



# HEALEY-DRISCOLL ADMINISTRATION'S **CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE** SITING AND PERMITTING RECOMMENDATIONS

*Massachusetts' current siting and permitting processes are causing significant delays in the clean energy transition and community input is being left out. New siting and permitting recommendations cut red tape and ensure meaningful community engagement so needed clean energy infrastructure is built more quickly and responsibly.*

## WHAT IS CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE?



**SOLAR  
TECHNOLOGY**



**WIND  
TECHNOLOGY**



**ANAEROBIC  
DIGESTION  
FACILITIES**



**ENERGY  
STORAGE  
FACILITIES**



**TRANSMISSION  
& DISTRIBUTION  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

We need to build clean energy infrastructure – and fast – to meet our legally mandated climate goals, attract and retain businesses, and support our residents as they adopt solar, EVs, and heat pumps.

## BRINGING EVERYONE TO THE TABLE

### LOCAL EMPOWERMENT

Municipalities will retain all permitting powers for projects not subject to review by the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB), such as zoning and wetlands permits. Municipalities must complete their permitting process in 12 months and issue a single consolidated permit.

Communities will automatically be granted intervenor status upon request should any local permitting decisions be appealed to the EFSB.

The state would create municipal permitting standards that would help communities set limits related to land clearing, noise, and other environmental concerns.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An Office of Public Participation at the Department of Public Utilities would assist communities and project applicants with engagement.

For the first time, community engagement would be mandatory, including the number and types of meetings, a 60-day public comment period, efforts to involve community organizations, and efforts to develop community benefit agreements and benefits vs. burdens analysis.

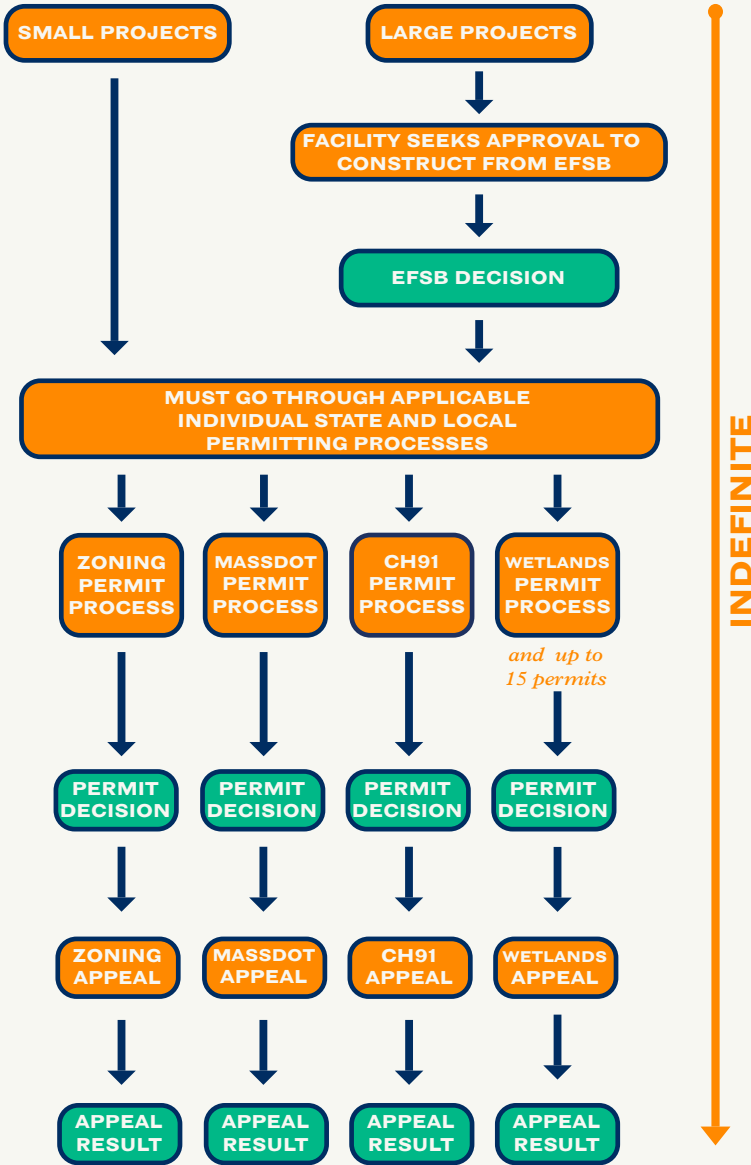


*This proposal is based on recommendations that were developed by Governor Healey's Commission on Clean Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting – a diverse group of representatives from municipalities, environmental justice organizations, environmental advocacy groups, electric utilities, agriculture, energy siting practitioners, clean energy industry, labor, housing, and real estate.*

# A TIMELY PERMITTING PROCESS

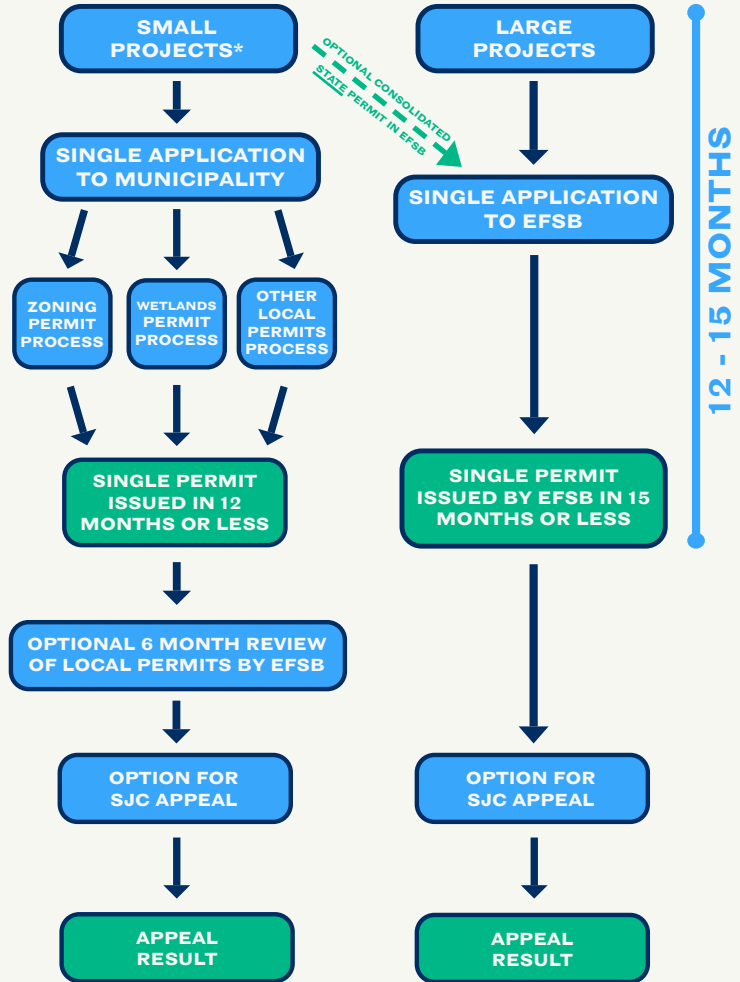


## CURRENT PROCESS EXAMPLE



Current processes are confusing and delay much needed clean energy infrastructure as much as a decade.

## RECOMMENDED PROCESS EXAMPLE



Local and state permitting authorities remain largely the same, but timelines are shortened.

\*Small utility projects like small transmission expansions can opt into the EFSB permitting process.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*Environmental justice communities have historically borne the brunt of energy infrastructure and been denied meaningful input in the siting and permitting process.*

*These recommendations will ensure that the siting and permitting process will be fair and inclusive:*

- ☒ Mandated meaningful community engagement
- ☒ Empower the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity to create statewide guidance on community benefits agreements and benefits vs. burdens analysis.
- ☒ Direct the state to work with stakeholders to create site suitability guidance to better understand and evaluate resource areas for quality, development potential, and social and environmental impacts.