



**MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF ENERGY
TRANSFORMATION**

Energy Transformation Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting

September 28, 2026

Meeting Slides



Welcome and Introductions



Melissa Lavinson

Executive Director,
Office of Energy Transformation
(OET)



Toby Berkman

Consensus Building Institute
(CBI)

Agenda for September 28th Advisory Board Meeting

Timing	Agenda Item	Presenter(s)
1:00 – 1:20	Welcome, Agenda Review, Ground Rules, and General Status Update	Melissa Lavinson, OET Toby Berkman, CBI
1:20 – 1:50	Final Report and Recommendations of the Decarbonizing the Peak (DTP) Focus Area Work Group (FAWG)	Melissa Lavinson, OET
1:50 – 2:20	Pilot Site Update from Enabling Sustainable Economic Development (ESED) FAWG	Melissa Lavinson, OET Patrick Field, EOED
2:20 – 2:30	10-MINUTE BREAK	
2:30 – 3:00	Workplan for Peak Energy Demand Reduction (PEDR) FAWG	Toby Berkman, CBI
3:00 – 3:15	Remarks by Secretary Tepper	Secretary Rebecca Tepper, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
3:15 – 4:00	Next Steps, Wrap Up and Adjourn	Melissa Lavinson, OET Toby Berkman, CBI



Reminder of Ground Rules and Remote Participation



Ground Rules

- Assume positive intent.
- Engage in constructive dialogue and actively seek agreement.
- Stay on topic and within time (3 min or less).
- Be respectful and forthright.
- Speak one at a time, when called on by the moderator.
- Raise concerns with the Chair or designee, who will act accordingly.
- Be able to substantiate assertions or claims in support of comments and positions.
- Provide any additional written materials to share with the Advisory Board to the Chair prior to a meeting and OET will circulate.



Remote Participation

- Raise your “hand” to be recognized by the Chair or designee.
- Identify yourself and affiliation prior to any comments.
- Refrain from side conversations in the room out of respect for remote participants.

OET will provide all meeting materials and agendas to Advisory Board Members at least seven days in advance of meetings. Meetings will have a virtual option. All Advisory Board meeting materials are posted to the OET website by the day-of the meeting. Concurrent translation services will be made available at the request of a Member.



Advisory Board September 28th Meeting: What to Expect

Energy Transformation Advisory Board (Advisory Board or ETAB)

Decarbonizing the Peak (DTP)

Pre-Read: DTP FAWG Final Report, Findings, and Recommendations.

Day of: Walk through final FAWG recommendations.

Vote: Affirm the FAWG's Final Report, Findings, and Recommendations. Sunset the DTP FAWG.

Enabling Sustainable Economic Development (ESED)

Pre-read: Pilot site criteria and selection process.

Day of: Review pilot site evaluations and potential financing pathway.

Vote: Affirm moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3 (Implementation).

Peak Energy Demand Reduction (PEDR)

Pre-Read: PEDR FAWG Phase 1 Workplan.

Day of: Discuss Phase 1 direction, scope.

Vote: Affirm Phase 1 workplan.



Updates on Outreach and Engagement



OET Community Meeting – 9/30 @ Tufts University from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

OET will be hosting a community meeting on Tufts campus to connect with members of the Greater Boston Community, share insights on OET, and ways to get more involved with local- and state-level energy policy. Translation services are provided. Pizza will be served! Register here: <https://luma.com/a3j0ukjk>



OET Involvement in BosTEN, Clean Thermal Energy Initiatives

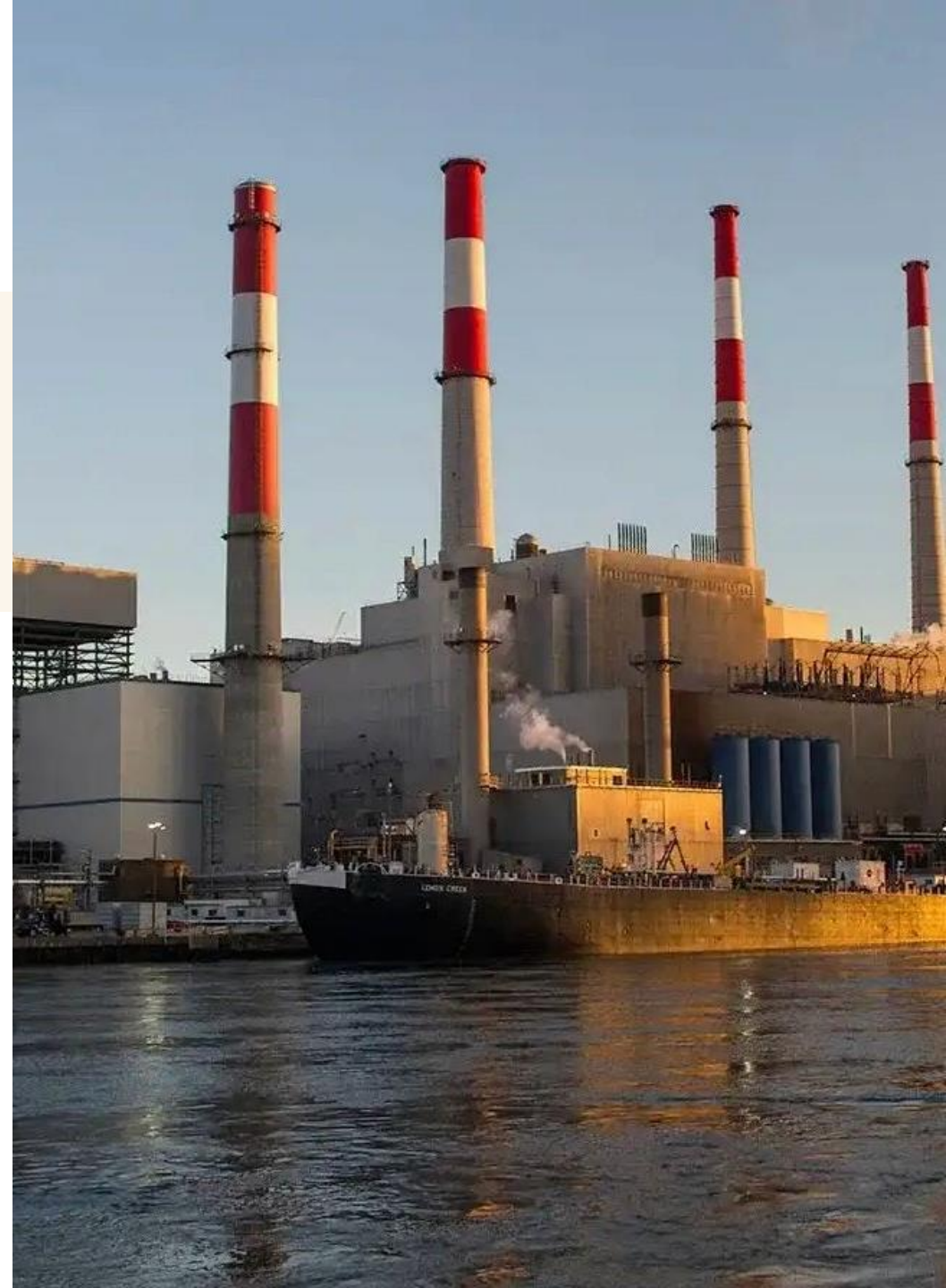
Executive Director Lavinson joined the Green Ribbon Commission for the launch of the [BosTEN thermal energy exploration project](#) and will serve on the project's Stakeholder Advisory Group. OET is also co-leading a statewide, interagency Clean Thermal Energy Working Group alongside DOER, with the goal of offering recommendations to shape the regulatory, permitting, and workforce environment in Massachusetts to advance thermal energy networks.





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Presentation and Discussion on Decarbonizing the Peak (DTP) FAWG – Inform/Decide



Decarbonizing the Peak FAWG:

Topics to be Covered and Discussed

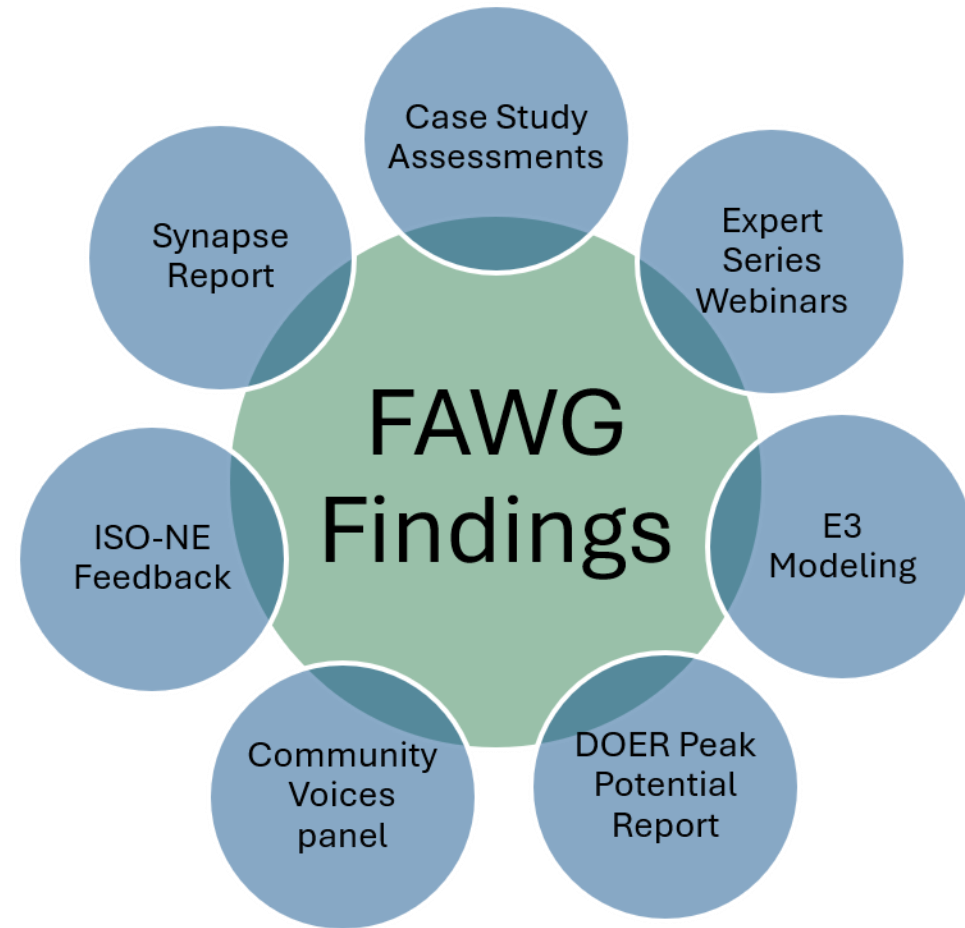
Topic	Advisory Board Request or Discussion Point
1. Progress Report (pre-read only)	Inform (pre-read only) • Workplan Review & Status • Mission & Purview • Phase 3 Activities Since Last Advisory Board Meeting • Phase 2/3 Objectives and Outcomes to Date
2. Presentation of FAWG Findings and Recommendations*	Inform/Review
3. Vote	Decide: The Advisory Board affirms the DTP FAWG's Recommendations and Final Report and agrees to sunset the FAWG.

*Full findings and recommendations are included as a PDF attached to the September 21st email. Copies available in the room.



Decarbonizing the Peak FAWG: Findings and Recommendations Development

- Phased process
 - The DTP FAWG findings synthesized outcomes of the FAWG's discussions and analysis conducted in Phases 1 and 2, including.
 - The Findings were shared with the ETAB for review, feedback and approval.
 - The DTP FAWG used the Findings as the basis for developing Recommendations, through an iterative process.



Decarbonizing the Peak FAWG:

Key Themes from Findings

The findings were unanimously affirmed by the DTP FAWG. The full text version of the findings can be found in the pre-read attachment. The core point of each finding is stated here:

1. **Reliability risks shift from short summer peaks to sustained winter peaks by the 2040s.**
2. **Peaker plants will remain critical for grid reliability.**
3. **Demand response and load management can reduce peak demand through 2050, while meeting longer winter peaks will require additional demand-side innovations.**
4. **The current regulatory framework relies heavily on ISO-NE capacity market payments.**
6. **In 2030, peaker replacement options include storage, renewables, demand-side solutions, grid-enhancing technologies, and potentially alternative fuels if commercially available, cost competitive, safe, carbon neutral, and feasible at scale. By 2040, expanded wind generation will need to be paired with more longer duration energy storage.**
7. **Full grid decarbonization by 2050 may be achievable with non-combustion resources, storage, grid optimization, and firm clean power (feasibility and costs of this pathway are debated among FAWG members).**
8. **Decarbonizing institutional CHP systems will require phased strategies combining fuel retrofits, efficient electrification, storage, active demand response, thermal energy solutions (e.g., campus-wide geothermal), and clean backup solutions.**
9. **Equity and community engagement must guide the energy transition to reduce cumulative harms, deliver local benefits, and support workforce transition.**
10. **Interconnection delays to the regional grid are a major barrier to deploying new clean resources.**
11. **Peaker plant decarbonization pathways will vary by site.**

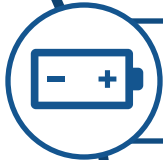


Decarbonizing the Peak FAWG:

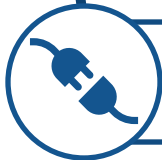
High-Level Takeaways that Formed Basis for Recommendations



Accelerate demand management and peak demand reduction strategies to mitigate peak electric needs – and subsequent reliance on peakers – and to support grid flexibility and reliability.



Boost deployment of more renewable energy, short- and long-duration energy storage, and grid enhancements to address constraints and reduce reliance on fossil peakers, in near-to mid-term.



Streamline interconnection and advance market reforms at ISO-NE that enable faster integration of clean resources and appropriately value capacity contributions.



Establish a clear, consistent emission accounting framework for alternative fuels.



Ensure equitable, site-specific transition planning that prioritizes community impacts, health benefits, and workforce considerations.



Decarbonizing the Peak FAWG:

Discussion and Vote of DTP FAWG Members on Final Report

- **Final report development:** OET and the consulting team led drafting of the Final Report based on direction from DTP FAWG members, incorporating feedback through multiple iterations and “office-hour” discussion sessions.
- **DTP FAWG approval:** The DTP FAWG voted to accept the Final Report on August 24, 2026, including the recommendations, with approximately 30 members participating and representing diverse perspectives; there were no objections and one abstention.
- **Key final issues raised at the August 24 meeting and addressed in the Final Report included:**
 - **Energy storage:** Clarified treatment of mid-duration, long-duration, and multi-day storage and incorporated multi-day storage consistently across relevant recommendations.
 - **Regional reform and community engagement:** Expanded recommendations related to ISO-NE reforms and ensuring meaningful community and labor engagement and inclusion in peaker plant retirement or replacement.
 - **CHP and GHG accounting:** Refined recommendations on CHP-related peak-demand reduction opportunities and clarified consideration of existing GHG accounting frameworks, including RGGI and GWSA.



Decarbonizing the Peak FAWG:

Key Themes from Recommendations (1-3 of 9)

The recommendations were affirmed by the DTP FAWG. The full text version of the recommendations can be found in the pre-read attachment. The core point of each recommendation is stated here.

- 1. Promote Enhanced Grid Utilization and Align Utility Incentives with Grid Efficiency:** The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) should develop grid utilization metrics and performance incentives that encourage utilities to maximize existing transmission and distribution infrastructure, reduce peak demand, and deploy innovative grid and demand-side solutions.
- 2. Expand Deployment of Multi-Day, Long- and Mid-Duration Energy Storage (Multi-Day Storage, LDES and MDES):** The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) should consider MDES (4–10 hours), LDES (10–24 hours), and Multi-Day storage (>24 hours) in future solicitations and provide periodic guidance on procurement timelines. The DPU should incorporate these resources into relevant dockets and policy development. The FAWG also supports convening a storage roundtable or working group in 2026 or early 2027 to advance policy and deployment.
- 3. Advance Flexible Interconnection to Support Clean Energy Deployment:** The DPU, electric distribution companies (EDCs), and other stakeholders should advance interconnection reforms that reduce barriers to distributed energy resources and improve use of existing grid capacity. EDCs should evaluate incorporating flexible interconnection into all offerings and proactively identify where it could expand hosting capacity.



Decarbonizing the Peak FAWG:

Key Themes from Recommendations (4-6 of 9)

The recommendations were affirmed by the DTP FAWG. The full text version of the recommendations can be found in the pre-read attachment. The core point of each recommendation is stated here.

- 4. Support Reforms at the Regional ISO-NE Level:** The Federal and Regional Energy Affairs (FREA) team at EEA should support ISO-NE reforms that expand Surplus Interconnection Service (SIS) opportunities and ensure consideration of grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) where technically feasible. FREA should also explore incorporating Multi-Day storage, LDES, MDES, and demand-side strategies into system planning and resource adequacy assessments to reduce wholesale energy costs.
- 5. Establish a Consistent Greenhouse Gas Accounting Framework:** The state should develop a transparent, consistent framework for assessing the emissions impacts of electricity generation resources and fuels, drawing on established methodologies in states with similar decarbonization mandates.
- 6. Plan for Community and Workforce Engagement in the Event of Peaking Plant Decommissioning:** If peaking plants are scheduled for retirement, affected communities and labor organizations should be engaged well in advance, consistent with Energy Facility Siting Board community and stakeholder engagement approaches as developed by the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity, to address cumulative environmental and health impacts where replacement resources are planned on-site and support a just workforce transition.



Decarbonizing the Peak FAWG:

Key Themes from Recommendations (7-9 of 9)

The recommendations were affirmed by the DTP FAWG. The full text version of the recommendations can be found in the pre-read attachment. The core point of each recommendation is stated here.

- 7. Advance Demand-Side Strategies Through the Peak Energy Demand Reduction Focus Area Work Group:** OET should establish a Peak Energy Demand Reduction (PEDR) FAWG to support implementation of Executive Order 654 and DOER's Peak Potential Report. Prior OET FAWG findings indicate that reducing peak electric and gas demand can help avoid infrastructure investments and reduce reliance on fossil fuel-powered resources.
- 8. Enable CHP-Reliant Customers to Efficiently and Affordably Electrify Loads:** The PEDR FAWG should identify policies that enable large CHP owners and operators to pursue electrification, thermal recovery, geothermal deployment, and DER participation while managing peak demand impacts. This should include reducing upfront costs for geothermal and other thermal resources, including through leveraging the BosTEN study by the Boston Green Ribbon Commission and MassCEC.
- 9. Implement Time-Varying Rates and Align State Programs Accordingly:** DPU and DOER should advance cost-based, time-varying electric rates and align programs—including the Clean Peak Standard, ConnectedSolutions, and managed charging—to maximize peak demand reduction and customer benefits.



Decarbonizing the Peak FAWG:

Vote: Affirm recommendations and report, and FAWG sunset

Vote

The Advisory Board affirms the DTP FAWG's Recommendations and Final Report, and agrees to sunset the DTP FAWG.





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Progress on Enabling Sustainable Economic Development (ESED) FAWG



Enabling Sustainable Economic Development FAWG: Topics to be Covered and Discussed

Topic	Advisory Board Request or Discussion Point
1. Progress Report (pre-read only)	Inform (pre-read only) • Issue Overview & FAWG Mission • Review of Phase 2 Activities
2. Progress on Development of Clean Energy-Ready Zones	Inform • Review ESED Vision • Pilot site down selection – scoring table • Proposed process and funding structure
3. Vote	Decide: The Advisory Board affirms the ESED FAWG proceeding from Phase 2 to Phase 3, pending identification of a source of public capital for the CIAC(s).



Enabling Sustainable Economic Development FAWG: Reviewing ESED Vision – from Challenge to Solution

- **Issue Overview:** Massachusetts aims to grow its economy by **attracting and expanding businesses** across multiple sectors.
 - However, the **cost and long timelines** associated with connecting new customer load to the electric grid can pose a significant barrier to economic development, *putting Massachusetts at a competitive disadvantage*.
- **Solution:** To address this challenge, the ESED FAWG seeks to pilot **clean energy-ready zones**—*sites with electrical capacity built in advance of business arrival*—potentially paired with potential **economic development rates** to accelerate speed-to-power and provide affordable energy for companies growing their business in Massachusetts.
 - In exchange for these benefits, participating companies would **pursue clean energy solutions** through, for example, on-site clean generation and thermal energy solutions, passive building design, clean energy procurement, or a combination of pathways.



Enabling Sustainable Economic Development FAWG: Summary of Proposed Pathway and Pilot Site Process

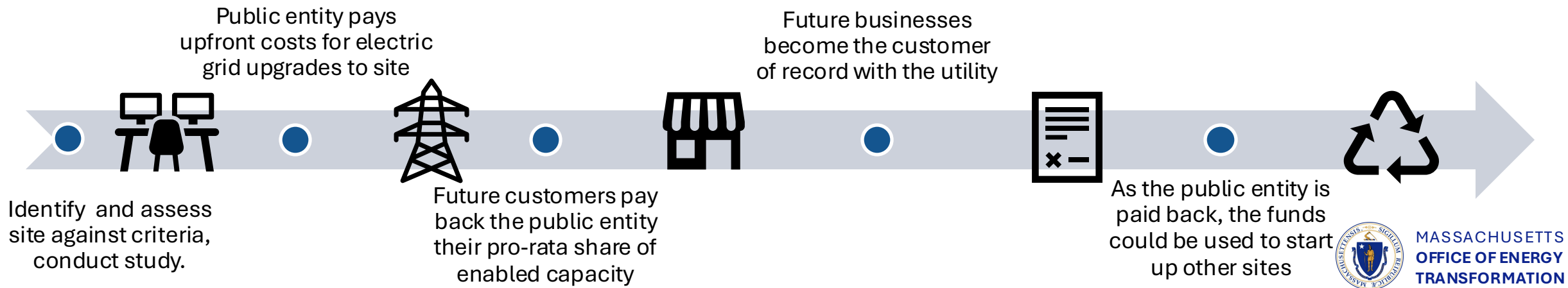
- **ESED FAWG members engaged in robust discussion on site-selection criteria, financing approaches, and ensuring development delivers tangible benefits to host communities.**
 - **Site Selection Process and Criteria**
 - Discussed criteria for identifying and prioritizing potential pilot sites.
 - Expressed a preference for brownfield and publicly owned sites, while considering community support, environmental and climate risks, transit access, and other site characteristics.
 - **Financing**
 - Reviewed potential pathways, including using existing funding mechanisms for utility engineering studies (e.g., Power Forward) and a revolving fund to finance upfront grid upgrades and recycling repayments.
 - Discussed implementation questions, including site occupancy, utilization of added grid capacity, and ensuring appropriate public benefits from public investment.
 - **Community Engagement and Benefits**
 - Discussed incorporating community engagement and benefits throughout site selection and development, including workforce development, training, and job creation.
 - Agreed to maintain flexibility where strong community support and engagement already exist.
 - Recognized that some implementation details will be refined through a “learning by doing” approach as pilots advance.



Enabling Sustainable Economic Development FAWG: Proposed Pathway for Proactive Energy Infrastructure Build

Proposed Pathway:

- Review sites based on FAWG-member developed criteria and identify electric capacity needs.
- Conduct utility engineering study to determine available capacity and potential range of upgrade costs.
- Public entity (e.g., MassDev) initially pays contribution in aid of construction (CIAC) payments, which is paid back by businesses locating at site.
- Each future load customer pays for their *pro-rata* share of enabled capacity. Public entity can then recycle \$ to enable development at a new site.
- Public entity is paid back based on arrangement between the business and public entity, based on contracted terms established between public entity and the locating business.
- The business becomes the customer of record with the utility and takes service under a DPU approved tariff.



Enabling Sustainable Economic Development FAWG:

Potential Pilot Sites Comparison

Category		Worcester GreenTech Park	Lancaster Site	Pittsfield William Stanley Business Park
Zoning and Permitting	<i>Zoned for C&I and/or mixed use</i>			
	<i>Contains state-owned, contiguous, or easily acquirable parcel ownership and easy to combine into one site</i>			
	<i>Features minimal special permit requirements, exceptions to local zoning rules, and anticipated review timeline</i>			
Transportation, Accessibility, Energy/Public Infrastructure	<i>Near major roadways and walkable or bikeable areas</i>			
	<i>Workforce density within a 45-minute commute (via car)</i>			
	<i>Existing water and wastewater system capacity without infeasible major upgrades</i>			
	<i>Clean Energy Alignment / no new gas infrastructure required</i>			
Community Buy-in, Safety, and Environmental/Climate Resilience	<i>Provides evidence of local support, in the form of Community Benefit Agreements, Letters of Support, etc.</i>			See Note Below
	<i>Provides evidence of adequate access to emergency services, ranging from hospitals, fire stations, and more.</i>			
	<i>Provides evidence that poses minimal incremental flood risk, environmental degradation, or exacerbation of existing conditions</i>			

The Pittsfield Economic Development Authority’s (PEDA) governance and development approach incorporates community benefits through stakeholder collaboration, workforce development, environmental and public health safeguards, and opportunities for public participation. Per PEDA, the William Stanley Business Park seeks to generate local economic benefits by, for example, attracting diverse industries and connecting employers with local workforce training resources.

Enabling Sustainable Economic Development FAWG: Next Steps

- Affirm approach with the Advisory Board.
- Engage with site owners at Worcester GreenTech Park and Pittsfield Stanley Business Park on next steps.
- Work with utilities to conduct an engineering study for each site in partnership with the state – pending confirmation of funding from Power Forward.
- Identify sources of state capital for CIAC payment.
- Affirm the overall approach and action with the EEA and EOED leadership.
- Announce pilot in Fall/Winter 2026.



Enabling Sustainable Economic Development FAWG: Vote: Proceeding from Phase 2 to Phase 3

Vote

The Advisory Board affirms the ESED FAWG proceeding from Phase 2 to Phase 3, pending identification of a source of public capital for the CIAC(s).





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10-Minute Break

We will return at 2:30 PM





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Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG (PEDR) Rollout



Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG: Topics to be Covered and Discussed

Topic	Advisory Board Request or Discussion Point
1. FAWG Overview and Principles	Inform • Issue Overview & FAWG Mission • Review of Proposed Phases
2. Workplan Review	Inform • FAWG Distinctive Contribution & Design Principles • Proposed Phase 1 Meeting Sequence • Proposed Deep-dive Schedule
3. Workplan Feedback	Discuss: Q&A for Structured or Open Ended Feedback on FAWG Workplan.
4. Vote	Decide: The Advisory Board affirms the Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG's Phase 1 Workplan.



Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG: Issue Overview and FAWG Mission

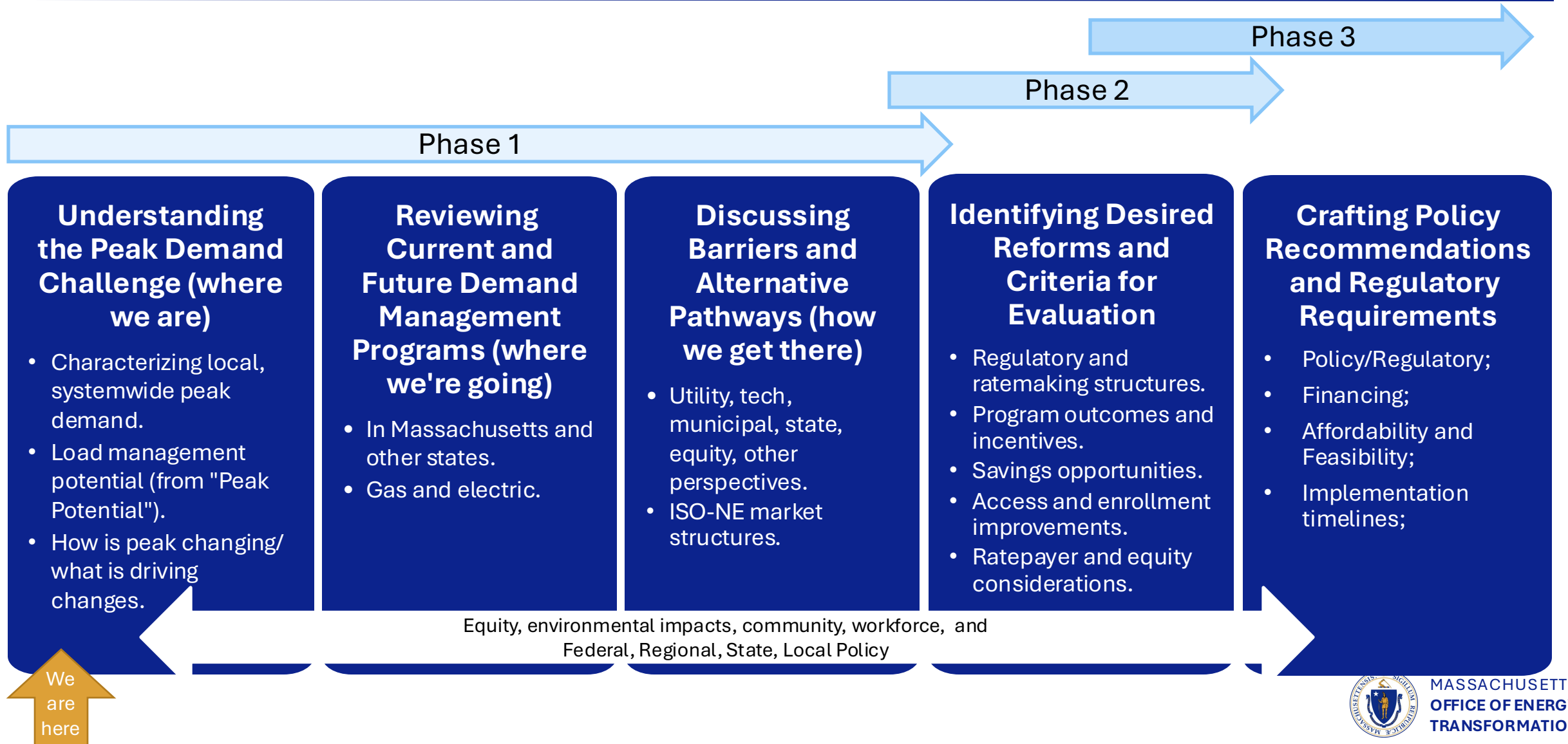
- Massachusetts is pursuing affordable, reliable pathways to achieve its clean energy and climate mandates while reducing costs and emissions.
- Executive Order 654 (March 2026) set a target of **3.5 GW of new electric load management by 2035** and called for identifying opportunities to accelerate gas demand reduction in strategic EMT-served locations.
- The PEDR focus area working group will identify and prioritize strategies to:
 1. reduce system-wide peak gas and electric demand, and
 2. reduce peak demand growth in targeted locations where it could otherwise require electric infrastructure upgrades or continued LDC contracting with the EMT.



To develop a prioritized set of gas and electric peak demand reduction actions for Massachusetts to minimize future supply and infrastructure investments and enable the affordable, reliable, and equitable achievement of the Commonwealth's climate and clean energy goals.



Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG: Phased FAWG Approach -- The Road Ahead



Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG: PEDR FAWG Value-Add

What is additive or different about this FAWG as compared to existing forums (e.g., EEAC, GMAC, IEP Working Group, CECP process, active DPU dockets)?

1

Whole-system perspective, context-specific solutions

Gas and electric sector demands interact, as do bulk and local system demand. Peak energy demand reduction delivers additional value when targeted to specific system needs: e.g., feeder capacity issues.

2

Unconstrained by an existing planning cycle or mandate

Several other groups exploring demand reduction are tied to particular cycles and programs that limit the scope. This group can ask what the state and other actors should do, then work to identify appropriate vehicles, timing.

3

Convenes a wide range of stakeholders, without membership limitations

Technology providers, consumers, policymakers, workers, investor-owned utilities, and others together in one forum to explore broadly workable solutions, without limitations of group size or ecosystem segment.

4

Focuses on barriers, policies, and implementation

Existing research established the range of technical possibility. This group will close the gaps between policy/technical research and real-world implementation, with on-the-ground perspectives and creative solutions.

5

Bottom-up, flexible, structured

Participation is open. Members contribute via work streams, working toward consensus recommendations with differing views documented and shared up and out.



Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG: Workplan and Process Principles

What broader principles should guide our approach to Phase 1, and the broader work plan?

- 1 Three phases.** Phase 1 builds a shared fact base; solutions are defined and prioritized in Phases 2–3.
- 2 Program-, sector-, and technology-neutral.** All options assessed on equal footing against agreed, data-grounded criteria.
- 3 Ongoing coordination.** Planning team tracks related forums and legislative developments and keeps the group informed.
- 4 Cross-sector integration.** Gas and electric are addressed together rather than siloed.
- 5 Flexible work streams.** Developed to support deeper analysis, based on what the group surfaces in Phase 1.
- 6 Straw products, vetted by members.** OET team drafts from group discussions; members comment, refine and iterate.
- 7 Driven toward effective, equitable outcomes.** FAWG identifies concrete goals and explicit pathways to implementation.

Phase 1 output — Foundation Document: *working definitions of electric and gas system and local peak; inventory of existing MA strategies/programs; needs, opportunities and work streams the group has surfaced.*



Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG: Proposed Phase 1 Meeting Sequence

1	Aug	FAWG Kickoff	Presentation: Background on electric and gas peaks. Discussion: Member hopes, information needs.
2	Sept	Foundation: <i>Definitions, program inventory, work plan</i>	Presentation: Meaning/importance of peak, system vs. local peak, methods for addressing peak, and existing programs/mechanisms for doing so. Discussion: Phase 1 work plan.
3	Oct	Electric sector: <i>Level set peak forecast assumptions and programs</i>	Presentation: Background on Peak Potential Report: technical potential for demand response programs; assumptions and methodology behind forecasts; interplay of different programs and technologies. Discussion: Additional electric sector information needs, barriers, perspectives on report's vision.
4	Nov	Gas sector: <i>Level set peak demand timing, locations, customer usage</i>	Presentation: Review of EMT reliant areas and customer usage, gas sector information needs, opportunities for gas demand response, and barriers to implementation. Discussion: Additional gas sector information needs, barriers, and pathways.
5	Dec	Current Usage Patterns: <i>Where are we now?</i>	Presentation: Level-set on existing demand and programs, including which customers are accessing: data from utilities on current and projected customer usage patterns based on actuals; participation in existing programs like Connected Solutions; how technology could unlock additional potential. Discussion: Implications of "ground-truthed" forecasts vis-a-vis assumptions and considerations for next steps.
6	Jan	Growing Opportunities: <i>How do we get there?</i>	Presentation: Possibilities presented by emerging technology and policies, such as ISO-NE Market Reforms, AMI-enabled utility programs, new technology and partnerships, etc. Discussion: Opportunities for solutions surfacing in MA and elsewhere to address barriers, potential work streams.
7	Feb	Phase 1 Foundation Document	Presentation: Feedback on document draft: How can we take what we've learned, and explore policy and regulatory reforms, program redesign, and new technologies to unlock peak demand's potential? Discussion: Aligning on definitions, inventory, opportunities, work streams.
8	Mar	Phase 2 Kickoff	



Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG: Initial Plan for Deep-Dive Sessions

Expected to be held twice monthly at a standard day and time (TBD), with opportunity for FAWG members, or external experts they nominate, to provide additional perspectives parallel to the FAWG's work and answer listener questions.

For those interested: share topic ideas, volunteer to speak, or nominate a speaker at this link <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/KvLTLYUaWL>

Tentative schedule of topics in Phase 1

Early October

Level-set on maturity of existing utility capabilities, including foundational technologies, platforms, and programs for load management, demand response and distributed energy resources (DER).

Late October

Additional explanatory session on DOER and E3 reports and existing government programs for demand response, DERs.

Early November

Demand Response Tech Session, from companies in both Massachusetts and from around the country.

Late November

Thermal Energy Network (TEN) information session – background on TENS and update on progress in Massachusetts.

Early December

Perspectives on ISO-NE on load management capabilities, forecasts, and ongoing projects and initiatives.

Late December

Inventory of needs/barriers to implementing load management: perspectives from companies, municipalities, institutions,, equity-focused organizations, etc.

Additional session-specific topics for January likely to include: Gas peak demand and the Everett Marine Terminal; rate design and incentives that reward off-peak use; equity & access to load management programs...



Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG: Feedback on Phase 1 Workplan

Please consider the following questions, or offer open-ended feedback on the PEDR FAWG:

- 1) Do you think this workplan will effectively build toward addressing the stated mission and objective of the FAWG?
- 2) What do you like about the FAWG workplan overall? What can be improved? How well does it set the foundation for Phase 2?
- 3) What are your thoughts on the list of presentation topics and deep dives? Are there others you would you recommend?
- 4) Are there particular experts, stakeholders, or technologies that you would like to make sure the FAWG hears from?

The Phase 1 Workplan was sent on September 21st with pre-read materials. Feedback on the language of the workplan or the meeting schedule can be provided in writing, via email.



Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG: Vote: Affirm Phase 1 Workplan

Vote

The Advisory Board affirms the Peak Energy Demand Reduction FAWG's Phase 1 Workplan.





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Remarks from the Secretary

Secretary Rebecca Tepper, Executive Office
of Energy and Environmental Affairs





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Next Steps for Advisory Board and FAWGs





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Thank You!

Massachusetts and Data Center Governance

6.25.2026 Healey-Driscoll Statement of Expectations for Responsible Data Centers

The Healey-Driscoll Administration paused acceptance of new sales tax exemption applications until stronger protections are in place and concurrently released a framework for responsible development.

- No cost shifting of energy, grid, water, or infrastructure investments to ratepayers or taxpayers.
- Bring your own clean energy to meet demand.
- Maintain grid reliability.
- Protect communities from environmental, health, and infrastructure impacts.
- Use water responsibly without compromising local supply or quality.
- Deliver quality jobs, local investment, and economic competitiveness.
- Operate with transparency and engage communities and local government early and often.



Governor Healey: Putting Communities First in Decision-making

9.8.2026 Protect and Support Ratepayers, Communities, and the Environment (EO 658)

The Healey-Driscoll Administration established that state agencies shall not issue permits to a data center project unless it has demonstrated conformance with the framework for responsible data center development and operations and submitted a community benefits agreement with key stakeholders.



Protect Ratepayers

- Requires data centers to procure enough clean energy to cover annual electric use, or pay into a new Ratepayer Protection Fund.
- Recommends DPU advance large-load rate schedules to protect other ratepayers from added costs and prevent speculative developers from diverting resources needed to connect other customers.



Protect Communities

- Community benefits agreement required before state issues permits for any data center project 25 MW or more.
- Agreements must receive Office of Environmental Justice and Equity review.
- State agencies prohibited from signing NDAs with data center developers.



Protect the Environment

- Data centers must demonstrate compliance with air quality, water quantity and quality, and public health standards in MA law.
- DEP will evaluate data center greenhouse gas emissions under Clean Energy and Climate Plan.

EEA committed to publishing a Municipal Guide by the end of the year, and to establishing annual reporting and disclosure guidance for operating data center projects.

