



Creating Jobs and Making MA More Competitive

In 2008 the Massachusetts Legislature passed – with strong bipartisan support – the Green Communities Act to improve our economy and environment by increasing the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy. After three years, the Act is creating jobs and making Massachusetts more competitive by delivering important economic, energy and environmental benefits.

New Jobs. 64,000 Massachusetts workers are employed in the clean energy economy – for example, blowing insulation into homes, installing appliances that use less energy, increasing wind energy capacity, installing solar panels, and developing new technologies like advanced batteries that can store electricity for use later. Thanks to the Green Communities Act, clean energy jobs have been growing in Massachusetts during the economic downturn.

Making Massachusetts #1 in Energy Efficiency. A vital way to control energy costs is to use energy efficiently. Efficiency means reducing the amount of energy that's wasted, saving dollars while reducing environmental impacts and energy dependence. The Green Communities Act has put Massachusetts on track to be the most energy efficient state in the US according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. Less energy waste means more money available for consumers and businesses to spend on other needs.

Clean Energy is Growing our Economy. Thanks to the Green Communities Act, Massachusetts is increasing the amount of its electricity coming from clean energy sources. Solar panels and wind turbines are going up and private investments are coming into Massachusetts' clean energy economy. Massachusetts companies have brought in the 2nd largest concentration of private venture capital in clean energy in the country. Clean energy is taking its place alongside biotech and information technology as a pillar of the Commonwealth's innovation economy fostered by excellence in higher education, a skilled workforce, and strong policy signals that spur the market to grow and thrive.

Ratepayers Benefit, Massachusetts More Resilient to Volatile Fossil Fuel Prices. Ratepayer benefits under the Act are projected to be nearly two and a half times greater than the costs of implementing the Act's initiatives – \$2.5 billion in ratepayer benefits by 2015 for an investment of \$1.1 billion. Greater energy efficiency reduces energy bills and the cost of renewable energy has been falling as those technologies grow and mature. Investments in local clean energy also keep more of our energy dollars in Massachusetts, which grows our economy and makes us more energy independent.

Benefits outweigh the costs. The Green Communities Act brings economic, energy, and environmental benefits to Massachusetts. These benefits far outweigh the costs for a net gain of jobs and energy security for the state.

It's critically important that the Green Communities Act be preserved to keep building on the gains in energy efficiency and clean energy that are making Massachusetts more competitive by creating jobs, strengthening our economy, controlling energy costs and reducing pollution both now and in the long term.

