

2023



INAUGURAL  
REPORT  
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REPORT  
REPORT



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



# **MASSACHUSETTS**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**



**2023 INAUGURAL REPORT**



“2023 was the hottest year on record, and here in Massachusetts, our communities were not immune. A drought dried out our lands, only to be replaced with record rainfall. Dams broke and sinkholes opened as water flowed. Farmers saw entire crops washed away, frozen, or hit with a devastating mold. The weather was a stark reminder of what’s at stake in the clean energy transition. But there are so many reasons to not only be hopeful – but to be excited. Against the backdrop of these storms, Massachusetts’ first offshore wind farm was built. Heat pump purchases surpassed gas furnaces for the first time. Communities came together to have hard conversations about building a resilient future. I know I speak for everyone at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs when I say it is a privilege and an honor to serve the people of Massachusetts at this critical time in our history. We are charting a course for a cleaner grid, healthier homes, and righting past wrongs of environmental injustice. It’s been a busy year, and there is so much more to do. We are proud to present a summary of our work thus far and we are committed to an even busier 2024.

**Secretary Rebecca Tepper**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Tepper', is written over a green brushstroke graphic that resembles foliage.

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# DECARBONIZE

## EQUITABLY AND AFFORDABLY



**MICHAEL JUDGE,**  
**UNDERSECRETARY OF ENERGY**

# REDUCE, CLEAN, ELECTRIFY

## HOUSING RETROFITS

The Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded \$27 million to decarbonize affordable housing across Massachusetts – the first round of funding under a \$50 million grant program that will lower energy costs and improve air quality and comfort.

**11/21/2023**

## CLIMATE LEADER COMMUNITIES

The Climate Leader Communities program will help municipalities reduce emissions by creating unique municipal targets and maximizing the efficiency of buildings and transportation.

**11/30/2023**

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 620

Created the Commission on Clean Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting that will make recommendations for regulatory and legislative reform to streamline clean energy siting this spring.

**9/26/2023**

## GRID MODERNIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

GMAC reviewed and provided recommendations on Massachusetts' electric-sector modernization plans. It is an integral part of increasing transparency and stakeholder engagement in the grid planning process.

**11/20/2023**

## CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD

MassDEP started collecting stakeholder input on options for strengthening the Massachusetts Clean Energy Standard. These options would increase the ability of the CES to bring new clean energy online and ensure that it is counted toward Massachusetts' clean energy goals.

**12/1/2023**

## \$18M FOR EQUITABLE WORKFORCE TRAINING

The Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded \$27 million to decarbonize affordable housing across Massachusetts – the first round of funding under a \$50 million grant program that will lower energy costs and improve air quality and comfort.

**8/29/2023**

## MOR-EV

The Department of Energy Resources launched new rebates for used electric vehicles, additional funds for income-eligible buyers, and rebates available the day of purchase.

**8/10/2023**

## MULTISTATE OFFSHORE WIND MOU

Massachusetts joined with Rhode Island and Connecticut to review bids from the upcoming offshore wind procurement, taking advantage of economies of scale and harnessing our regional infrastructure.

**10/4/2023**

## MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION

DPU opened an investigation and hosted a technical conference to streamline the application and approval process for municipal aggregation applications. Thirteen orders were issued to municipalities, ensuring electricity can be offered at competitive prices.

**12/20/2023**

## OFFSHORE WIND 3,600 MW SOLICITATION

The Request for Proposals is the largest ever wind solicitation in New England at 3,600 MW, more than 25% of the state's annual electricity demand. The RFP is designed with flexibility for developers and to maximize benefits for ratepayers.

**5/2/2023**

## ORDER 20-80

With Order 20-80, the DPU will no longer allow cost recovery for natural gas infrastructure without proof that non-gas alternatives were considered or for the promotion of natural gas expansion.

**8/10/2023**

## TRANSMISSION COLLABORATIVE

The Healey-Driscoll Administration led the successful formation of the Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission, a new approach to planning for electric transmission infrastructure across multiple regions.

**6/16/2023**

# CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## BUILDING TO LAST

*“The climate crisis is one of our greatest challenges, but there is enormous opportunity in our response.”*

*We have the science, data, tools and commitment to help communities understand how climate change impacts them and take action to advance resiliency and preparedness.”*



**KATHERINE ANTOS,**  
**UNDERSECRETARY OF**  
**DECARBONIZATION & RESILIENCE**

**Governor Maura Healey**

## RESILIENTMASS

Launched in October 2023, ResilientMass identifies actions state government can make to promote resiliency. In total, ResilientMass details 142 actions across state agencies that are tracked publicly at [resilient.mass.gov](https://resilient.mass.gov). Key actions include establishing an Office of Climate Science, making the state building code more resilient, and updating MBTA design standards.

## RESILIENTCOASTS

Announced in November 2023, the ResilientCoasts initiative within the Office of Coastal Zone Management is a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the coastline of Massachusetts. Led by a new Chief Coastal Resilience Officer and in collaboration with the state's 78 coastal communities, ResilientCoasts will pursue a multipronged approach to identify regulatory, policy, and funding mechanisms to develop focused long-term solutions.

## MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS

In honor of Earth Week, the Healey-Driscoll Administration relaunched the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, rooted in environmental justice. This groundbreaking initiative supports communities across the state in planning and building for a more resilient future. In August, the administration announced \$31.5 million in MVP grants, including to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans to reclaim their ancestral lands.

# \$28M

*in ARPA funds secured for the Amelia Earhart Dam and Draw Seven Park*

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021,  
Department of Conservation and Recreation

# \$20M

*directly to farmers who experience significant crop losses due to severe weather events in 2023*

Natural Disaster Recovery Program,  
Department of Agricultural Resources

# \$5.6M

*in grants to repair dams and strengthen coastal infrastructure across Massachusetts*

Dam and Seawall Repair Program,  
EEA

# \$20M

*to remove eight aging dams in Central and Western Massachusetts*

Dam and Seawall Removal Program,  
EEA

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY JUSTICE



MARÍA BELÉN POWER

## APPOINTED THE FIRST UNDERSECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

“We are in a pivotal moment for the clean energy transition, and we can’t continue to leave Black, brown, and immigrant communities behind.

After years of on-the-ground organizing in some of the most overburdened regions of our state, I know I won’t be leaving them behind. I’m bringing those lessons and people with me to this newly created role to transform how our state approaches energy, the environment, and public health.”

— *María Belén Power, Undersecretary of Environmental Justice and Equity*

## DEVELOPED THE FIRST AGENCY-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGY

This strategy will guide all agencies within the Secretariat to connect with communities historically excluded from the policymaking process and help better consider the impacts on environmental justice populations.

## SECURED HISTORIC FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Governor’s FY24 budget included historic levels of funding, not just for EEA, but specifically for programs and staff focused on environmental justice. Every EEA agency is now hiring staff to push environmental justice priorities and ensure meaningful engagement with the public.



# NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

## OUTDOORS FOR ALL

*The Office of Outdoor Recreation aims to make Massachusetts one of the most welcoming, inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible places to recreate outside.*



**PAUL JAHNIGE**

### **APPOINTED THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION**

“I’m honored and excited to step into this new role as the Healey-Driscoll Administration continues to take meaningful action in preserving and protecting our natural resources for all residents to enjoy all year long.

Outdoor recreation is not only critical for our physical, mental, and social health but also for Massachusetts’ economic health. I look forward to working alongside other state agencies, private and non-profit partners to get people outside to play in Massachusetts.”



**STEPHANIE COOPER,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT**

## ON THE BOOKS



**WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS REGULATIONS**  
*(Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection)*



**FARMLAND ACTION PLAN**  
*(Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources)*



**TITLE 5 REGULATIONS**  
*(Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection)*



**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EXECUTIVE ORDER**  
*(Executive Order No. 618: Biodiversity Conservation in Massachusetts)*



**FORESTS AS CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**  
*(Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience)*



**\$13M FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PROJECTS**  
*(Division of Conservation Services)*



**\$7.5M FOR LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROJECTS**  
*(Division of Conservation Services)*

**\$27**

**MILLION IN ARPA TRAIL FUNDING**  
*(Department of Conservation and Recreation)*

# MEETING THE MOMENT

## SHARED FOCUS, EMPOWERMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND GRACE

*Government is about people, and EEA would be nothing without our Human Resources Department. As a part of the Governor's commitment to secure 1% of the overall operating budget for EEA, we invested significantly in HR to ensure EEA reflects the diversity and ingenuity of the people of Massachusetts.*

### HUMAN RESOURCES TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE (HRTI)

HRTI strategically restructures EEA's HR organization. This initiative aims to foster a modern, inclusive, and high-performing environment within EEA.

### COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

EEA is committed to increasing diversity outreach and recruitment to candidates of color, women, veterans, and persons with disabilities. The DEI Office has implemented individual agency Diversity Plans and numerous DEI-enhancing initiatives, including increased collaboration with local affinity-based organizations, posting positions to diverse job boards, participating in outreach events, and enhancing EEA's Internship Program. Learn more about EEA's workforce demographic data at [mass.gov/DiversityDashboard](https://mass.gov/DiversityDashboard).

## FEDERAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

*The Healey-Driscoll Administration created the Federal and Regional Energy Affairs office within EEA to advance Massachusetts' clean energy transition through collaboration with state, regional, and federal partners.*



"Together with other Northeast states and federal partners, we are better positioned to achieve a clean energy future when we leverage our collective efforts and innovations."

Jason Marshall, Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Federal and Regional Energy Affairs

"As we envision a thriving clean energy industry, a resilient electric grid, and transformational power markets, it's interstate collaboration that will get us there."

Weezie Nuara, Assistant Secretary for Federal and Regional Energy Affairs



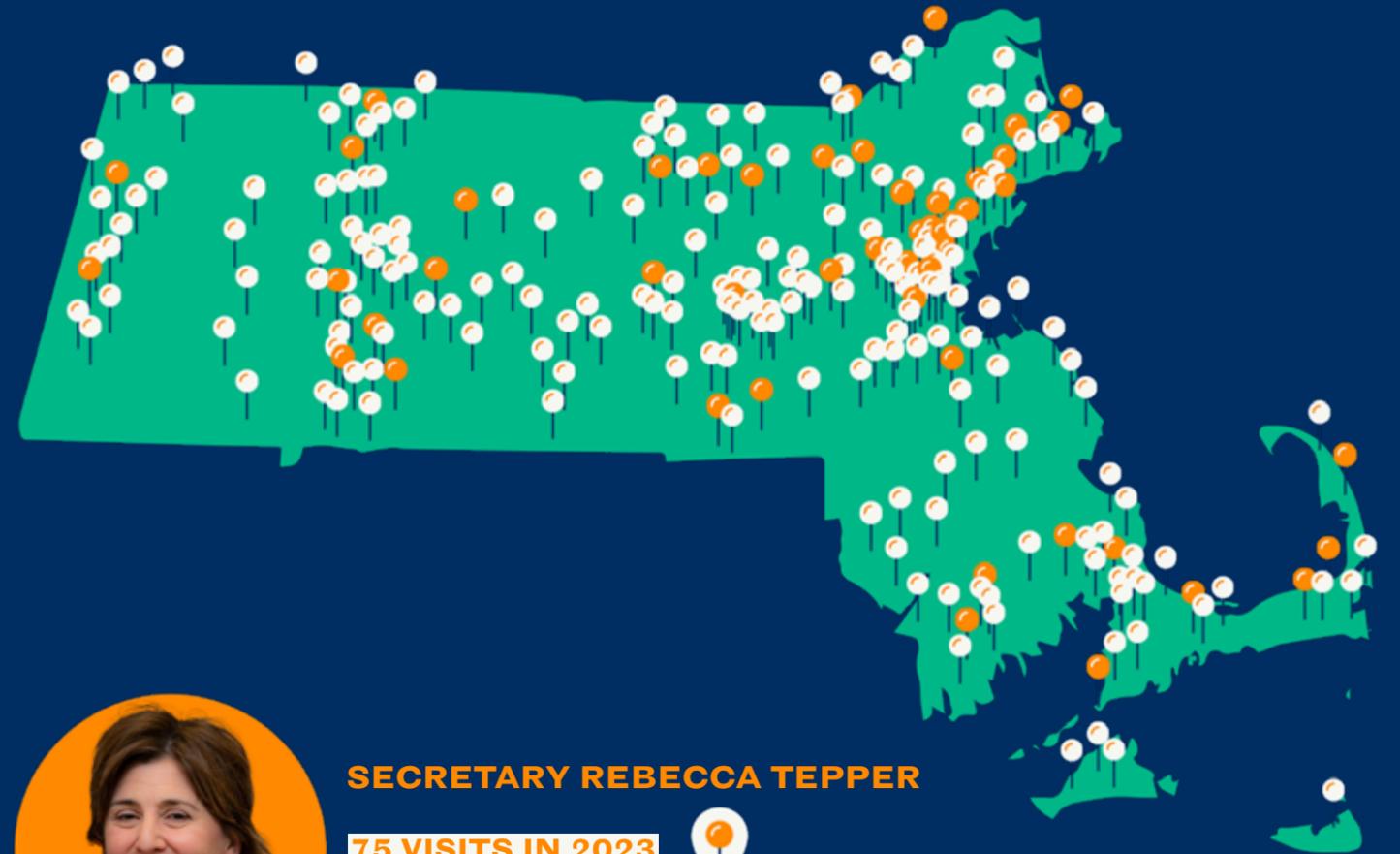
- Led a bipartisan request to the U.S. Department of Energy to form the Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission
- Successfully called for the first-in-the-nation environmental justice position at ISO New England
- Helped lead efforts to develop and expedite a process for the New England states to procure regional transmission
- Pressed the White House and the Treasury Department for clear guidance to ensure offshore wind projects are fully eligible for federal tax credits to help lower the price of offshore wind for consumers

# EEA ON THE MOVE

## DELIVERING FOR MASSACHUSETTS

In 2023, EEA's dedicated staff embarked on visits to numerous areas across the state. These visits were characterized by a hands-on approach, as officials engaged with local communities, assessed damages and needs, and collaborated on tailored solutions.

Whether addressing environmental challenges, promoting clean technologies, or advancing conservation efforts, EEA's proactive engagement underscored a commitment to directly connect with residents and stakeholders, ensuring that the delivery of initiatives aligned closely with the specific needs and aspirations of the diverse communities throughout Massachusetts.



**433 COMISSIONER AND DIRECTOR VISITS IN 2023**



**SECRETARY REBECCA TEPPER**

**75 VISITS IN 2023**



**BONNIE HEIPLE, DEP**



**27 VISITS IN 2023**

**LISA BERRY ENGLER, CZM**



**10 VISITS IN 2023**

**ELIZABETH MAHONY, DOER**



**24 VISITS IN 2023**

**JAMIE VAN NOSTRAND, DPU**



**27 VISITS IN 2023**

**CECILE FRASER, DPU**



**14 VISITS IN 2023**

**TOM O'SHEA, DFG**



**55 VISITS IN 2023**

**ASHLEY RANDLE, MDAR**



**121 VISITS IN 2023**

**BRIAN ARRIGO, DCR**



**113 VISITS IN 2023**

**STACI RUBIN, DPU**



**30 VISITS IN 2023**

**FRED LASKEY, MWRA**



**12 VISITS IN 2023**

# OUR TEAM AT A GLANCE

Secretary Rebecca Tepper oversees the Commonwealth's six environmental, natural resource and energy regulatory agencies. Massachusetts is the first state in the nation to combine energy and environmental agencies under one Cabinet secretary.

Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Commissioner Ashley Randle



### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

#### FARMLAND ACTION PLAN

First of its kind in the country, the Massachusetts Farmland Action Plan is a long-range strategic initiative that addresses the farmland needs and goals of the state including increasing farmland conservation and access, food security, climate resiliency, and environmental justice, while also preserving and expanding the economic and environmental viability of farms across all regions of Massachusetts.

#### FLOOD RESPONSE & RELIEF

In response to widespread floods in July, the Healey- Driscoll Administration established the Massachusetts Farm Resiliency Fund with partners at United Way of Central MA, Community Foundation of Western MA, and Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture. The fund has raised over \$3.2M to date and awarded funds to over 240 farms. Thanks to a \$20M allocation from the Legislature, the Natural Disaster Recovery Program was also established at MDAR. 346 farms received direct funding through the program to help with their recovery efforts and future on-farm resiliency and viability.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/EQUITY-BASED PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

With the establishment of the Undersecretary of Environmental Justice and Equity position, stakeholders from underserved populations that were historically marginalized are now being brought to the table to guide the state in the decision-making processes and help to inform solutions. The Division of Animal Health at MDAR has applied Environmental Justice principles to its programs and services, including enhancing visibility to Environmental Justice communities and responsiveness to language access needs.

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Commissioner Brian Arrigo



### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

#### FIREFIGHTING

In June, DCR deployed 11 firefighters to assist in fighting wildfires in Quebec, Canada. In July, in partnership with DFG, the department deployed another crew of 16 wildland firefighters. DCR and DFG later sent a crew of 19 to western Montana to help battle the large fires that hit the state in August.

#### SUMMER NIGHTS

The DCR Summer Nights program was launched in 2015 to provide young people living in urban areas with the opportunity to join in on recreational and educational activities during evening hours. Recognizing the tremendous success of this program, and the safe, inclusive, and fun events it provides for young people, it has been significantly expanded to 84 organizations statewide.

#### LIFEGUARD HIRING

Exceeding its lifeguard hiring goal by 50, DCR hired more lifeguards in the summer of 2023 than the last three years.

#### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Over the past year, DCR has worked hard to build trust and relationships with stakeholders and the media. DCR expanded its social media presence with engaging videos to educate the public about DCR's programs, its vast array of responsibilities, and how its staff works to improve the well-being of residents across the state.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony



### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

#### MOR-EV REBATE PROGRAM

DOER managed and expanded the MOR-EV rebate program which issued 7,947 rebates for electric vehicles totaling \$26 million in 2023. This included funds for over 90 income-eligible customers.

#### SECTION 83C MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

In October, DOER signed a memorandum of understanding with Connecticut and Rhode Island energy offices in support of a regional approach to selecting offshore wind projects. This first of its kind MOU will support economic development in the region and aims to drive down ratepayer costs through economies of scale.

#### CLIMATE LEADER COMMUNITIES

The Green Communities Division launched an expanded municipal program designed to provide grants for expanded projects including decarbonization and clean energy. To date, nearly 30 communities intend to develop the required municipal decarbonization roadmaps in 2024.

#### GRID MODERNIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

DOER led the 17-member Grid Modernization Advisory Council in reviewing the first-ever utility Electric Sector Modernization Plans and making comprehensive recommendations focused on stakeholder engagement, improved forecasting, and non-wire alternatives.

#### LANDMARK STUDIES

In 2023, DOER released two major studies with accompanying tools: the Technical Potential of Solar Study, with a searchable Story Map development and incentive planning, and the Long-Duration Storage Report with program-funding commitment.

# DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Commissioner Tom O'Shea



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### EXECUTIVE ORDER 618 FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The Executive Order directs DFG to develop biodiversity goals for a nature positive future in 2030, 2040, and 2050, including marine biodiversity. Goals will focus on sustaining a full array of Massachusetts plants, animals, and habitats to survive and flourish while providing equitable access to nature and ensuring a climate-resilient landscape for the future.

### ACCESSIBLE FISHING PIERS

DFG's Office of Fishing and Boating Access completed the construction of two handicap-accessible fishing piers on the Merrimack River, Methuen, and Swift River, Palmer. Both piers provide recreational fishing access and are located in EJ communities.

### HUNTERS SHARE THE HARVEST PROGRAM

MassWildlife's Hunters Share the Harvest Program provides an outlet for licensed hunters to donate venison to Massachusetts families facing food insecurity. In 2023, Massachusetts hunters donated over 3,500 pounds of venison—the equivalent to more than 14,000 meals.

### NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE RECOVERY

The Division of Marine Fisheries received \$4.6 million in federal funds to support Right Whale Recovery and the Massachusetts Lobster industry. DMF will use this funding and an additional \$475,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to bolster development of innovative fishing gear technologies, increase ongoing research and monitoring, and provide fishing gear to lobster industry participants to reduce harm to the right whales.

### ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

DFG's Division of Ecological Restoration awarded \$6.8 million in grants for 25 projects that further wetland and cranberry bog restoration, dam removal, and culvert replacement. These projects restore critical habitats and help people and nature adapt to climate change.

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Chair Jamie Van Nostrand  
Commissioner Staci Rubin  
Commissioner Cecile Fraser



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### FUTURE OF GAS

Order 20-80 sets forth a new strategy to guide the evolution of the natural gas distribution industry to clean energy. This new strategy reflects DPU's focus on helping the Commonwealth achieve its greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements through decarbonization, electrification, and the adoption of pilot programs for new technologies while minimizing additional investment and costs to protect ratepayers.

### RAIL SAFETY

During 2023, the Rail Safety Division successfully closed out several corrective plans issued by the Federal Transit Administration and received acknowledgement from the FTA regarding significant gains in the capacity and capability of DPU as oversight agency for MBTA. The Division has nearly doubled its staff and is committed to a safe and reliable T under new leadership.

### RECOGNITION OF PIPELINE SAFETY

The Pipeline Safety Division received a perfect score of 100 from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in its annual audit of the Pipeline Safety Program, reflecting a significant turnaround since the Merrimack Valley incident in 2018.

### ESTABLISHING THE INTERCONNECTION IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW

Through the issuance of Order 19-55-E, DPU established a stakeholder-led working group to discuss challenges the Commonwealth will face in distributed generation interconnection. Working with the Technical Standards Review Group, the IIRG will bring joint recommendations such as revisions to simplify and expedite the process, using technological advancements and innovation to lower infrastructure upgrade costs, and a distribution impact study on timelines and costs.

# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Commissioner Bonnie Heiple



# OFFICE OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Director Lisa Berry Engler



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### WATERSHED PERMIT/TITLE 5 REGULATIONS

DEP developed a community-based watershed permitting approach and finalized amendments to Title 5 regulations that govern septic systems this year. The improvements, prompted by DEP's regulatory updates, will help address water quality issues and harmful impacts on the fishing and tourism industries.

### IMPROVED CLIMATE MITIGATION AND MONITORING

In 2023, DEP enacted reporting requirements for medium- and heavy-duty fleets to boost EV infrastructure planning, established an air monitoring station in Chinatown that will give residents access to real-time air quality information, and adopted Advanced Clean Cars II, mandating a gradual transition to exclusive in-state sales of zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

### WETLANDS AND WATERWAY REGULATIONS

DEP's draft Wetlands and Waterways Regulations aim to protect our cities, towns, homes, and businesses from the powerful effects of storms and flooding. These proposed changes use current science and evaluation methodologies to inform project design and permitting that anticipates climate change-related impacts and promotes climate resiliency.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE FUNDING

DEP accomplished key financial initiatives this year, securing and allocating over \$1.4 billion in grants and loans. \$38 million of that will go to small water systems combating PFAS, lead, and contamination issues. Additional grant funding was awarded to invest in low-emission vehicles, electric charging stations, waste reduction, and Brownfield assessment and cleanup.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### RESILIENTCOASTS

The ResilientCoasts initiative is a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the coastline of Massachusetts. In collaboration with the state's 78 coastal communities, ResilientCoasts will pursue a multipronged approach to identify regulatory, policy, and funding mechanisms to develop focused long-term solutions.

### COASTAL HABITAT RESTORATION

In June, CZM secured \$3.7 million in federal Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection and Restoration Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Awards for two projects through a highly competitive process. These funds will advance two state Priority Ecological Restoration Projects: Manchester-by-the-Sea and Truro.

### COASTAL RESILIENCE GRANT AWARDS

CZM awarded \$7.9 million for 19 local projects in October through the Coastal Resilience Grant Program to reduce risks associated with coastal storms, flooding, erosion, and sea level rise through proactive local planning and shoreline management efforts.

### MARINE SPECIES RAPID ASSESSMENT SURVEY

In August, CZM led a team of scientific experts who visited marinas from Maine to Massachusetts to identify native and invasive marine species found on floating docks and piers. Every 3-5 years since 2000, Rapid Assessment Surveys have been conducted to detect new species introductions, identify range shifts or expansions of invasive species, and understand native species distributions.

## MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE

Director Colonel Shaun T. Santos



## OFFICE OF FEDERAL AND REGIONAL ENERGY AFFAIRS

Deputy Secretary Jason Marshall  
Assistant Secretary Weezie Nuara



### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

#### RIGHT WHALES/MARINE MAMMALS

This year, the Massachusetts Environmental Police were instrumental in enforcing the Large Whale Seasonal Trap/Pot Closure Area – implemented to protect the critically endangered Northern Right Whales and the array of other whales and marine mammals that live in and visit the waters of the Commonwealth. Officers removed over 200 abandoned fixed-gear single traps and trawls and assisted in the removal of over 400 more. MEP officers also enforced the 500-yard Buffer Zone around Right Whales and the 10-knot or less vessel speed limit.

#### NASBLA BOAT PROGRAM

On July 4, 2023, MEP received re-accreditation from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) for their Boat Operations and Training Program. In 2012, MEP was one of the first agencies to be Nationally accredited in the NASBLA BOAT Program. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers, emergency responders and volunteers, NASBLA affects the lives of over 76 million American boaters.

#### SHELLFISH SAFETY PEER REVIEW

In 2023, MEP passed a critical U.S. Food and Drug Administration PEER review, ensuring the safety of the multi-million dollar Interstate Shellfish Market. The MEP's successful evaluation involved rigorous patrols of a minimum of 364 shellfish growing areas, preventing potential shutdowns and maintaining commerce integrity.

### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

#### INTERREGIONAL TRANSMISSION COLLABORATIVE

Led a bipartisan effort, encompassing all six New England states, New York, and New Jersey, urging the U.S. Department of Energy to establish the Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission. This groundbreaking initiative, expanded to include Maryland and Delaware, aims to explore and advance electric transmission infrastructure development, facilitating decarbonization, a cost-effective transition to clean energy, and enhanced system reliability.

#### ISO-NE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POSITION

Led multi-state advocacy to create a position at ISO New England focused on environmental justice—the first position of its kind in the nation within a power grid operator.

#### CLEAN ENERGY TRANSMISSION

Served as co-chair of the Clean Energy Transmission Working Group, which delivered a report to the Legislature on transmission infrastructure needed to support the deployment of clean energy, including offshore wind.

#### OFFSHORE WIND TAX CREDITS

Helped lead advocacy at the federal level, including through letters to the White House and the Treasury Department, to ensure offshore wind projects are fully eligible for the Investment Tax Credit, Production Tax Credit, and Bonus Tax Credits to help lower the price of offshore wind for consumers.

# MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Director **Tori Kim**



# MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY CENTER

CEO **Emily Reichert**



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### NEW DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

The MEPA Office continued to conduct environmental reviews of significant new developments in the Commonwealth, including real estate and public infrastructure projects, offshore wind and renewable energy, and coastal resiliency and ecological restoration. In total, 290 filings were reviewed, of which 143 represented new project filings.

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS

In light of statutory mandates under the 2021 Climate Roadmap Act, the MEPA Office now conducts a robust environmental justice (EJ) analysis of projects proposed near historically disadvantaged communities. Approximately 60% of new project filings undergo review under MEPA's EJ protocols.

### EFFICIENT PROJECT REVIEWS

The MEPA Office prides itself on efficient project reviews. On average, MEPA reviews of all project filings, including complex environmental impact reports, concluded within 39 days.

### SALEM WIND PORT STAGING

In 2023, the MEPA Office reviewed the development of a world-class offshore wind turbine marshalling facility in Salem where prefabricated wind turbine generator components and materials will be delivered, assembled and transported to the offshore wind facility. Once completed, the project will be the second major offshore wind port in Massachusetts.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### INCREASED THE BUDGET

MassCEC is an important driver of the clean energy transition. For the first time, MassCEC was included in the Governor's operating budget, securing \$30 million in new funds that boost climate-critical workforce training, streamline program development, launch a statewide e-bike incentive program, support building electrification, and drive offshore energy innovation.

### WORKFORCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Released a critical assessment of our clean energy workforce, finding that Massachusetts will need more than 38,000 clean energy workers by the end of the decade to meet climate goals, growing the current clean energy workforce of 104,000 workers by 37 percent.

### EQUITABLE WORKFORCE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANTS

Funded \$18 million in grants that will support an expanded climatetech workforce and small businesses, focused on lowering barriers faced by underserved and underrepresented populations entering the clean energy workforce.

### CLEAN ENERGY PATHWAY

In partnership with the Executive Office of Education, launched Clean Energy Innovation Career Pathway to allow high school students to get applied, hands-on learning opportunities in the renewable energy sector, a growing high-demand industry across Massachusetts.

### SUPPORTED VINEYARD WIND

MassCEC made history by supporting the construction of the Vineyard Wind I project, the largest offshore wind farm in the United States. The blades used for the project were tested at MassCEC's Wind Technology Testing Center and the project is being staged out of its New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal.

# MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Executive Director Fred Laskey



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

To continue delivering clean, safe, and reliable water and wastewater services to our customer communities, MWRA aggressively invests in its infrastructure and works to help communities do the same. This year MWRA's Capital Improvement Plan invested \$208.4 million, completing 15 construction projects, and providing \$74.2 million in grants and low interest loans to our customer communities to upgrade local infrastructure, including \$7.6 million in 0% interest loans to remove lead service lines in our local communities. Additionally, MWRA worked with DCR to purchase and permanently protect 552 acres of land across our watersheds.

### BURLINGTON CONNECTION

The Town of Burlington was admitted and completed a connection to the MWRA water system in September. For many years, Burlington has had difficulty meeting demands with their local sources due to water quality issues. Connecting to MWRA allows Burlington to replace poor quality local well water with high quality MWRA water. MWRA constructed approximately 5,200 linear feet of regional distribution pipeline to enable this connection and provide water system redundancy to several other communities in the area.

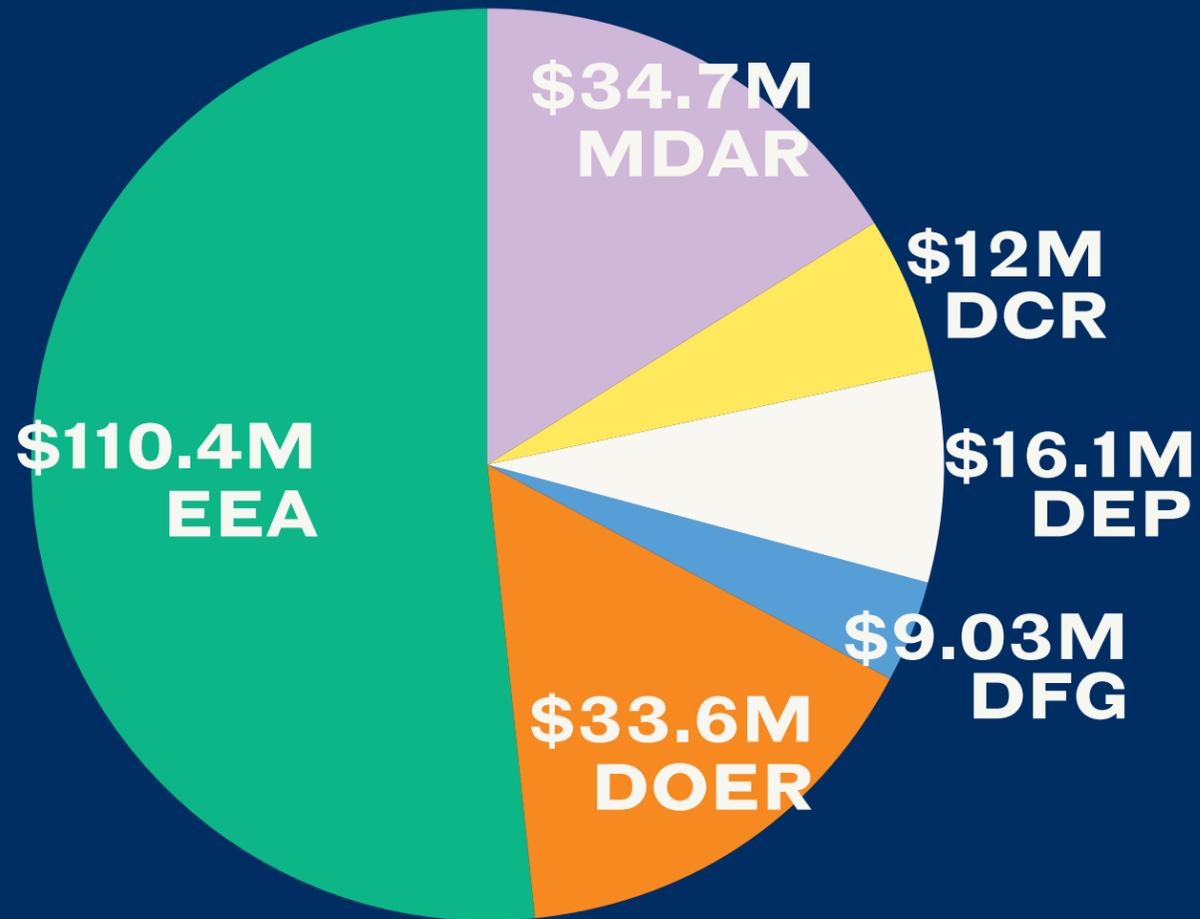
### SYSTEM EXPANSION STUDIES

Responding to tremendous community interest in joining the MWRA water system, the Authority completed a system expansion study for communities in Metro West. In October, the MWRA Board of Directors authorized a new expansion study to explore how MWRA can help communities within the Quabbin Watershed access additional sources of clean drinking water.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HYDRATION

MWRA attended 140 public events in communities throughout the service area with its portable water fountains, which provide free and cold drinking water. This not only keeps events goers hydrated, but provides a valuable opportunity for MWRA to engage with residents of all communities it serves and provide information on the importance of the clean and reliable drinking water system we have.

# EEA'S IMPACT GRANTS IN 2023



**\$215, 766,102 TOTAL AWARDED**

**1,813 INDIVIDUAL GRANTS**

Figures listed are for external grants only.

## GRANTS HIGHLIGHTS:

### MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to plan for adapting to the impacts of climate change and implementing priority resilience projects.

**GRANT TOTAL: \$31.5 MILLION**  
8/30/2023

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEEP ENERGY RETROFIT GRANT PROGRAM

Accelerates Massachusetts' clean energy transition through housing electrification, efficiency and renewable energy, improves public health, and preserves housing affordability for residents.

**GRANT TOTAL: \$27 MILLION**  
11/21/2023

### NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE

Provides financial assistance to aid agricultural operations that were impacted by one or more of the 2023 Natural Disasters to rebuild and recover, with the aim of supporting job security, building resilience, and enabling future production.

**GRANT TOTAL: \$20 MILLION**  
9/6/2023



# MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

The MVP grant program provides communities with funding and technical assistance to support the climate resilience planning process and implement priority actions to adapt to climate change.

In April, Governor Maura Healey launched MVP Planning 2.0, which serves as the next phase of our flagship program. It supports communities in updating and putting into action their climate resilience plans in a way that centers environmental justice and other priority populations most impacted by climate change. .

For the first time in the history of MVP, two Tribes received funding in August 2023 since eligibility was expanded by the Legislature in 2022.

In the 1800s, the Stockbridge–Munsee Band of Mohicans were pressured to leave their home, forcing them to eventually relocate to Wisconsin. The Tribe was awarded a \$2.26 million MVP Action Grant to reclaim 351 acres of their indigenous homelands and establish tribally-driven conservation and forest management strategies.

*“We are creating a paradigm shift in how society invests in tribal nations by grounding an investment strategy in Indigenous systems thinking, recognizing the interconnectedness of all things and our responsibilities to our homelands and each other. Our approach ensures a resilient and regenerative framework from start to finish, built around the origins of our homeland.”*

**Shannon Holsey, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans President**



