



2019-2020 Legislative Priorities for Massachusetts

TOP TIER PRIORITIES



1. **BUILD GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & LOWER EMISSIONS through: CARBON FEE & REBATE**

BILL: H.2810 (Rep. Benson)

- Puts a price on carbon, charging polluters for each ton of carbon dioxide their products release.
- Invests \$400 to \$600 million per year (30%) in local clean transportation, renewable energy projects and resilience.
- Provides more funding for **Fuel Assistance** for low-income households starting at \$16 million per year and increasing to \$29 million per year.
- Returns 70% of revenues to households and businesses via rebates, paid twice annually. Provides higher rebates to low- and moderate-income households, protecting them from any increases in energy costs; and
- Protects rural residents who drive more, and businesses exposed to greater competitive pressures.

Imposes a carbon fee beginning with \$20 per ton which would scale up to \$40 per ton over four years. If Massachusetts falls behind mandated carbon reductions the price will increase an additional \$5/ton per year. 30% of revenues raised will fund a **Green Infrastructure Fund**. At least 40% of those funds must be used for projects that benefit low-income households and communities. Massachusetts must assess a carbon fee on methane leaks from the natural gas distribution system.

Read more at: http://www.mipandl.org/advocate/Low_Moderate_Income.pdf

And www.MassCleanEnergyFuture.org

Read the bill at: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2810>

2. **CUT CARBON POLLUTION TO ZERO BY 2050 & CREATE A CONCRETE PLAN TO DO IT!**

BILL: H. 832 (Rep. Meschino)

- Requires carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Sets interim emission limits of
 - » at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and
 - » at least 75% by 2040.
- Authorizes carbon pricing; requires identification of pathways to eliminate carbon from all sectors.
- Prioritizes local jobs and protections for low and moderate-income families and those subject to disproportionate environmental burdens.

Read the bill at: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H832>

3. JUSTICE FOR THE VULNERABLE AND THE OPPRESSED

A. MAKE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THE LAW!

BILLS: S.464/H.761 (Sen. Eldridge/Rep. Dubois & Rep. Miranda)

Environmental Justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws.

- Modify the requirements for state agency environmental impact reports to include consideration of public health impacts and take into account EJ communities when siting dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure.
- Ensure multi-lingual outreach and consultation when projects undergoing environmental review are proposed in EJ communities.
- Create a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) bank, which would maintain an inventory of environmentally beneficial projects in EJ communities that may be funded by violators in lieu of paying the penalties required in the settlement of enforcement actions.

Read the bill at: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S464>

B. SOLAR EQUITY

BILLS: H.2877 (Rep. Holmes) and S.1931 (Sen. Chang-Diaz; H.2843 (Rep. Dykema)

- Eliminates barriers to development of community & low and moderate-income solar.
- Ensures meaningful savings for low- and moderate-income solar customers and renters.
- Directs electricity distribution companies to purchase any credits produced by a solar facility at the rates provided by statute, without discount or penalty.

SECOND TIER PRIORITIES



UTILITY SCALE WIND: H.2920 (Rep. Rogers)

- Compels Massachusetts to collaborate with other New England states to explore issuing a joint procurement for 6 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind.
- Between 4 and 9 GW of old fossil fuel and nuclear power will close in coming years.

TRANSPORTATION THAT SERVES THE MARGINALIZED: H.3008, & S.2116 (Rep. Ehrlich and Sen. Lesser)

- Implements a regional transportation climate policy currently under discussion among 9 states.
- Invests proceeds in modern, equitable, clean transportation, including mass transportation, electric vehicles, and affordable housing near transit.
- Creates a 15-member investment board and an inclusive public process to ensure equitable investments and to ensure input from marginalized communities and other stakeholders.

AMBITIOUS GOALS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY: S.2005 (Sen. Pacheco) and H.2802 (Rep. Balsler)

- Updates the Commonwealth's greenhouse gas requirements to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- Raises annual Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 3% putting us on pace for 50% renewable energy by 2030.
- Eliminates the solar net-metering cap.

This is the Senate omnibus act that passed last session. It includes a requirement to establish a carbon pricing mechanism, and solar and electrical vehicle (EV) initiatives.

Regarding these and other climate and energy bills worthy of support see:

<https://www.environmentalleague.org/our-work/priorities/priority-issues/>

<https://www.sierraclub.org/massachusetts/2019-2020-legislative-priorities>

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