. I have noticed many other people in my age group are not exposed to climate impacts, what is going on around them, and how they can make a difference. I have designed a survey, in partnership with the Acton Sustainability and Human Services departments, that will gather feedback from young adults at the **Emergency Preparedness Fair on June 16, 5:30-7:30 pm at Nara Park, Acton**. I will tabulate the results and compare them to other surveys done around the world. (See the [2022 Harris Poll](#) and [mental health articles](#).) I attended the MassEnergize 2026 Conference in April 2026, as a student representative from Acton and hope to create a team of students to participate in the conference next year. Beyond local advocacy, I am raising funds for UNICEF and hope to have them earmark the funds to put together mental health resource kits to support Pakistani elementary school children, who are navigating the psychological impact of climate disasters, particularly flooding. If we don't do our part in slowing down the damage caused by climate change, very soon there will be no planet to save.

Emergency Preparedness and Resilience

An emergency can come from many sources. How can we be better prepared for events that might be expected, like heat waves? And how about unanticipated emergencies, such as straight line wind storms (September 2023) and infrastructure crises (the gas fires in Andover, N. Andover, and Lawrence in 2018)? The Acton **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR** on June 16th (NARA Park Bathhouse, 5-7pm) is a great place to come and look for answers to questions like those above and below.

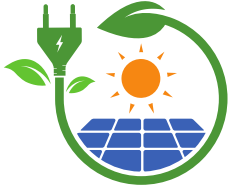
- What is a “Go Kit”?
- Could a wildfire happen in New England? Or a hurricane? What would we do?
- How do we stay safe in a heat wave?
- Can we prepare our home and yard for extreme downpours?
- Is our water supply secure in times of drought?



The Good News

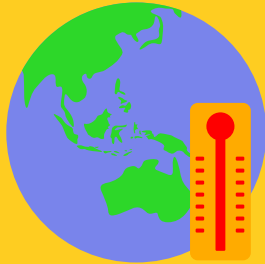
A new Eversource incentive for managed home EV charging: If you drive an EV in Massachusetts and charge at home, you can get a \$10/month discount for charging your vehicle(s) off-peak after 9:00pm and before 1:00pm. It is quite easy to sign-up, but you do need a compatible home EV charger. Get all the information [HERE](#).

Balcony Solar gets approved in Maine! Governor Janet Mills signed the “Plug-In Solar” bill into law on April 6th. The bill allows homeowners to utilize small 1200volt solar panels when installed by a licensed electrician. The [Natural Resources Council of Maine](#) writes that for “the average household in Maine, a 1,200-Watt plug-in solar system could cut electricity bills by nearly 20% or \$388 a year.” Similar legislation is being considered in Massachusetts.



The Tough News

El Niño Weather Pattern: All the meteorological indicators now say that we are moving into an El Niño climate pattern where the Pacific Ocean heats up. The question is “How much?” El Niño weather years are notable for global warming impacts, as [The Boston Globe](#) points out. El Niño events mean somewhat predictable patterns and extreme outlier events. For instance, El Niño dynamics tend to suppress Atlantic hurricanes and yet New England’s last major [hurricane, Bob](#) in 1991, struck in an El Niño year. Here are potential U.S. impacts, according to [The Globe](#). “Typically with El Niño, the northern US and Canada experience drier and warmer weather, while the Gulf Coast and Southeast US see more precipitation and flooding. We also could see heat waves, drought, and wildfires dominate the news out west this year.”



In-Between News

Democratic Governors Walking Back Climate Goals?: In May the New York State Governor won her budget priorities when the New York Legislature voted to postpone climate goals and redefine how they measure methane (i.e. natural gas) in greenhouse gas emissions. Gov. Kathy Hochul is up for re-election and argued that the original climate mandates “threatened to raise energy costs.” [Canary Media](#) writes, “That has frustrated advocates who say clean energy is actually a tool to improve affordability and quality of life.” A similar dynamic is playing out in [Rhode Island](#) with Gov. McKee, also a Democrat, and the Mass House used affordability to propose [big cuts to Mass Save](#). So far, Governor Maura Healy has made some good decisions on clean energy, but she has also used a renewable energy fund to lower consumer utility bills. This is a tough issue. Households ARE feeling economic stresses. Does cutting clean energy reduce bills? See the Green Energy Consumer Alliance answer in their latest blog, [“All of the Above’ Energy Policy Is Already Here ... It’s Not Good Enough.”](#)



Please follow us on [Facebook](#)

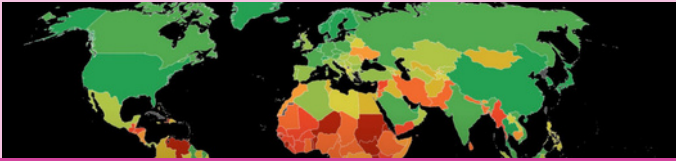



and [Instagram](#).



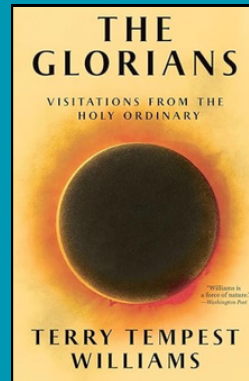
Website of the Month

The [National Center for Disaster Preparedness](#) has good research and resources, esp. their slide show, "[5 Action Steps to Preparedness.](#)"



 COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL
NATIONAL CENTER FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Book of the Month



Environmentalist [Terry Tempest Williams](#)' new book explores the "glorians," i.e. "the ordinary, often overlooked presences—animal, plant, memory, moment—that reveal our shared vulnerability and interconnectedness with the natural world." Her writing has a spiritual quality that both challenges and heals.

QUICK
CLIMATE
ACTION



This month, why not stop by the **Emergency Preparedness Fair** at NARA Park On Tuesday, June 16th, from 5:00-7:00pm. As changing climate makes weather more extreme and unpredictable, begin your own resilience planning!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: BUTTER LETTUCE SALAD W/ TOASTED HAZELNUTS



*The above photo and recipe are from the wonderful **Vegetarian Times** magazine that is no longer in print. 'Tis a quick and healthy salad to utilize all the greens becoming available.*

Adding nuts to a blended dressing helps emulsify the mixture to a smooth creaminess without the need for cream or eggs. Extra dressing from this recipe will keep in the fridge for a month.

- 1/3 cup chopped toasted hazelnuts (divided)
- 3 Tbs cider vinegar
- 1 Tbs honey
- 1 tsp whole-grain mustard
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 head butter lettuce or other variety
- 2 large radishes, trimmed and sliced thinly
- 1/4 cup finely chopped chives

Blend 2 tablespoons of the hazelnuts, the vinegar, honey, mustard, AND 1 tablespoon water in a blender or food processor until smooth. While the machine runs, slowly drizzle in the olive oil until the mixture emulsifies. Season with salt and pepper, if desired.

Combine lettuce, radishes, and chives in a large bowl. Add 3 Tbs of the dressing and toss to combine. Sprinkle with the remaining hazelnuts.