

Dear people of DOER,

Re: DOER's 3 Year Plan 2022-2024

I am submitting written testimony after having listened in on June 15th to many of the testimonies and realizing I should have previously sent this in and I think it may save time if I write this now rather than waiting for a chance to speak.

My husband and I own a single family home in Winthrop; we are middle income and our children are all adults now. We have been pleased with services we've received from Mass Save and recently we bought a mini split ductless forced hot water system providing wonderful whole house air conditioning and it will provide our heat in the winter. We've experienced very comfortable and efficient air conditioning while it was set at 76 and we were surprised at how low the electric bill was after using the air conditioning during a recent heat wave. Low income people could really use this savings the most of course! The trouble is that although every bill payer in the state is funding this great program, there are underserved communities not getting access to the services. Often this is due to language barriers, but we know all communication needs to be greatly improved between your representatives and neighborhood groups to get the information across to all vulnerable populations.

While MA policymakers are developing a new 3-year energy efficiency plan, Massachusetts needs to commit for the long term to an equitable strategy that ensures ALL communities reap the cost-saving and public health benefits of energy efficiency; everyone pays in so all deserve access! Part of the access is making some public meetings in the evening when low income residents are most likely to be able to attend. You need to ensure that Mass Save is including efficiency upgrades, incentives for insulation, heat pumps, smart thermostats, and free lightbulbs and that unhealthy or toxic factors present in some housing, especially for renters, like mold, asbestos and other air pollutants is being addressed. I ask that you increase support for "moderate income" population with no-cost programs from 60% to 80% of median income. There should be more focus on renters and landlords with focused outreach and incentives. Some outreach should go specifically to low-income communities and communities of color.

There are a few other parts needed for an equitable energy efficiency policy. There needs to be increased support for weatherization, electric heat pumps and more efficient appliances. Funding needs to be increased for pre-weatherization measures that address mold, leaky roofs, asbestos, and knob & tube wiring. To help with language barriers, there needs to be follow-up services with contractors who can speak the needed language in a neighborhood. Lastly you should develop a multilingual workforce and create ladders for high road jobs.

Most essential of all is that you realize that making our climate goals MUST be front and center behind any plan our state puts forth. Massachusetts cannot achieve the targets in climate the Baker administration is legally bound to attain through our newly passed Next Generation Roadmap Bill if we don't. Your current plan actually incentivizes fossil fuels which is outrageous and that has to be scrapped or in no way can Massachusetts make our goals!! And I thoroughly agree with what many others have said that deep energy retrofits on as many buildings as we can is essential as well since energy efficiency has always been proven to be the most cost effective way to lower emissions. And studies have shown that although expensive to begin with, in 5 years these retrofits will reap a huge financial savings! Nearly half of all carbon emissions in Massachusetts come from buildings as it says on www.boston.gov.

An equitable energy efficiency policy is good for our health, good for our wallets and good for the climate! Also by reducing the energy we use from power plants, MassSave helps lower the polluting emissions that damage peoples' lungs and contribute to asthma. Better health with cleaner environment provides more money in our pockets from less trips to emergency rooms and lower utility bills! A wonderful win-win for everyone!

Thank you for the chance to comment, Carol Walker