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## Massachusetts Public Information Research Group Records

1971-1991

2 boxes (0.75 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 054



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A non-profit, nonpartisan organization, the Massachusetts Public Information Research Group (MASSPIRG) is an advocate for the public interest in Massachusetts. Taking a stand on issues like public health, political corruption, consumer protection, and voting rights, MASSPIRG uses the combined power of research, the media, grassroots organizing, and advocacy in order to work toward changes that will improve the lives of the citizens of Massachusetts. The records of MASSPIRG include reports on topics of research and investigation, publications for the public, newsletter and news clippings, and documents relating to the establishment of the Western Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (WMPPIRG) on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus in 1972.

## Background on MASSPIRG

"MASSPIRG is people—people taking hold of the future." – MASSPIRG flier, 1981.

Established on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus in 1972 as the Western Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, or WMPIRG, the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG) is an independent, citizen-funded, student-centered research and advocacy group which seeks to protect consumers and citizens in Massachusetts across a variety of subject areas, including health, safety, and security concerns. Founded largely as a result of then-consumer-advocate Ralph Nader's desire for college students to form political groups, MASSPIRG is one of the largest state-level Public Interest Research Groups in the country, combining research and grassroots advocacy in order to better the lives of Bay Staters.

Since its founding in 1972, MASSPIRG has performed investigations and published reports on matters of public concern. From its first report on dangerous toys on store shelves in Western Massachusetts to its campaigns today advocating for safe energy and avoiding the overuse of pesticides, MASSPIRG has fought for consumer protection since its inception. The organization also published a series of booklets and pamphlets in the 1970s in order to assist consumers with issues such as "How to Sue in Small Courts" and a directory of health care professionals in Western Massachusetts. MASSPIRG continues to advocate for consumers in the Bay State today and is an excellent example of student political activism and local civic organizations in New England.

## Scope of collection

The MASSPIRG Records are useful for researchers interested in public advocacy, grassroots civic organizations, and student political activity. Materials of note featured in the collection include numerous reports and investigations by MASSPIRG on a variety of subjects, ranging from dangerous toys on store shelves in Western Massachusetts to case overloads for district judges in New England. Other notable materials include publications by MASSPIRG to inform the public about various topic, such as proper banking practices, and documents related to the founding of MASSPIRG at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1972 as the Western Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (WMPIRG).

Also included in the collection are advertisements and fliers for MASSPIRG, newsletters published by the organization, news clippings and press releases related to MASSPIRG and its campaigns, as well as correspondence for recruiting UMass faculty and professors to join MASSPIRG or its campaigns.

## Inventory

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Advertisements: MASSPIRG

1981-1982, undated

Box 1: 1

Advertisements: MASSPIRG Intern Program

1983

Box 1: 2

Advertisements: Renewable Energy Campaign

1980-199?

Box 1: 3

Correspondence: MASSPIRG Public Service Internship Program

undated

Box 1: 4

Correspondence: University of Massachusetts Amherst Faculty and Professors

1972-1987 Sep

Box 1: 5

MASSPIRG Newsletters

1973

Box 1: 6

MASSPIRG Newsletters

1974-1976 Feb

Box 1: 7

MASSPIRG Newsletters

1976 Sep-1981 Spring

Box 1: 8

MASSPIRG Newsletters

1981 Fall-1985 Apr

Box 1: 9

MASSPIRG Newsletters

1985 Sep-1991 Jan  
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Proposal Drafts for Creation of WMPIRG  
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Summary of Testimony in Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities  
1979 Apr  
Box 2: 8  
University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees Activity Summary  
1972  
Box 2: 9  
University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
1972 May  
Box 2: 10

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Massachusetts Public Information Research Group.

### Processing Information

Processed by Joseph Liporace, March 2018.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Massachusetts Public Information Research Group Records (MS 054 bd). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

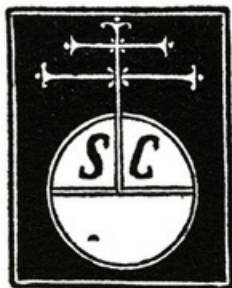
Amherst (Mass.)  
Massachusetts Public Information Research Group  
Massachusetts--Politics and government  
Students--Political activity  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

### Contributors

Massachusetts Public Information Research Group **[main entry]**

### Genres and formats

Annual reports  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Fliers (printed matter)  
Official reports  
Periodicals



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