



Priority bills for 2023-2024

Environmental Justice

Air Quality: *An Act to improve outdoor and indoor air quality for communities burdened by pollution* ([H.2131](#) / [S.1382](#)).

Sponsors: Representatives Barber and Connolly, and Senator Jehlen.

[Factsheet](#) (bilingual). Priority of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Table and Mass Power Forward.

Key provisions will

- Set ambitious air pollution reduction targets for 2030 and 2035;
- Expand air monitoring in pollution “hotspots” as identified by an advisory committee;
- Require air filters in certain existing buildings near congested highways;
- Require advanced filtration systems for new construction of certain buildings;
- Strengthen state sanitary code to require annual mold inspections and timely mold remediation;
- Update building codes to prevent installation of gas stoves in new construction.

Energy Siting: *An Act relative to energy facilities siting improvement to address environmental justice, climate, and public health* ([H.3187](#) / [S.2123](#)).

Sponsors: Representative Madaro, Senators DiDomenico and Edwards.

[Factsheet](#). Priority of the EJ Table and Mass Power Forward.

Key provisions will

- Add consideration of EJ, public health, and climate to the Board’s responsibilities;
- Require community engagement from the beginning, even prior to filing a petition;
- Require a cumulative impact statement and an EJ impact statement, and use these to assist in determining a ruling;
- Expand the jurisdiction of the Board by lowering thresholds for projects under review;
- Expedite reviews of new solar, wind and geothermal projects.

Transition Off Gas

Future of Clean Heat: An Act relative to the future of clean heat in the Commonwealth ([H.3203](#) / [S.2105](#)).

Sponsors: Representatives Owens and Armini, and Senator Creem.

Summary. Priority bill of the Gas Transition Allies.

Key provisions will

- Require gas companies to submit to regulators, and implement specific plans for their transition away from gas;
- Allow gas companies to become clean energy thermal energy companies, utilizing heat pumps, neighborhood electrification and geothermal infrastructure, thus using their existing skills and scale;
- Increase competition, allowing DPU to approve other entities to develop and distribute thermal energy;
- Establish a “Thermal Transition Trust Fund” to help lower-income households to transition;
- Provide strong disincentives for new gas infrastructure, prioritizing repair over replacement;
- Prohibit distribution of “green hydrogen” other than to certain industrial processes.

Building Electrification

Electric New Buildings Statewide: An Act relative to the electrification of new and substantially remodeled or rehabilitated buildings ([H.3183](#) / [S.2115](#)).

Sponsor: Representatives Khan and Livingstone, and Senator Edwards.

Summary sheet.

Key provisions will

- Require all new construction to use electricity and not fossil fuels;
- Avoid additional costs of retrofitting newer buildings in the near future;
- Allow some exceptions for hospitals, laboratories, outdoor cooking, and other special circumstances.

Zero Carbon Renovation Fund: An Act establishing a zero carbon renovation fund ([H.3232](#) / [S.2365](#)).

Sponsors: Representative Vargas and Senator Gomez.

Webpage. This bill is a priority of Mass Power Forward.

Key provisions will

- Provide a down payment for a fund for equitable building decarbonization;
- Prioritize EJ communities, low- and moderate-income housing, municipal buildings & schools, and minority- and women-owned businesses;
- Provide catalyst for a just and equitable transition to a clean energy future;
- Drive down energy costs over time;
- Jumpstart progress toward meeting the state’s climate goals.