

Critical to Our Efforts to Fight Climate Change and Meet Our Climate Goals

- We have an opportunity right now to respond to our intensifying climate crisis with action that meets the urgency of this moment. A \$300 million Zero Carbon Renovation Fund would provide the down payment necessary to jumpstart zero carbon renovation projects across the Commonwealth, identify best practices, scale proven approaches, and lay the foundation to cut carbon emissions as we transition away from our reliance on fossil fuels and work to meet the Commonwealth's ambitious climate goals.
- Existing buildings in Massachusetts contribute nearly one-third of the Commonwealth's total carbon emissions – more than almost any other sector. The state has set a goal of decarbonizing 500,000 residential homes by 2030 to curb emissions, and a Zero Carbon Renovation Fund – that will complement existing energy efficiency programs while providing the additional resources necessary to get urgent zero carbon renovation projects underway – is critical to helping us reach this milestone.
- Establishing a Zero Carbon Renovation Fund is well-aligned with the recommendations laid out in the Massachusetts Commission on Clean Heat's final report, which calls for additional programs, resources, and reforms to support statewide decarbonization efforts, and identifies the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) as a principal vehicle through which to implement this work.

Catalyze a Just and Equitable Transition to a Clean Energy Future

- The Zero Carbon Renovation Fund is fundamentally centered on equity and climate justice, prioritizing minority- and women-owned businesses, low- and middle-income communities, and buildings located in environmental justice communities, to ensure that those who have historically faced the greatest barriers to zero carbon renovations aren't left behind and stranded on legacy fossil fuel systems as the state transitions to a clean energy economy.
- By investing in decarbonization projects across a variety of building types, sizes, shapes, and materials – including affordable and public housing, schools, town halls, and other municipal buildings – the Zero Carbon Renovation Fund will enable key stakeholders to develop a wide range of best practices that can be efficiently and cost-effectively replicated at scale, making these projects more accessible, especially for communities that have faced historic underinvestment in zero carbon building renovations.
- In addition to reducing reliance on fossil fuels and slashing carbon emissions, the building upgrades supported by the Zero Carbon Renovation Fund will also aim to lower energy costs and provide relief for consumers over time, improve indoor air quality, and strengthen community health and resilience.

Support the Market Transformation Necessary to Build a Green Economy

- Across the Commonwealth, billions are being spent each year on building renovations and upgrades, many of which double down on our legacy fossil fuel infrastructure and move us further away from our climate goals. A Zero Carbon Renovation Fund is a tool we can implement right now to fund zero carbon renovations, improve project completion rates, and jumpstart the market transformation required to move us closer toward our statewide building decarbonization goals.
- Projects resourced by the Zero Carbon Renovation Fund will offer opportunities to develop and train a building decarbonization workforce, address market challenges, and foster market demand for zero carbon upgrades and retrofits.
- As a national leader in climate policy, Massachusetts needs to maintain its leadership by making meaningful progress on building decarbonization, our biggest emitting sector after transportation. Especially with a historic influx of federal funding to the Commonwealth, state leaders have a unique opportunity to invest in policies, like a Zero Carbon Renovation Fund, that will not only advance our climate goals but also help to create the blueprint for effective and efficient building decarbonization at scale, across the Commonwealth and the nation.