



## Berkshire Environmental Action Team

Protecting the Environment for Wildlife



January 20, 2015

Christina Halfpenny, Director, Energy Efficiency & EEAC Chair (to distribute to all councilors)  
c/o Maggie McCarey  
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020  
Boston, MA 02114

--- SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA [maggie.mccarey@state.ma.us](mailto:maggie.mccarey@state.ma.us)

Re: EEAC Public Comments

Dear Ms. Halfpenny and Members of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 3-year energy efficiency plan. Berkshire Environmental Action Team, Inc. (BEAT) is a non-profit whose mission is to protect the environment for wildlife in support of the natural systems that sustain us all. We are very proud that Massachusetts is a leader in energy efficiency, but we believe there is much, much more that can and should be done. Increasing energy efficiency keeps our energy dollars local, rather than sending money out of the state to support a dirty, climate-changing fossil fuel industry. Please only approve a Plan that includes strong savings goals that will ensure we meet our Clean Energy and Climate Plan and Global Warming Solutions Act goals.

BEAT was founded on trying to have local, state, and federal officials enforce laws and regulations already in place. The Green Communities Act<sup>1</sup> requires that "...electric and natural gas resource needs shall first be met through all available efficiency and demand reduction resources that are cost effective or less expensive than supply." And the Global Warming Solutions Act<sup>2</sup> requires Massachusetts to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, and the corresponding Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2020 counts energy efficiency among its key strategies for doing so. In fact, energy efficiency is a key component of the plan, accounting for 7.1% of the 9.8% of estimated emissions reductions achievable in the buildings sector.

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<sup>1</sup> The Green Communities Act requires that "...electric and natural gas resource needs shall first be met through all available efficiency and demand reduction resources that are cost effective or less expensive than supply."

<sup>2</sup> The Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) requires Massachusetts to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

We have been disappointed that the targeted savings for the Program Administrators (PAs) have been so low, with only about a 2.5% savings for the electric PAs and even lower for the gas PAs. In our director's home (built in 1890), energy efficiency programs through MassSave have reduced oil use for heating and hot water from 1,300 gallons per year to less than 250 gallons in 2014 while cutting electricity use about in half. Further reductions are expected in the upcoming year as well. These programs work!

BEAT works with hundreds of people opposing new fossil fuel infrastructure in the commonwealth. By reducing natural gas use by current gas customers, we can eliminate any perceived need for new natural gas pipelines – a major threat to our environment and protected lands in Massachusetts.

The next 3-year plan should ensure that Massachusetts will meet or exceed our greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals as outlined in the Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP). And energy efficiency is our least expensive energy resource with the greatest payback. For every dollar invested in efficiency, we receive \$5.23 in benefits. Consumers save money that can then be spent in our local economy; greenhouse gas emissions are reduced; and jobs are created. By increasing our energy efficiency efforts, Massachusetts can avoid the need for new fossil fuel infrastructure and being our transition away from fossil fuels altogether. This is the path to the future that I would like to see for my children and grandchildren.

Thank you for considering BEAT's comments. Please only approve a Plan that includes strong savings goals that will ensure Massachusetts meets our Clean Energy and Climate Plan and Global Warming Solutions Act goals.

Sincerely,



Jane Winn