

Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan Target Audience Action Sheet:

Massachusetts Legislators/Policy Makers

- Implement the Massachusetts Climate Action Plan and the following policies, and commit to guiding Massachusetts toward a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050.

Leading by Example: Government Purchasing and Building Policies

- To reduce Commonwealth of Massachusetts building's greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent by 2010 and 80 percent by 2050, adopt LEED Standards (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>) for new construction and major rehabilitations of government facilities and increase incentives for government entities to invest in energy efficiency, on-site renewable energy generation, and other LEED measures for sustainable buildings.
- To reduce Commonwealth of Massachusetts vehicles' greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent by 2010 and 80 percent by 2050, require Massachusetts government entities to purchase vehicles with ultra low emissions when purchasing a new vehicle and to purchase alternative fuel blends for all state owned vehicles and vehicles used in state-reimbursed transportation. Require a minimum blend of B5 (5 percent biodiesel) and E10 (10 percent ethanol) by 2008, increasing to B20 and E50 by 2010.

Conservation and Efficiency

- Provide incentives and low-cost financing for energy efficiency and other LEED measures for sustainable buildings.
- Waive the sales tax for highly efficient appliances, hot water heaters, furnaces, and boilers. Implement aggressive programs for the efficient use of natural gas and heating oil.
- Begin now to update building energy codes for residential and commercial sectors to LEED standards by 2015 and ensure sufficient inspector and contractor capacity, training, and support to enable effective implementation.

Clean, Safe, Renewable Energy

- Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) minimum standard to 20 percent by 2020. Strengthen the state's RPS by mandating that utilities sign long-term contracts for clean power. Develop a standard for clean, safe, renewable energy sources that reflects their true costs, including their impacts on the environment, health and climate. Ensure the RPS continues to provide incentives for the development of new renewable energy production using the cleanest, most energy efficient technologies.

- Provide incentives and low cost financing for increased use of renewable energy for heating and cooling installations, district energy applications, as well as electricity generation, including biomass heating and cooling applications, photovoltaics, solar hot water systems, passive solar heating and cooling, wind electricity generation, and geothermal heating systems.
- Set aggressive state-wide targets and increase incentives for residential, commercial, and institutional construction and renovation.
- Promote district energy systems to provide distributed generation, heating, and cooling to new clustered residential, mixed use development, and industrial parks.
- Encourage renewable self-generation for large energy users especially in areas which are grid constrained.
- Make “interconnect and access” rules favorable to Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generation, and facilitate CHP siting and permitting. Update steam boiler public safety laws that require 24/7 operator attendance, thereby making much distributed scale CHP economically unfeasible.
- Increase net metering laws to include generation up to 2 MW, and provide for reconciliation to be determined based on annual use rather than monthly use.
- Facilitate siting, permitting, and grid interconnection for renewable energy, particularly wind, solar, and biomass installations using the most efficient, cost effective, and least polluting technology available. Consider the full lifecycle costs of all forms of electricity generation and favor renewable sources of energy generation over the combustion of fossil fuels.
- Create a low interest revolving loan fund to support feasibility studies, business planning, legal structuring, equity development, and financing for community-owned, clean, safe, sustainable energy-related businesses that create living wage jobs. Forgive the loan if the project is not pursued.
- Support the completion of forest management plans for state owned forestlands to enhance the ecological and economic opportunities of the forests and their role in providing sustainable biomass materials for renewable energy projects.
- Establish a subsidized loan program to stimulate private investment in the rural economy of Massachusetts in developing biomass supply infrastructure including forestry equipment, aggregation yards, and transportation infrastructure.
- Strengthen the “Filthy Five” carbon dioxide standards for the state’s six oldest and most polluting power plants (310 CMR 7.29 regulations). Encourage the use of biomass co-firing to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
- Adopt incentives for sustainable alternative fuel production and use. Adopt a low carbon fuel mandate, similar to the measure adopted in Colorado. Eliminate fuel tax for biodiesel and ethanol blends of 5 percent or more. Establish a production tax credit for biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol produced within Massachusetts.

- Work toward eliminating electricity contracts between Massachusetts and all nuclear power facilities. Ensure that no new nuclear power is sited in the Pioneer Valley.
- Initiate and fund public education on the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy and actions that individuals and communities can take to use less energy, reduce their dependence on foreign oil, and increase their use of renewable energy at home, on the road, and at work.
- Support and fund research and development at Massachusetts state higher education institutions on conservation, efficiency, renewable electricity, and biofuels.
- Support and fund efforts to improve school curriculum standards to include essential topics related to sustainable energy.

Transportation, Land Use, and Waste Reduction

- Support policies and laws that promote compact development in urban and suburban areas, protect open space, including watersheds and drinking water discharge areas, wildlife habitat and farmland, and support mixed use districts, town and city centers that are transit-oriented, walkable, and bikeable.
- Enhance street safety: increase traffic calming, increase funding for “Safe Routes to Schools” programs, promote school renovation in town centers rather than new construction at suburban sites, and make bicycle-and pedestrian-friendly roadways a top priority.
- Expand funding for mass transit. Increase transit service in low to moderate income communities. Invest in multimodal networks, suburb-to-suburb connections, pedestrian and bike infrastructure, and collaborative efforts with employers to remove barriers to and provide incentives for non-car commuting.
- Invest in an extensive regional freight and passenger rail system. Support state, regional and local agencies to collaborate with the other New England states and Amtrak to expand rail service between Hartford, Springfield, Northampton, Greenfield, and Brattleboro (and points beyond) and between Pittsfield, North Adams, Greenfield, Northampton, Springfield, Worcester, and Boston.
- Support state efforts to facilitate efficient and affordable transportation of raw materials for industry in our region via rail.
- Encourage private sector purchase of cars with greater fuel efficiency and lower emissions ratings through a revenue-neutral program and tax relief. Reduce sales taxes on the cleanest cars and lowrolling resistance tires, and raise taxes on the most inefficient and polluting vehicles and tires. (According to a California Energy Commission report (www.energy.ca.gov/), the use of low rolling resistance tires on light-duty fleets saves enough fuel to pay for the additional cost of the tires over the life of the tires.)

- Authorize pay-as-you-drive automobile insurance, rewarding drivers financially for fuel efficiency and fewer miles driven. Enact a sliding scale fee on vehicle emissions, (the more you emit the higher the fee).
- Support and fund research and development efforts on sustainable clean fuel and energy crops which support healthy soils, clean water, clean air, and local food systems at Massachusetts state higher education institutions. Support and fund research and development efforts on waste prevention, recycling, and waste system efficiency at Massachusetts state higher education institutions.
- Work with the Governor and Legislators to fund a comprehensive energy efficiency program that has as its basis the recommendations put forth by the New England Energy Efficiency Partnership. Massachusetts is responsible for using half of the electric load in New England. Evaluate the funding required to reduce peak demand by 4,150 MW for Massachusetts by 2020 by doing the following:
 - Increase ratepayer funding for energy efficiency (EE) programs with 50 percent incentives.
 - Implement and enforce building energy codes.
 - Adopt proposed state and federal minimum efficiency appliance standards.
 - Expand procurement rules for state and municipal facilities and equipment purchases.
 - Adopt or expand the resource acquisition role of energy efficiency to meet specific state and regional electric supply needs and increase incentive rates.
- Provide funding to regional planning agencies and others to develop regulatory tools for Pioneer Valley cities and towns to facilitate energy efficient construction and re-habilitation of homes and other buildings, striving to achieve the goals of Architecture 2030 (www.architecture2030.org).
- Provide funding to enable all cities and towns in the Pioneer Valley to join ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and to fully participate in their cities for climate protection program (www.iclei.org).
- Provide funding to continue implementation of a grassroots organizing program that would encourage every household and every business in the Pioneer Valley to reduce their electricity use, by doing such things as getting an energy audit, implementing recommendations of the audit, using Energy Star[®] appliances, buying locally grown food, using public transportation, encouraging smart growth, switching light bulbs to compact fluorescent lights, and installing clean energy systems.
- Support expansion of existing programs of utilities and not-for-profit groups such as the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) (www.cetonline.org) that conduct home and business energy audits and fund implementation of recommended improvements.
- Provide funding to regional planning agencies to develop and work with communities to adopt zoning bylaws or ordinances and subdivision regulations to facilitate the siting of renewable energy projects that have strong community support (www.cleanair-coolplanet.org).

- When requested by a city or town, support through media and other means the development and siting of clean renewable energy technologies in Pioneer Valley communities that meet a majority of the selection criteria and that will help achieve our clean energy goals by 2020.
- Provide funding to develop a western Massachusetts public information and education campaign for TV, radio, and newspapers featuring local success stories of energy savings, reduction, efficiency, and the generation of clean energy.
- Support the development of sustainable feedstock biofuel plants to increase the supply of liquid fuels for transportation, heating, and energy generation, helping to replace fossil fuels currently used for these purposes.
- Aggressively support the development of start-up energy companies to locate in the Pioneer Valley.

The executive summary, plan, and appendices are available at
www.pvpc.org and www.frcog.org.

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