



MASSACHUSETTS  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY RESOURCES**

# Let's talk!

**Open forum on current energy and  
sustainability goals, challenges,  
and issues**

Leading By Example Council Meeting

September 9, 2025

Presented by  
Department of Energy Resources, Leading By Example Division

09/09/2025

# Agenda

Introduction

**LBE Updates & Reminders**

- Updates on grant opportunities
- Policy updates
- Coming soon!

**In the News**

**Group Discussion**

**Closing**



# LBE Updates & Reminders

**Lots to look forward to in FY26!**

- Updates on grant opportunities
- Policy updates
- Coming soon!

## LBE Grant Programs



*See our [grants website](#) for more information.*



### Solar-Decarbonization Grant

**Incentives for solar PV, decarbonization projects, and associated EVSE & storage at state-owned facilities**

LBE Contact: Sophia Vitello ([Sophia.Vitello@mass.gov](mailto:Sophia.Vitello@mass.gov))



### Equipment Decarbonization Grant

**Partial cost coverage for electrifying state-owned equipment**

LBE Contact: Morgan Bowler ([Morgan.Bowler@mass.gov](mailto:Morgan.Bowler@mass.gov))



### Fleet EV Charging Equipment Grant

**Up to 100% cost coverage for deployment of EVSE at state facilities**

LBE Contact: Sophia Vitello ([Sophia.Vitello@mass.gov](mailto:Sophia.Vitello@mass.gov))



### Clean Energy Feasibility Studies Grant

**Funding for studies examining the feasibility of technologies and strategies**

LBE Contact: Arianna Zrzavy ([Arianna.Zrzavy@mass.gov](mailto:Arianna.Zrzavy@mass.gov))



### Restoration Grant for Solar & Decarbonized Systems

**Cost coverage for repair or replacement of critical components for existing systems at state facilities**

LBE Contact: Arianna Zrzavy ([Arianna.Zrzavy@mass.gov](mailto:Arianna.Zrzavy@mass.gov))



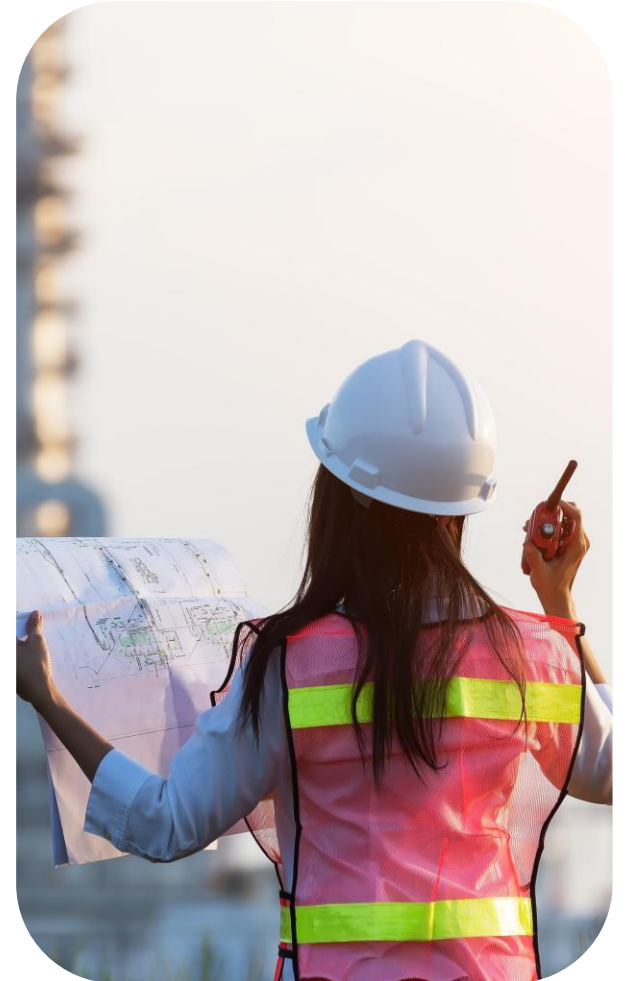
### Decarbonization Implementation Grant

**Financial support for large scale decarbonization efforts at state-owned facilities**

LBE Contact: Morgan Bowler ([Morgan.Bowler@mass.gov](mailto:Morgan.Bowler@mass.gov))

# Updates: Decarbonization Implementation Grant (DIG)

- ❑ DIG Round 1 received 14 applications from 6 entities with funding requests totaling more than \$27 million for a grant with \$12.5 million.
- ❑ The Decarbonization Implementation Grant Program review team is evaluating Round 1 submissions with a goal of making awards by November
- ❑ DIG Round 2 will accept applications, but review of these applications will not occur until Round 1 applications have been approved and awarded and we know if there is still funding remaining.
- ❑ Round 2 Statements of Interest are due 10/15/25 and Round 2 applications are due 11/3/2025.
- ❑ In addition, DOER has a separate agreement with DCAMM to provide funding to similar projects associated with DCAMM decarbonization roadmaps.



# Updates: Fleet EVSE Deployment Grant



Source: [Powerflex](#)

## New funding available!

### LBE Fleet EVSE Deployment Grant 3.0

- Received \$1.35M in FY26 capital funding
  - Project must be complete by end of FY26
- RGGI funding available for domicile EV charging program
- See [LBE grant website](#) for more information on the Fleet EVSE grant

# Show and Mow Postponed to 2026

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Show and Mow will be postponed until Spring 2026.

The Show and Mow is sponsored by the LBE Division and the Operational Services Division to familiarize staff with battery-powered landscaping equipment (BPLE).

## At the Show and Mow, you can:

- 🚜 Hear about the various BPLE offerings on statewide contract.
- 🚜 Learn more about the incentives and funding available to your site.
- 🚜 Ask questions and get some answers from folks who use battery powered landscaping equipment.
- 🚜 Try some of the equipment out for yourself!



# Be On the Lookout

## Distributed Energy Resources' (DER) study request for public input

Can technology reduce electricity costs for customers by strategically reducing demand? That's what DOER is asking in its study on the potential for load management tools like energy efficiency, demand flexibility, and virtual power plants.

**Public Workshop 2: September 10, 11:30AM-1:00PM**

Use [this form](#) to register for the public workshop, which is held in-person and remotely.

## Large Building Energy Reporting (LBER)

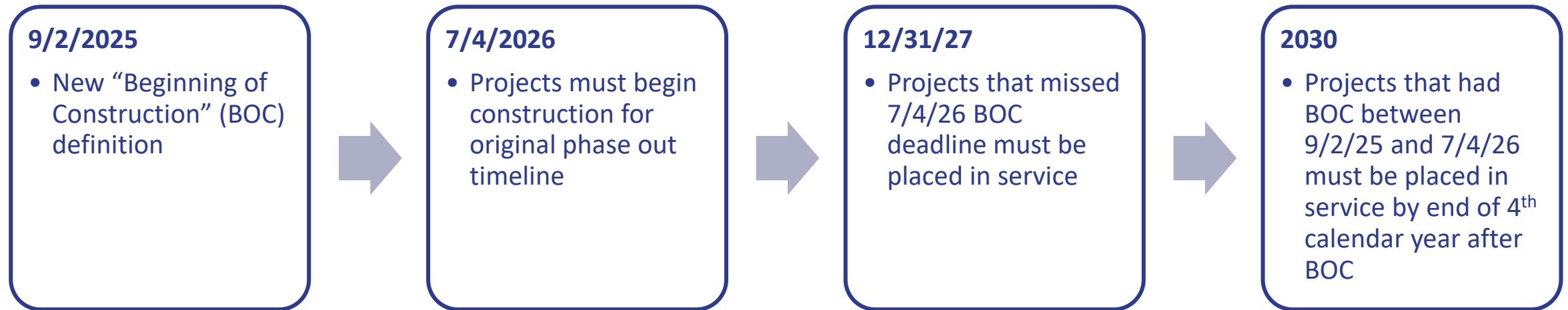
DOER will publish the first LBER disclosure reports and a comprehensive report on the data on **October 31**

**Reminder:** the LBER program covers the entire Commonwealth portfolio (state, private, etc.); this is over 38,000 buildings



# Changes to Wind and Solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC)

## New timeline:



**The Treasury released new guidance on August 15 that clarifies definition of “begin construction”.**

*See following slide for more details.*

# Wind and Solar ITC Treasury Guidance

## What does “beginning of construction” mean?

It varies by project and size.

- **Solar projects of 1.5MW or less:** can continue to use safe harbor methodology – at least 5% of total projects costs incurred to be counted as beginning of construction
- **Solar projects over 1.5MW and all wind projects:** use physical work test methodology – actual, meaningful construction (e.g., excavation, pouring foundations, installing racking)
- This change in definition only applies to projects that begin construction on or after 9/2/25 ([source](#)).

## When should the project be placed in service?

If the project begins construction between 9/2/25 and 7/4/26, the project must be placed in service by the end of the fourth calendar year after it began construction ([source](#)).

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## What happens if my project begins construction after July 4, 2026?

Projects that missed the 7/4/26 deadline to begin construction can still apply for the credit but their projects must be placed in service by 12/31/2027 ([source](#)).

# SMART 3.0 regs filed

## Final regulations go into effect September 12, 2025

### Key Takeaways

- Annual adjustable block & rates structure will better reflect market conditions
- Annual application period
- More limited storage requirement
- Expansion of “solar canopy” definition

- Program Year 2025 opens for applications on **October 15**
  - Future Program Years will open January 1 (through first 10 business days) sequenced by ISA application date
  - Then capacity is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis by date of SOQ application
- New program includes an **annual adjustable block, rate, & adder structure** as determined by the annual SMART program assessment to better reflect market conditions
- **Energy storage requirement** now applies only to *ground-mounted* systems that **>1,000 kW AC**
  - Any system eligible for a locational adder is exempt
- New **mitigation fee required for ground-mount systems >250 kW AC** that overlap with land that is not Previously Developed and does not qualify for a Locational Compensation Rate Adder
- Percent of capacity that must maintain secondary function of the area beneath the canopy reduced to 75%
- Applicants in Program Years 2025 and 2026 must demonstrate that on-site physical work of a significant nature did not begin before June 20, 2025

# Federal EV Tax Credit Update

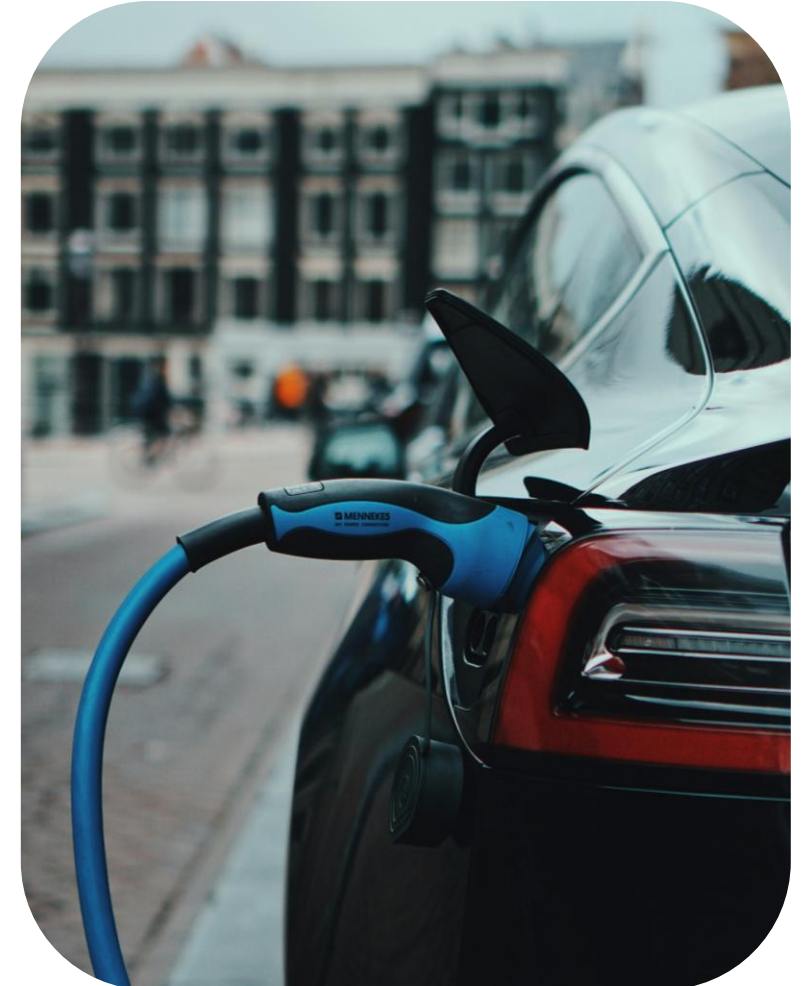
## EV tax credits will expire after this month (September 2025)

These tax credits include:

- ☐ 25E (used vehicles)
- ☐ 30D (new vehicles)
- ☐ 45W (commercial vehicles)

IRS issued [FAQ on August 21, 2025 providing guidance](#) about expiration of EV tax credits:

- ☐ Consumers may take possession of vehicles after September 30, 2025 as long as they “acquire” the vehicle by September 30, 2025
- ☐ “Acquire” means the consumers does the following:
  - Enter into a written binding contract
  - Make a nominal payment or a vehicle trade-in by September 30, 2025



# Stop! A couple quick questions on solar and LBER...

Please scan this QR code or go to [slido.com](https://slido.com) and enter the following code to participate in this activity:

**1265595**



# MA Winter Heat Pump Electric Rates

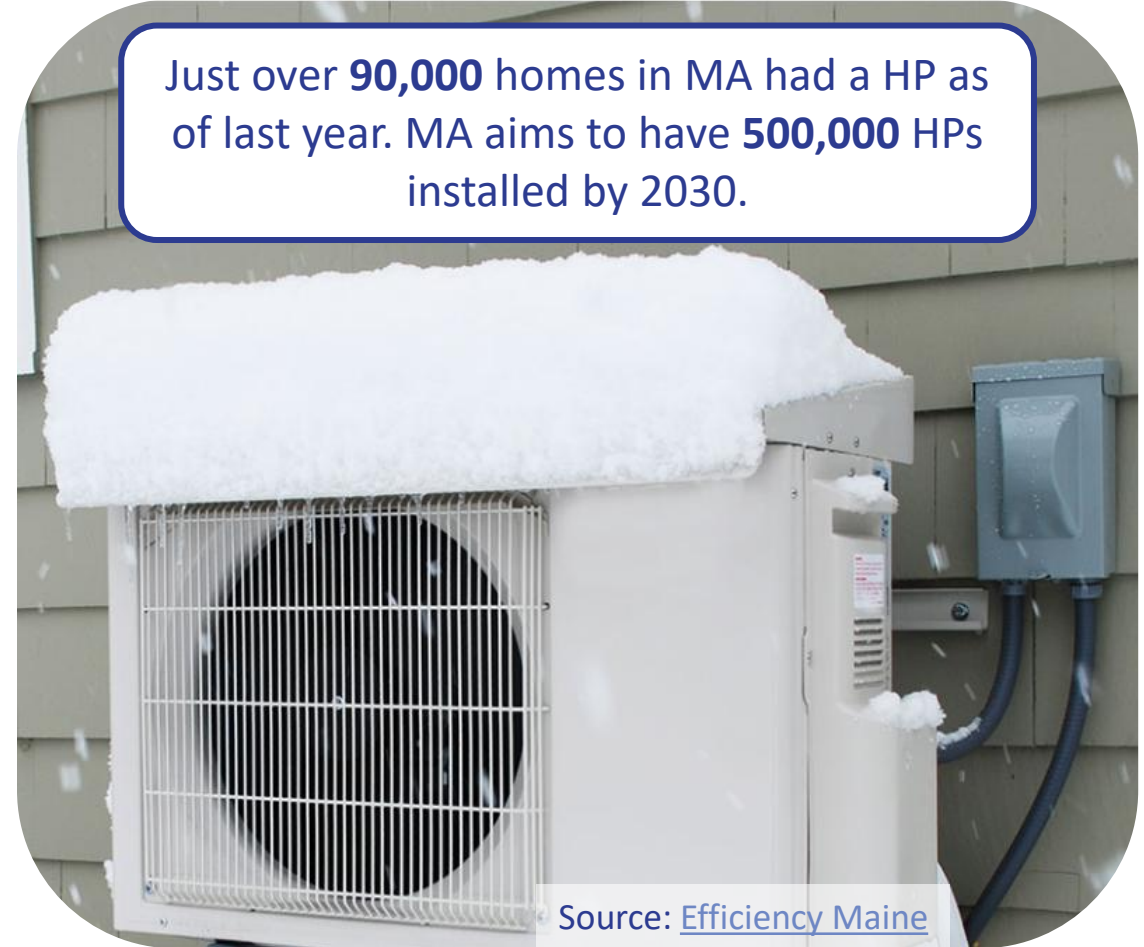
Using an electric heat pump (HP) in Massachusetts is about to become more affordable ([source](#))

Eversource, National Grid and Unitil will offer cheaper electric rates during the coldest months of the year for households that use a HP:

- **When:** November 1 to April 30
- **How:** There will be a discount of several cents per kWh on the delivery portion of bills for those with HPs

The new seasonal rate is meant to encourage a switch to HPs by reducing winter costs when usage is highest.

Just over **90,000** homes in MA had a HP as of last year. MA aims to have **500,000** HPs installed by 2030.



Source: [Efficiency Maine](#)

# MA Gas Policy



## Massachusetts residents no longer have to subsidize new gas hookups ([source](#))

- A new ruling says anyone who wants a new gas line will have to pay for it
- Prior to this ruling, utilities spread out the costs of new hookups among all their customers over several years
- In 2023, the average cost of a gas-line extension was \$9,000
- Currently, more than half of Massachusetts homes are heated with natural gas

# Coming Soon: 2025 LBE Recognition Awards

## Nominate an entity or individual today!

DOER will be giving up to two (2) LBE Recognition Awards each in the following categories, for a maximum of six (6) awards:

- State entity
- Municipality
- Individual

Nominate through the form linked on our website (“Leading By Example Recognition Awards”) by **September 19, 2025**.

Email Arianna ([arianna.zrzavy@mass.gov](mailto:arianna.zrzavy@mass.gov)) with any questions about the LBE Awards.



*2024 Award Winners*

DOER will celebrate the winners at an Awards Ceremony at the State House in December 2025.

# Coming Soon: FY25 Tracking Form

Fiscal Year Progress Reports  
(FY21-FY24) reports are now  
available online!

FY25 data is due **Friday, November 21, 2025**

Tracks data related to:

- energy usage
- renewables
- vehicle fleets
- charging station deployment, and
- other sustainability efforts
- **NEW!** Embodied carbon section for any projects that incorporated EC into decision making (if applicable)

Download the Tracking Form from our [Tools and Resources page](#).

Contact [Sophia.Vitello@mass.gov](mailto:Sophia.Vitello@mass.gov) with any questions or to submit your final form.

## Also Coming Soon: FY20-25 Report

Per the guidance from [EO 594](#):

“LBE shall report annually on progress toward meeting the targets and objectives of this Order. **Every five years, starting in 2025, LBE shall publish a comprehensive review of portfolio progress and efforts undertaken.**”  
*(emphasis added)*

Following the collection of the 2025 data, we will present on the major findings of this comprehensive review at a future Council Meeting.

# Coming Soon: Green Communities Summit 2025

**LBE will be joining the Green Communities Summit!**



**Green Communities Summit 2024**

- ☐ This year, LBE will have a track within the GC Summit for state entities.
- ☐ State entities will have the opportunity to collaborate on energy and sustainability issues with municipal governments, as well as other state entities.
- ☐ **Given logistical limitations, there will be a limited number of spaces for state entities.**
- ☐ Stay tuned for additional information.

# Coming Soon: State Fleet Electrification Report

## Measuring progress towards EO 594 targets

The State Fleet Electrification Report will provide:

1. a progress update on each state entity's fleet electrification planning status,
2. each fleet's current electrification status, and
3. what fleet electrification plans indicate about potential electrification level by FY 2030

Stay tuned for more details!





# In the News

## Energy news items in the Commonwealth and Beyond

- Solar successes
- EVs and EVSE

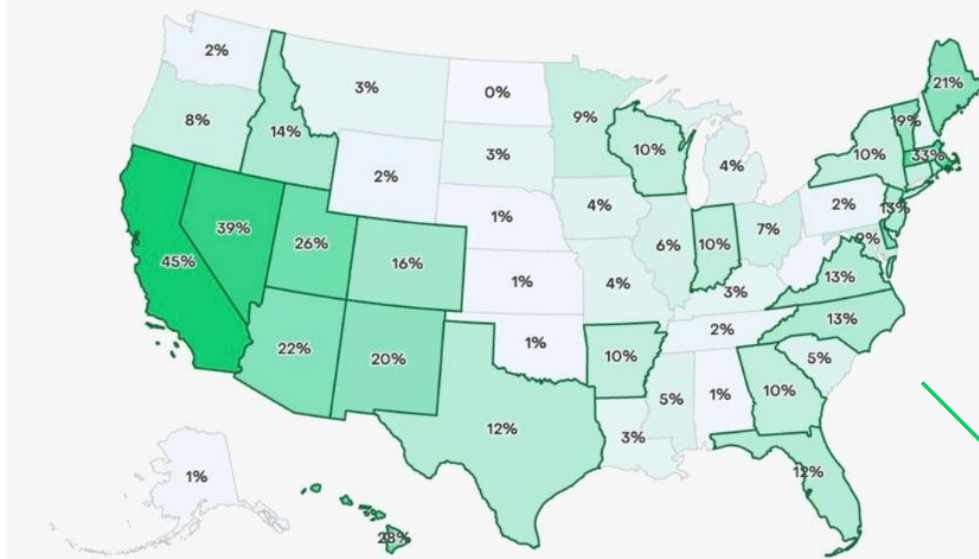
# Solar Successes

## Solar production outproduced wind for the first time in May ([source](#))

23 US states produced 10% or more of their electricity from solar in May 2025

Solar share of electricity generation (%)

*Outlined states have 10%+ share*



## A heat wave hit New England's grid. Clean energy saved the day ([source](#))

On June 24, demand on New England grid approached maximum capacity and unexpected outages at power plant reduced available generation by >1GW.

Several gigawatts of power were tapped into in the region:

- rooftop and other “behind-the-meter” solar panels (up to 22% of NE power)
- Vermont’s network of thousands of batteries

This reduced demand and saved NE customers millions of dollars.

### Top 5:

- California (45%)
- Nevada (39%)
- **Massachusetts (33%)**
- Utah (26%)
- Arizona (22%)

# Electric Vehicle Charging

## Gov. Maura Healey shuttles \$46M towards EV charging in Massachusetts ([source](#))

Healey administration will give \$46M over the next two (2) fiscal years to build up EV charging infrastructure

MassDEP plans to use \$16M to purchase and install EV chargers across workplaces, fleets, multi-unit dwellings, educational campuses, and public access locations



## Federal government issues revised NEVI guidance ([source](#))

- Revised NEVI guidance released on August 11, 2025 effectively "unfreezes" NEVI program
- Recap: Trump administration froze unobligated NEVI funds immediately after inauguration via executive order
- Recap: NEVI provides \$5 billion to states to build fast charging stations along major corridors
- Updated guidance reduces program requirements for states
- MA has obligated \$50M of its \$63M allocation and plans to build ~30 sites

# Electric Vehicles

## New study reveals EVs lower brake dust pollution by 83% ([source](#))

According to [a study by EIT Urban Mobility](#), battery-electric vehicles (BEVs) reduce brake dust. The study looked at EVs in London, Milan, and Barcelona and found that BEVs reduce brake dust pollution by 83%, supporting the argument that driving EVs have health benefits.

## New analysis from University of Michigan shows battery-electric vehicles deliver the lowest lifetime emissions in every part of the contiguous United States ([source](#))

Fully-electric light-duty vehicles have the lowest lifecycle GHG emissions (manufacturing, use, end-of-life) compared to gas vehicle, regular hybrids, and plug-in hybrids REGARDLESS of where in the country you charge

- 300-mile fully-electric vehicle lifecycle emissions are:
  - 31–36% lower than a 50-mile range PHEV
  - 63–65% lower than a hybrid EV
  - 71–73% lower than an ICE vehicle
- See the [full report](#) for more details

Live demo!  
[Vehicle Emissions](#)  
[Calculator](#)

## One more question, on EVs...

Please scan this QR code or go to [slido.com](https://slido.com) and enter the following code to participate in this activity:

**1265595**





# Group Discussion

## Let's talk!

Do you have any questions on energy or sustainability issues?

Concerns about projects or policies?

Best practices or updates you want to share with your colleagues?

# Icebreaker: LBE FY26 Goals



Track state fleet electrification progress and support accelerated acquisitions of BEVs toward 2030 goals



Work with DCAMM and OVM to develop long-term plan for EVSE deployment



Award funds to jump-start several large decarbonization projects



Establish Renewable Diesel (RD) policy for state government entities that supports transitional emissions reduction strategies



Accelerate solar deployment to take advantage of ending federal tax credits



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**Thank You!**