



Legislation Summary:

An Act transitioning Massachusetts to 100% renewable energy

Initial bill number: [S1849/H3395](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. James Eldridge, Rep. Sean Garballey, Rep. Marjorie C. Decker

This bill would transition the Commonwealth to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy economy-wide by 2050. The bill is designed to complement and strengthen the Global Warming Solutions Act, passed in 2008, which requires the state to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. More specifically, this bill:

- requires the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to set binding targets for renewable energy growth in all major sectors of the economy, and issue regulations to ensure that Massachusetts stays on track towards 100 percent renewable energy by 2050;
- would increase the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) up to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035. The RPS is a state policy that requires utilities to purchase a minimum amount of their electricity from renewable sources like solar and wind;
- directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to conduct studies identifying pathways towards 100 percent renewable energy in transportation and the building sector, with particular attention to policies that can expand access to renewable energy and energy efficiency options for low-income communities;
- creates a Clean Energy Workforce Development Fund to increase access to jobs in solar, offshore wind, energy efficiency, and other clean energy sectors. At least half of the money from the fund must be spent to benefit residents of Gateway Cities, transitioning fossil fuel workers, and residents of environmental justice communities.

League position: *From LWV 2016-2018 Impact on Issues, p. 64:* Action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable resources and energy conservation through funding for research and development, financial incentives, rate-setting policies and mandatory standards.