

An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity, and Protecting Ratepayers

This sweeping legislation to empower the state's fight against climate change and accelerate progress towards the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

It was signed into law by Governor Healey on November 20, 2024.

Highlights

- 1 Expedites Siting & Permitting**
 - Large projects that require state, regional, and local permits will be ***consolidated into a single permit*** that requires ***action within 15 months***
 - Small projects with multiple local permits will also be ***consolidated into a single permit*** and require ***action within 12 months***
 - Requires the ***Energy Facilities Siting Board*** to ***first consider maximizing the efficiency of current infrastructure*** before approving new construction
 - Creates an ***online clean energy infrastructure dashboard*** to promote ***transparency and public accountability*** in real time
- 2 Protects Residents from High Costs**
 - Incentivizes gas companies to pursue the expansion of climate- and cost-friendly ***networked heat pump systems*** and ***geothermal heating***
 - Directs the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to ***consider greenhouse gas impacts*** when it weighs a petition by a gas company to expand
 - ***Saves residents money*** by considering climate-friendly alternatives to leak-prone pipes instead of automatically replacing them with new natural gas pipes
 - Establishes a special legislative commission to ***study the impacts of the energy transition and decarbonization*** on the current workforce
 - Directs utility providers to ***offer lower rates*** to eligible low-income and moderate-income utility consumers

MassSenate

Signed into Law

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- 3 Builds Out Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure**
 - Makes *pole-mounted charger installation easier* on streets and in parking lots
 - Centralizes *statewide coordination of charger installation* via the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council (EVICC), which will be responsible for:
 - Identifying sites for a *statewide network of fast charging hubs* along highways and major roadways
 - Forecasting *EV charging demand* and determining its *impact on the electric distribution grid* over the next ten years
 - Extends the *MOR-EV program* through 2027, giving residents more opportunities to qualify for a *\$3,500 to \$6,000 rebate* for the purchase of qualifying new or used electric vehicles
- 4 Addresses Fusion Energy & Battery Storage**
 - Makes Massachusetts the *first state in the nation* to *add fusion energy* to the list of Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Class I renewable energy generating source
 - Sets a *5,000 MW energy storage procurement* to back up intermittent clean energy resources such as solar and wind
 - Authorizes DOER to *coordinate with other New England states* to consider competitive solicitations for long-term clean energy generation
- 5 Advances Offshore Wind & Solar Energy**
 - Allows future offshore wind contracts to be set for *terms of 15 to 30 years*
 - *Expands existing tax credits* for offshore wind facility employers
 - Establishes new policies to *facilitate the deployment of solar energy* through updates to historic district laws
 - Expands *affordability and access for low-income customers in the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program* and authorizes the transfer of SMART solar credits to customers
- 6 Increases Access to Advanced Metering Infrastructure**
 - Supports the roll out of *smart meters*, communications networks and data management systems
 - Allows customers to *install EV chargers or heat pumps* without the need for expensive electrical upgrades

“To deal with climate change, we need to build up the power supply without swamping the household budget. People want to keep the electricity coming and they also want to be able to pay their bills. This legislation is about both.”

– Senator Mike Barrett, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

