

## SAVE THE PINE BARRENS

[www.savethepinebarrens.org](http://www.savethepinebarrens.org)

*Working to protect, preserve and steward our precious land and water resources in Southeastern Massachusetts. We are losing them fast.*



News round up!

### SOLAR GONE WRONG & STRIP MINING

#### Massachusetts

The biggest threats to Massachusetts forests & farmland right now are from multinational corporations in a rush to grab ratepayer subsidies to build industrial ground-mounted solar projects.

In Southeastern Mass this is often preceded by industrial sand mining.

This is not a climate solution but a climate disaster!

Read more to find out the latest.

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#### Carver

##### Solar

[Pull the Poles campaign](#) wins major victory: PineGate solar to replace thousands of arsenic solar poles in cranberry bogs with concrete; Massachusetts "dual use" solar subsidies called into question

Thousands of arsenic poles to be removed: Solar has gone wrong in the worst way in Carver which calls itself "Cranberry Country." Vast areas of cranberry bogs are being covered with toxic poles to mount tens of thousands of solar panels.

Read the [Pull the Poles Press Release](#) to learn more.

Solar company PineGate Renewables is facing legal liability for poisoning groundwater and tens of millions of dollars in penalties for violating permits. On Nov. 17, 2021, PineGate announced a plan to replace the arsenic solar poles. There are more questions than answers. Save the Pine Barrens is [demanding complete transparency and accountability](#).

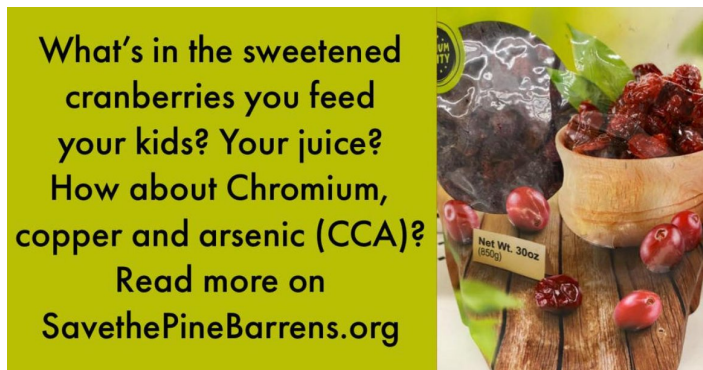
Are cranberries safe to eat? As Thanksgiving approaches, [Ocean Spray](#) has been

asked to confirm reports the company is rejecting berries harvested from the bogs with toxic poles.

State subsidy program gone wrong: The state [Department of Energy Resources](#) is directing public subsidies to these projects under the state's "SMART" solar program. DOER is taking a hands-off approach to the issue of arsenic in cranberries and drinking water. Take action and sign our call for a [Massachusetts moratorium on ratepayer and taxpayer subsidies](#) for ground-mounted solar projects that destroy forests, farmlands, and communities.

The Carver Conservation Commission [issued a stop-work order on Oct. 8, 2021](#). [Carver Conservation Commission](#) held a meeting on Wed. Nov. 17 and PineGate presented information. The Commission [announced](#) they were lifting the enforcement order and would allow PineGate to proceed with work without a new permit modification and with no public hearing as required by the Town Bylaw and state Wetlands Protection Act.

On Wed. Nov. 17, 2021, Pull the Poles held an Information Session with presentations by Dr. Maggie Vantangoli Policelli on arsenic leaching from wood, resident Nicole Thomas, and attorney Meg Sheehan of Save the Pine Barrens. A recording of this event will be available on Save the Pine Barrens' YouTube channel in the "[Carver Toxic Solar Poles playlist](#)" by the evening of November 19th.



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Media coverage:

[Upset neighbors seek answers over Carver Solar project](#)

**ACT NOW:** Massive battery storage facility [proposed](#) for residential area in Carver

This is a BIG deal. The [state siting board agency](#) is in the process of holding an "Adjudication" on this project since it is so big and has so many issues and dangers. Comments are due November 27, 2021. The last project proposed like this was on Nantucket. The residents rejected it.

**Why is Carver a sacrifice zone for the energy industry and home to so many massive projects?**

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Earth Removal:

## Wareham

Strip mining

Nearly unanimous vote YES on citizen petition at Fall Town Meeting urges Board of Selectmen to address [unregulated earth removal that has gone on for decades, depriving the town of revenue and destroying the environment.](#)

Solar

1,400 acres of ground-mounted solar in the pipeline  
Historic Fearing Hill, wetlands & homes threatened by 44-acre clear-cut of ancient Pine Barrens forest

New [comments](#) address historic and site clearing permit requirements for the [Fearing Hill solar project.](#)

Legal action is pending against the [Borrego Solar and AD Makepeace 70-acre strip mining and solar project](#) on Tihonet Pond.

Video: [Wareham, What Have We Done](#)

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## Barnstable (Cape Cod)

Wakeby Road solar developer threatens town with legal action again!

The Town of Barnstable was forced to propose new amendments to their solar ordinance that will include solar development at a 21-acre, residentially zoned, privately-owned site at 810 Wakeby Road. Two years ago, Barnstable's planning board voted against this project due to not wanting solar development in a residential area; however, TJA Clean Energy, the project's developer, filed a lawsuit against the town in April. The property lies within a Zone II Watershed Protection District. Eversource will procure the finished power project and use the carcinogenic herbicide Glyphosate to control vegetation. The spraying of this toxic chemical will occur within 75 feet of homes.

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## Norton

A [legal fight](#) continues in Norton where 10,000 solar panels and lithium-ion batteries on about 40 acres of farmland in wetlands and an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" threatens the sole source aquifer.

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## Northfield

A [Northfield](#) resident and abutter to a 126 acre Blue Wave solar project on prime farmland joined with RESTORE: The Northwoods in a lawsuit to stop the project.

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## Northhampton

Northhampton farmer's agency opposes using farmland for solar

The [Northampton Agricultural Commission issued a statement opposing dual-use solar on prime agricultural lands](#):

"Solar arrays on agricultural fields greatly limit farmers ability to use standard planting and harvesting equipment. Agricultural fields developed with solar panels receive half the sunlight as undeveloped fields and have far lower yields."

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### Amherst, Pelham & Shutesbury

Canadian corporation AMP Energy & Cows Lumber, a large landowner [team up on solar projects](#):

Seven ground-mounted solar projects threaten forests, wetlands

Amherst: [45 acres of wooded hillside with several impacts to a wetlands buffer zone](#).

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### New Hampshire

Hinsdale

NextEra Energy presents its plan for a [250-acre solar project](#) sited in between streams and wetlands that will segment vital ecosystems. If approved, this project would be the largest solar site in New Hampshire.

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### Maine

[Although solar panels are multiplying, Maine towns start to halt their construction](#):

Some Maine communities are halting large solar projects over concerns including the decommissioning and impacts on land. "Because solar panels often change ownership several times during their lifetime, Dixmont officials [said they](#) were worried about the owner of the land left having to foot the bill for decommissioning them and not having the means to do so. In that case, they feared the town could be left with the bill."

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### NATIONALLY

#### New York

1,030 acres of forests and farmlands are at risk of destruction by ground-mounted solar arrays in Alfred, New York. [What to know about the solar project proposed in Alfred](#)

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#### Mojave Desert:

[Is this really green? The fight over solar farms in the Mojave Desert](#): Proposed solar projects in the Mojave Desert would cause irreparable damage to the fragile desert ecosystem. "More than 100,000 yucca and other plants will be destroyed during construction of Yellow Pine. This year, scientists relocated more than 100 federally protected desert tortoises from the site in preparation for construction, but about 30 of those have died, possibly eaten by badgers."

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[As Demand for Green Energy Grows, Solar Farms Face Local Resistance](#):

Across the United States, local residents are fighting back against improperly sited industrial solar projects that encroach on farmlands, ecosystems, and communities.

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