Breaking News: Climate Change Strategy

Governor Baker recently signed an Executive Order calling for the Commonwealth to combat and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) must look at a range of sectors and determine regulations that will reduce carbon emissions to make sure we'll meet the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act. The order calls for the consideration of gas leaks and emissions from transportation, two areas where Massachusetts can make great progress in emissions reductions.

- The state will complete a comprehensive energy plan to determine what our energy demands will be in the future and how we will meet them.

- The Executive Offices of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and Public Safety and Security must document vulnerabilities to climate change throughout the Commonwealth and develop a Climate Adaptation Plan within two years.

- Every office in the administration is required to have a Climate Change Coordinator to help complete a vulnerability assessment and implement plans to address and adapt to climate change.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A lot of work in the coming months. EOEEA and MassDEP must perform thorough assessments, analyze findings, and produce plans and regulations in a matter of months.

Cooperation across levels of government. The order calls for agencies at the state level to work with local levels of government and regionally throughout New England.

Long-term results. The Executive Order will be reviewed in 2019 and every five years after that.

ELM applauds the administration for issuing the Executive Order. It is now incumbent on the Governor to allocate the resources necessary for timely implementation. We stand ready to work with the administration and agencies to meet our GHG reduction goals and plan for climate change impacts.
Progress! ELM’s Work Over the Last Two Years...

Enacting pro-environment legislation is challenging, but it’s work that we at ELM look forward to every 2 year legislative session.

ENERGY

VICTORIES:

Historic Clean Energy Law
Which Includes…
• The largest requirement for offshore wind power in the US.
• Additional renewable power requirements that give preference to projects that include both hydro-power and Class 1 resources (likely onshore wind) 1.
• Identifying and repairing “environmentally significant” gas leaks.
• Incentives for electric utilities to develop large-scale energy storage.
• Long-term financing options for both energy efficiency and on-site renewable energy measures at commercial properties.

Solar Net-metering Cap Raise
Right now in MA there is a limit on the amount of excess energy that solar owners can sell back to their electric utility via “net-metering”. Without the ability to sell energy back to the grid, consumers are not incentivized to own solar because it becomes less economical.

Legislative Allies Signed Highly Successful “Dear Colleague” Letters
In these letters we focused on increasing the solar net metering cap, promoting a diversified energy bill that prioritized renewables, and preventing electric utilities from forcing customers to pay for new gas pipelines. These letters played an important role in convincing legislative leadership to support pro-environment legislation.

WHAT’S NEXT?
• Protect home buyers by creating the nation’s first statewide home energy labeling and disclosure program for residential buildings, to help inform home buyers about their energy costs and possible savings before they purchase a home.
• Raise the solar net-metering cap — AGAIN! We’ve already hit the cap in large portions of the state. Better yet, ELIMINATE caps entirely.
• Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) 2 which will help us meet our carbon pollution reduction requirements under the Global Warming Solutions Act.

1 Preference for Class 1 Renewable Energy Resources: “Class 1” renewable energy resources include newer renewable energy technologies located in our region, including onshore and offshore wind, solar, small-scale hydropower, and anaerobic digestion. Without new transmission lines, significant amounts of inexpensive onshore wind in Maine and New York cannot get to our energy markets. This legislation ensures that when Massachusetts builds transmission lines to bring hydropower from Canada, they will carry new onshore wind energy as well.

2 Renewable Portfolio Standard: RPS requires our electric utilities to have a certain percentage of the energy they provide come from renewable energy resources (primarily solar and wind).
## LAND

### VICTORIES:

*Passed Strong Zoning Reform in the Senate*

Which will allow...

- Developers to cluster homes to conserve land
- Communities to reduce unregulated roadside sprawl
- Cities and towns to gain benefits if they meet standards for compact housing while protecting open space and water quality

### WHAT’S NEXT?

- Push this landmark legislation through the House.

## FUNDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### VICTORIES:

*Protected Environmental Agencies and Programs from Excessive Cuts*

- Helped prevent cuts to the environmental budget by successfully encouraging the legislature to override his vetoes.

### WHAT’S NEXT?

- Hold the Governor to his promise to increase environmental funding to 1% of the overall state budget. (Look for our Green Budget in February!)

## REGULATORY REVIEW

### VICTORIES:

Executive Order 562, enacted by Governor Baker in the early days of his term, called for a review of every state regulation 3. Along with other organizations and advocates, we made sure the process did not result in the loss of important environmental protections.

### WHAT’S NEXT?

- Continue to ensure that strong environmental regulations stay on the books.

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A review of every state regulation: Governor Baker’s Executive Order originally stipulated that state regulations could not exceed federal regulations and it targeted regulations that would hurt the “competitiveness” of Massachusetts companies.

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3 Lifeguards at Carson Beach in South Boston. This property is maintained by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, one of the many agencies we advocate for in ELM’s Green Budget.
Randi joined the ELM team as our Accountant in 2015. Though her job as an accountant does not always keep her directly connected to our environmental advocacy, she has a deep connection with our mission. In 2013, with a 2 and a 5 year old at home, she decided to get involved in a newly forming group of mothers calling for action on climate change, Mothers Out Front. The group connects and empowers mothers and grandmothers to use their unique voice to speak out for the health and safety of their children and grandchildren in the face of climate change. Though her schedule is very busy, Randi is energized and empowered by the impact the group has had in calling for a swift, complete, and just transition away from fossil fuels to clean renewable electricity. Randi is grateful for the opportunity to work at ELM and is always looking for ways to liaison between the two groups. Here at ELM we are gratified that employees are dedicated to our mission both in the office and in their personal lives.

Mother, Activist and Accountant

Randi Soltysiak

Mother of 2—April, 9 and Ari, 6

Loves to travel with her family

Finds empowerment and hope through her work with Mothers Out Front

Did You Know?

In 1914, we held a tree planting contest between Massachusetts towns. 13,000 trees were planted during the competition and the winning town, Scituate, received a mile of maple trees as the prize.

ELM has been around since 1898, although back then it was called the Massachusetts Forestry Association. Over the last 118 years ELM has been involved in countless environmental issues. While the nature of our work may have changed, our purpose remains the same: to solve the most pressing environmental issues facing the Commonwealth.
Meet ELM’s Seven New Corporate Council Members

Seven new companies have joined ELM’s Corporate Council as corporate role models and advocates.

WYNN EVERETT

“With our proximity to the water and the industrial background of our site, it’s fitting that Wynn Boston Harbor (the company’s newest hotel project) becomes involved with ELM. The cleanup of our site and reclamation of an urban waterfront, unusable for more than a century, align perfectly with the plans of both our organizations. Wynn and ELM share the goal of preserving our natural surroundings and making them available for all to use and enjoy for generations to come. We're glad to support such a worthwhile mission.”

– Bob DeSalvio
President of Wynn Boston Harbor

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

“Suffolk University’s partnership with ELM is grounded in our role in ensuring the future prosperity and civic health of Boston. I think those goals are well-served by our shared mission of educating the public and working on behalf of environmental safety and justice, and sustainable practices.”

– Maria Toyoda, Dean College of Arts and Sciences

CARPENTER AND COMPANY

“Carpenter is committed to the highest achievement of environmental stewardship. We are developing the Four Seasons Hotel & Private Residences One Dalton Street, Boston as a high-performance and energy efficient building exceeding LEED standards. We believe that best environmental practices are good business and look forward to partnering with ELM.”

LYFT

“We are thrilled to join the Environmental League of Massachusetts’ Corporate Council,” said Tyler George, Lyft Boston General Manager. “Lyft shares the view that good environmental policy and good business should go hand-in-hand, and we look forward to partnering with ELM in this pursuit.”

ENERNOC

Providing innovative and successful tactics to manage energy better for businesses and utilities through energy efficiency, demand response, and their one-of-a-kind Energy Intelligence Software.

COSTA FRUIT AND PRODUCE

“We are thrilled to be associated with the ELM team and other members. It's a dynamic group heading in the right direction for the future.”

– Brad Woodgate, Costa Fruit and Produce
Additions to the ELM Family

We are thrilled to welcome new board and staff members.

Alicia Barton
Counsel
Foley Hoag, LLP
ELM Board Member

Alicia is co-chair of Foley Hoag’s Energy and Cleantech practice, helping clients navigate the unique and constantly-evolving regulatory and market conditions pertaining to energy and clean technology. Previously she was the CEO of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the Chief of Operations for Global Utility at SunEdison (partial history). Alicia received a Bachelor’s Degree from Ohio State University and her JD from Boston College Law School. Her extensive knowledge of the renewable energy industry and her experience in both the private and the public sector will be great assets to the board at ELM.

Andy Mims
Partner, the Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge
ELM Board Member

Andy is a trustee and partner in the Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge where he focuses on values-aligned investing for clients. His work includes both socially/environmentally responsible investing and direct shareholder engagement. Prior to joining LWC, he was the Sustainability Officer for Gaylord Entertainment, a publicly-traded hotel company based in Nashville, TN. He started his career in finance, working in investment banking and private equity. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Dartmouth’s Tuck School of Business. His passion for environmental issues paired with his experience in operational sustainability, finance and corporate engagement will benefit ELM greatly.

Eric R. Wilkinson
Director
Energy and Climate Policy

Prior to joining ELM, Eric served as Senior External Affairs Representative at ISO New England, which manages the wholesale energy grid. Previously Eric served as Policy Advisor to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. He came to the Board from a non-profit, New Jersey Future, where he was Policy Director and a senior contributor to smart growth and sustainable development policy. Eric has also worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as director of the Voluntary Standards Network, and as a member of the President’s Council on Sustainable Development. Eric holds a JD and an MA in the Study of Environmental Law from the Vermont Law School.

ELM Hosts Walk & Talks Across the State

ELM is dedicated to preserving and protecting the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts. From the Berkshires to Cape Cod, and everywhere in between, Massachusetts is full of extraordinary natural resources and it takes many dedicated people and groups to protect them.

Over the last year ELM has held a series of “Walk & Talk” events in partnership with members of the ELM-coordinated MA Environmental Collaborative to showcase our state’s special places. The events have been hosted at properties such as the Middlesex Fells Reservation, Emerald Necklace, the Mystic River

After ELM’s Walk & Talk with the Mystic River Watershed Association, some participants went on a canoe ride as part of Canoe Mobile. Pictured left to right: Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville), Erica Mattison (ELM), Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone, Chris Mancini (Groundwork Somerville), Rani Jacobson (National Park Service), Julie Storck (Wilderness Inquiry), and Senator Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville).

“The Walk & Talk series provides an opportunity for environmental advocates and government officials to come together to explore what’s working well, challenges, and opportunities. Participants share information about their efforts and what they’re working to accomplish, regarding open space preservation, clean water, and climate resilience. These events help build community among interested parties, while showcasing natural treasures across the Commonwealth.”

- ELM Legislative Director Erica Mattison

A few participants from the Walk & Talk ELM co-hosted with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.

**ELM Celebrates 20 Years of Earth Night with Senator Ed Markey**

Earth Night 2016 was a tremendous success! We had a packed room for the presentation of our awards and remarks from US Senator Ed Markey. Senator Markey offered insight on climate action and reminded us how vitally important it is for our state to lead the nation. He stressed that growing the clean energy sector and helping “the green generation rise” would result in a more robust economy and a healthier environment.

ELM was delighted to present awards to leaders working to protect our environment including Rep. Stephen Kulik and House Minority Leader Bradley Jones for bipartisan leadership opposing a gas pipeline tax, Aggregate Industries for corporate leadership and partnerships in support of solar energy, and Katy Eiseman of the Massachusetts Pipe-Line Awareness Network for tireless leadership of a grassroots effort fighting the Kinder Morgan gas pipeline (which has been defeated).

Revenue from Earth Night exceeded our goals! We cannot do our work without wonderful supporters like you.

US Senator Ed Markey addressed the crowd of hundreds at ELM’s Annual Earth Night event on May 31, 2016.

Guests made pledges to take action to protect the environment in their everyday lives. Some of our favorites were: “Stop enabling my husband’s paper towel addiction.” and “Start spending more time with ELM!”
About ELM

The Environmental League of Massachusetts is committed to combating climate change and protecting our land, water, and public health. By creating diverse alliances and building the power of the environmental community, we use our collective influence to ensure Massachusetts is a leader in environmental and economic sustainability.