

SENATE No. 1987

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to expand the green communities program to mitigate climate change.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2019</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/11/2019</i>
<i>Cindy F. Friedman</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2019</i>

SENATE No. 1987

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1987) of Jason M. Lewis, Mike Connolly, William N. Brownsberger, Jennifer E. Benson and other members of the General Court for legislation to expand the green communities program to mitigate climate change. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to expand the green communities program to mitigate climate change.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 25A of the General Laws is hereby amended in section 10 by
2 striking subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following new subsection:-
3 (b) The division shall establish a green communities program. The purpose of the
4 program shall be to provide technical and financial assistance, in the form of grants and loans, to
5 municipalities and other local governmental bodies that qualify as green communities and or
6 green plus communities under this section. These loans and grants shall be used to finance all or
7 a portion of the costs of studying, designing, constructing and implementing energy efficiency
8 activities, including but not limited to, energy conservation measures and projects; procurement
9 of energy management services; installation of energy management systems; adoption of demand
10 side reduction initiatives; deployment of energy storage, microgrids, or district energy systems
11 connected to renewable energy generation; installation of zero-emissions vehicles, charging
12 equipment or infrastructure, or related technologies; coordination of residential or small business

13 clean energy outreach, technical assistance, or financing programs; and the adoption of energy
14 efficiency policies. They shall also be used to finance the siting and construction of renewable
15 and alternative energy projects on municipally-owned land.

16 SECTION 2. Said section 10 is hereby further amended by inserting after subsection (c)
17 the following new subsection:-

18 (c ½) To qualify as a green plus community, a municipality or other governmental body
19 shall: (1) file an application with the division in a form and manner to be prescribed by the
20 division; (2) establish an greenhouse gas emissions baseline inventory for residential,
21 commercial and industrial buildings sited within the municipality, which may also include
22 transportation and other sources of emissions within the municipality; (3) put in place a
23 comprehensive program whose implementation begins within 1 year from the date of initial
24 participation in the program, designed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions baseline inventory
25 by a percentage approved by the division that is not less than 20 per cent within 5 years of initial
26 participation in the program; and (4) fulfill qualifications subsection 2 through 6 inclusive of the
27 green community program as described in section (c). Preference shall be given to those
28 municipalities that include additional sources of emissions within their greenhouse gas emissions
29 baseline inventory. Not later than one year after the adoption of this section, the division shall
30 adopt a tracking system for community-wide greenhouse gas emissions, to include but not be
31 limited to the building, transportation, energy, and waste sectors that can be used by
32 municipalities. The secretary may waive these requirements based on a written finding that due
33 to unusual circumstances, a municipality cannot reasonably meet all of the requirements and the
34 municipality has committed to alternative measures that advance the purposes of the green plus
35 communities program as effectively as adherence to the requirements.

36 SECTION 3. Said section 10 is hereby further amended in subsection (d) by striking the
37 figure “20,000,000” and inserting in place thereof “40,000,000 with not less than \$10,000,000
38 going to green plus communities”.

39 SECTION 4. Said section 10 is hereby further amended in subsection (e) by inserting at
40 the end the following sentence:--

41 “The division may also adopt regulations enabling those communities served by
42 municipal lighting plants to participate in the green communities program through alternate
43 means which shall include consideration of, but not be limited to, a funding match from
44 municipal light plant on behalf of the served community.”