

2050 Roadmap Section-by-Section Summary

Sections 1 - 5: Clarify and Expand Regulatory Authority

Amends and adds to existing GWSA definitions to authorize EEA and DEP to regulate transportation and heating fuels. Expands the definition of “market-based compliance mechanisms” to include any priced compliance system including direct carbon pricing.

- Section 1: Direct emissions
 - Includes all emissions from transportation vehicles, buildings, and all industrial processes.
- Section 2: Greenhouse gas-emitting priority and Section 3: Indirect emissions
 - Adds new definitions related to fossil fuels and potential carbon pricing of fuels.
- Section 4: Market-based compliance mechanism
 - Authorizes carbon pricing (current language could be interpreted to allow only cap-and-trade).
- Section 5: Regulation
 - Requires DEP to monitor and to regulate GHG priorities and related indirect emissions as needed to achieve GWSA emissions limits.

Section 6: A new 2050 Carbon Emission Reduction Goal

- Updates GWSA’s 2050 statewide emissions limit from ‘80x50’ to **net-zero by 2050**
 - Based on a 2018 IPCC report, which called for limiting global warming increase to 1.5°C by 2050 to avoid dire climate change impacts.

Section 7: Eliminate the Sec. 3(d) Sunset Clause

- Strikes the GWSA Section 3(d) 2020 sunset clause to clarify the long-term enforceability of the in-state power plant emissions cap in keeping with the SJC’s ruling in *NEPGA v. DEP*, 480 Mass. 398 (2018).

Section 8: Global Warming Solutions Implementation Act

Establishes a new Chapter 21N½, the Global Warming Solutions Implementation Act.

- Section 1: Definitions
 - Uses same definitions as GWSA
- Section 2: Comprehensive 2050 Analysis
 - Requires a backcast analysis of multiple pathways to net-zero by 2050 by December 31, 2020
 - Requires an analysis of the economic, environmental, and public health impacts, particularly the benefits or burdens low- and moderate-income people and Environmental Justice populations.
- Section 3: Set Interim Limits

- Requires 2030 and 2040 limits to be set together by the end of 2020, at levels supported by the backcast analysis.
- Requires the limits to be set at no less than the “straight line” from 25% in 2020 to net zero by 2050 (i.e. at least 50% by 2030, and 75% by 2040).
- Section 4: Create New Comprehensive, People-centered Climate Action Plan
 - Requires the creation of a 2050 Roadmap Plan based on Sec. 2 analysis by December 2022
 - 2050 Roadmap would address all sources of greenhouse gas emissions, indicating for each how, to what extent, and when the Commonwealth will act to reduce emissions in order to reach net-zero by 2050.
 - This new 2050-focused roadmap plan would replace the current reporting mechanism - the Clean Energy and Climate Plan, which has a short-term, five year outlook.
- Section 5: Implementation Assessment Report
 - Requires an annual Global Warming Solution Act Implementation Assessment Report to assess the effectiveness of all regulations and programs designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Calls for a public input on policy performance.
- Section 6: Regulations
 - Sets a December 31, 2022 deadline for the promulgation of new regulations needed to reach net zero by 2050.
 - Requires the design of these regulations to prioritize equity, with specific protections for low- and moderate-income individuals and Environmental Justice populations.
 - Requires focus on job creation and economic development.
 - Allows, but does not require, for the regulations to include a market-based compliance mechanism.
- Section 7: Administrative Implementation Fee
 - Levies a fee on the state’s 296 top greenhouse gas emitters to fund the work of Chapters 21N and 21N½.
- Section 8: Municipal Light Plants
 - Clarifies that Municipal Light Plants (MLP) are regulated pursuant to the GWSA and GWSIA.
 - Requires the Secretary of EEA to take into account size, structure, existing programs, contractual obligations, and asset ownership..
 - Allows for the Secretary to authorize an alternative compliance plan for an individual MLP to achieve GHG reduction limits.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why Net-Zero by 2050?

The science is clear. In October of 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report calling to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C. A key recommendation is to reduce carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050.

Why is the Global Warming Solutions Act the best vehicle for these changes?

The GWSA is a proven, court-tested framework that has guided Massachusetts' nation-leading climate action since 2008. The GWSA should be updated, based on our knowledge and experience to date, to guide action over the next three decades. Creating a new or duplicative framework would waste time, resources, and effort.

How is this “people-centered”? Will it help protect vulnerable populations?

The 2050 Roadmap bill puts people front and center by requiring a quantitative analysis of potential economic, environmental, and public health impacts on low-income and moderate-income households and Environmental Justice communities. New emissions reduction regulations would be designed to minimize such impacts. Building these protections into the GWSA provides an opportunity for this legislation to lift up people and communities that are particularly vulnerable to disproportionate climate-related harm.

What is a backcast analysis?

Backcast analysis is an integrated, multi-sector scenario analysis that starts with the 2050 goal and works backward to the present to develop an emission reduction schedule. The 2050 Roadmap bill requires the plan include multiple pathways..

Why change the current reporting structure?

The current reporting structure is short term. We also need more frequent performance data on how we are doing and where we are headed. The 2050 Roadmap would repurpose existing reports to ensure that Massachusetts has a comprehensive plan out to 2050 that is updated every 2 ½ years based on annual Implementation Assessment Reports.

Why remove the sunset clause relative to Section 3(d) of the GWSA?

A recent court ruling involving the original GWSA created uncertainty a 2017 DEP regulation that imposed declining annual limits on carbon emission from fossil-fuel fired power plants from 2020 to 2050. Removing the original “sunset clause” will align the GWSA with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling in *NEPGA v. DEP*, 480 Mass. 398 (2018).

Why does this bill include an implementation fee?

We need a reliable source of funding to conduct the work required by the GWSA. The bill proposes a logical mechanism (modeled on a successful program in California) to impose a new pro-rata fee on our largest in-state emitters.

Why are Municipal Light Plants being singled out?

MLPs are NOT being singled out. MLPs purchase 15% of power statewide. Yet, MLPs were exempt from the original law. The 2050 Roadmap bill includes MLPs in the long-term plan to reduce carbon emission while honoring the unique business model and protecting the invaluable public service MLPs provide. As significant energy generators and distributors in Massachusetts, we need MLPs to work in concert with other power generator and distributors to reach our net-zero goal.

Advocacy Groups Supporting this Legislation



Ceres

CERES



Clean Air Task Force



Conservation Law Foundation



Elders Climate Action



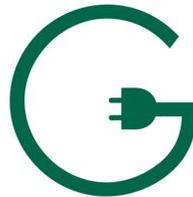
Environmental League
Of Massachusetts



Environmental
Entrepreneurs

**Gas Leaks
Allies**

Gas Leaks Allies



Green Energy Consumers
Alliance



Health Care
Without Harm



League of Women
Voters



Metropolitan Area
Planning Council



Mass Climate
Action Network



The Nature Conservancy



RENEW Northeast



Union of Concerned
Scientists