

Priority Bills of CACC for Decarbonizing Transportation and Buildings

DECARBONIZATION BILLS

Transportation

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

Establishes a timeline for electrification of commuter rail systems. Priority is given 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 to Ways and Means

Sets deadline dates for all publicly owned and leased fleets ie state, municipal and school buses to predictably transition to being electric by 2035.

Building Decarbonization

An Act relative to the Future of Clean Heat in the Commonwealth "Future of Clean Heat" S.2105/H.3203 Sent to Ways and Means

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.

Decarbonization Funding

+An Act Establishing a Zero Carbon Renovation Fund" H.3232/S.2365,-ZCRF-to Ways and Means 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. Tarr co-sponsored

Priority Bills of CACC for Promotion of Environmental Justice

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BILLS

Mass Save Bills

An Act to Establish a Clean Heating Initiative in the Commonwealth and Reorganize the Energy Efficiency Programs Known as MassSave "Senator Mike Barrett's Mass Save Reform bill" S.2082 Sent to Ways and Means

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 "Senator Cynthia Creem's Mass Save bill" S.2103-deadline extended to June 2024.

The Mass Energy Technology Center would develop a no cost, zero carbon energy assessment to be made available to all Mass Save customers. Measures would include identifying the needs for building insulation, air sealing, air quality measures, wiring upgrades, upgraded windows and doors, replacing fossil fuel appliances with electric. Customers would receive a report identifying each emission reduction measure with explanation of how much comfort, safety, health and cost saving would result from each measure.

Meanwhile the State is taking public comment currently to the [Energy Efficiency Advisory Council](#) (EEAC) for the next Mass Save Three-Year Plan (2025-2027) that is currently being drafted by participating utilities. Click link for Council above for next Council meeting to comment or ability to submit an online public comment. Next link is to a helpful document to better understand the issues and help you draft your comment.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1--HpHjlnqtovUkV7ZX0qyXydpThv25BkK2RyTxLBMU/edit>

Housing and Climate Equity Funding

An Act Providing for Climate Change Adaptation Infrastructure and Affordable Housing Investments in the Commonwealth-Sits in the Revenue Committee and deadline for decision extended to April 30, 2024. "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. It makes investments in EJ communities a priority.

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

Priority Bills of CACC for Protecting our Natural Environment

NATURAL SYSTEMS BILLS Legislator support indicated by +S for Senator Tarr, ++S Both he and Rep. Ferrante

Urban Tree Cover

+S.452/H.869 **An Act Establishing the Municipal Reforestation Program** - Sen Creem, Rep Owens-to Ways and Means

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.

Pesticides/Pollinators/Pollution

++S.487/H.825 **An Act Relative to Pesticides**-to Ways and Means as H.825,accompanied by S.487 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.479/H.742 **An Act Protecting Pollinators by Eliminating Harmful Products**– Sen Eldridge, Rep Arena-DeRosa-to Ways and Means

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.

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 to Ways and Means

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.

Recycling and Producer Responsibility Bills

+S H.426 **An Act to Save Recycle Costs** Three paint stewardship bills (H.823,S.551 and S.542) were sent to Ways and Means. They were sent there combined into a new draft bill H.426 The new bills added them to a few other related bills. Combined they 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.