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.[1] 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.

[1] The FY26 budget appropriated $547 million for energy and environmental programs (EEA agencies, Clean Water Trust contract assistance, and MassCEC), roughly 0.89% of its $60.9 billion total.

For more information: David Melly, Environmental League of Massachusetts,
dmelly@environmentalleague.org; 617-650-5024

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, ensuring 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, while both 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.

For more information: David Melly, Environmental League of Massachusetts,
dmelly@environmentalleague.org; 617-650-5024