

EEA Climate Team Quarterly Newsletter



Spring 2026

Welcome to another issue of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Climate Team Newsletter highlighting climate efforts and opportunities across the Commonwealth.

Our Climate Team looks forward to continued work together to build a stronger, healthier, cleaner Massachusetts!

We welcome your [feedback!](#)

News and Announcements



Governor Healey Takes Action to Bring in 10 GW of New Energy, Save \$10 Billion and Promote Energy Independence

Governor Maura Healey recently signed an [Executive Order](#) outlining her all-of-the-above approach to energy supply and directs her administration to secure 10 new gigawatts (GW) of energy resources for Massachusetts by 2035, as well as 5 GW of new energy storage.

Governor Healey's directive requires agencies to pursue a range of energy resources and ensure adequate supplies in place to meet growing demand and lower bills. The Executive Order outlines directives for state agencies related to solar, storage, wind, load management, gas, nuclear, and geothermal, leading to an estimated savings of \$10 billion for Massachusetts residents and businesses.

The [Executive Order establishes a target of 10 GW of new energy supply-side and demand-side resources](#) over the next 10 years, as well as a separate target

for 5 GW of energy storage. 10 GW is roughly the equivalent of enough power for 2 million households. The 10 GW target includes 4 GW of new in-state solar and 3.5 GW of new electric demand reduction to be achieved through load management strategies such as energy efficiency, virtual power plants, and electric vehicle charging management. This builds on Massachusetts' successful strategy of demand management over the past 20 years, during which electricity demand has declined while the economy has grown, increasing our overall energy productivity. Because of these past investments, all customers are saving \$800 million every year – or on average, \$20 each month – due to utilities not needing to spend on transmission and distribution infrastructure or buy electricity for their customers.

Governor Healey is directing agencies to take a number of immediate steps to get more affordable energy built in the near future, including to:

- Ramp up efforts to build more solar projects before President Trump ends federal support.
- Expand opportunities for wind, nuclear power, and fusion energy.
- Explore natural gas and other fuel storage and delivery strategies to ensure reliability, avoid unnecessary spending and charges, and reduce reliance on imported liquefied natural gas.
- Lower the cost of geothermal for heating and cooling.
- Allow for flexible interconnection to make better use of the energy grid we already have and get more energy connected faster and cheaper.



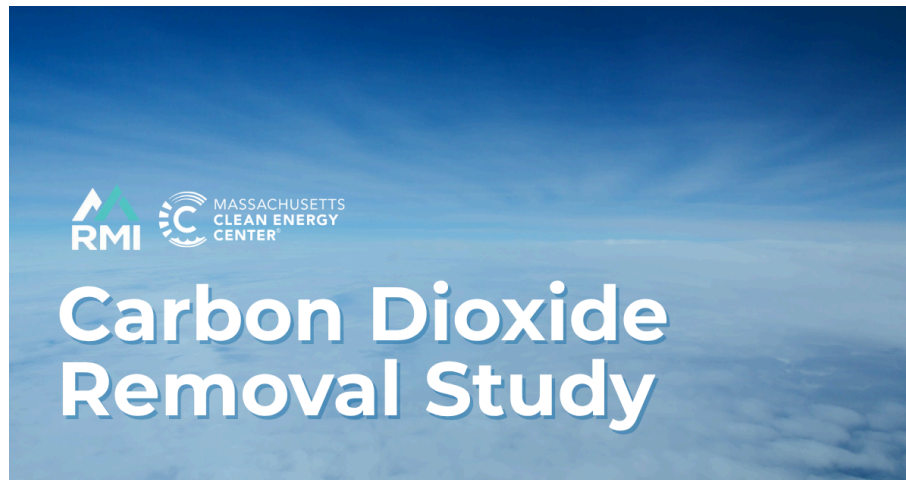
Healey-Driscoll Administration and City of Boston Invest in Thermal Energy Project to Unlock Large-Scale Affordable Clean Heating and Cooling

The [Mass Clean Energy Center](#), in partnership with the [City of Boston](#), today announced \$500,000 in funding for the [Boston Green Ribbon Commission](#) (GRC) to lead a project exploring the technical, economic, and regulatory feasibility of using clean thermal energy from Boston-area water to deliver large-scale heating and cooling. The year-long [Boston Thermal Energy Network \(BosTEN\)](#) Project aims to demonstrate that thermal energy networks (TENS) can deliver long-term cost savings, reduce pollution, and mitigate peaks on gas and electric systems as Massachusetts continues to transition to a clean energy economy.

“Massachusetts is where we come together to solve big challenges, and this project is a perfect example of that. This is about making energy more affordable and more reliable for the people and businesses of Massachusetts,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Thermal energy networks offer a smart, scalable way to meet growing demand while cutting pollution and easing pressure on our grid. We’re proud to partner with the City of Boston and regional leaders to move this forward.”

The BostTEN Project will explore how to capture thermal energy from the Charles and Mystic Rivers, Boston Harbor, the Fort Point Channel, and the bedrock beneath the rivers, and deliver it to nearby large buildings for clean heating and cooling. The closed system of a thermal energy network circulates heat through sealed infrastructure without drawing water from waterways, avoiding impacts to marine life. These networks, which are already in use across Canada and Europe, can help reduce strain on the electric grid as energy demand grows.

At the end of the project, the Green Ribbon Commission will deliver findings on thermal supply, distribution pathways, phased demand among early adopters, investment readiness, and permitting/regulatory requirements, with an emphasis on producing near-term pilot concepts that can be enacted in Boston.



Massachusetts Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) Study **Report Release**

Recently the [Mass Clean Energy Center](#), in partnership with the EEA and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), announced the release of the [Massachusetts CDR Study](#).

CDR includes methods that remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it for the long term. CDR is being explored as one possible tool to cut harmful emissions, especially those that are harder to eliminate in sectors like aviation, shipping, and heavy industry.

The Massachusetts CDR Study looks at whether and how CDR could play a role in the state's climate efforts. It examines cost, ability to scale, long-term storage, environmental impacts, and policy considerations. The study will help state agencies, policymakers, and other stakeholders evaluate whether, when, and how CDR could be used in the state.

In 2024, the Massachusetts Legislature passed An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity and Protecting Ratepayers (S.2967), directing Mass Clean Energy Center to conduct and publish a study on the potential for CDR in the state and nearby federal waters. The study reviews a range of carbon removal approaches, including both nature-based and technology-based solutions, and considers how they may apply in Massachusetts.



City of Boston Releases 2030 Climate Action Plan to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Strengthen Climate Resilience

Recently, Mayor Michelle Wu announced the [release of Boston's landmark 2030 Climate Action Plan](#) alongside dozens of community and institutional partners at LoPresti Park in East Boston. This implementation plan provides a roadmap for how the City will achieve its carbon emissions reduction and climate resilience goals, including reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

[Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan](#) marks a shift in focus from planning into the implementation phase of the City's climate action strategy, bringing City departments, local institutions, and community partners together to ensure that Boston can thrive for generations to come.

Highlights of the Plan include:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Protecting Boston from sea-level rise and extreme weather
- Building a green workforce
- Tracking Boston's progress

Legislative and Policy Updates



Mass Ready Act

The Senate debated and passed its version of the Mass Ready Bill on April 15. The legislation, now S.3064, is available for review on the [Massachusetts General Court website](#). Encouragingly, the Senate version preserves many of the key components included in Governor Healey's original proposal. Attention now shifts to the House, which must debate and pass its own version of the bill. Once both chambers have acted, a conference committee made up of House and Senate members will negotiate any differences and develop a compromise proposal. The final bill will then be sent to Governor Healey for review, approval, and signature.

Energy Affordability Legislation

The House passed its version of the Energy Affordability bill on February 26 by a vote of 128–27. The legislation retains many of the key provisions included in Governor Healey's original proposal, while also introducing several notable changes. Among the most significant is a proposed \$1 billion reduction to the Mass Save budget, a move that could have substantial impacts on this year's energy programs and broader ripple effects across related industries. The bill now awaits Senate action, with a formal session date still to be announced.

FY27 Budget

The House passed its version of the FY27 budget on April 29, approving a \$63.41 billion spending plan, approximately \$500 million larger than Governor Healey's H.2 budget proposal. Attention now turns to the Senate, which is scheduled to debate and pass its version of the budget beginning Monday, May 18. Senators have already filed well over 1,000 amendments, setting the stage for what will likely be a lengthy formal session. Residents can follow the debate live [via livestream](#) on the Legislature's website. With the loss of certain federal aid, ongoing affordability concerns, and broader economic uncertainty, this year's budget process has become an especially delicate balancing act for lawmakers.

Resilient Infrastructure Design Standards

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, in collaboration with other agencies and Secretariats, is working on a project to improve resilience in our built environment by creating Resilient Infrastructure Design Standards. As part of this project, our team has reviewed existing infrastructure standards and then we will develop a standardized, technical guide for incorporating climate resilience considerations into the design of certain critical infrastructure project types across the following sectors: transportation, water supply, wastewater, stormwater, energy & utilities, dams. This guide will be a resource for state-funded and reviewed capital

projects to reduce their risks of unanticipated loss or interruption of service life. It aims to help ensure projects are able to quickly recover from disruptions with minimal impacts under projected future climate scenarios. We will also be developing sample scopes of work and detailed templates for common project types that will be incorporated into [MAPC's climate resilience playbook](#).

As we move this work forward, we are reaching out to stakeholders with technical expertise in engineering design for each sector to get your preliminary feedback on our approach. We are hosting several meetings over the coming month. If you have technical expertise in critical infrastructure design in these sectors and would like to engage on this project, or for more information, please contact sarah.alexander@mass.gov.

Massachusetts Grant Program Updates



EEA's Successful ECO One Stop Launch

The [Environment & Climate One Stop \(ECO One Stop\)](#) is a streamlined grant application for climate and environmental resilience projects in Massachusetts, consolidating multiple EEA grant applications into one application system. EEA saw a historic level of engagement for the inaugural FY27 ECO One Stop application cycle, including:

- **Total Project Submissions:** 408
- **Unique Applicants:** 242 (Communities, nonprofits, and stakeholders)
- **Integrated Proposals:** 102 projects (25%) leveraged the "One Stop" to apply for two or more grant programs simultaneously.

In addition, six of the seven participating grant programs broke their all-time records for the highest volume of applications received. Staff are reviewing applications, and soliciting feedback on the ECO One Stop experience via surveys in order to identify improvements for the 2027 round.

LAND and PARC Grant Programs

Deadline: Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services is seeking applications to the FY 2027 LAND and PARC Grant Programs. The [LAND Grant Program](#) is for municipal conservation commissions looking to protect conservation land. The [PARC Grant Program](#) is for municipalities looking to acquire parkland, renovate an existing park, or develop a new park.

Questions on the grant program can be directed to Vanessa Farny at vanessa.farny@mass.gov.

Conservation Partnership Grant Program

Deadline: Monday, July 13, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services is seeking applications to the [FY 2027 Conservation Partnership Grant Program](#). Conservation Partnership grants are for 501(c)(3) organizations looking for assistance in acquiring land in fee or a conservation restriction, as well as assistance with due diligence costs associated with gifts.

Questions on the grant program can be directed to Darya Mattes at darya.mattes@mass.gov.

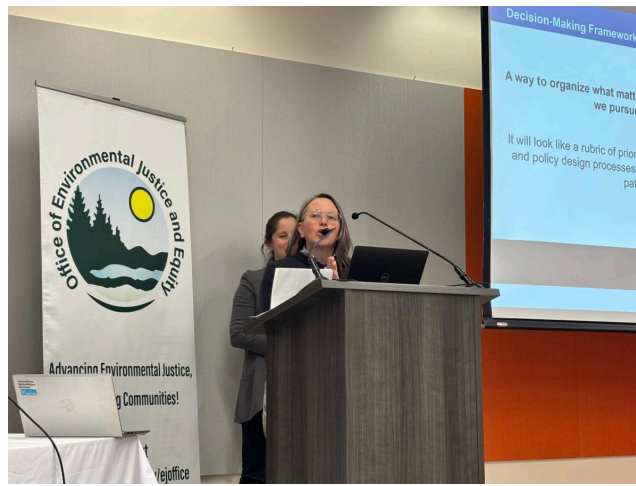
Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards \$951,000 to Protect Forest Reserves

The Healey-Driscoll Administration recently awarded [\\$951,000 in grants to permanently protect 430 acres to be managed as forest reserves](#). Three projects in the communities of Belchertown, Huntington, and Wendell have been awarded grants through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) [Acquisition for Forest Reserves Grant Program](#) to offer outdoor recreational opportunities, store carbon to mitigate climate change, and protect habitats important to biodiversity.

The grant program, a result of the [Forest as Climate Solutions Initiative](#), supports designating 10 percent of Massachusetts forests as reserves, where trees can grow, age, and regenerate naturally, with little to no active management. Permanently protected, these forests will create habitat for wildlife, capture and store carbon dioxide to mitigate climate change, help keep local communities cooler during extreme heat, and slow stormwater runoff to reduce flooding, among other benefits.

EEA Climate Team Engagement

Our climate team continues visiting businesses, institutions and organizers to ensure we're hearing and seeing first-hand project realities and on-the-ground experiences. Below are a few great examples of where the team recently connected with these invaluable external perspectives.



Environmental Justice Council Meeting: Members of the Environmental Justice Council recently convened at Roxbury Community College, joined by RCC President Dr. Jonathan K. Jefferson. During the session, Climate Team members Melissa Mittelman and Oleander Stone led a discussion on the Commonwealth's Clean Energy and Climate Plan. They outlined our roadmap to achieving Net Zero by 2050, focusing on strategies for transportation, buildings, and land use with a foundational emphasis on equity and environmental justice.



Melrose Community Reading Day: In April, Martha Grover from our climate team participated in Melrose's Community Reading Day, visiting a first-grade class to read "Dory Story." Beyond discussing the ocean food chain, Martha shared insights with the students about the solar panels installed on their school's roof and the EV pole chargers located throughout their neighborhood. It was an inspiring opportunity to connect with the next generation of climate advocates.



Holyoke On-Street EV Charging Launch: State and city officials gathered in Holyoke to celebrate the installation of new on-street electric vehicle charging stations, funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC). Climate Team member Mark Scribner highlighted the project's impact, noting that because transportation accounts for nearly 40% of statewide emissions, expanding access to Level 2 charging ports in urban centers like Holyoke is a critical step toward meeting our climate goals and improving local air quality.

Heat Education and Alert Tools (H.E.A.T.) Summer Program Kickoff



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The [Massachusetts Department of Public Health \(DPH\)](#) is proud to announce the HEAT response initiative.

Extreme heat is increasing in frequency and intensity in Massachusetts, driven by climate change and posing growing risks to public health. In 2026, DPH will continue using a data-driven approach to issue timely Unhealthy Heat Alerts and provide guidance to clinicians, local health officials, community organizations, and event partners.

With a busy summer event season ahead—including large-scale gatherings and international events—heat preparedness will be essential to protecting residents, workers, and visitors.

2026 Resources for Heat Preparedness

DPH has developed the following resources to support coordinated preparedness, clear public messaging, and timely action during extreme heat events.

Unhealthy Heat Action Toolkit

- A ready-to-use communications package with social media graphics, sample messaging, and outreach materials to help communities amplify consistent

heat safety messaging throughout the season.

[Community Heat Webpage & Community Heat Alerts](#)

- A resource designed for residents and organizations not enrolled in the HHAN, providing accessible heat preparedness information that partners can broadly share during periods of unhealthy heat.

[Extreme Heat Webpage](#)

- DPH's central heat safety page offers prevention guidance, setting-specific resources, and planning tools for clinicians, local health departments, and community partners.

[Massachusetts Unhealthy Heat Forecast](#)

- A 7-day forecast with color-coded risk levels based on the Unhealthy Heat Threshold to support early planning and response.

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Opportunities

Want to share details of your event or other related climate opportunities in our upcoming newsletters?

Submit to patrick.forde@mass.gov.

Events and Opportunities

- **[Resilient Mass Request for Proposals](#)**: The MA Emergency Management Agency and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs released an RFP seeking qualified vendors to assist in the 5-year update of the Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment and the ResilientMass Plan, which is MA's State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan.
- **[Heat Resilience Officer Job Opportunity](#)**: The Heat Resilience Officer advances all-of-government actions to address the impacts of increasing temperatures and extreme heat. The Heat Resilience Officer reports to the Climate Chief and works closely with the Department of Public Health Commissioner and ResilientMass Action Team Co-Chairs in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and MA Emergency Management Agency, in addition to senior staff across the Secretariats. Submit cover letter and resume to Rose Skylstad at Rose.Skylstad@mass.gov. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
- **[MAPC Request for Proposals](#)**: The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is currently accepting proposals for their Accelerating Climate Resilience (ACR) FY27 Grant Program. This grant advances strategies that protect people, places, and communities from the impacts of climate change, with a preference for regional collaborations. Learn more and submit a proposal by May 29, 5pm.
- **[Environmental Business Council \(EBC\) Event](#)**: The EBC is hosting a Network and Learn on Insights from MA Department of Environmental Protection Headquarters Leadership Team. Join colleagues to hear and discuss reflections on strategic environmental goals of the Healey administration. May 20, 4:00pm-6:30pm, Boston.
- **[Climate Adaptation Forum](#)**: EBC & the Sustainable Solutions Lab are hosting the next Climate Adaptation Forum on New Narratives for Action: Addressing Climate Misinformation and Disinformation, exploring the underlying role of economic systems, social media, politics, and social science in the spread of misinformation. June 5, 9:30am - 12:30pm, Hybrid, Boston. Email [Mass ECAN](mailto:MassECAN) for a free in-person registration (we have two left - first come, first served).
- **[MBTA's Focus 2050 Event Registration](#)**: Focus 2050 is the MBTA's long-term plan for transit investments. It is the latest update to the Program for Mass Transportation. Focus 2050 will set a vision for the MBTA's progress, priorities, and future investments and will provide a framework for future investments that deliver safe, reliable, and accessible transportation, enabling the region to thrive. The virtual public sector engagement event will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, June 3rd, 2:00pm-3:30pm.
- **[Park Serve Day](#)**: This year, as Park Serve Day celebrates its 20th anniversary, DCR will have events taking place through June 6 at properties across Massachusetts. For questions and more information, email Matt Perry at matthew.s.perry1@mass.gov.
 - May 27, Cochituate State Park 9am – 1pm, 43 Commonwealth Road, Natick, MA 01760
 - June 6, Fort Phoenix State Reservation 10am – 2pm, 1 Old Fort Rd Fairhaven, MA 02719
- **[Board of Building Regulations and Standards Advisory \(BBRS\) Committee Meetings](#)**: The BBRS energy and resilience subcommittees meet biweekly to discuss recommendations for updates to the next edition of the building code.

Tools and Resources

- [Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Metrics](#): Public resources that provide key information and performance indicators relevant to Massachusetts' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plans (CECP).
- [ResilientMass Maps and Data Center](#): ResilientMass was created by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to support the Commonwealth with climate change science and tools. This maps and data center features interactive applications to explore the latest statewide climate data and projections curated to support climate resilience in Massachusetts. Learn more about how Resilient Mass bolsters resilience with climate data and tools [here](#).
- [Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Climate Grant Viewer](#): This map viewer will allow you to explore grants awarded by several EEA grant programs that address climate change preparedness, adaptation and/or resilience to increasing temperatures, changing precipitation, extreme weather events, and sea level rise.
- [Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience \(GEAR\) Map](#): Originally designed to be used with and accessed through the GEAR guides for the MVP 2.0 pilot process, this interactive mapping tool is also now available on the Maps and Data Center page for use by the general public for all planning and grant application support. [Visit the 'Maps and Data Gallery'](#) section to access this tool.
- [MVP 2.0 Video Series](#): The MVP 2.0 Video Series explains how the MVP program is evolving to help communities integrate equity into their climate resilience planning and translate priorities into concrete local action. The series highlights three core elements of this process: compensated community liaisons, innovative public engagement methods, and the implementation of high-impact seed projects.

Contact the EEA Climate Team

The EEA Climate Team, led by Undersecretary Katherine Antos, seeks to stem the state's greenhouse gas emissions and prepare Massachusetts communities to be resilient to the effects of a changing climate.

For direct contact information, you can reference our team directory here: [EEA Climate Team](#)

[Contact and Staff Directory](#)



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