



## The FY2027 Green Budget

Protecting the Commonwealth’s natural resources, while meeting our climate goals and delivering clean air and water to communities and businesses, requires state agencies that are well-resourced and well-staffed. The Green Budget Coalition advocates for robust, sustainable state funding for climate and conservation work to meet the scope and scale of our environmental challenges and make Massachusetts a healthy, thriving place to live, work, and visit.

The Green Budget covers the state agencies within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), and the Clean Water Trust. Currently, less than 1% of the state’s operating budget is spent on energy and environmental programs.<sup>[1]</sup> Many departments still receive less funding and maintain lower staff levels than before the Great Recession. In FY26, these items received a \$7.7 million total decrease in funding, or 1.4%, while the overall budget grew by 5.6% compared to FY25. The Governor’s budget recommendation proposes further, unsustainable cuts to core agencies, many of which would need to see 3-3.5% increases just to maintain staff and services as costs rise.

Funding these priorities in the FY27 budget will ensure that, even in an uncertain fiscal environment, and in the absence of federal leadership, Energy and Environmental Affairs programs and staff are able to continue providing critical services and support to communities and residents. The multi-pronged benefits of these investments help to ensure that we continue to make progress on emissions reduction, support communities working to lead on conservation and environmental justice, increase access to outdoor recreation for all residents, protect public health and safety, and grow our state’s economy.

### The Green Budget funds:



**Deliver essential services for residents and municipalities.** Whether it’s managing local parks, providing technical guidance for water quality monitoring, awarding grants for ecological restoration projects, or overseeing the Green Communities program, EEA agencies and staff provide support for local projects in every city and town in Massachusetts. Ensuring that the operating budget funds the necessary staff for this programmatic work helps to reduce backlogs and waiting lists, expand capacity, and provide scientific expertise to support municipal environmental protection work.

**Defend progress toward climate and conservation goals.** Massachusetts is not on track to meet its statutory goal of 50% emissions reduction below 1990 levels by 2030 or its goal to permanently conserve 30% of land by 2030. In order to continue to reduce emissions from our highest-emitting sectors (transportation, the built environment, and the electric grid) and to increase our capacity to absorb and sequester carbon in our natural and working lands, state agencies must be staffed and empowered to manage renewable energy incentive programs, vehicle emissions regulations, and natural resource protection strategies.

**Keep Massachusetts on track for growth.** Recent climate and clean energy laws have created important new roles for EEA agencies, including the development of siting and permitting reform regulations, management of energy storage procurements, and additional support for community stakeholders in energy project proceedings. Timely implementation is not possible without adequate staff support, which in turn is essential for continuing to grow our green economy. Ensuring that agencies are equipped to continue climate resiliency planning, infrastructure modernization, and integrated land use strategies will also work to save money, attract new businesses, and grow our housing stock.

<sup>[1]</sup> The FY26 budget appropriated \$547 million for energy and environmental programs, roughly 0.89% of its \$60.9 billion total.



## FY2027 Green Budget Priorities

The **Green Budget Coalition** has identified the following priorities for inclusion in the FY27 state operating budget. These recommendations seek to maintain staff and services at FY26 levels, while providing the resources necessary to ensure the Commonwealth continues to serve local needs and comply with new statutory obligations. Inclusion of these priorities would reflect a 3.5% increase, on average, for these line items.

**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (2000-0100):** \$20,584,461 (\$835,426 increase over FY26)

As Massachusetts faces increasing federal headwinds toward meeting its 2025 and 2030 climate and clean energy goals, it is essential that the Executive Office remains adequately staffed to manage the state's ongoing and rapidly evolving strategy to secure and deploy new renewable energy resources and to support local emissions-reduction initiatives. EEA serves as a critical hub for support for communities, businesses, and developers as they work to advance clean energy solutions and prepare for future climate impacts.

**Department of Environmental Protection (2200-0100):** \$55,341,535 (\$1,611,889 increase over FY26)

MassDEP plays an essential role in ensuring that all residents have access to clean air and water, both of which face greater threats than ever before. PFAS contamination and its impacts on communities and vulnerable residents continue to require the Department to increase its testing, monitoring, and technical assistance capacity and to support municipalities shouldering the burden of remediation. This agency also supports permitting processes and oversight of critical services for communities, including water systems, waste management, and air quality monitoring. As collective bargaining agreements go into effect and MassDEP works to weather the impact of federal cuts, a 3% increase will help to ensure that there are no major reductions in staff and services.

**DCR State Parks and Recreation (2810-0100):** \$117,803,751 (\$3,983,702 increase over FY26)

DCR continues to work to increase staffing and perform necessary maintenance at its properties while preparing state-owned land for future climate impacts. The Department also plays an important role in ensuring equitable access to the outdoors, as roughly a quarter of its properties are located in environmental justice communities. In order to reduce DCR's existing billion-dollar deferred maintenance backlogs, it is essential that this item can keep pace with inflation.

**Department of Energy Resources (7006-1003):** \$7,210,751 (\$288,370 increase over FY26)

In order for DOER to meet its statutory obligations under the 2024 clean energy law, increased funding will be necessary to staff the newly established Division of Clean Energy Siting and Permitting. In addition to developing enhanced community engagement and site suitability guidelines, DOER will also be responsible for providing technical assistance to municipalities looking to approve new clean energy projects that will benefit ratepayers and the Commonwealth.

**Department of Public Utilities (2100-0100):** \$19,361,051 (\$731,602 increase over FY26)

Like DOER, DPU and the Energy Facilities Siting Board have new statutory obligations under the 2024 siting reform law and must be able to bring in new staff to meet these needs. In addition, the ability of DPU to hold utilities accountable and advocate for the interests of ratepayers hinges on the Department having sufficient staff to review and approve rate cases, municipal aggregation petitions, and other open dockets.

**Division of Ecological Restoration (2300-0101):** \$5,506,476 (\$162,953 increase, level funding with FY25)

DER projects that restore riverways, wetlands, and coasts remain popular and in high demand, and the multiyear effort to staff up this small but important Division has resulted in a reduction, but not elimination, of project backlogs. At any given time, DER has roughly 40 projects underway, and year-over-year continuity in funding will help to ensure that the Division can meet project timelines to help communities enhance safety and avoid costs by reducing flooding and restoring natural systems.



## Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs FY27 Green Budget Priority

**Request:** Fund the Energy and Environmental Affairs administrative line item (2000-0100) at \$20,584,461 (\$835,426 increase over FY26).

### Overview

- EEA's Executive Office is responsible for coordinating and implementing strategies for climate change adaptation and preparedness including the resiliency of the Commonwealth's transportation, energy and public health infrastructure; built environments; municipal assistance; improved data collection, analysis, and planning; and improved resiliency through the strengthening and revitalization of natural resources.
- EEA is the central hub for managing the implementation of the Governor's environmental bond bill dubbed the [Mass Ready Act](#). If passed, the Mass Ready Act would strengthen the Commonwealth's infrastructure and climate resilience by funding upgrades to dams, bridges, culverts, water systems, and natural habitats.
- In 2025, EEA's Office of Climate Science launched the first-ever Massachusetts Climate Science Report that will update and provide the latest guidance on climate change science and data, including trends for increasing sea level rise, precipitation, temperature, drought, and wildfire. The report will inform the 2027 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment and 2028 ResilientMass Plan.
- EEA also works with the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity (2000-0102) to coordinate agency-wide integration of EJ principles and practices into state agency work. In 2025, they successfully completed the inaugural Environmental Justice Capacity-Building Grant program delivering 12 grants totaling over \$500,000 to enhance accessibility, foster inclusive engagement, and build sustainable systems that empower communities most impacted by environmental and energy challenges.
- EEA also works with the Department of Energy Resources to oversee the Commonwealth's clean energy deployment strategy, facilitating procurements of offshore wind and other clean energy resources to provide affordable, home-grown energy to residents.

### Examples of Need

- EEA is in the process of crafting a new [Massachusetts Integrated Land Use Strategy](#), or "MILUS," that would combine mapping tools and other data from several different agencies across the Administration to make smarter decisions about development. In order to site new clean energy infrastructure, build new housing, and modernize our transportation system, it will be critical that MILUS enables inter-agency coordination and integrated decision-making to ensure that we are accelerating growth in key sectors without harming valuable natural resources.
- The state's [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness](#) (MVP) program is a popular and growing program which has awarded hundreds of millions of dollars in planning and action grants related to climate resiliency and preparedness to 341 MA cities and towns. This program has been so popular that EEA has created MVP 2.0 to build on the success of the first program. All of the funding for regional MVP coordinators falls under the CAMP line item.
- Even with the increase recommended in the Governor's budget to the administrative item, proposed cuts in other line items would result in a small reduction in staff within the Executive Office. To preserve continuity and backfill gaps in other agencies, it is critical to maintain support for the central coordinating staff.



## Department of Environmental Protection FY27 Green Budget Priority

**Request:** Fund the Department of Environmental Protection administrative line item (2200-0100) at \$55,341,535 (\$1,611,889 increase over FY26)

### Overview

- MassDEP has a broad set of critical responsibilities for public health and safety, including ensuring clean air and water, watershed planning and permitting, the safe management of toxics, enforcing environmental laws, reducing solid waste, the timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.
- MassDEP was one of the hardest-hit state agencies by staff cuts and early retirements and has still not returned to pre-2008 staffing levels. At the same time, the Department has new statutory obligations that include:
  - The integration of environmental justice principles and cumulative impact analysis into [air quality permitting](#);
  - Implementation of the recommendations of the [PFAS Interagency Task Force](#); and
  - Management of the state's [Low-Emission Vehicles](#) program, including the awarding of local grants for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- The administrative line item is the primary funding source supporting MassDEP's permitting, compliance, enforcement, and disbursement of funding for the state's water resources. This includes approving and modifying drinking water, stormwater, and sewage infrastructure projects to build new housing, attract new businesses, and allow for continued economic growth.
- MassDEP is also the central hub of the state's air quality permitting and [monitoring network](#). Federal budget cuts have created significant uncertainty around the state's ability to continue monitoring pollution, conduct analysis of air quality impacts for proposed construction projects, and provide technical support for communities.

### Examples of Need

- The Governor's budget recommendation provides insufficient funding for current staffing levels, which would require reducing total MassDEP staff by at least 16 full-time positions. This would result in the lowest staffing levels in four fiscal years, losing critical support for core agency functions, particularly those requiring scientific and technical expertise.
- MassDEP manages statewide vehicle emissions programs and provides technical support for municipalities looking to convert vehicle fleets to zero-emission alternatives or increase deployment of EV infrastructure. With continued uncertainty around the state's Advanced Clean Trucks and Advanced Clean Cars rules, state support will be more important than ever in providing the guidance and support communities and private fleet operators need to navigate this rapidly-changing regulatory environment.
- In the face of federal threats to clean water standards, empowering MassDEP staff to continue enforcing strong public health standards for PFAS contamination will be more essential than ever before. Hundreds of public water systems across the Commonwealth already have identified PFAS levels that exceed safe levels, and municipalities look to state and federal agencies for monitoring support and technical assistance.



## DCR State Parks and Recreation FY27 Green Budget Priority

**Request:** Fund Department of Conservation and Recreation State Parks and Recreation line item (2810-0100) at \$117,803,751 (\$3,983,702 increase over FY26)

### Overview

- DCR is responsible for the stewardship, management, and safety of our parks, beaches, forests, pools, skating rinks, and campgrounds including:
  - Nearly half a million acres of land across over 250 properties and nearly 2,000 miles of trails;
  - Habitat for 291 state-listed rare species, including 8 species found only on DCR land; and
  - Forests that protect drinking water supplies to support millions of residents.
- DCR properties are a cornerstone of the state's [\\$13 billion outdoor recreation economy](#), and Massachusetts [has the fastest-growing outdoor recreation economy](#). According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the outdoor recreation economy supports over 100,000 jobs each year.
- Aligning conservation actions with state's 2030 and 2050 emissions targets was a central recommendation of the DCR Special Commission. As the primary steward of public lands, DCR has a valuable role to play in meeting emissions targets, and while the state agency is a participant in ongoing work around Natural and Working Lands, it does not have a comprehensive standalone plan for its role in meeting the state's climate goals.
- In 2025, DCR's Flood Hazard Management Program assisted 306 Massachusetts cities and towns with updating floodplain bylaws, reviewing development proposals, providing training and workshops, producing flood maps, conducting National Flood Insurance Program audits, and addressing general floodplain development matters.

### Examples of Need

- The Governor's FY27 budget proposal, if adopted, would require DCR to cut 22 full-time staff. This would drop the agency's total down to 1,031, which is still over 200 staff below the peak pre-recession level of 1,271. Cuts to DCR of this scale would, in essence, erode all of the progress made during the Healey-Driscoll Administration and slow the agency's ability to reduce its billion-dollar deferred maintenance backlog.
- DCR estimates that 981 of the 3,996 building facilities it owns are located in EJ communities, roughly 25% of its total assets. One of the four core components of the Department's [EJ strategy](#) is to "prioritize and evaluate investments and allocation of resources to serve EJ populations."
- DCR's Forest Fire Control Team participates with all municipal fire departments to prevent, detect and suppress wildfires throughout Massachusetts. 2025 was a historic fire season, when an unprecedented 662 wildfires broke out across the state, a problem that will only worsen as a result of climate impacts.



## Department of Energy Resources FY27 Green Budget Priority

**Request:** Fund the Department of Energy Resources assessment line item (7006-1003) at \$7,210,751 (\$288,370 increase over FY26).

### Overview

- DOER is the primary energy policy agency for the Commonwealth. The Department is the central source of policy guidance, funding, and regulation for individuals, organizations, and communities to support progress toward local and statewide clean energy goals.
- Until 2024, DOER consisted of five divisions (Energy Efficiency, Policy, Green Communities, Leading by Example, and Renewables) responsible for implementing different components of the state's energy policy. The siting and permitting reforms passed in the 2024 climate law also require the Department to establish a new Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Division to develop guidance for municipalities and developers seeking to get new projects approved.
- The state's Green Communities Program serves 297 cities and towns across Massachusetts, providing grants and technical assistance for municipal energy efficiency and emissions reduction projects. In 2025, DOER announced the first round of [Climate Leader Communities](#), a higher level of Green Communities designation focused on decarbonization and deployment of clean energy.
- DOER is responsible for overseeing and processing applications for the statewide solar incentive program, SMART. In 2025, the Healey-Driscoll Administration unveiled [SMART 3.0](#).
- DOER's funding through this line item comes from an assessment on utilities [legislatively authorized](#) to finance state programs for energy efficiency, conservation, and demand reduction. Because this item is an assessment, increases do not pull revenue directly from the General Fund, but the existing statutory language is somewhat limited and does not reflect DOER's current roles and responsibilities.

### Examples of Need

- Ongoing energy procurements, including offshore wind, are managed by DOER. The Renewables Division is also tasked with implementing the 2024 climate law which authorizes a new procurement of energy storage resources and multi-state coordination of energy procurement.
- The siting and permitting regulations that are being promulgated as a result of the 2024 climate law have the potential to both improve community engagement and accelerate the pace of deployment of clean energy, but *only* if the responsible state agencies are resourced to provide guidance, regulatory oversight, and timely approval of project applications. Funding DOER is critical to ensuring we meet both our climate goals in the future and present needs for affordable, reliable, and responsibly-sited energy.
- Continued implementation and expansion of the Climate Leader Communities program in 2026 will rely on staff capacity to manage demand and provide support for participants and potential new members.



## Department of Public Utilities FY27 Green Budget Priority

### Request

- Fund the Department of Public Utilities administrative line item (2100-0012) at \$19,361,051 (\$731,602 increase over FY26).

### Overview

- The Department of Public Utilities oversees investor-owned electric power, natural gas, and water companies in Massachusetts. Its statutory authorization requires the Department to prioritize safety, security, reliability of service, affordability, equity, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to meet statewide greenhouse gas emission limits and sublimits in its regulatory processes and decision making.
- In 2025, the DPU established the Clean Energy and Resilience Engineering (CERE) Division to oversee the safety, reliability, and modernization of Massachusetts' energy systems. The CERE Division reviews utility electrification, gas transition, and grid investment plans to ensure reliability and resilience. It also investigates outages, safety issues, and complaints to protect ratepayers.
- Delays in approving municipal aggregation proposals for cities and towns have been a persistent challenge in recent years. This popular and successful program improves statewide adoption of clean energy by giving municipalities increased flexibility to supply electricity to residents in a cost-effective manner. Since the DPU issued updated guidelines in July 2024, the agency has approved 47 municipal aggregation plans.
- The administrative line item is funded through rate assessments, as provided under [M.G.L. chapter 25, section 18](#), meaning an increase to this line item without a language change will not come from General Fund revenue. In addition to incremental increases to this line item, the Green Budget supports examining ways to fund DPU's climate-related work without ratepayer impacts in the future.

### Examples of Need

- Ongoing implementation of the state's climate and clean energy mandates will continue to increase DPU's workload and obligations. The recommendations of the [Clean Energy Transmission Working Group](#), the Department's review and management of utilities' [Electric Sector Modernization Plans](#), and the obligations included in the 2024 climate bill will require significant increases in staff capacity.
- DPU oversees several ongoing dockets that serve as the hubs for energy affordability and decarbonization work, including the state's Climate Compliance Plans, gas transition strategy, and utility-led EV charging programs. Adequate staffing capacity is essential to ensure that these programs meet the needs of communities in a timely manner and deliver the greatest possible savings for residents.
- The Department, along with the Energy Facilities Siting Board, act as key forums for utility oversight and accountability. Should DPU and EFSB be given new authority to audit utility functions and review the permitting of large transmission projects, as is envisioned in pending energy affordability legislation, additional staff will be needed to ensure utilities are being reviewed thoroughly with ratepayers' best interests in mind.



## Division of Ecological Restoration FY27 Green Budget Priority

**Request:** Fund the DFG Division of Ecological Restoration line item (2330-0101) at \$5,506,476 (\$162,953 increase, level funding with FY25)

### Overview

- DER has over 80 [active river and wetland projects](#) across the state, including dam removals, wetland restoration, culvert upgrades, urban river revitalization efforts, floodplain and streamflow restoration, and cranberry bog restoration. All DER projects work to restore healthy habitats and help communities adapt to climate change, while also generating significant economic benefits.
- DER staff guide restoration projects through design and permitting, thereby positioning projects for successful implementation through state, federal, and private funding programs.
- In 2024 (the most recent annual data available), DER broke ground on 10 river and wetland restoration projects and completed five others. DER awarded over \$13 million to cities, towns, and partnering organizations to support restoration work throughout the state; removed three dams; reconnected 37.8 river miles; and restored 103 acres of freshwater wetland habitat.
- 56% of active ecological restoration projects were located in a town with an environmental justice (EJ) population, and 30% were located directly in an EJ neighborhood.
- DER's technical assistance and project leadership are critical to helping communities carry out restoration and adaptation projects identified in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plans and to helping state agencies carry out many of the priority actions identified in the statewide [ResilientMass plan](#).
- Each of DER's project managers oversees 5-10 dam removal, culvert replacement, or wetland restoration projects, completing 1-3 projects every year. State investment through DER creates or sustains high-paying jobs in the construction and engineering sectors (12.5 jobs per \$1 million spent).

### Examples of Need

- Demand for project funding exceeds capacity for most DER programs. In FY 26, 35 culverts in 21 communities received funding through the [Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance \(CRMA\) Grants and the Culvert Replacement Training Site Initiative](#) programs for culvert replacement or design/engineering work. However, it is estimated that most of the 25,000 culverts in Massachusetts are undersized.
- Roughly 4x as many ecological restoration projects are in planning, design, or permitting processes compared with projects in active construction. Year-over-year continuity in program funding and staff capacity is critical to ensure that projects already receiving public funding are successfully completed at a high rate.
- DER is looking to expand its successful [Regional Restoration Partnerships Program](#), which currently supports with coordination efforts to help non-profit organizations and regional planning agencies increase capacity for ecological restoration projects through financial and technical assistance, maximizing the ecological benefits of projects receiving funding. Through the Regional Restoration Partnerships Program, DER has almost 50 active Priority Projects underway and is helping to advance over 50 additional projects.