



Department of Public Utilities (DPU)

Priorities for 2024

Environmental Justice Council

January 11, 2024



What is the DPU?

- DPU oversees investor-owned electric power, natural gas, and water companies in Massachusetts.
- In addition, the DPU regulates the safety of bus companies, moving companies, and transportation network companies. We also oversee the safety of natural gas pipelines.
- Led by 3-member Commission





Mission





Priority: Increase Transparency

DPU is:

- Writing plain language summaries of decisions
- Developing case-specific webpages
- Responding to consumer questions
- On social media accounts
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [X](#)

Commissioners are attending public hearings / meetings and giving remarks.





Priority: Improve Public Participation

DPU is:

- Hiring a [Director of Environmental Justice and Public Participation](#)
- Holding technical conferences and creating working groups
- Expanding Language Access
 - Expanding translation and interpretation
 - Multilingual public hearings
- Asking questions to utilities and petitioners based on public comments to gather evidence
- Responding to comments in decisions
- Increasing educational opportunities for the public

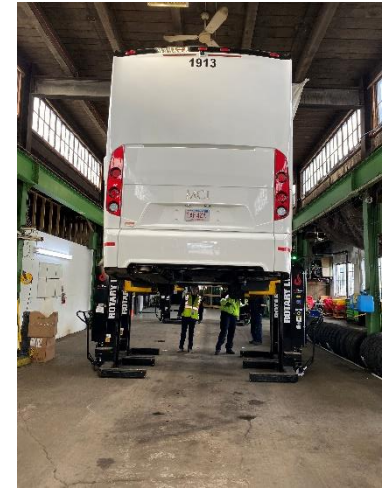




Priority: Adhere to Environmental Justice Principles

DPU is:

- Expanding clean energy benefits for environmental justice populations
- Improving review of municipal aggregation plans
- Inspecting pipelines, buses, rail to ensure safe operations
- Encouraging a just transition for workforce
- Emphasizing that clean energy transition is an opportunity to create job prospects for people who have been underrepresented in the workforce
- Valuing lived experiences of people





Priority: Clean Energy

DPU announced a:

- New regulatory strategy for natural gas in Massachusetts to guide the evolution to clean energy
 - Gas distribution companies must consider non-gas alternatives to gas expansion
 - Gas distribution companies will no longer recover costs to promote natural gas and submit plans every 5 years to demonstrate compliance with greenhouse gas emissions reduction limits.





Priority: Affordability

DPU:

- Opened a proceeding about [energy burden and affordability](#).

We seek comments by March 1, 2024.

- What does the energy burden look like for you?
What decisions do you make about how to pay your energy bills and alter your energy consumption in an attempt to lower your bills?