



**Global Warming Solutions Project (GWSP) Energy Resources Plan**

With our state poised to spend billions of dollars on energy infrastructure, it is paramount that we work towards a diversified energy portfolio that fosters local sources of renewable energy while shielding ratepayers from the price volatility associated with overreliance on natural gas, and meets our obligation to protect Massachusetts citizens and the natural world from the dangers of climate change.

To provide input to the Legislature as it weighs energy legislation this fall (including Sen. Downing’s S. 1757, Rep. Haddad’s H. 2881, and Governor Baker’s S. 1965), our organizations have crafted an energy portfolio that can meet our energy needs while protecting Massachusetts customers and our natural resources. Our proposal provides for an energy policy that will:

- Maximize energy efficiency and distributed resources like solar energy, thus reducing demand, creating local jobs, and keeping more of our energy dollars in our state
- Create a pathway to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels by meeting at least 40% of electricity needs with solar and wind (onshore and offshore) by 2030 with an additional 12% provided by low-carbon hydroelectricity supporting renewable energy
- Protect ratepayers and the environment from risky and unnecessary expenditures on energy infrastructure, including gas pipelines
- Protect New England’s landscape from unnecessary impacts of energy infrastructure
- Facilitate achievement of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions required by the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) of 25 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050

**1) Prioritize Energy Efficiency and Reduce Energy Demand**

Massachusetts’ energy efficiency programs are delivering almost \$3 billion in benefits each year, allowing our economy to grow while reducing energy costs for customers. Energy efficiency is the best way to hedge against rising electricity costs. Strengthening these programs will enable us to reach every home and business, leading to deeper cuts in demand and achieving even greater savings. The Legislature should:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold our electric and gas utilities accountable for attaining “all cost-effective” energy efficiency for our businesses and residents and meeting our Global Warming Solutions Act requirements</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow municipal light plant customers to fully participate in our state’s energy efficiency and renewable energy programs</li> </ul>   |

**2) Shift Our Electricity Supply to Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Hydroelectricity**

Massachusetts has a robust and growing clean energy sector, employing almost 90,000 people. Smart investments can replace our aging power generation fleet with local, in-region renewable energy resources, from solar on our rooftops to the massive offshore wind potential off our coast. The Legislature should:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) from 1% to 2% annually in order to supply a minimum of 40% of our electricity supply with renewable energy by 2030</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise our net metering and solar incentive programs with a goal of attaining 20% of our electricity from customer-owned solar resources by 2025</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require our electric utilities to procure 2,000 MW of offshore wind capacity by 2025, enough to power 2 million homes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require procurements of large-scale hydropower resources to include at least 30% from in-region renewable energy sources</li> </ul>

**3) Protect ratepayers and our natural and cultural resources from risky and unnecessary energy infrastructure projects**

Gas companies and electric utilities are asking customers to subsidize up to \$10 billion on substantial new energy projects. This shifts the costs and risk of these projects onto the public. Moreover, any new energy infrastructure must preserve and protect our natural resources, including our mountains, forests, rivers, and oceans. The legislature should:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibit public subsidies or tariffs for any new gas pipeline capacity to ensure that risks of stranded costs or use for export are not borne by the public</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put in place robust environmental best practices for any new transmission investments</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require an independent and rigorous review of contracts for new infrastructure projects to prevent self-dealing by the utilities</li> </ul>

**4) Modernize our energy grid and promote innovation in energy technology and planning**

Our state’s tremendous growth in customer-owned solar resources and energy efficiency is opening up a pathway to a more local, distributed energy future. However, absent reforms these Local Energy Resources will not be able to compete fairly with traditional utility infrastructure expenditures. In order to take advantage of the economic development and reliability benefits of storage and Local Energy Resources, the Legislature should:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require the Department of Energy Resources to set targets for cost-effective deployment of energy storage technologies</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow Local Energy Resources and innovative planning approaches to compete when the state considers energy grid expenditures</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent any increase in regressive fixed charges on customer bills, which would undermine solar resources and energy efficiency</li> </ul>

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