

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the important work you are doing to promote energy efficiency in the Commonwealth.

A growing number of communities in MA, including my town of Lexington, are moving toward achieving Net Zero standards in municipal and commercial buildings and in residences. We are excited by the possibility of using Passive House building techniques as a way to help us reach our target. However, these techniques are not well known and training for all general contractors, subcontractors, and consultants in this area is essential to their success. I understand that New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) partially funded such Passive House training sessions for the first three years to ensure all applicable contractors and consultants became Passive House certified. I urge that the EEAC consider \$1 million of similar funding for training, curriculum development, demonstration training equipment, and specialized facility needs, to help drive this innovative building method forward.

Especially needed are more energy efficient buildings in the affordable housing sector. Your plan should include specific goals and plans for efforts to reach renters, non-English speakers, and low- to- moderate income people who are not currently eligible for LEAN. This could include a pilot project in applying Passive House construction in the affordable housing market. There should be reporting requirements that provide the basis for an assessment of the success of reaching these populations.

Increasing the number of Passive Houses in MA, including in the affordable housing sector, would not only help us meet carbon emission goals, but promote a more equitable sharing in the benefits of energy efficiency.

Pope Francis invites us to "hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor" and I encourage you to listen to and respond to both as you prepare your plan.

Sincerely,
Fran Ludwig
Board Member MA Interfaith Power and Light
Co-chair, Faith and Environment Group, Sacred Heart Parish, Lexington