

Comment on Mass Save 22-24 Plans.

In the past year there have been significant changes in Massachusetts law as the commonwealth addresses climate change head on. The Office of Energy and Environment has established its Clean Energy Climate Plan for Massachusetts, the Next Generation Roadmap was signed into law, and now the state's new goal is to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

But neither the Mass Save Priorities Resolution nor Mass Save proposed plans derived from this document make any mention of these new realities of Massachusetts law nor of the large challenges implied by commitment to net zero emissions. In particular, retrofitting existing building heating to electric heat pumps to replace fossil fuel furnaces is the most challenging task that lies ahead to achieve net zero by 2050. Other speakers in the Public Comment session of June 15 have alluded to this.

Heat pump technology is complex and varied and homeowners need sound advice to make the right decision. Mass Save is in the unique position to provide objective advice to the large increase in number of homeowners expected to retrofit their homes in the next decade and beyond. The CECP anticipates that around a million retrofits will be needed over the next decade. So, we are faced with a very large scale up of the number of retrofits starting very soon. Massachusetts can't wait until the next Mass Save plan three years from now.

We call on Mass Save to rewrite its plan for the next three years to explicitly align with the goals of CECP and Next Generation Climate legislation, putting emission reduction by heat pump retrofits at the forefront and eliminating all incentives for improving fossil fuel systems. Incentives should be aimed at conversion to electricity and not to extending fossil fuel use.

Writing a new plan at this crucial point in time which explicitly recognizes the new Massachusetts net zero goal will make a forceful statement that this is now state policy and will help to raise the awareness and enthusiasm of residents to get behind this goal and make it a reality.

Representing Chelmsford Climate Action Team

Bern Kosicki, Tom Amiro, Anne Richards, Dave Drayton, Kathryn Cryan-Hicks, Diane Colucci,

CC: Senator Michael Barrett; Representative James Arciero; Representative Thomas Golden, Representative Tami Gouveia, Representative Vanna Howard