

EEA Climate Team Quarterly Newsletter



Summer 2025

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 Files Mass Ready Act to Strengthen Infrastructure and Prepare for Disasters

On June 24th, Governor Maura Healey introduced the [Mass Ready Act](#), a historic bill that proposes nearly \$3 billion in bond authorizations to strengthen infrastructure and protect Massachusetts communities against increasing extreme weather events. On July 15th, the Healey-Driscoll Administration also testified in support of this historic bill.

This legislation focuses on investments in ecosystem restoration, dam removals or repairs, tree planting, and other measures that reduce flood risk and establishes a Resilience Revolving Fund to provide low-interest loans for these types of projects. It also streamlines permitting for priority housing, culvert replacements and salt marsh restoration projects by cutting redundant reviews and improving coordination.

The bill invests in farming and coastal economies and provides communities with resources to reduce flood and heat risk. Finally, the [Mass Ready Act](#) emphasizes

the protection of water and nature by ensuring safe drinking water, restoring our waterways and preserving vital habitats for wildlife.

Strengthening Infrastructure

The [Mass Ready Act](#) is about strengthening infrastructure to better protect our homes, businesses and communities. Due to increasing rainfall and rising sea levels, floods have become more likely. In Massachusetts, sea levels have risen on average, over an inch per decade since the 1920s. This bill aims to address these challenges through authorizations that enhance our flood protection efforts, including addressing high-risk dams, inland flood control systems, and coastal and marine infrastructure. The bill also includes authorizations to implement ResilientCoasts recommendations, invest in parks, trails, beaches, and historic sites, improve transportation infrastructure, and manage solid waste and decrease pollution. The legislation also requires disclosures of flood risk and past damages during home sales and lease signings so renters and homebuyers can make informed decisions and avoid costly damages down the road. Finally, it equips the Board of Building Regulations and Standards to advance climate resilience and housing production through the state building code.

Investing in Farms and Local Economies

This authorization also supports investments in our communities where it matters most. It ensures that everyone has access to fresh, locally sourced food, helps towns prepare for climate challenges, supports tree planting, and creates more parks and recreational spaces. The Resilience Revolving Fund will offer low-interest loans to improve stormwater systems, reduce flood risk, and strengthen other critical infrastructure. This fund will complement other authorizations for local projects, including the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program, the Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) program, preserving open spaces, restoring watersheds, supporting outdoor recreation, protecting farmland, promoting food security, and keeping agriculture financially stable.

Protecting Water and Nature

The bill allocates authorization to preserve our water and natural resources, which are vital for our well-being. It ensures that residents have access to safe drinking water, maintains the quality of our waterways, and provides wildlife with the habitats necessary for their survival. Authorization highlights include PFAS mitigation and other critical clean water initiatives, land protection and support for the state's forthcoming Biodiversity Conservation Goals.



Governor Healey Unveils Energy Affordability, Independence & Innovation Act to Save Ratepayers At Least \$13.7 Billion

On May 13th, Governor Healey filed the [Energy Affordability, Independence & Innovation Act](#) to cut costs for residents and businesses. The legislation will save customers money, bring more energy into Massachusetts, increase accountability of the utilities and drive innovation. On June 25th Governor Healey, EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper, as well as business organizations, mayors, developers, university leaders, and labor, testified in support of this important legislation.

Key reforms include eliminating and reducing certain charges on the bill, creating accountability and ensuring that unnecessary costs aren't passed on to ratepayers, and reducing barriers to new cutting-edge nuclear technologies.

Getting Costs Off Bills

The administration is proposing to eliminate or significantly reduce charges on the bill. Massachusetts has the highest net metering compensation rates for large, standalone facilities in the country. Reducing the value of net metering credits for new large net metering facilities will lead to a lower net metering surcharge, saving customers an estimated \$380 million over 10 years.

Bringing More Energy into Massachusetts

This legislation continues the Governor's all-of-the-above strategy to bring more energy into Massachusetts and meet rising demand. The bill allows Massachusetts to explore cutting edge nuclear technologies and expands the state's authority to procure new sources of energy generation, energy storage, and demand response. These reforms will accelerate the development of low-cost electricity generation throughout the region.

Creating Accountability

Customers should only be charged for costs associated with delivering power to their homes and businesses. The legislation authorizes the DPU or an outside firm to audit the utilities' management and operations. Governor Healey's proposal also explicitly bans the use of ratepayer funds for advertising, lobbying, entertainment, and other costs. This legislation would also empower the DPU to fine the utilities for non-compliance.

Powering Innovation & Smart Growth

The Healey-Driscoll Administration is working to maximize the electric grid. Governor Healey's proposal establishes "Energy Ready Zones" to proactively build out utility infrastructure that supports housing and economic development without increasing costs to ratepayers at large.

Supporting the Customer

Governor Healey is putting forward a compromise proposal to end unscrupulous practices in the competitive supply industry. The legislation bars the most predatory marketing practices, eliminates automatic renewals and variable rate contracts, establishes new licensing requirements for door-to-door and telemarketing firms, and strengthens oversight. These reforms will help stop the industry from overcharging residential customers while retaining the ability for customers to shop for their own electricity supply.

The administration also provided an [independent analysis](#) of the customer savings associated with the bill, expanding on the administration's assessment by providing more in-depth modeling of more provisions. Conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, Inc. and Sustainable Energy Advantage, LLC, the analysis found that the legislation could save customers at least \$13.7 billion over ten years, billions more than the administration's initial estimates. This is on top of the \$6 billion in savings estimated from the Governor's [Energy Affordability Agenda](#) announced in

Massachusetts Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse Final Report and Mass Save Reforms Webinar Notice

The EEA Climate Team recently released the [*Massachusetts Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse Final Report*](#), which details the EEA initiative to assess current and future building energy programs and explore options to create more equitable and streamlined services.

Heating and cooling buildings is the second largest use of energy and source of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts. Increasing energy efficiency and installing clean heating technologies in the roughly 2.7 million buildings in the state is critical to saving energy, controlling costs, advancing climate goals, and making the places we live, work, and learn healthier and more comfortable.

EEA embarked on a two-year assessment of options for delivering comprehensive building decarbonization resources – weatherization, electrification, efficient heating and cooling systems - to streamline and better support customers. These changes are essential and urgent as we scale cost-effective solutions over the next ten years.

Produced by project consultant VEIC, the report provides an overview of the assessment's extensive research, model proposals, and comprehensive stakeholder engagement. It incorporates input from energy efficiency industry experts, program administrators, business owners, municipal staff, local energy coaches, community-based climate and environmental justice organizations, municipal light plant staff, and many others.

The [*Massachusetts Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse*](#) initiative informed provisions in the [*Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act \(EAIL\)*](#) filed by Governor Healey to transform the Mass Save program. This includes consolidating program administration, requiring a coordinated and statewide approach to procuring vendors, and enabling data sharing to better address customer needs. The Act also enables the pooling of program funds to allocate resources to the areas of greatest need and rate reduction bonds that spread costs and save ratepayers at least \$5 billion over ten years.

The EAIL Act allows many of the ambitions of the Clearinghouse to become a reality, transforming Mass Save into an even more customer-centric, streamlined program for customers to access energy savings and clean heat.

Webinar Announcement: Understanding Mass Save Reforms in the Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act

Title: Understanding Mass Save Reforms in the Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act

Description: In this webinar, learn about the proposed changes to Mass Save in the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act filed in May 2025. Building on the work of the Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse initiative, this provision seeks to create a framework that would simplify and streamline the energy efficiency and decarbonization customer experience. Hear about what this means for Mass Save and achieving equitable building decarbonization now and in the future.

- **Date: Aug 27, 2025 10:00-11:00 AM**
- **[Click Here to Register!](#)**

Please reach out to patrick.forde@mass.gov with any questions.

[Click Here to Register for Webinar!](#)



**Climate
action
is for
all of us.**

Want a More Comfortable, Energy-Efficient Home?

Massachusetts Offers Support for Weatherization and Heating Upgrades

If your home feels too drafty in the winter or too hot in the summer, you're not alone—and there's help available.

Through the [Climate Action is for All of Us](#) campaign, Massachusetts is raising awareness about **rebates, incentives, and tax credits** that can help you improve your home's energy efficiency and comfort—all while reducing utility costs.

Simple upgrades like **insulation, air sealing, and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems** can make a big difference. Not only will your home feel better year-round, but you'll also spend less to keep it that way.

To find out what's available in your area, visit the [Massachusetts Energy Savings Finder](#). This easy tool shows you personalized options for saving money on:

- ☐ Weatherization and insulation
- ☐ High-efficiency heat pumps and HVAC systems
- ☐ Smart thermostats and energy-saving equipment

These improvements can help you:

- ✓ Stay more comfortable in every season
- ✓ Lower your energy bills
- ✓ Improve indoor air quality
- ✓ Reduce your carbon footprint

Ready to explore your options? Start today at mass.gov/ClimateAction.

We're Tracking Our Progress Towards a More Resilient Massachusetts

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Climate Team is proud to announce a big step forward: the launch of the [ResilientMass Metrics](#)! These new tools will help us keep an eye on our progress as we put the ResilientMass Plan into action – our statewide blueprint for preparing for natural hazards and climate change.

[ResilientMass](#) is also about making Massachusetts safer. It's a cross-government initiative that brings together all our state's efforts to reduce risk and building resilience to the changing climate. EEA, alongside the MA Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is leading this charge, and developing these metrics to measure how well we're implementing the [ResilientMass Plan](#). This information will be key to guiding our funding and actions for climate resilience across the state.

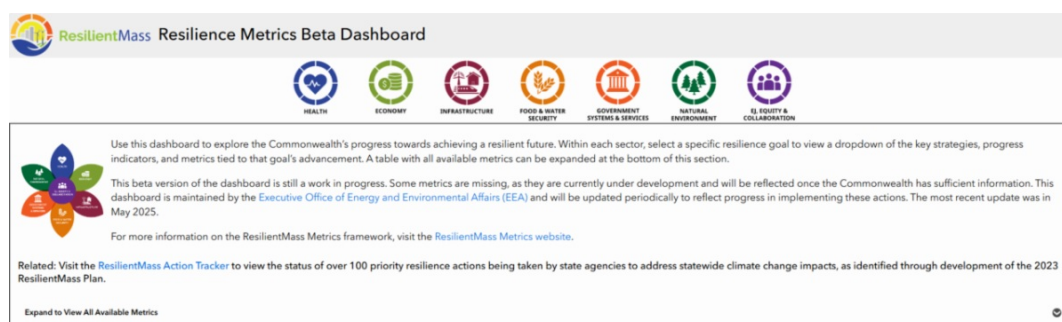
The metrics will assess how we're building resilience for everyone – considering our environment, our communities, our infrastructure, and our economy. We're especially focused on making sure we advance environmental justice and equity, so that everyone benefits from these efforts. The metrics directly link the priority impacts identified in the [2022 Climate Change Assessment](#) and [2023 ResilientMass Plan](#) to the specific actions we're taking to reduce them.

The ResilientMass Metrics are a result of collaboration with state agencies, community partners, subject matter experts, and the public. This comprehensive set of metrics developed under this initiative includes seven interrelated sectors with environmental justice and equity are core principles that run through them all.

Next Steps & How to Stay Informed

We are excited to announce the release of our final report, which details this entire process and presents the recommended metrics, this report offers a complete picture of our work and the important goals we've set.

And to make our progress even more clear and accessible, we're currently developing an [interactive dashboard](#) that will visualize these metrics. We plan to release this dashboard later this year.



UMass Boston Survey to Gather Information about Experiences with State Resilience and Preparedness Funding

The School for the Environment and the Urban Harbors Institute at UMass Boston are assessing the effects and effectiveness of the MA Office of Coastal Zone Management's (CZM) [Coastal Resilience Grant](#) and the State [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Program's](#) Planning and Action Grants. As part of this assessment, a team of researchers are seeking input to help further

guide the evaluation of these programs.

Findings from [this survey](#), which should take 10-15 minutes to complete, will contribute to reports and papers shared publicly and with CZM and MVP staff.

While the survey asks for your name and organization, that information will not be shared beyond the UMass Boston research team and will not be included in any reports or publications.

Funding for this work comes from the Sea Grant Law Center. If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Duff, Professor of Environmental Law & Policy at UMass Boston, at John.Duff@umb.edu.

Take Survey Here

About the Urban Harbors Institute (UHI)

Founded in 1989, the Urban Harbors Institute is an applied research institute within the School for the Environment at the University of Massachusetts Boston. UHI offers policy, scientific, planning, and management expertise to assist governments, communities, and other entities in addressing the complex issues associated with the use and management of harbors and other coastal areas.



Preparing for Extreme Heat

As the heat of the summer continues, please explore guidance, tools, and resources to help you understand, prepare for, and stay safe during periods of extreme heat in Massachusetts.

These resources are your central source for public health information and planning tools related to heat exposure and safety in Massachusetts. Here, you can download the [Extreme Heat Resource Guide](#), access [Extreme heat resources](#), and find links to local and statewide planning tools, including the [Unhealthy Heat Forecast](#) webpage. Whether you're a resident, healthcare provider, or local official, this page offers the guidance and support needed to respond effectively to heat waves.



Unhealthy Heat Forecast

[Use this tool](#) to see the 7-day heat forecast for Massachusetts. You can also select your city or town using the dropdown menu. The chart shows today's temperature, the hottest day coming up, and a color-coded forecast for each day. This alert is for healthcare workers, local governments, and community groups. They use it to plan, prepare, and act.

Housing

[Use this resource](#) to learn about extreme heat best practices for multi-



unit residential rental properties with limited cooling options. Support tenant and staff safety by improving cooling, communication, and property maintenance during heat waves.

Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE) Best Practices

When temperatures reach above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, adults aged 65+ are at a greater risk of experiencing heat-related side-effects, particularly those with certain chronic medical conditions or those who take prescription medications that affect the body's ability to control temperature and sweat.



Prepare for Extreme Heat Events

Adults aged 65+ are considered an at-risk population during extreme heat events. The elevated risk can be connected to chronic health conditions, medications that alter the body's response to heat, and/or poor air quality caused by extreme heat.

- [Flyer 1: Heat Related Illness Symptoms / Caregiver Checklist](#)
- [Flyer 2: Extreme Heat Preparation Checklist / Assistance For Air Conditioning Costs](#)
- [Flyer 3: Tips To Stay Cool on Hot Days](#)

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

- [Living Seawalls Field Trip](#) - Boston - Aug. 15, 10am-11:30am, come visit [Living Seawalls](#) with Stone Living Lab as part of a field trip series organized by Mass ECAN, the MVP Program, and DER! We'll explore North America's first-ever Living Seawalls habitat panels installed in the Boston Harbor at the [Condor Street Urban Wild](#). We'll learn how they create habitat for marine life to flourish on surfaces that would otherwise be inhospitable. Stay after for optional lunch and networking time at a nearby community garden. RSVP [here](#).
- [Recharge America](#) - in partnership with the City of Boston, Massachusetts Clean Cities Coalition, and Live Green CT, is hosting the [Recharge Boston EV Ride & Drive](#) on Saturday, July 26 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Harvard Science & Engineering Complex. This free public event offers EV and e-bike test rides, exhibitors from the region, food trucks, and family-friendly fun—including a visit from Red Sox mascots Wally and Tessie. It also marks the kickoff of Live Green CT's cross-country electric road trip to Portland, Oregon.
- [Mass ECAN Retreat Program](#) - Sept. 10-12 in Plymouth join Mass ECAN for an immersive, sleepaway-camp-like experience for climate practitioners! The Massachusetts Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network (Mass ECAN) is a community of practice for those working on climate adaptation/resilience in MA and interested in ecosystems and nature. In this Retreat program, attendees will receive training in foundational adaptation knowledge, develop an implementable climate adaptation project with input from colleagues, and have opportunities to deepen relationships with peers. Learn more about the program [here](#). There are limited spots, so fill out your interest form soon and by July 31st at the latest! Reach out to massecan@umass.edu with any questions.
- [Request for Responses](#) - The EPA Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network is accepting applications for free community-based technical, funding, and training assistance to advance stormwater management, ecological restoration, or climate resilience initiatives in their region. Apply [here](#) by August 1.
- [The Climate Resilience Playbook](#) - Municipalities across the Commonwealth play a key role in helping their communities prepare for and respond to climate change impacts. MAPC, in partnership with the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Team and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), is pleased to introduce the Climate

Resilience Playbook - a new online resource to help advance the implementation of municipal and community-driven climate solutions. Join us on Wednesday, September 10 from 12-1 p.m. to learn more about the Playbook and opportunities to help expand this resource. [Register for the webinar here](#)

- [Climate Resilience Community Facilitation Fellowship](#) - Climate Resilience Community Facilitation Fellowship aims to increase the number of skilled, community-based facilitators in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, capable of supporting climate resilience projects that contribute to workforce development and economic growth in local communities. Learn more about the Habitus company and the fellowship [here](#).
- [Regional School District Decarbonization Grant](#) - The [DOER Regional School District \(RSD\) Decarbonization Grant](#) aims to assist RSDs in their transition from fossil fuel equipment to efficient electric alternatives at existing facilities. The grant program focuses on the preemptive avoidance of in-kind replacement of fossil fuel-based systems and equipment by providing the necessary funding to deploy efficient electrified solutions. This includes but is not limited to financial support for the deployment of renewable thermal technologies for space conditioning, efficient electric water heating, battery-powered facilities maintenance equipment, and electric commercial kitchen equipment, where that equipment is replacing a gas-powered alternative. The first round of applications are due Friday, September 5
- [Mass Save Municipal Energy Manager Grant program](#) - The Sponsors of Mass Save announced the recipients of the inaugural [Mass Save Municipal Energy Manager Grant program](#). This program will hire 24 energy managers across the state, and several of the roles are currently posted.

Tools and Resources

- [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.
- [2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment Data](#): the datasets created during the Climate Change Assessment are now available for download. These include spreadsheets and GIS layers for the Climate, Economy, Environment, Governance, Human, and Infrastructure sectors, along with general statewide datasets. See the 'Find or Browse Data by Theme' section to download this data.
- [Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience \(GEAR\) Maps](#) - 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.
- [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).

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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