



## OFFICE OF ENERGY TRANSFORMATION: WEBINAR ON ENABLING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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To join the Enabling Sustainable Economic Development webinar on March 31, 2025 from 10-11:30am, please register [here](#)

### Background on the Office of Energy Transformation

The [Office of Energy Transformation \(OET\)](#) was launched by the Healey-Driscoll Administration on May 1, 2024 in order to accelerate the energy transformation, with a focus on gas-to-electric transition, electric grid readiness, and an affordable and just transition for workers, businesses, and communities.

On July 3, 2024, the OET announced it was establishing an [Energy Transformation Advisory Board](#) (Advisory Board) to provide strategic advice and counsel to the work of OET and govern the work of three Focus Area Work Groups: [1\) Decarbonizing the peak, 2\) Transitioning away from reliance on the Everett Marine Terminal Liquefied Natural Gas facility, and 3\) Financing the transition.](#)

At its January 22nd meeting, **the Advisory Board approved a proposal to add an additional Focus Area Work Group: Enabling Sustainable Economic Development.** The mission of this Focus Area Work Group is to advance clean energy-ready economic development zones that enable key business sectors to grow in Massachusetts, in alignment with the state's interconnection, land use planning, environmental justice and equity, housing, and economic development initiatives.

### Overview of Enabling Sustainable Economic Development

Massachusetts is focused on growing its economy by expanding and attracting business in multiple sectors, including climatetech, life sciences, advanced manufacturing, and AI, aligned with climate and clean energy goals and other priorities.

Inadequate grid capacity and the process for connecting new customer load to the electric grid present a barrier to economic development due to the timeframes and cost of connecting new load and making necessary grid upgrades. The administration and several Advisory Board members identified the nexus of energy transformation and economic development as an area of focus and necessary coordination.

The Enabling Sustainable Economic Development Focus Area Work Group will determine current barriers to load connection and economic development in the state and develop an approach to assess options to ensure clean energy accessibility and electric capacity availability, while aligning with broader state and local priorities. This Focus Area Work Group provides a unique opportunity to bring together current efforts in Massachusetts, best practices from other jurisdictions, and leading companies and organizations to develop a compelling sustainable economic development offering that achieves multiple public policy and growth objectives. This offering could include pre-identified, electric and clean energy-ready sites to attract businesses while ensuring alignment with the Commonwealth's climate goals.



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### Enabling Sustainable Economic Development Focus Area Work Group Timing, Process and Participation

The Enabling Sustainable Economic Development Focus Area Work Group is launching with an informational webinar that will provide an overview of:

- The function and purview of the Focus Area Work Group and its relationship to OET, the Advisory Board, and the other focus areas.
- The scope of work this Focus Area Work Group will undertake.
- How organizations and individuals can participate in this Focus Area Work Group.
- The expectations of Focus Area Work Group participants.
- How the Focus Area Work Group recommendations will be shared with the OET and Advisory Board.

The webinar will be **conducted virtually**. Those interested in participating in the **Enabling Sustainable Economic Development webinar** can register [here](#). Registrants will receive information on participation logistics.

A recording of the Enabling Sustainable Economic Development webinar will be posted on the OET's website within seven days of the webinar. For questions about the Focus Area Work Group webinar or other efforts of the OET, please email [energytransformation@mass.gov](mailto:energytransformation@mass.gov).