350 Mass Priority Bills 2023-2024

Buildings

- **Building clean energy retrofits**– Retrofit 100,000 homes annually over the next ten years with zero emission heating, cooling, and appliances. * This can be done by legislative and executive branch actions, along with major changes in MassSave. The retrofits could be financed by:
    1. **H.3232/S.2365** (Vargas/Gomez) **–** Allocate $250 million or more of ARPA funds or other funds to create a Zero Carbon Renovation Fund (in English) (in Spanish). * In Joint W&M
    2. **H.2894/S.1799** (Montaño/Eldridge) – **HERO Act –** Raises revenue through the Deeds Excise Tax for affordable housing, housing vouchers, rental assistance for extremely low-income families, and for climate resiliency and mitigation. **
    3. Federal IRA categorical and competitive grants
    4. Receipts from carbon pricing, should the legislature go that route. In Revenue extended to 4/30
- **H.3203/S.2105 The Future of Clean Heat** (Owens/Creem) – To transition off gas and onto sources of non-combusting renewable thermal energy such as geothermal heating. It supports gas companies, their customers, and their workers during and after the transition. It would ban the use of hydrogen and renewable natural gas in the gas distribution system. In Senate W&M
- **H.3237/S.2135 Establishing a moratorium on new gas system expansion** (B. Williams, Ramos/Gomez) **
- **H.2131/S.2682 Outdoor and Indoor Air Quality for Communities Burdened by Transportation Pollution** (Barber,Connolly/Jehlen) – Mandates reducing pollution, including airborne particulates, especially in environmental justice communities. * In Senate W&M new draft

- **H.3187/S.2113 Energy Facilities Siting Reform** * (Madaro/DiDomenico) – Gives communities greater say over energy facility siting with a focus on environmental justice and public health. In House W&M

Transportation

- **H.3392/S.2217** (Owens, Armini/Crighton) **Setting Deadlines to Electrify the MBTA Commuter Rail** – Starting with the Fairmount-Indigo, Newburyport/Rockport (goes through Chelsea and Lynn), and Providence lines. ** In Senate W&M

Other

- **H.872/S.481 Polluters Pay** (Owens/Eldridge) – Better Future Project bill to require superfund-like payments from major polluters as measured by emissions from 2000-19, raising $75 billion over 25 years for climate adaptation projects statewide. * Sent to study

* Mass Power Forward priority ** Mass Power Forward supported Click for additional information

Other Bills We Support

Environmental and Labor Justice

- H.1438/S.941 **Access to Justice** (Day/Crighton,Miranda) – Would require only that a project has actual negative effects on an EJ community rather than the current standard of intended negative effect. * In Judiciary
- H.4439/S.1179 **A Just Transition to Clean Energy** (LeBoeuf,Robinson/Feeney,Timilty) – Helps workers displaced by the transition from fossil fuels. In Labor & Workforce Development new draft
- H.4439/S.1180 **Clean Energy Workforce Standards and Accountability** (Decker/Feeney) **–** Requires wage standards, training, & diversity in state-funded climate projects. In Labor & Workforce Development
- H.4502/S.2127 **Healthy and sustainable schools** (Decker/Feeney) – Energy audits for all schools In TUE

Buildings

- H.3236/S.2176 **Sparking the construction of 21st century buildings** (Vitolo/Payano) – The Spark Act ensures that newly constructed buildings have a reduced carbon footprint as compared to current building codes. In TUE extended to 4/7
- H.3227/S.2093 **Expanding Access to the Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Project** (Sabadosa/Comerford) – Would allow all municipalities to decide to join the Project. In TUE extended to 4/7

Electric Grid

- H.3677 **Establishing Solar Neighborhoods/Increasing Solar Rooftop Energy** (Connolly/Lewis) – Requires all new buildings be built to accommodate the installation of a solar energy system on their roofs and certain categories of new buildings be required to have a solar energy system. In TUE extended to 4/7
- H.3137 **The Municipal Voices Bill (**Armini) – Legislators, ratepayers, and the public living in the utility's service area, as well as non-profit organizations with expertise in the law of utilities, will have intervenor's standing in front of the Department of Public Utilities. In TUE extended to 4/7
- H.4500– **Supporting Load Aggregation Programs** (Roy) – Requires the Department of Public Utilities to decide about approving municipalities' community choice electricity applications within six months or else the applications are automatically approved. In House W&M – new draft

Transportation

- H.3272/S.2277 **Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Advancement** bill (Blais/S. Moran) – Increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth; supports the RTA's that provide public transit in parts of Massachusetts outside the Greater Boston area. In TUE extended to 5/23
- H.3908/S.2402 **Electrification of the Fairmount commuter rail line** (Fluker-Oakley/ Miranda) – Includes affordability, accessibility, and frequency improvements. In House Ways & Means, Senate In Transportation
- H.3366/S.2285 **RTA Bus Electrification** (LeBouef,Oliveira) – Complete electrification, in steps, by 2035 In Transportation
- H.3139/S.2218 **Fleet Electrification** (Barber,Meschino/Crighton) – Require all publicly owned and leased fleets (state, municipal, school bus fleets with 25 or more vehicles) to be electric by 2035 and prioritize deployment in fleets serving EJ populations. In TUE

Other

- H.755/S.2091 **RESPECT** – **Reforming Energy System Planning for Equity and Climate Transformation** (Blais/Comerford) – Acadia Center bill to reform energy planning by separating planning for and owning of utilities. ** In TUE extended to 4/7
- S.2082 **Mass Save Reform** (Barrett) – Move governance of Mass Save from the utilities to an appointed board. Rename Mass Save to **Commonwealth Clean Heating Initiative.** In Senate W&M
- H.2909/S.1866 **Preventing High-income Tax Avoidance** (O'Day/Lewis)-- A married couple must file a joint return for any year in which they file a joint federal income tax return. In Revenue
- H.2908/S.1865 **Protect the Intent of the Fair Share Amendment** (O'Day/Lewis) – Separate Fair Share revenues from regular capital gains revenues. In Revenue
- S.2096 **Massachusetts Carbon Removal Leadership** (Creem) – Use natural processes to remove CO_2 from the atmosphere and store it securely in rocks and deep ocean areas. In Senate W&M
- H.420 **Establish fashion sustainability and social accountability** (Rogers,Nguyen) – Require every fashion seller in the Commonwealth to carry out human rights and environmental due diligence for the portions of their business related to apparel or footwear. In Economic Development