

Action Toolkit



TO The Massachusetts Community
FROM Together for Waterways, Inc
DATE August 4th, 2022
SUBJECT Petitioning Massachusetts Legislators on Reduction of Nutrient Pollution

This toolkit provides information, strategies, and resources that Massachusetts residents can use to advocate for the reduction of nutrient pollution. Nutrient pollution refers to the process where too many nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus, are added to bodies of water and can cause significant water quality problems (US EPA, 2021).

Step 1: Understand the Issue

First, learn about nutrient pollution and why it's crucial to address. Nutrient pollution has a detrimental effect on water quality, causing problems such as algal blooms, which can harm human health, wildlife, and the economy.

Resources for Understanding Nutrient Pollution:

1. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) provides comprehensive information about nutrient pollution. Check their page: [Nutrient Pollution: The Problem](#)
2. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) offers resources specific to Massachusetts. Visit their page: [MassDEP Water Resources](#)
3. For a case study, you might find the "Mississippi River Basin and the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia" interesting. It offers insight into the serious impacts of nutrient pollution. [Gulf Hypoxia](#)

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Step 2: Identify Your Legislators

Use tools like 'Find My Legislator' to identify your local representatives. Knowing who they are is the first step in reaching out and petitioning them.

Resource for Identifying Legislators:

- [Find My Legislator](#)

Step 3: Research Your Legislators' Positions

Find out your legislator's voting record, public statements, and positions on nutrient pollution and related environmental issues.

Resources for Researching Legislators:

- [On The Issues](#)
- [Vote Smart](#)

Step 4: Create a Clear Message

Write a compelling and clear message for your petition. Explain the problem, why it matters to Massachusetts residents, and suggest actionable steps the legislator can take.

Example Message:

"As a constituent concerned about the health of our waters, I urge you to support and promote policies that reduce nutrient pollution. Nutrient pollution threatens our water resources, human health, wildlife, and the economy. Solutions could include supporting legislation that limits nutrient runoff from agriculture, promotes sustainable farming practices, and funds further research on nutrient pollution."

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Step 6: Meet with Your Legislators

Request a meeting with your legislators to discuss nutrient pollution. Bring a copy of your petition and any other supporting materials.

Resource for Meeting with Legislators:

- A helpful guide on "How to Meet with Your Legislator" from the Union of Concerned Scientists: [Guide](#)

Step 7: Continue to Advocate

Stay persistent and continue to push for change. Attend town meetings, submit op-eds to your local newspaper, or hold informational sessions in your community.

References

1. United States Environmental Protection Agency (2021). Nutrient Pollution: The Problem. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/problem>
2. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. MassDEP Water Resources. Retrieved from <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-environmental-protection>
3. Gulf Hypoxia. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf>
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5. On The Issues. Retrieved from <http://www.ontheissues.org>
6. Vote Smart. Retrieved from <https://justfacts.votesmart.org>
7. Nextdoor. Retrieved from <https://nextdoor.com/>
8. Union of Concerned Scientists (n.d.). How to Meet with Your Legislator. Retrieved from <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/how-meet-your-legislator>