



MASSACHUSETTS

July 26, 2021

Commissioner Patrick Woodcock
Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council

Via email: ma-eeac@mass.gov.

Dear Commissioner Woodcock and members of the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council:

We are writing to comment on the proposed three-year Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Plan. As state residents and utility customers, we want a Mass Save program **that ensures energy justice** and serves renters and other underserved groups as well as homeowners who can front the costs of new equipment. We also request the **removal of all incentives for fossil fuel equipment** from Mass Save and the alignment of the program with Massachusetts' legally-binding climate goals.

The Mass Save program must provide an equitable distribution of energy efficiency funds. Mass Save has neither equally benefited renters, moderate-income households, and non-English speaking residents nor adequately addressed the barriers to access faced by these groups. The current draft Plan lacks measures to ensure that equity-focused goals are met. Please update this draft to include equity-centered, specific goals and budgets and strategies to address Mass Save's historic failure to reach underserved communities and populations.

Mass Save must be fully reimagined to meet the urgency of the climate crisis. The depth and tragedy of the climate crisis cannot be answered with small steps. Under this draft Plan, Mass Save will continue pouring ratepayer money into new fossil fuel systems that pollute our air, harm our health, and warm our climate. These fossil fuel incentives must stop! Every penny of Mass Save should be spent on innovative solutions that put people to work and transform our buildings for a healthy and equitable future.

The Mass Save program must align with the Commonwealth's legally binding 2030 and 2050 carbon emissions targets. The current Plan contains no budgets, targets, or data to explain how it will help the state achieve its emissions goals.

Mass Save must immediately rise to the challenges of this moment. Please prioritize the communities and populations most underserved, promote full electrification of buildings, support the development of a diverse labor force with future-ready skills, and support innovative pilots and programs to address the immense challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

Ann Abbott
Arlington, MA

Amy Antczak
Arlington, MA

Miranda Barrows
Newton, MA

John Adams
Arlington, MA

John Antonellis
East Boston, MA

Karyn Barry
Waltham, MA

Katherine Adams
Brookline, MA

Catherine Armer
Dorchester, MA

John Bassett
Brookline, MA

Rachel Adler-Golden
Newtonville, MA

Judith Aronstein
Acton, MA

Judi Bednarz
Brookline, MA

Susanne Agerbak
Arlington, MA

Deborah Ashman
Cambridge, MA

Michael Berger
Chestnut Hill, MA

Graham Albert
Allston, MA

Janet Axelrod
Cambridge, MA

Sarah Bergmann
Westford, MA

Elizabeth Alexy
Medford, MA

Sarah Axelrod
Brookline, MA

Frances Bigda-Peyton
Yarmouthport, MA

Benjamin Allen
Boston, MA

Marya Axner
Somerville, MA

Judith Black
Marblehead, MA

Courtney Allen
Gloucester, MA

Seeta Badrinath
Boston, MA

Linda Blanco
Acton, MA

Cory Alperstein
Newton, MA

Carol Baffi-Dugan
Orleans, MA

Leslie Bliss
Cambridge, MA

Alison Altman
Cambridge, MA

Laura Bahr
Brockton, MA

Jane Blumberg
Concord, MA

Madeleine Altmann
Bedford, MA

Barbara Baird
Brookline, MA

Viki Bok
Jamaica Plain, MA

Debra Andell
Acton, MA

Elizabeth Bales
Chestnut Hill, MA

Michael Boss
Acton, MA

Rosalie Anders
Cambridge, MA

Francesca Bang
Boylston, MA

Renu Bostwick
Bedford, MA

Paul Anders
Cambridge, MA

P. Louisa M. Barnes
Arlington, MA

Margaret Bourdeaux
Brookline, MA

Robert Andrews
Concord, MA

Maiyim Baron
Brookline, MA

Louise Bowditch
Brookline, MA

Amelia Boyd Brighton, MA	Anne Caron Bedford, MA	John Cook Brookline, MA
Mary Boyle West Roxbury, MA	Nasper Caron Bedford, MA	Bouzha Cookman Concord, MA
Carol Brandon Boston, MA	Eleni Carr Newton, MA	Nancy Coolidge Boston, MA
Victoria Brenckle Somerville, MA	Janet Cason Northborough, MA	Elizabeth Coons Brighton, MA
Tricia Brennan Jamaica Plain, MA	Carol Saunders Chamberlain Arlington, MA	Robert Cooper Boston, MA
Lindsey Brillo Rockland, MA	Judy Chambliss Brookline, MA	Claire Corcoran Boston, MA
Evan Brinkman Boston, MA	Angela Chang Cambridge, MA	Sally Coughlin Brookline, MA
Barbara Brown Brookline, MA	Madeleine Charney Amherst, MA	Maria Cox Acton, MA
Jim Brown Cambridge, MA	Ava Cheloff Jamaica Plain, MA	Sara Coyle Cambridge, MA
Erin Bryan Worcester, MA	Virginia Childs Cambridge, MA	Cynthia Cresswell Hanover, MA
Linda Burke Beverly, MA	Larry Chretien Quincy, MA	Lisa Cunningham Chestnut Hill, MA
Sheila Burkus Boston, MA	Georgia Christakis Somerville, MA	Randi Currier Bedford, MA
Tracie Burns Brookline, MA	Colleen Clark Cambridge, MA	Rachel Curtin Arlington, MA
Katie Calhoun Deerfield, MA	Eleanor Clarkson Brookline, MA	Abigail Cutrumbes Boston, MA
Cindy Callaway Newton, MA	Downing Cless Arlington, MA	Karen D'Amato Jamaica Plain, MA
Anamaria Camargo Boston, MA	Kate Cloud Somerville, MA	Susan Daley Brookline, MA
Karen Campbell Chestnut Hill, MA	Grady Clouse Brookline, MA	Inge Damm-Luhr Brookline, MA
Carina Campobasso Winthrop, MA	Kimberly Clouse Brookline, MA	Karen K Davis Petersham, MA
Leann Canty Jamaica Plain, MA	Deane Coady Brookline, MA	Laura Davis Concord, MA
Dennis Carlone Cambridge, MA	Bonnie Cohen Somerville, MA	Nathan Davis Concord, MA

Constance Dawson Easthampton, MA	Dolores Ehlen Boston, MA	Katherine Fisher Maynard, MA
Tim Dean Jamaica Plain, MA	Christi Electris Brookline, MA	Leah Fisher Melrose, MA
Karen Deckel Buzzards Bay, MA	Kate Enderlin Salem, MA	Tess Flacke Brookline, MA
Erin Deemer Brookline, MA	John Englander Acton, MA	Mary Flynn Jefferson, MA
Monica DeGuglielmo Arlington, MA	Nina Englander Acton, MA	MaryAnna Foskett Arlington, MA
Christene DeJong Amherst, MA	Phyllis Ewen Cambridge, MA	Susan Foster Lexington, MA
Peter Delano Weymouth, MA	Danny Factor Acton, MA	Rebecca Fraimow Brighton, MA
Irene Desharnais Jamaica Plain, MA	Katie Fagan Boston, MA	Rosemary Frank Brookline , MA
Sharon DeVos Cambridge, MA	Leora Faiber Brookline, MA	Clark Freifeld Jamaica Plain, MA
Mary Dewart Brookline, MA	Jenny Fariborz Chestnut Hill, MA	Maria French North Reading, MA
Murray Dewart Brookline, MA	Catherine Farrell Arlington, MA	Grace G Reading, MA
Marga Dieter Brookline, MA	S. Carlough Faulkner-Carroll Bedford, MA	Stephanie Galaitsi Somerville, MA
Gretchen Dietz West Roxbury, MA	Janine Fay Somerville, MA	Sandra Garcia-Fine Acton, MA
Carol Dombleski Acton, MA	Roslyn Feldberg Brookline, MA	Mary Gard Wellesley Hills, MA
Corinne Doud Bedford, MA	Ona Ferguson Somerville, MA	Pauline Gardiner Arlington, MA
Dennis Doughty Brookline, MA	Laurie Ferhani Winthrop, MA	William Gardiner Arlington, MA
John Dugan Orleans, MA	Ashish Fernandes Auburndale, MA	Ronald Garrell Weston, MA
Brad Dye Concord, MA	Deena Ferrara Acton, MA	Katelyn Gawthrop Clinton, MA
Diana Eddowes Swampscott, MA	Jessica Ficken Cambridge, MA	Ingrid Geis Winchester, MA
Jacqueline Edwards Bedford, MA	Joan Fischer Acton, MA	Carol Genovese Brookline, MA

Kathy Gernhardt Hanson, MA	Patrice Hagen Needham, MA	Julia Herskowitz Brookline, MA
Mark Giglietti Brookline, MA	Ryan Hagen Needham, MA	Pattie Heyman Cambridge, MA
Koby Giglietti Brookline, MA	Nicki Hagen Needham, MA	Judith Hikes Cambridge, MA
Jane Gilman Brookline, MA	Gina Hahn Brookline, MA	Eric Hilfer Acton, MA
Kristin Gilzean Winthrop, MA	Ralph Halpern Sharon, MA	Marcia Hnatowich Brookline, MA
Jennifer Glass Lincoln, MA	Jeri Hamlen Boston, MA	Hu Ho Watertown, MA
Mara Goldberg Cambridge, MA	Shannon Hammond Spencer, MA	Susan Hoague Gloucester, MA
Ellie Goldberg Newton, MA	Ray Hardin Boston, MA	Judy Hodge Acton, MA
Andrea Golden Arlington, MA	Emily Hardt Somerville, MA	Debora Hoffman Belmont, MA
Lucy Goldstein Concord, MA	Carol Harley Rochdale, MA	Mark Hoffman Woburn, MA
Anne Goodwin Arlington, MA	Aram Harrow Cambridge, MA	Vivian Hood Maynard, MA
Neva Goodwin Cambridge, MA	Marcia Hart Gloucester, MA	Lisa Horowitz Beverly, MA
Ellen Grabiner Cambridge, MA	Timothy Havel Boston, MA	Maria Hottelet Cambridge, MA
Nancy Gray Arlington, MA	Julie HawkOwl Sunderland , MA	Claire Humphrey Jamaica Plain, MA
Jesse Gray Brookline, MA	Barbara Hedges West Roxbury, MA	Marsha Hunter Cambridge, MA
Marjorie Greville Boston, MA	Steve Heikin Brookline, MA	Linsey Hurley Acton, MA
Gabrielle Griffis Harwich, MA	Amy Henderson Beverly, MA	Hewon Hwang Concord, MA
Perry Grossman Brookline, MA	Debra Herman Waltham, MA	Carol Jamison Bedford, MA
Lindsey Gund Concord, MA	Margaret Herring East Walpole, MA	Andrew Janjigian Cambridge, MA
Gilda Gussin Concord, MA	Alexander Hershey Cambridge, MA	Vinca Jarrett Brookline, MA

Kristine Jelstrup Cambridge, MA	Vanessa Kirchner-Leida Bedford, MA	Catherine LeBlanc Cambridge, MA
Lee Jennings Amherst, MA	Inga Klein Boston, MA	Susan Lee Somerville, MA
Gina Johansen Wakefield, MA	David Kleinschmidt Acton, MA	Susan Lees Arlington, MA
Virginia Julian Worcester, MA	Inge Knudson Concord, MA	Monica Lehner Boston, MA
Janice Kahn Chestnut Hill, MA	Stella Ko Acton, MA	Sarah Leinbach Brookline, MA
Timothy Karcz Arlington, MA	Jeanne Koopman Cambridge, MA	Don Leka Brookline, MA
Eleanor Karp West Roxbury, MA	Mary Kostman Lincoln, MA	Rebecca Lester Cambridge, MA
Renee Kasinsky Cambridge, MA	Andee Krasner Jamaica Plain, MA	Felicia H Levister Chelsea, MA
Judy Katz-Levine Norwood, MA	Karen Kraut Brookline, MA	Marcia Lewin-Berlin Acton, MA
Joan Kaufman Bedford, MA	Ira Krepchin Chestnut Hill, MA	Tina Lieu Cambridge, MA
Pat Keane Concord, MA	Cathy Kristofferson Ashby, MA	Steven M Lilly-Weber East Boston, MA
Richard Keleher Acton, MA	Kenneth Kronenberg Cambridge, MA	Kathryn Link Brookline, MA
Carol Kelly Bedford, MA	Cassandra Krosse Brookline, MA	Natalia Linos Brookline, MA
Lisa Keovongsa Arlington, MA	Marine Krzisch Cambridge, MA	Alan Linov Arlington, MA
Kathy Kerby Bedford, MA	Beth Kundert Concord, MA	Peter Lipsitt Brookline, MA
Grace Kessenich Somerville, MA	Miriam Kurland Williamsburg, MA	Werner Lohe Brookline, MA
Lee Ketelsen Acton, MA	Loretta LaCentra Revere, MA	Diana Lomakin Arlington, MA
Thomas Kilday Brookline, MA	Joan Lancourt Brookline, MA	Janna Longacre Brookline, MA
Susan King Acton, MA	Marcia Lapson Brookline, MA	Sylvia Lotspeich Greene Concord, MA
Christine Kinsey Winthrop, MA	Caroline Larson Bedford, MA	Cathy Loula Brookline, MA

Peter Lowitt Concord, MA	Virginia Marcotte Boston, MA	Dorothy Miller Newton, MA
Isabella Luca Canton, MA	Diane Martin Cambridge, MA	Janet Miller Concord, MA
Melissa Ludtke Cambridge, MA	Theresa Mason Jamaica Plain, MA	Joan Miller Chestnut Hill, MA
Anne Lusk Brookline, MA	Eleanor Mathews Acton, MA	Susan Mirsky Newton, MA
Sharon Malt Boston, MA	Rebecca Mautner Brookline, MA	Susan Mlodozieniec Concord, MA
Robert McCarthy Weymouth, MA	Mindy Maxwell Rockport, MA	Diane Modica East Boston, MA
Jodi Macdonald Acton, MA	Michael McAteer Concord, MA	Kathy Modigliani Arlington, MA
John MacDougall Cambridge, MA	Gail McCormick Arlington, MA	Laura Monrad Newton Centre, MA
Elizabeth Mackay Chelmsford, MA	Sonia McCallum Littleton, MA	Margaret Moody Arlington, MA
Adam MacNeill Arlington, MA	Ken McDonnell Holden, MA	Jane Moosbruker Acton, MA
Zeyneb Magavi Cambridge, MA	Gabrielle McFrane Jamaica Plain, MA	Alexandra Morgan Brookline, MA
Patricia Maher Brookline, MA	Grace McGathey Belmont, MA	Ian Moriarty Melrose, MA
Hannah Mahoney Cambridge, MA	Alanna McGill Jamaica Plain, MA	Janice Moritz Concord, MA
Denis Mahoney Holden, MA	Patricia McIntyre Arlington, MA	Robert Morris Brookline, MA
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Sarah Mamlet Acton, MA	Teresa Metcalf Hyannis Port, MA	Sharon Moulton Leeds, MA
Abigail Manson Brookline, MA	Courtney Michael Stow, MA	Laura Moynagh Maynard, MA
Carole Marcacci Acton, MA	Drew Michanowicz Boston, MA	Suzanne Mrozak Roslindale, MA
Sarah Marchand Cambridge, MA	Sandra Mika Acton, MA	Amanda Nash Gloucester, MA

Debbie New Cambridge, MA	Nili Pearlmutter Arlington, MA	Patricia Ramsey Amherst, MA
Dave Newbold West Roxbury, MA	Mara Pentlarge Worcester, MA	Mina Reddy Cambridge, MA
Linda Nieman Concord, MA	Eleanor Perkins Wellesley, MA	Susan Redlich Cambridge, MA
Patty Nola Cambridge, MA	Bob Persons Auburndale, MA	Jessica Reed Needham, MA
Joyce Notine Bellingham, MA	Betsy Peterson Boston, MA	Debra Rees Danvers, MA
Rebecca Nuernberger Wakefield, MA	Jeff Petrucelly Cambridge, MA	Kathleen Reine Cambridge, MA
Carrie Nugent Needham, MA	Nathan Phillips Auburndale, MA	Paul Reisberg Acton, MA
Molly O'Brien Cambridge, MA	Isabel Pisano Chestnut Hill, MA	Melanie Renaud Chestnut Hill, MA
Kevin O'Reilly Beverly, MA	Joseph Poirier Cambridge, MA	Carly Renshaw Roslindale, MA
Patricia O'Hagan Lincoln, MA	Mark Pomerantz Brookline, MA	Jean Resnick Needham, MA
Amy Oliver Cambridge, MA	Caroline Porter Somerville, MA	Peter Rhodes Cambridge, MA
Elizabeth Olsson-Mackowski Concord, MA	Dave Porter Brookline, MA	Alison Rice Somerville, MA
Jennifer Owen Roslindale, MA	Megan Postal Cambridge, MA	Jenna Rice Somerville, MA
Sandra Palefski Brookline, MA	Darina Postupaka Brookline, MA	Fran (Frances) Riley East Boston, MA
Maribel Palin Boston, MA	Andy Puchrik Concord, MA	Elaina Rivais Melrose, MA
Michelle Palmacci Arlington, MA	Brown Pulliam Bedford, MA	Virginia Roberts Cambridge, MA
Jeanne Paradise Bedford, MA	Michelle Puntillo Bedford, MA	Caitlin Robillard Chestnut Hill, MA
Julia Parker Medford, MA	Christine Rabinowitz Bedford, MA	Ben Robinson Vineyard Haven, MA
Seana Parker-Dalton Shrewsbury, MA	Wallis Raemer Brookline, MA	Gabriel Robinson Cambridge, MA
Nancy Peabody Brookline, MA	Tara Raman Cambridge, MA	Jodi Rodar Pelham, MA

C. Rodriguez Arlington, MA	Kathleen Scanlon Brookline, MA	Mandeliene Smith Lexington, MA
Gabriela Romanow Cambridge, MA	Pat Scanlon Brookline, MA	Lisa Smith Gloucester, MA
Juliette Rooney-Varga Somerville, MA	Bea Scanlon Brookline, MA	Diane Sokal Brookline, MA
Margaret Root Bedford, MA	Kristen Schleier Acton, MA	Lisa Soltani Chestnut Hill, MA
Andra Rose Amherst, MA	Sarah Schwartz Cambridge, MA	Betsy Sowers South Weymouth, MA
Roger Rosen Arlington, MA	Joan Schwartz Brookline, MA	Christine Speciale Bedford, MA
Katherine Roth Sharon, MA	Michelle Scott Medford, MA	Caroline Staff Brookline, MA
Martha Rounds Acton, MA	Dorie Seavey Boston, MA	Sue Stafford Cambridge, MA
Jacqueline Royce Boston, MA	Beverly Seavey Lexington, MA	Wendy Stahl Brookline, MA
Dan Ruben Newton, MA	Elizabeth Seelman Cambridge, MA	Jon Stahl Brookline, MA
Ruth Ryals Cambridge, MA	Adam Segal Beverly, MA	Abigail Starr Cambridge, MA
Ginger Ryan Cambridge, MA	Sarah Shamel Acton, MA	Hetty Startup Amherst, MA
Tessa Ryan Brighton, MA	Laurie Sheffield Cambridge, MA	Barbara Stein Brookline, MA
Amanda Rychel Somerville, MA	Ben Sherman Cambridge, MA	Linda Stern Roslindale, MA
Mary Sabolsi Brookline, MA	Blake Shetler Chelsea, MA	Brooks Stevens Concord, MA
Jan Saglio Newton, MA	Janice Shotkin Brookline, MA	Meredith Stoddard Cambridge, MA
Jane Saks Acton, MA	Rick Shoup Concord, MA	Perry Stoll Brookline, MA
Kelly Salvatore Brookline, MA	Anne Shumway Cambridge, MA	Dorothy Stoneman Belmont, MA
Noa Samlan Cambridge, MA	Debra Simes Acton, MA	Anne Sudduth Brookline, MA
Mark Sandeen Lexington, MA	Marilyn Ray Smith Brookline, MA	Jin Suk Brookline, MA

Sue Swanson Bedford, MA	Carol Walker Winthrop, MA	Carolyn Wilkins Concord, MA
Ann Sweeney Cambridge, MA	John Walkey Boston, MA	Carol Wintle Arlington, MA
Edith V Sweeney Cambridge, MA	Laura Walters Brookline, MA	Kelsey Wirth Cambridge, MA
Colleen Sweeney Edgartown, MA	Jenna Wang Newton, MA	Sally Wright Greenfield, MA
Jake Swenson Concord, MA	Scott Wantman Danvers, MA	Toby Woll Somerville, MA
Margot Tang Newton, MA	George Warner Chestnut Hill, MA	Edward Woll Somerville, MA
Erin Taylor Arlington, MA	Kathy Watkins Cambridge, MA	Anne Wright Arlington, MA
Kate Taylor Brookline, MA	Anne Weaver Brookline, MA	Rachel Wyon Cambridge, MA
Phyllis Theermann Wellesley, MA	Susan Weidman Bedford, MA	Natali Y Brighton, MA
Greer Tiver Cambridge, MA	Cora Weissbourd Brookline, MA	Peter Yao Somerville, MA
Amy Traverso Brookline, MA	Emma Weller Boston, MA	Christine Zendeher Lexington, MA
Anastasya Tveteraas Brookline, MA	Mendie Welu Brookline, MA	Launa Zimmaro Carlisle, MA
Letitia Upton Newton Highlands, MA	Christina Wertz Worcester, MA	Nora Zizlsperger Newton, MA
Ellen Valade Acton, MA	Michael Wessels Brookline, MA	Michael Zoorob Brookline, MA
Kara Vanguilder Brookline, MA	Sarah White Somerville, MA	Jeanne Cahill Northborough, MA
Donna Viola Brookline, MA	Meg Wickwire Concord, MA	Maxine Hunter West Roxbury, MA
Poornima Vis Lexington, MA	Heather Wilcauskas Brookline, MA	Lisa Jennings Weymouth, MA
Matt Wagers Cambridge, MA	Deborah Wild Waltham, MA	Michael Mosbrooker Brookline, MA
Lynn Waldron Greenfield, MA	Maria Wilkens Ipswich, MA	

Additional Comments

Climate change is here now. 80 fires on the west coast, the hottest June on record in California, and floods in Europe that have not happened in 500 years.

Please stop incentivizing fossil fuel infrastructure and paying for people to install gas boilers and instead incentivize a transition to renewable energy by paying for heat pumps and electrical upgrades.

I support Secretary Theoharides goal to transition 1 million homes to heat pumps before 2030, that will not be possible unless you pay for the transition from gas boilers to heat pumps and stop installing new gas boilers.

We will never meet our emissions mandates if you do not start the transition off of fossil fuels now.

Anamaria Camargo, Boston, MA

The climate crisis is growing rapidly and our response as a state must be equal to the problem. This is really critical. Every Mass. resident, whether they own or rent, and regardless of income, needs to have access to energy efficiency upgrades, including those that move our state away from fossil fuels. Yes, that's probably hard to envision for the gas and electric companies funding Mass Save but business as usual in the face of the mounting damage inflicted by the climate crisis is not a viable option. My personal experience with Mass Save includes when Arlington participated in Mass CEC's HeatSmart program in 2019. We found that Mass Save programs weren't geared to help low- to moderate-income households access important energy-saving upgrades such as converting to heat pumps. This has to change. Building electrification is a must for all of us and needs to happen quickly. Think of when the U.S. got into World War II. We had to pivot our manufacturing very, very rapidly. We did it and we helped win the war. That same ingenuity and determination are demanded by the climate crisis we all face today. Mass Save could help lead the transition.

Brucie Moulton, Arlington, MA

Dear Commissioner Woodcock and the MA Energy Efficiency Advisory Council,

A group of Acton renters and activists has begun organizing and meeting to discuss Renters and Climate.

Renters are often underserved and Mass Save would be an excellent way to include them in solutions to the now all too obvious climate emergency. Mass Save needs to be helping people understand what they can do to get off of fossil fuels and not promote its use. Please align with the Commonwealth's 2030 and 205 carbon emissions targets.

Thank you.

Judith Aronstein, Acton, MA

Energy efficiency funds distributed correctly through our essential Mass Save program will make all the difference in lowering high asthma rates, (proportionately helping our state in health care savings) while many underserved communities and renters who live in polluting circumstances will get those problems fixed and feel healthier. If we don't do this it would be morally wrong as we would be continuing to

incentivize new fossil fuel systems which is what Mass Save still often does unless their program is updated to align with Massachusetts' legally binding 2030 and 2050 carbon emission targets!

Carol Walker, Winthrop, MA

Hi, MassSave.

To not prioritise serving low income residents as we recognise environmental injustice is a public policy failure.

To continue subsidising fossil fuel heating equipment in 2021 intrinsically undermines MA's stated 2020 Clean Energy and Climate Plan, and fails to progress toward meeting the unambitious Next Generation Roadmap 2030 emissions reduction mandate.

To use ratepayer funded subsidies to favour gas and petroleum industries violates and erodes the public trust.

It is three decades past time to signal SOS, and STOP the Same Old Subsidy.

As western US wildfires smoke fills Massachusetts skies we must STOP BURNING CARBON FUELS.

We who live in air conditioned beach houses and order food magically provided by migrant labor think that when things really heat up, we can follow the billionaires and rocket away. That will never be an entropically-possible, humanly-viable option.

This MassSave policy, and every decision whether made by public leaders or individuals, must consider the climate disaster unfolding and STOP concentrating carbon aloft. Today, not tomorrow, next week, next year. Now.

In climate emergent crisis,

Jeanne Cahill, Ph.D. Environmental Scientist, Northborough, MA

I believe the quality of the MASave program has varied greatly. I heard a description of what the program contains in a Marblehead Sustainability webinar by someone who provides the service. What I received in Gloucester was much less in terms of evaluating my home for energy saving changes. The program I had was helpful but not equivalent.

There is tremendous hope in efficiency. It is still the low hanging fruit in terms of cost to benefit in the transition we must make to renewables. I recommend including assistance to transition to heat pump hot water and heat, solar and even charging stations in the audit is what will allow MA to reach its 50% reduction in greenhouse gases goal. We need to transition homes and cars this decade in great numbers.

MASave is the vehicle that can make this an equitable transition.

This is an all hands on deck required problem. Everyone needs to transition for the good of all. For the good of all, those who do not have the means to transition must be assisted. We all must transition. Poorer populations, those in our BIPOC communities, have been unfairly burdened by the wastes and health impacts of our energy generation and the development of our industrialized society. It is time to reverse that legacy by facilitating the health benefits of non-fossil fueled and non-toxic chemical environments in our already challenged neighborhoods.

An equitable MASave program, focused on efficiency, mold and chemical remediation and transition to renewables could accomplish the most cost effective means to do so.

The costs of not doing, at this period in time, are so much more costly than the transition I am referring to. Dragging our feet, you dragging your feet, will only exacerbate the costs of the climate impacts we can witness now around the globe and in the US on a regular basis. What are the costly devastations MA will likely have?

We must do what we can now to transition off fossil fuels, rapidly.

You must also see this as one of the easiest options for doing this, it is common sense. Better air, improved public health and halting the practice of dumping our waste on our most already most vulnerable can be accomplished. In the process jobs are created, they can be prioritized to impacted populations, BIPOC communities and those displaced by the transition, like fossil fuel workers.

Are we going to meet the mandates of the law or not? It cannot possibly happen without a well run, expanded, equitable MASave program.

That appears to me to be the least expensive route and the most fair and effective one, at the same time.

Marcia Hart, Gloucester, MA

These are ratepayer dollars that utilities are given by consumers and are not there to profit the fossil fuel industry and its ancillary companies selling appliances and heating systems. Priorities must reflect the needs of underserved communities mostly on the frontlines of climate change who are least able to finance the retrofits necessary to reduce carbon emissions and ensure clean air inside homes and workplaces. There is absolutely no way to justify any subsidizing of fossil fuels. None. This disincentivizing of transition must stop immediately and resources steered toward people least able to finance transition on their own.

Cory Alperstein, Newton, MA

Over the years, I have taken advantage of various incentives from Mass Save, but the path to accessing these incentives is so difficult to follow and requires lots of effort on the homeowner's part. Most annoying is that there seems to be no relation between the value of the incentives offered and the amount of energy and emissions saved. I got a \$350 incentive payment on a \$900 washing machine (thank you!); but recently after spending multiple times that amount on the installation of a heat pump system, I will be receiving back just \$375 from Mass Save. Heat pumps are a practical, but expensive solution to reduce our energy use and carbon emissions -- Mass Save should provide incentives to make the technology accessible to all.

Diane Sokal, Brookline, MA

I live in Spencer, MA and benefit from lower monthly electricity bills than I had when I lived one town over. This is because of the benefits of our town investing in solar energy. Families in nearby towns and cities should have equal access to renewable energy and the savings it can bring to their families.

Shannon Hammond, Spencer, MA

I'm 78 years young. And I am still fighting the same Environmental Issues today that I was fighting back in the 1950's with my Parents and Grandparents friends and neighbors....

The Environmental Issues our failed Politicians have not done! And the rich and Lobbyists have by leaps and bounds destroyed the United States family life with regards to our Health concerns...

Fran (Frances) Riley, East Boston, MA

If we get climate wrong, nothing else will be right.

Ryan Hagen, Needham, MA

It is important for Mass Save funds to be used in ways that make sense and that will have a positive effect on the environment. Please recognize the content of this letter and make the changes suggested. Thank you.

Judy Chambliss, Brookline, MA

It is ludicrous to continue funding fossil fuel equipment. We are long past that stage. Thank you!

Randi Currier, Bedford, MA

It is so important that incentives to switch to electric heat pumps - soon powered by wind and solar - be accelerated now. We can not put off energy transitions any longer and still hope to maintain a liveable climate.

Marjorie Greville, Boston, MA

It's urgent to stop depending on fossil fuels in order to mitigate the climate crisis.

Marine Krzisch, Cambridge, MA

Let's go green with everyone on board!

Kathryn Link, Brookline, MA

"Mass Save must retrofit houses, apartments to fully electric - This should be the norm!"

Christine Zende, Lexington, MA

Mass Save needs to be in line with urgently needed emissions targets. Time for all programs and policies to support the goal of clean energy and support for all members of society. All hands on deck!

Launa Zimmaro, Carlisle, MA

Mass Save promotes energy efficiency. We are in a climate crisis so all incentives for energy efficiency must NOT add any form of carbon to our atmosphere.

Kate Enderlin, Salem, MA

Mothers Out Front is right!

Elizabeth Olsson-Mackowski, Concord, MA

Nothing more important than this.

Sarah Leinbach, Brookline, MA

Now is the time.

Molly O'Brien, Cambridge, MA

Our children deserve a hopeful future.

Katelyn Gawthrope, Clinton, MA

Stop this carbon catastrophe

Ronald Garrell, Weston, MA

Thank you!!! Fingers crossed MassSave does the right thing!

Patty Nola, Cambridge, MA

The climate crisis is a climate reality. Massachusetts needs to be a leader in facing this dangerous situation.

Elizabeth Bales, Chestnut Hill, MA

The planet is on fire! Let's stop adding fuel to the blaze!

Geoff Mamlet, Acton, MA

There is no more time to waste. We MUST STOP ALL INCENTIVES that encourage use of fossil fuels, especially by a government program!

Theresa Mason, Boston, MA

This is important!!

Karen K Davis, Petersham, MA

This is incredibly urgent. We simply cannot solve our climate crisis without reforming the Mass Save program, which is currently undermining all the important climate work we are doing statewide.

Susan Daley, Brookline, MA

Urging Mass Save to show some forward-thinking leadership on this. We need to be using every tool at our disposal to move as fast as we can to clean energy.

Hannah Mahoney, Cambridge, MA

We have to move away from fossil fuels to get to net zero. Our MA climate law is clear on the direction. Mass Save needs to get on board with this immediately.

Cindy Callaway, Newton, MA

We must move away from fossil fuels if we want to reach the Commonwealth's emissions reduction goals. Stop incentivizing fossil fuel!

Caroline Staff, Brookline, MA

We need to give bigger incentives to clean energy and move away from fossil fuels entirely!

Kristine Jelstrup, Cambridge, MA

We need you to help save our planet for habitation, for people and all lives!

Judy Hodge, Acton, MA

With reform, Mass Save could become a powerful tool for good in the fight against climate change. We must end incentives for fossil fuels and create a program that supports a just transition to clean heat and renewable energy.

Laura Davis, Concord, MA

You must take dramatic steps away from fossil fuels now.

Rick Shoup, Concord, MA

Honestly, still supporting fossil fuels in 2021! Have you noticed the flooding, fires, draughts?

Judith Black, Marblehead, MA

Houses need to get off fossil fuels.

Mara Pentlarge, Worcester, MA

I am very concerned and disappointed that Mass Save seems to support the fossil fuel industries! It must instead support and coordinate with the Commonwealth's carbon emissions targets.

Eleanor Perkins, Wellesley, MA

FYI - Very low & no income homeowners can't use MassSave at all for investing in solutions!

Lisa Jennings, Weymouth, MA

Do this for our children's children!

Ann Abbott, Arlington, MA

It would also be a good idea to change the systems benefits funds collection from the electric side to collections on the gas side tied to therms consumed by customers . Electricity must be a lower cost if we wish to scale electrification. The DPU could do this along with decarbonization goals for the IOUs through Mass Save.

Michael McAteer, Concord, MA

MassSave has lost its way. You used to be a trusted ally. Please refocus on actions to protect us and our children from the dangers posed by the climate crisis. MA must get off fossil fuels now!

Jeri Hamlen, Boston, MA

At the recent hearing Mark Dyen and Senator Barrett made clear the change that needs to be made to make this responsive to the climate goals we have set. The citizens of the Commonwealth are watching. No more words without action. Make these changes now.

Maria Wilkens, Ipswich, MA

All new fossil fuel heating and cooling equipment installation must stop! Do you see the wildfires, floods, droughts and storms already starting or are you oblivious?

Lee Ketelsen, Acton, MA

And, please, invest massively in mass transit!

Ruth Ryals, Cambridge, MA

As chair of the Martha's Vineyard Commission Climate Action Task Force I fully support this position.

Ben Robinson, Vineyard Haven, MA

C'mon MA lawmakers.... stop prioritizing the G+O lobby and prioritize clean, energy efficient solutions.
We don't have time to wait.

Carolyn Wilkins, Concord, MA

Further Supporters

Nancy Vann, Peekskill , NY

Smita Deb, New York, NY

Susan Lyons, Farmingdale, NY

Watertown Faces Climate Change, Watertown, NY

Laurie Higby, Newport, OR

Tracy Galvin, Woonsocket, RI

Sean Claesgens, Jensen Beach, FL