



Media Advisory

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**Students Meet with Massachusetts DEP to Discuss
Atmospheric Trust and Climate Action Plan**

WHAT: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will hold public meeting on Boston students' climate change petition for rulemaking. Students and leading environmental advocates will be available to speak with members of the press after the meeting.

WHEN: Thursday, June 13th, 3:00 – 4:30 pm Eastern Standard Time

WHERE: Massachusetts DEP Downtown Boston Office, One Winter Street
Directions available at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/about/contacts/massdep-boston-office-hours-and-directions.html>

WHY: On November 1st, 2012, in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, a group of Boston-area students hand-delivered their climate change petition for rulemaking to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Several hundred students from Boston high schools as well as Boston College Law School filed the petition in an attempt to get the State to protect Massachusetts' climate system and shorelines by adequately protecting the atmosphere, a public trust resource upon which all Massachusetts residents rely for their health and safety. Zyg Plater, nationally renowned environmental lawyer and Boston College Law Professor, works closely with the students and has helped coordinated their legal action in Massachusetts.

The petition acknowledges that Massachusetts is a national leader in taking the initiative to reduce greenhouse emissions, but urges further steps be taken to constrain greenhouse gas emissions, requesting that the Massachusetts DEP declare a rule that would require the Department to take the following steps:

- Prepare and implement a plan to ensure that, starting in 2013, statewide fossil fuel carbon dioxide emissions are reduced by 6% per year, which is what is necessary to achieve 350 ppm by the next century according to the best available science;
- Publish annual progress reports on statewide greenhouse gas emissions on the Department's website for public review;
- Consider ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 25% by 2020; and
- Adopt any necessary policies or regulations to implement the greenhouse gas constraints.

The meeting will allow the students and the greater public to submit public testimony to the Department on the proposed rule.

The Boston students' petition formally requesting the specific state regulations is part of one of the most remarkable legal strategies on climate crisis to date. The strategy was launched on May 4, 2011 as part of the TRUST Campaign, in which youth filed legal actions in 49 states and against the federal government. The filing of the Massachusetts petition is the most recent legal action filed in the Campaign. TRUST Massachusetts, the ninth film in the series, *Stories of TRUST: Calling for Climate Recovery*, tells the story of the lead Massachusetts petitioner and the ways in which she's tackling climate change in her state. To watch the film and to learn more about the TRUST Campaign, visit www.ourchildrenstrust.org.

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