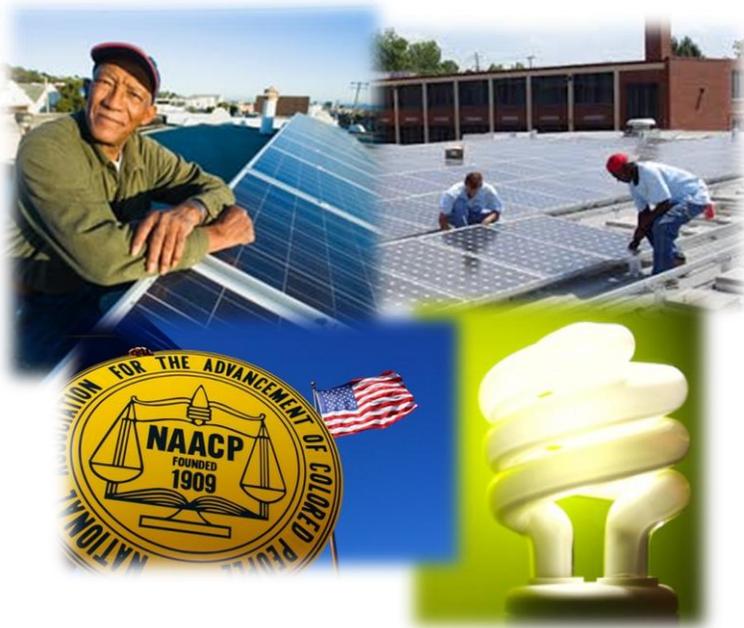
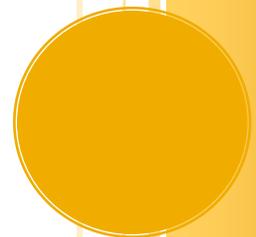


MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY JUSTICE SNAPSHOT



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
Environmental and Climate Justice Program

2/27/2017



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SUMMARY

Access to clean energy is not just an environmental issue, but also a civil right. Communities of color bear a disproportionate share of the burdens of a fossil fuel based energy economy. This is why the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program stands for just energy policies that will help protect our communities from harmful energy production processes and provide equitable access to the clean energy economy.

This Snapshot will profile Massachusetts's energy portfolio, evaluate key state energy policies, document state utility disconnection policies, and outline opportunities in the clean energy economy. Massachusetts is a state dominated by natural gas. Most of the coal and petroleum facilities are being replaced by natural gas facilities. The state has become a leader in energy efficiency policies and programs.

With this in mind, it is critically important that NAACP leaders actively engage in these debates in order to ensure that the community's needs motivate just energy policies. This snapshot will provide information that will inform NAACP members on avenues for engagement.



ENERGY PORTFOLIO¹

Massachusetts's net electricity generation is dominated by natural gas. Natural gas fuels almost two-thirds of electricity generation. It is the only state in New England to have a LNG (liquefied natural gas) import terminal. Natural gas is used primarily during the harsh winter months and many households have switched to natural gas in the past decade. Any new non-renewable electricity generation being planned will be fueled by natural gas.

The Port of Boston is the oldest continuously active port in the United States. It supplied most of the oil demand in Massachusetts.

Coal consumption is gradually falling as coal-fired electricity generation decreases.

Massachusetts does not have any coal production, reserves or coal mining. The majority of the coal is imported from West Virginia. The one operational coal-fired plant is scheduled to be shut down in May 2017.

While Massachusetts receives one-sixth of its electricity from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant, which will no longer be providing power as of June 2019.

Recently, all utility-scale renewable power generation came from hydroelectric and biomass facilities. In 2015, Massachusetts ranked 6th in the United States in combined utility-scale and distributed solar photovoltaic. As of 2016, there were solar installations in 99% of Massachusetts's cities and towns. The Renewable Portfolio Standard increased its solar capacity to 1,600MW by 2020.

Massachusetts has set a goal of 2,000MW of wind by 2020. As of 2016, only 5% of that capacity was already installed. The state has wind potential in the Berkshire Mountains, but the offshore regions has the greatest wind potential.

As part of the ISO-NE Regional Electricity Market, which promotes programs to maintain the reliability of the electricity grid, industrial and commercial consumers have committed to making power reductions during demand peaks and emergencies.

Additional Resources:
State Policy Opportunity Tracker
<http://spotforcleanenergy.org/state/massachusetts/>
Renewable Energy in Massachusetts
<http://www.acore.org/files/pdfs/states/Massachusetts.pdf>

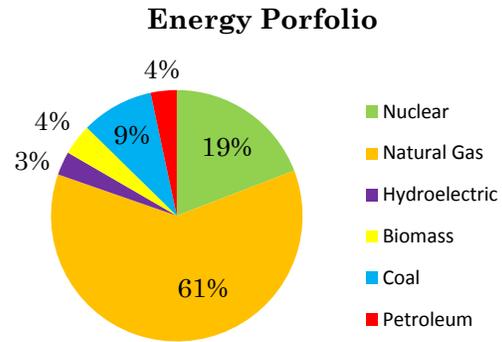


Figure 1. Massachusetts Energy Consumption Profile

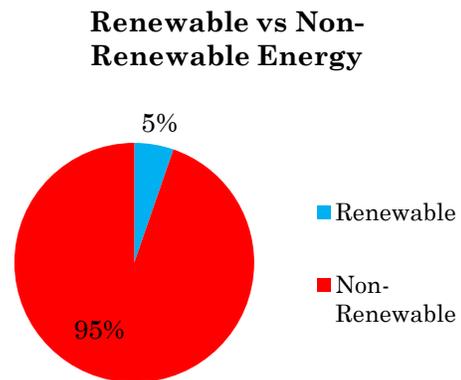


Figure 2. Renewable vs. Non Renewable Energy consumption in Massachusetts

For more detailed information and data on Massachusetts's energy portfolio visit the U.S. Energy Information Administration's webpage, <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=MA>

Installed Renewable Energy Capacity (2013)	
Solar PV	464 MW
Hydropower	270 MW
Wind power	106 MW
Biomass	472MW
Biodiesel	1mGy
Totals	1,312 MW; 1mGy

State Energy Policies

Policy Type	NAACP Recommended Policy Standards	Massachusetts Policy Details
Net Metering	<p>Net Metering Standards require utility companies to provide retail credit for new renewable energy produced by a consumer.</p> <p>Capacity Limit Recommendation: 2,000 kW (minimally), per system</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p>	<p>Massachusetts has a mandatory net metering policy requiring electric utility companies to provide retail credit for up to 10,000 kW for municipalities and government entities; 2,000 kW for Class III systems; 1,000 kW for Class II systems, and 60 kW for Class I systems.</p>
Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)	<p>A RPS requires electric utility companies and other retail electric providers to supply a specific minimum among of customer load with electricity from eligible renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Recommended Standard: Minimally 25% renewable by 2025</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p> <p>Allowable Sources: Wind, solar, geothermal, ocean/wave energy</p>	<p>Massachusetts has a mandatory renewable energy standard of 22.1% by 2020 with a 1% annual increase thereafter. The standard also contains a 400 MW technology minimum for solar photovoltaic energy capacity.</p>
Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)	<p>A EERS establish a requirement for utility companies to meet annual and cumulative energy savings targets through a portfolio of energy efficiency program.</p> <p>Recommended Standard: Minimally 2% annual reduction of each previous year's retail electricity sales.</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p>	<p>Massachusetts had a mandatory energy efficiency standard that ramped up to a 2.4% annual reduction in 2012, which expanded to 2.6% in 2015.</p>
Local Hire Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra renewable energy credit multipliers for in-state installation and in-state manufactured content • Renewable energy credits for utility providing incentives to build a plant in-state • Renewable energy credit for utility that makes an investment in a plate located in-state • Quota for government assisted construction project employers to hire a percentage of workers locally • Bidding Preferences for companies that hire a percentage of their employees in-state for state-funded public works projects and service contracts 	<p>Boston's Neighborhood Jobs Trust directly funds jobs training with fees assessed from real estate development.</p>
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training opportunities • Notify DBEs of state business opportunities • Set-aside funds for DBEs 	<p>Massachusetts' Supplier Diversity Office provides services and certification for minority and women business enterprises.</p>

Utility Disconnection Policies

Notice	Notice must be provided between 72 hours and fourteen days before the scheduled disconnection.
Date Based Protection	Yes. November 15–March 15 no disconnection if the utility provides heat and the utility service was not disconnected before November 15.
Temperature Based Protection	None.
Payment Plan	Yes.
Reconnection Fee	N/A
Disconnection Limitations	Disconnections Monday–Thursday between 8:00am–4:00pm. No disconnections on a legal holiday or the day before a legal holiday.
Other Protections	No disconnection for nonpayment with medical certification. Certification must be renewed quarterly or every six months for chronic conditions.
	No disconnection for nonpayment if the household has a child under 12 months old. No disconnections if all adults are 65 years old or older, and a minor resides in the house.
	No disconnections for low-income customers. Renewal of low-income status must be made quarterly, except during the seasonal protection period. Disconnection for customers 65 years or older may be done only after receiving written approval.
<p><i>Utility shut-offs have a disproportionate impact on low-income and African American communities. Check out the NAACP report, “Lights Out in the Cold” for more information.</i></p>	



Access to energy is not a luxury, it's a necessity. With exposure to both extreme heat and extreme cold, folks should not be forced to choose between paying for medications or their energy bill. Public officials have implemented some policies that protect consumers from the life-threatening practice of utility disconnection (As outlined to the left). However, energy justice advocates must continue to hold utility companies and regulators accountable to human rights and basic but life-saving protections.

More disconnection policy details are available at the **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program State Disconnection Policies** webpage: <https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/disconnect.htm>

Action steps: Meet with the Public Utilities Commission or your local utility company to advocate for the adoption of the following:

- Temperature based protections
- Restriction on reconnection and disconnection fees
- Expanded protection for vulnerable populations

Hot Energy Topics

Senate Bill, S.1849: More than 50 Legislators co-sponsored legislation that sets a goal for 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035 and 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 in all sectors, including housing and transportation.

Utility Companies issue a request for renewable energy generation proposals: In April 2017, Massachusetts investor-owned electricity distribution companies and Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) issued a joint requests for proposals (the RFP) for renewable energy generation and Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) in the annual amount of 9,450,000MWh.²

DEVELOPING THE BLACK-GREEN PIPELINE

The NAACP Black-Green Pipeline Initiative promotes the equitable inclusion of communities of color into the green economy to address unemployment in our communities and to increase the voices and influence of our communities in the green economy.

Overall, African Americans and Latinos suffer from higher unemployment and poverty rates. According to the 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national rate of unemployment for African Americans was 9.6 percent. In Massachusetts, the average for unemployed African Americans is 10.6 percent.³ African Americans are inadequately represented in the clean energy sector. The green economy offers an opportunity for communities of color to join a career-level field with opportunities for upward mobility. The green job field is diverse with 45 percent of all green jobs in

the United States being held by workers with a high school diploma or less. It is the goal of the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative that African Americans will have increased representation across all sectors of the clean energy economy.

To subscribe to the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative Weekly Digest send a blank email to:

naacp-bgp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The Green Labor Market and Communities of Color

Massachusetts has an average concentration of energy employment with 63,374 traditional energy workers statewide. This percentage accounts for 1.9 percent of total state employment, which is below the 2.4 percent national employment average. However, Massachusetts has an additional 80,373 jobs in Energy Efficiency, which accounts for 3.7 percent of all energy efficiency jobs nationwide.⁴

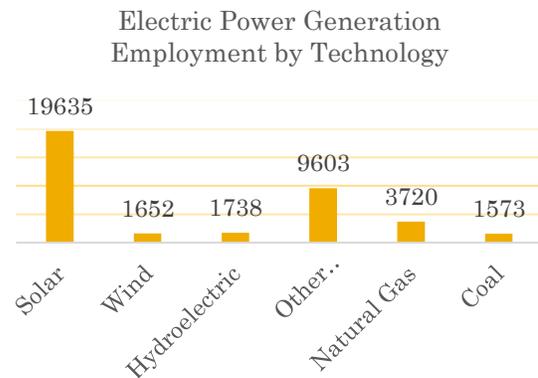


Figure 3. Electric Generation Sector Employment in Massachusetts

In Massachusetts, the electric power generation segment employs 38,379 workers with solar making up the largest segment with 19,635 jobs, followed by

traditional fossil fuel generation with 9603 jobs. Wholesale trade is responsible for 30.6 percent of the employment in the electric power generation sector. In 2015, the Solar Foundation reported that thirty-three states, including D.C. saw a positive growth in solar jobs.

Solar Workers by Project Scale

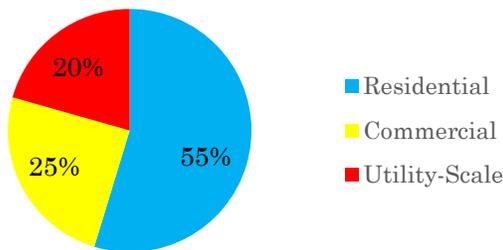


Figure 4.. Solar Workers by Project Scale in Massachusetts

In 2016, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) reported that recent solar capacity additions in the United States have been predominately commercial and utility-scale projects. However, in 2016 over half of the nation’s solar workers were at work on residential solar projects. This imbalance is

attributed to the fact that utility-scale generation typically produces more megawatts per labor unit installed compared to distributed generation.



Figure 5. Wind projects and manufacturing facilities in Massachusetts

Figure 5, pictured above, shows the online wind projects and the gears represent the manufacturing facilities in Massachusetts. Investing in wind adds jobs in operations, maintenance, construction, manufacturing and support sectors. In 2016, the wind industry added 1,000 to 2,000 direct and indirect jobs to the energy job sector.

TAKE ACTION!

Host a Bridging the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy Roundtable

- The NAACP ECJ Program is committed to advancing a meaningful dialogue and concerted action on engagement of communities of color in the green economy.
- To start taking action, organize a multi-stakeholder roundtable with socially responsible energy business leaders, historically black colleges and universities, environmental groups, civil rights organizations, labor unions, and others to discuss developing and implementing a strategy to ensure that policies/laws/regulation, research initiatives, community level practices, corporate social responsibility measures, etc. are in place to ensure greater engagement of communities of color in the green economy.

Implement a demonstration project such as a community solar garden or rooftop solar project

- Interested in taking a direct role in implementing clean energy practices in your community? Install rooftop solar or community solar.
- There are several rebates and incentives available to residents interested in pursuing renewable energy projects. Visit energy.gov for a list of renewable energy incentive program available on the state and federal levels.
- You can also check out funding opportunities offered through Mass.Gov.

Launch a Just Energy Policies Campaign

- Identify one or more of the focal policies outlined in this snapshot and documented more extensively in the Just Energy Policies to champion.
- Build a coalition with likeminded energy justice advocates and other local and state allies to build power and momentum.
- Host a town-hall to educate the community about the policy and get input from members on their needs, priorities, and perspectives.
- Set up lobby trainings and coordinate a lobby-day with elected officials.

Make public the NAACP energy justice platform and engage the public through media

- Develop and place an op-ed by NAACP Unit President or ECJ Chair in a local newspaper
- Participate in a radio interview, TV interview, podcast
- Be quoted in a local newspaper
- Post an article or blog to an online platform

CLOSING

With the repeal of several federal environmental laws, it has become imperative to make a just transition to clean renewable energy. States like Massachusetts have become leaders in energy transition and demonstrate that our energy systems can be both clean and just.

Embracing a transition to clean renewable energy sources will not only provide significant environmental and health benefits for Massachusetts, but will also diversify and strengthen the state's renewable energy economy. NAACP just energy leaders should advocate on behalf of a strong Renewable Portfolio Standard, Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, and Net Metering standards. In addition, Maine should ensure that policies are in place to ensure equity in energy enterprise such as local hire provisions and disadvantaged business enterprises.

Although there is a little debate as to whether or not Massachusetts should transition to a clean energy economy, the path to 100% renewable is still being paved. Massachusetts has made some major strides in renewable energy generation, the state still faces decisions that will determine how and if it can meet this goal. At stake is the fundamental questions of whether power should be generated from the top-down or bottom-up. Will customers be able to seize control of energy generation through distributed power generation or will utility companies maintain a monopoly that prevents the equitable distribution of power, ownership, and economic rewards of the electricity system?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light
<http://www.mipandl.org/>

Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
<http://www.masscec.com/>

Mass Energy Consumer Alliance
<https://www.massenergy.org/renewable-energy>



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¹ "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." Massachusetts - State Energy Profile Overview - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). June 15, 2017.

² "Alerts." Pierce Atwood. April 03, 2017. <https://www.pierceatwood.com/update/massachusetts-issues-new-rfp-clean-energy-projects-seeks-9450000-mwh-annually>.

³ "Unemployment rates for African Americans by state in 2015 : The Economics Daily." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. March 04, 2016. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/unemployment-rates-for-african-americans-by-state-in-2015.htm>.

⁴ The U.S. Energy Employment Report (2017) U.S. Energy Information Administration, November 2016 Monthly Energy Review. https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/us_energy_jobs_2017_final.pdf