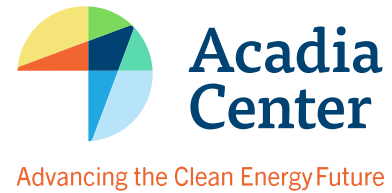


Massachusetts Climate Legislation

Acadia Center Statement

March 26, 2021



Acadia Center is excited to hear that the long-anticipated Next Generation Roadmap bill was signed into law today by Governor Baker. This law will bring a sea change to Massachusetts' approach to addressing climate change. In the 13 years since passage of the Massachusetts' Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008, the science has evolved, raising the urgency and cementing the certainty that significantly more ambitious action at all levels of government is essential. The comprehensive climate package that becomes law today faces up to that urgency by setting binding goals through far-reaching policies for the next three decades, and requiring the state to create and achieve plans that will eventually achieve a net-zero economy by 2050.

Acadia Center has long supported this legislation, and consistently targeted our efforts to ensure the Next Generation Roadmap sets the state on a course for an equitable transition through a range of policy innovations, including specific reduction targets for all sectors of the economy, and expanding the scope of the Department of Public Utilities' authority to consider equity and climate when it regulates the states gas and electric companies.

Acadia Center believes the Commonwealth must rapidly wind down its use of natural gas if it expects to reach its climate targets, and many provisions of the new law will make that a reality. For example, adopting a statewide net-zero stretch code would go a long way to reducing natural gas use in buildings. The new climate law updates and strengthens the "stretch" building energy code to bring higher levels of energy efficiency in new buildings, by including the definition of "net-zero building." Net-zero buildings either emit no greenhouse gases or generate enough renewable energy to offset the emissions they do cause. The stretch code is a valuable tool which cities and towns use to reduce energy bills for their residents and businesses, and developers are building zero-energy buildings in Massachusetts right now at no extra cost.

Beyond these important aspects, the law will ensure:

- environmental justice communities are truly protected;
- front line communities and low-wage workers will benefit from the Commonwealth's transition to a low-carbon economy; and
- the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) is a true tool to add significant renewable power on the system.

Acadia Center is deeply appreciative of the leadership and members of the Massachusetts House and Senate for their efforts in putting forward the Next Generation Roadmap law based on real commitments and founded on science. Our staff looks forward to rolling up our sleeves and working

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with the Administration and the dedicated coalition of clean energy, climate, and environmental justice advocates to make the visionary goals of the Next Generation Roadmap law a reality that we can all live and thrive with.

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