

CACC LEGISLATIVE GROUPS 2023-4 PRIORITIES

Cape Ann Climate Coalition's legislative group has taken the 6000 bills introduced in this legislative session, about 500 of which were related to climate, and chosen 27 bills that we have prioritized to support. These 27 bills are divided into the following categories: Adaptation and Financing, Transportation, Recycling/Producer Responsibility, Building Decarbonization, Environmental Justice and Natural Systems. We have added brief descriptions of the bills in most cases and some fact sheets when available for further understanding. This is a lot of information. We suggest you start with a category you are already interested in and read more about the bills you especially care about.

Shout out to our State Senator Bruce Tarr for co-sponsoring 7 of the 8 bills we prioritized in the important natural systems category.

ADAPTATION/FINANCING

An Act Establishing a Climate Change Superfund and Promoting Polluter Responsibility-"Make Polluters Pay" S.481/H.872

Creates a Climate Change Adaptation Superfund of 75 billion over years for climate change adaptation projects across the state. Funded by payments made by profits from biggest GHG polluters, proportional to their contributing share of emissions from 2000-2019. No less than 35 percent to go to projects in EJ communities. Requirement to fund projects with high labor and materials standards for large projects.

[Polluter Responsibility Superfund Fact Sheet and FAQ's.](#)

An Act Providing for Climate Change Adaptation Infrastructure and Affordable Housing Investments in the Commonwealth- "The Hero Act" S.1799/H.2894

Would double the current Deeds Excise Tax from 4.56 per 1,000 to 9.12 per 1,000 upon sale of real property in MA. Estimated to generate 300 million per year. Money allocated 50 percent to Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Housing Preservation Stabilization Fund and 50 percent to Global Warming Solutions Trust Fund for climate mitigation and adaptation action steps in line with MA Clean Energy Commission's Climate Plan. This bill makes investments in EJ communities a priority.

See Hero Act Coalition <https://www.mahousingclimate.org>

+An Act Establishing a Zero Carbon Renovation Fund" H.3232/S.2365,-"ZCRF" This bill funds \$300 million to jumpstart building decarbonization by (1) maximizing energy efficiency through building envelope upgrades, (2) electrification of building systems, (3) maximizing usage of on-site renewable energy, wherever possible, and (4) use of building retrofit materials that are low embodied carbon. Senator Tarr co-sponsored

TRANSPORTATION

An Act relative to setting deadlines to electrify the commuter rail S.2217/H.3392

Establishes a timeline for electrification of commuter rail systems. Priority to lines serving EJ communities. Endorsed by MBTA's Fiscal Management Control Board 2019.

An Act setting deadlines for school bus and public fleet electrification and progress to encouraging electrification of private fleets S.2218/H.3139

Requires all publicly owned and leased fleets ie state, municipal and school buses, with at least 25vehicles to be all electric by 2035.

RECYCLING/PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

The three paint stewardship bills are listed and linked below.

<u>H823</u>	Representative Patricia Haddad
<u>S551</u>	Senator Patrick O'Connor
<u>S542</u>	Senator Susan Moran

Passing one of these bills would make end-of-life management of both latex and oil-based **paint** easier, more environmentally friendly and less costly for municipalities and consumers. These bills put the paint industry in charge of managing these products, through an advanced recovery fee at the point of purchase. Here is the [link](#) to a simple one pager about this legislation."

Bottle Bill #s

S.2104/H.3690 An Act to Expand the Bottle Bill- Sen Creem. Rep Decker
League of Women Voters Summary [Summary](#)

BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

An Act relative to the future of clean heat in the Commonwealth "Future of Clean Heat" S.2105/H.3203

Changes the General Law to promote the transition of buildings from gas to electricity produced by non-emitting sources. Requires the DPU to file plan transitioning utility company's pipeline infrastructure from emitting sources to non-emitting renewable sources of thermal energy. After Jan 0 DPU will not approve expansion of gas infrastructure. DPU may not approve any distribution of hydrogen to commercial or residential buildings. Establishes Thermal Transition Trust Fund to enable ratepayers to transition from fossil fuels and to train existing gas workers.

Ten Reasons to Love the Future of Clean Heat Legislation.

Just the basics start at 4.00 mins in and stop at 19.10 mins. It's really well done, good for wide audience, on transitioning off of gas to clean heat.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKNP1i4iE&t=439s&ab_channel=MothersOutFrontLearningChannel

An Act relative to making methane accounting truthful helps "MATH" S.2092/H.873

If we aren't recording methane accurately how can we calculate its impact on the climate with any accuracy. This bills addresses current practice for measuring methane emissions and improves its accuracy.

[summary](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

An Act to establish a clean heating initiative in the Commonwealth and reorganize the energy efficiency programs known as MassSave "Sen Barrett's Mass Save Reform bill" S.2082

From the Barrett Report:

With respect to Mass Save, our most important program for reducing emissions from buildings, current law provides for no visible leadership -- no board of directors, no chief executive officer or general manager, no one accountable to the Legislature or the public. What current law does do is put the state's natural gas companies in charge of helping households and businesses move away from ... natural gas. This is a conflict of interest that has to end.

The legislation I propose would give Mass Save a new name, the Commonwealth Clean Heating Initiative, and a new governance structure, headed by a Board of Directors and a CEO. The transition away from natural gas would be in appropriate hands. The utilities would still have a seat at the table, but not at the head of the table.

An Act relative to Mass Save assessments "Sen Creem's Mass Save bill" S.2103

This bill creates a free and comprehensive home energy assessment that would facilitate fixing and tightening the building envelope of properties so that building electrification is more successful. It encourages heat pumps for home heating and hot water heaters, tight weatherization and air sealing, electric stoves and dryers. Mass Save is obligated to provide a detailed report and help customers with available incentives and rebates.

An Act relative to Energy Facilities Siting Reform to address environmental justice and Public Health "Energy Facilities Siting bill" S.2113/H.3187

Ensures EJ, public health and climate are part of the Energy Facilities Siting Board's responsibilities. Enhances community engagement in siting process. Cumulative impact statement and EJ statement must occur before approval of energy generating facility, oil, gas or substation. Prohibits approval if EJ statement shows project will result in public harm to EJ populations.

Factsheet for Energy Facilities <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nKxd8cG-ErTqCPrlzGThHP3HDT2KUbe9/view>

NATURAL SYSTEMS

7 of these 8 bills Sen Tarr has co-sponsored. 2 of them Rep Ferrante co-sponsored. Noted Tarr with +, both of them with ++

3 Land Use

+H.894 An Act Relative to Forest Management and Practices Guidelines - Reps Sabadosa and Saunders

Places a moratorium on logging on DCR State Forest and DFW wildlife management areas and creates an independent advisory council to study best land management practices with year reviews of DCR and DFW and establishes 30 percent of DCR and DFW public lands to be designated as permanent reserves. [H.894 background 20230314.pdf](#)

+ H.906/S.457 An Act to Accelerate + Streamline Wetlands Restoration -Sen Crighton Rep Shand

The Sec of EEA will undertake streamlining of wetlands restoration and coordinator named to facilitate permitting paths for nature-based wetlands restoration projects. Supported by Audubon

S.452/H.869 An Act Establishing the Municipal Reforestation Program - Sen Creem, Rep Owens

Trees provide relief from heat islands, capture carbon, and improve air quality. This helps mitigate the effects of drought, enhances community health and resilience, and fosters contact with nature while promoting biodiversity. This bill provides funding and technical assistance for communities to expand tree cover, **improve** air quality, resilience and livability in urban areas, especially marginalized environmental justice communities.

[Municipal Reforestation](#)

4 Pesticides/Pollinators/Pollution

++S.487/H.825 An Act Relative to Pesticides-

Modernizes Pesticide Reporting AND protect children from pesticide exposure. This combined bill, which was approved by both chambers last year, would create an online portal and database for pesticide use reporting records with clear, online public access to the annual data and it would require that pesticides be proven safe before being used on playgrounds and fields where children learn and play.

++S.1356/H.2197 An Act to Protect MA Public Health from PFAS – Sen Cyr, Rep Hogan. This bill broadly implements the recommendations of the April 2022 PFAS Interagency Task Force. While these chemicals, Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), were banned from manufacture in the USA 2015, the fact is they are still incorporated into innumerable consumer products. These are the single biggest toxic chemical threat we face as a nation and they are ubiquitous. Everything that is water or stain resistant or repellent uses them. Artificial turf has them and it sheds. The most important part of the bill is that it “turns off the tap” of toxic PFAS by banning its use in almost all products. These chemicals have been determined to cause testicular cancer, a very difficult standard, and are associated with many other health problems. These chemicals have been determined by the EPA to be toxic, and in parallel with efforts such as this, Massachusetts is working towards a tight detection limit for these chemicals in the water supply. Providing safety all of our citizens and providing upstream elimination of harmful contaminants is good human and environmental policy.

Fact Sheet LWV: [Summary](#)

S.479/H.742 An Act Protecting Pollinators by Eliminating Harmful Products– Sen Eldridge, Rep Arena-DeRosa

Pollinators that we depend on are facing serious threats. Neonicotinoid pesticides kill or deleteriously affect a wide variety of target and non-target insects and have been linked to a variety of adverse ecological effects. This bill strengthens a ban on products containing neonicotinoids which are harmful to bees, butterflies, birds, and aquatic invertebrates.

+S.520/H.843 An Act to Protect Pollinator Habitat – Sen Jason Lewis, Rep Mary Keefe

Establishes a special commission to study statewide opportunities for improving pollinator health by increasing and enhancing native pollinator habitat in both developed and natural areas such as farm field borders, forest borders, residential areas, parks, urban areas, industrial areas, energy transmission corridors, energy generating facilities and transportation corridors.

1 Protection of the Dark Sky

+S.2102/H.3164 An Act to Improve Outdoor Lighting, Conserve Energy and Increase Dark-Sky Visibility – Sen Creem, Rep Garaballey

Maintaining nighttime darkness promotes health for all of nature's biodiversity. This bill will limit outdoor lighting color, temperature and illuminance to reasonable and safe levels - conserving energy and increasing the visibility of our awe-inspiring night sky.