

2050 Roadmap Bill

Why is this needed? In 2008, the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) established Massachusetts as a leader in climate change mitigation by committing the Commonwealth to reduce the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 80% of the 1990 statewide emissions levels by 2050. But efforts to achieve the GWSA's goals in the last ten years have been disjointed, and too often both short-sighted and ineffective. As a result, it remains unclear whether Massachusetts will meet its initial 2020 GHG emission reduction target. Massachusetts lacks a plan to reach its mid- and long-term carbon emission reduction goals. Newly released major climate reports expose the urgent need for more drastic action to reduce GHG emissions.

HD 3577: An Act to create a 2050 roadmap to a clean and thriving Commonwealth

Sponsored by: Representative Joan Meschino

Bill Summary: This bill would establish a new framework for the fair and efficient achievement of the Commonwealth's climate goals by requiring Massachusetts to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to achieve our carbon emission reduction goals by 2050 while maintaining a thriving economy. Specifically, it would:

1. Keep the Commonwealth's efforts tied to the science by updating the GWSA's 2050 limit to the new global standard of net zero GHG emissions.
2. Create a practical and workable, all sector / all emissions plan to reach that goal while protecting people and jobs, by requiring:
 - Best available "backcast" analysis to evaluate *multiple*, viable pathways to net zero;
 - Impact analysis for low- and moderate-income and EJ populations;
 - New comprehensive, all-sector 2050 Roadmap plan (to be updated every 30 months).
3. Create accountability and clear market signals for the implementation of emissions reductions measures.
 - Directs adoption of strong 2030 and 2040 emissions limits by 2020 based on analysis;
 - Requires comprehensive suite of regulations by 2022 designed to achieve 2050 limits while, where possible, minimizing impact on low- and moderate-income/EJ communities and creating in-state jobs and development opportunities;
 - Requires annual GWSA implementation progress reports assessing programs and regulations.
4. Gives the administration the appropriate tools for fair and efficient implementation.
 - Authorizes a full range of carbon pricing and other market-based mechanisms;
 - Generates funding for implementation personnel by assessing a fee on largest emitters;
 - Clarifies that Municipal Light Plants (MLP) are subject to the GWSA;
 - Eliminates confusion and market uncertainty by striking the Section 3(d) sunset clause.