



Policy Fact Sheet

S.9, An Act Creating A Next-Generation Roadmap For Massachusetts Climate Policy

Climate Targets and Regulatory Authority

- Establishes five-year benchmarks for climate goals accompanied by publication of a comprehensive, clear, and specific roadmap plan with the first greenhouse gas emission goal for 2025 to be set by July 15, 2021.
- Creates first sector-by-sector greenhouse gas limits in the nation for electric power, transportation, commercial and industrial heating and cooling, residential heating and cooling, industrial, and natural gas sectors. These sub-limits must be adopted by July 1, 2022.
- Adopts benchmarks for clean technology, including: electric vehicles, charging stations, solar technology, energy storage, heat pumps, anaerobic digesters, and other advanced technologies.
- Requires municipal light plants (MLPs) to reduce emissions through a Municipal Lighting Plant GGES (greenhouse gas emissions standard).
- Expands definition of cap-and-invest, known as “marketplace compliance mechanism”, to allow for regulation of additional sectors and different forms of implementation.

Energy Efficiency Programs

- Modifies the mandate for the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) so that it would be required to balance priorities for system safety, system security, reliability, affordability, “equity and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to meet statewide greenhouse gas emission limits and sub-limits”.
- Requires each three-year Mass Save plan to report on actual emissions reductions achieved, and to include an explicit value for greenhouse gas reductions when calculating the cost-effectiveness of various Mass Save programs.
- Authorizes natural gas utilities to conduct pilots on renewable thermal energy sources, including geothermal heating and cooling.

Building Codes and Appliances

- Directs the Department of Energy Resources to create a statewide “municipal opt-in specialized stretch energy code that includes, but is not limited to, a definition of net-zero building” to be promulgated December 2022. Creation of this code must include a thorough public input process outlined in the legislation.
- Adds four new seats to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) for experts in commercial building energy efficiency, residential building energy efficiency, advanced building technology, and the Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources (DOER).
- Sets new appliance efficiency standards for commercial and residential appliances, including computer and computer monitor standards from California.



Investment in Clean Energy Workforce

- Invests \$12 million in new annual funding, provided from the Department of Public Utilities, in a Clean Energy Equity Workforce and Market Development Program “to provide workforce training, educational and professional development, job placement, startup opportunities and grants promoting participation in the commonwealth’s energy efficiency, clean energy, and clean heating and cooling industries”.
- Creates a heat pump market development program to fund and offer training to expand markets for space and water heating using efficient heat pump technology, including specific training for heating oil dealers.

Equity and Environmental Justice

- Institutionalizes definitions for environmental benefits, environmental burdens, environmental justice populations, environmental justice principles, and neighborhoods.
- Requires state environmental impact reports to be completed for any project located within one mile of an environmental justice community. For projects with air impacts, it requires reports be done if within five miles of an environmental justice community.
- All state environmental impact reports must examine both environmental and public health impacts and include opportunities for “meaningful public involvement”.
- Establishes an environmental justice council to advise and provide recommendations to the secretary of energy and environmental affairs on relevant policies and standards to achieve the environmental justice principles.