

FY 2025 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION BUDGET BRIEF

Maura T. Healey, Governor | Kimberley Driscoll, Lt. Governor



Sustainable Development for the Future

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Introduction

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance Massachusetts's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space and natural resources, investment in outdoor recreation, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration's FY25 House 2 budget recommendation reflects Massachusetts' most significant investment in environmental justice, clean energy, clean energy workforce training, and environmental protection. House 2 brings EEA over 1% of the overall state budget for the second consecutive year, totaling \$572.1 million and supporting approximately 3,157 FTEs across the secretariat.

House 2 recommends new investments to meet key climate resilience objectives, including:

- \$2.8 million expansion to establish a Dam Safety Technical Assistance Program to support dam owners in meeting regulatory safety requirements, such as emergency planning, and advancing dam repairs and removals
- \$2.8 million expansion to increase capacity of a Culvert and Small Bridges Technical Assistance Program, in response to outsized demand for investment in these critical assets



Further, House 2 maintains investments in areas such as climate tech, mitigation, environmental justice, and resource stewardship, including:

EOEEA as 1% of the FY25 Budget

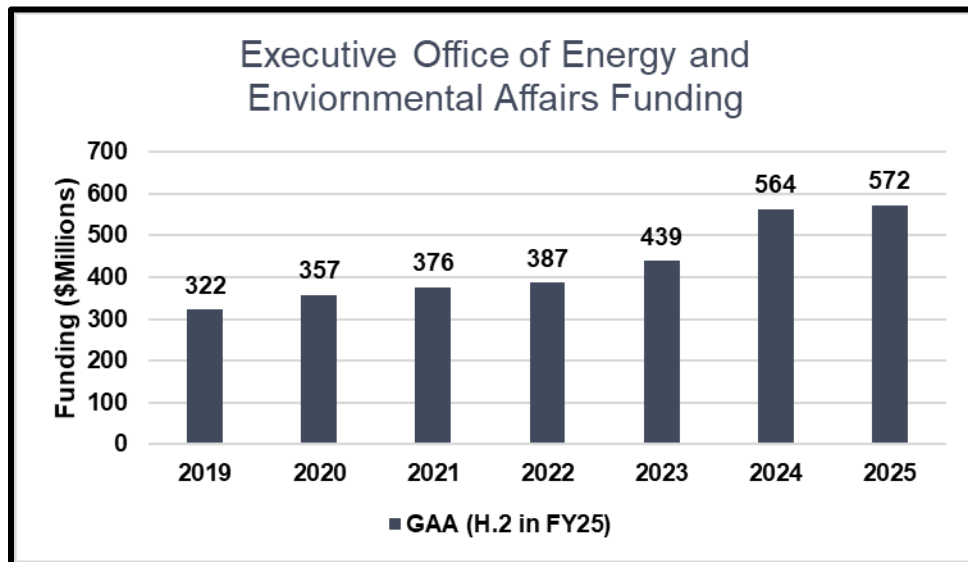
\$572.1 million – FY25 House 2 recommendation for EOEEA

\$56.1 billion – FY25 House 2 total appropriations, excluding \$1.3 billion in Fair Share investments earmarked for education and transportation, and \$682.2 million for the Medical Assistance Trust Fund

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- \$30.0 million for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) for clean energy workforce training partnerships, an energy retrofit pilot program, clean transportation adoption, and building decarbonization initiatives
- \$25.0 million maintained for Food Security Infrastructure Grants (FSIG) for grants to aid farmers, fisherman, schools, nonprofits, and local producers and construct infrastructure to bolster the local food system.
- \$10.1 million for climate resilience and decarbonization teams, and targeted climate initiatives
- More than \$7 million maintained for Environmental Justice and Equity strategies, programs and initiatives, including dedicated leadership and team, embedded EJ Liaisons, trainings, and translation and community engagement programs and more

In 2007, Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to combine all environmental and energy agencies under one Cabinet Secretary – setting an example to recognize the interrelated missions of these agencies. Sixteen years later, the state enacted groundbreaking climate change legislation in its commitment to dedicating 1% of the budget to EEA. The FY25 House 2 budget recommendation reflects the administration's continued commitment to a green future.



House 2 focuses on those most impacted by climate change through a renewed commitment to environmental justice. Throughout all agencies and programs, environmental justice principles are embedded in EEA's actions and backed by recommended increase in funding for the expert staff, training, and services needed to facilitate an equitable approach to the climate crisis. These investments are accompanied by expansions in the enforcement of environmental standards, including funding for dozens of additional monitoring and compliance staff.

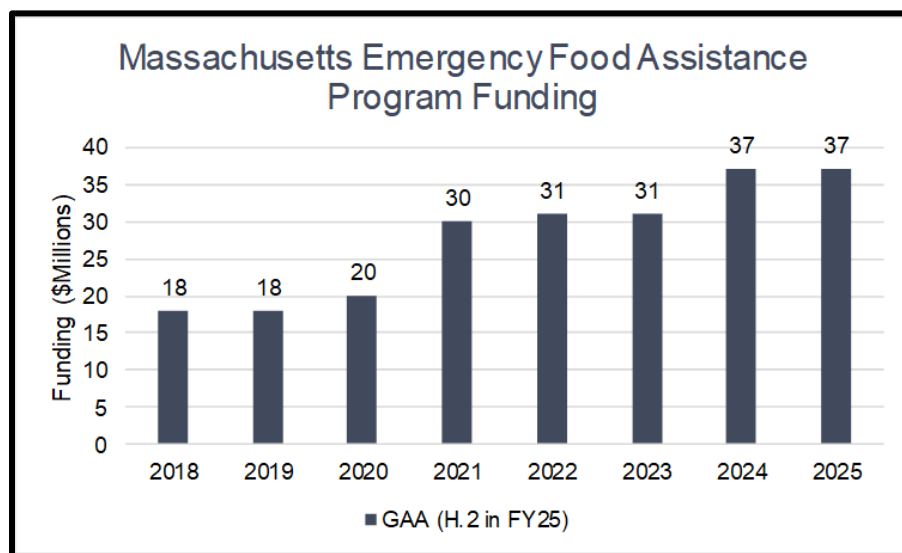
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More than ever before, stakeholder, community, and resident engagement programs are central to the execution of the state's climate, conservation, recreation, and environmental initiatives.



Food Security

As weather becomes more extreme and costs increase, it is imperative that the state continue to cultivate a strong local food supply and invest in initiatives that combat food insecurity. House 2 will support the establishment of the Division of Food Security within the Department of Agricultural Resources, which will oversee the highly successful \$25.3 million Food Security Infrastructure Program and the \$37.1 million Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP), to provide an estimated 29.5 million meals to residents. For more information how House 2 supports the state's food system, please see the **Food Security** budget brief.

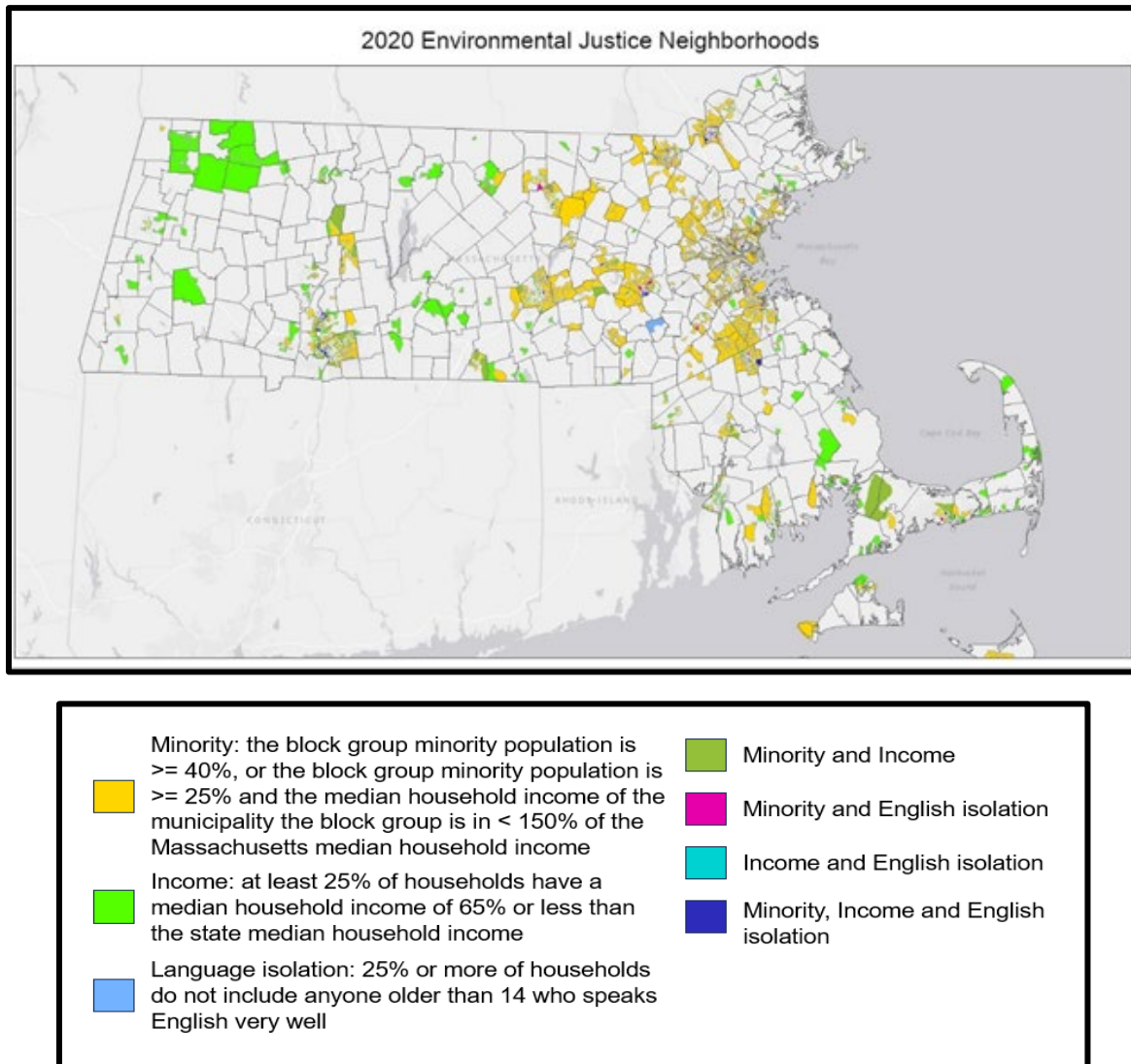


Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice (EJ) is the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. EJ programming works to ensure that resource distribution is equitable, and that the relative vulnerability of communities is prioritized throughout the policy-planning process. It is critical for Massachusetts to make systemic, transformative investments in the communities that would otherwise bear the brunt of climate change's most hazardous impacts. Environmental justice principles are embedded in EEA's actions, backed by funding for the expert staff, training, and services needed to facilitate an equitable approach to the climate crisis. The House 2 budget takes the following steps to advance the administration's EJ objectives:

- Supports Environmental Justice Liaisons across each department to support community outreach, public hearings, and stakeholder involvement, and better align hiring practices and inter-agency coordination with environmental justice principles – in addition to \$2 million for a secretariat-wide training program to ensure the principles of EJ are embedded in all EEA activities at all levels
- Maintains \$4.9 million for the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity, to conduct secretariat-wide EJ training, and to provide translation services and language outreach
- Provides additional resources for the Environmental Justice Council, the new inter-secretariat EJ working group, and partnering with indigenous communities

In Massachusetts, environmental justice communities are designated based on the proportion of residents who are low-income, identify with a minority group, or report speaking English less than “very well” on the latest U.S. Census. Each of these factors increases the likelihood that a community will be overlooked or excluded from the policymaking process, and thus bear a disproportionate burden of climate impacts. House 2 continues to invest in Environmental Justice Council and environmental justice strategy, created by *An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy* (Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021) that will bolster community engagement, drive EEA-wide coordination, and assist our most vulnerable residents.



Environmental Protection

Massachusetts has a responsibility to protect our families, communities, and the environment that sustains us. Residents have a right to enjoy Massachusetts's natural resources and everyday services without fear of toxins, health hazards, or climate degradation. The changing climate presents new challenges which the state needs to address. As our planet warms and heat islands become more dangerous, the preservation and expansion of greenspaces, tree cover, and recreational swimming will be even more important.



House 2 maintains several initiatives focused on environmental protection and climate solution. House 2 recommends \$2.5 million for a grant program to address water supply and quality issues in the Ipswich River Watershed, \$1.5 million for climate and drought resilience planning, and \$506 thousand maintained for Connecticut River and Merrimack River flood control compacts with New Hampshire and Vermont. For more information on how House 2 supports our climate mitigation and resilience efforts, please see the **Climate Action** budget brief.

House 2 continues to support widespread efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a family of chemicals used since the 1950s to manufacture stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products. The budget supports key positions that have been added recently at the Department of Environmental Protection to address ongoing PFAS work, including \$1.6 million for PFAS sampling of landfills and water facilities and to develop PFAS air standards and \$63.4 million to the Clean Water Trust to provide low-interest loans and grants to municipalities for water infrastructure maintenance and development.

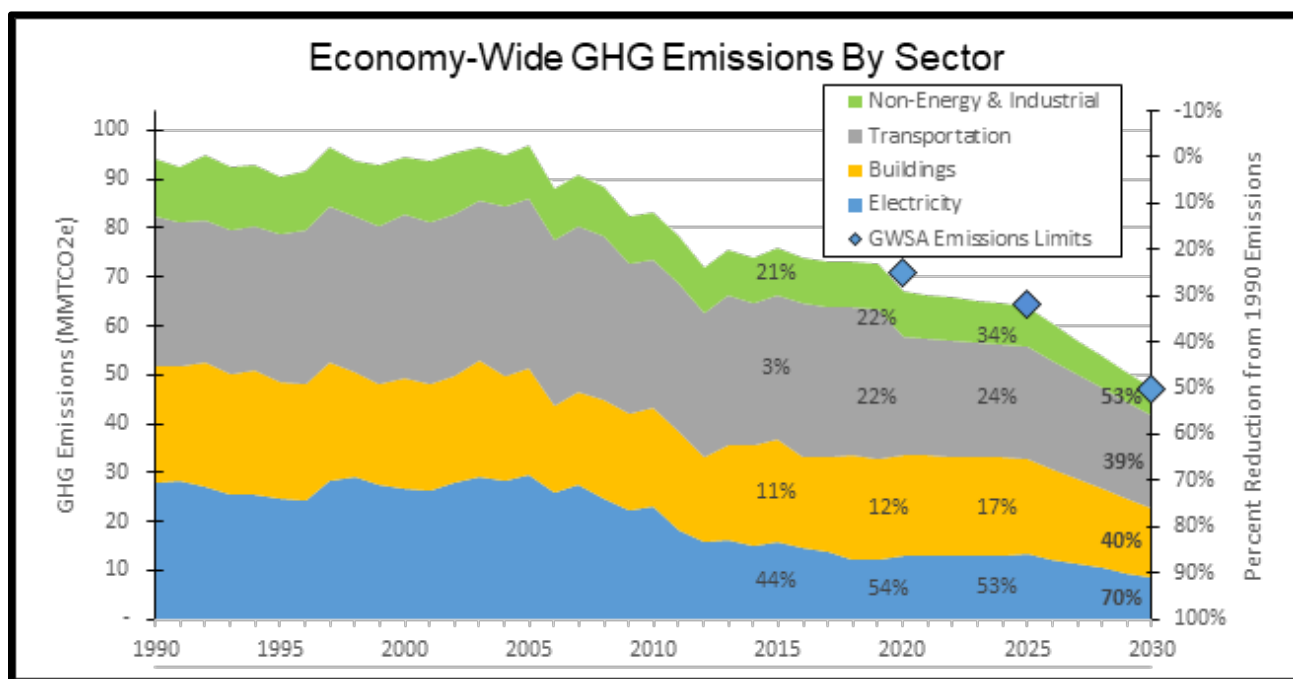


Climate Resiliency

Massachusetts is planning for sea level rise by up to 2.5 feet by 2050 compared to 2008 if global emissions are not significantly reduced. Both tidal and storm-related flooding are projected to increase. By 2070, statewide annual average damages to coastal structures could be more than \$1 billion per year. To combat this the Healey-Driscoll Administration launched historic ResilientCoasts initiative, a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the coastline of Massachusetts.

ResilientCoasts pursues a multipronged approach to identify regulatory, policy, and funding mechanisms to develop focused long-term solutions in collaboration with the state's 78 coastal communities. House 2 maintains \$650,000 for ResilientCoasts which will establish Coastal Resilience Districts based on unique climate change impacts, and will work with communities to develop tailored policy, regulatory, and financing strategies for long-term resilience.

Pursuant to the Global Warming Solutions Act, Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, the Secretary of EEA has adopted the interim 2025 statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limit of 33 percent below 1990 level and the interim 2030 statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit of 50 percent below 1990 level. House 2 supports continued work towards this goal by maintaining \$4.8 million for climate adaptation and preparedness to develop a building decarbonization clearinghouse (one-stop for clean buildings), maintaining \$1.5 million for air quality monitoring throughout Massachusetts, and adding \$380 thousand for a new Blue Carbon sequestration program to protect coastal wetlands.



Under the leadership of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, environmental and energy agencies will ensure Massachusetts residents can have confidence in the protection and quality of their water, air, and natural resources.