



THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS ACTION FUND 2020 PLAN

OUR VISION:

We envision a future where Massachusetts leads the nation in innovative policy and environmental quality. Citizens are empowered to raise their voices in ways that are lasting and effective. They directly advance environmental progress. Elected officials take an enlightened long-term view. They are commended for leading and held accountable for lagging. Their dominant lens is generational, not annual. They advance an agenda that acknowledges our economic and environmental future are deeply entwined and mutually dependent; environmental quality stimulates economic growth, and vice versa.

OUR FRAMEWORK FOR ACHIEVING THIS VISION:

Elect new environmental leaders with our PAC...

to the State Legislature and key local offices who will drive our agenda at the state and local level.

- Engage strategically in select mayoral and municipal races
- Recruit, train and support new candidates
- Build campaign volunteer capacity to help elect candidates

Hold elected leaders accountable...

by educating voters about the votes and actions taken by their elected leaders and working to defeat elected politicians who oppose reasonable environmental progress. We will also seek to recognize and spotlight those who are leading on our issues.

- Host bi-partisan events to recognize legislators who are champions
- Publish legislative scorecard tracking votes and leadership activities

Defend and advance environmental champions...

who have led on our issues and are facing competitive re-election challengers..

- Recognize legislators who lead and encourage them to seek higher office
- Explore creating state “Give Green” fundraising effort for green candidates

Build the political power of the environmental movement...

to accomplish our policy goals. We are committed to building partnerships and a powerful movement of diverse and powerful activists and leaders.

- Create “Green Pledge” for candidates and officials
- Create activist tool kit
- Form local elected official policy network
- Expand issue and geographic diversity
- Increase diversity of staff, board and members



1% for the Environment: Restoring Funding to Environmental Agencies

Only half a penny of every dollar in the state budget is allocated to protect our environment. Our top budget recommendations include restoring funding for the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and the Dept. of Environmental Protection. Both agencies have seen cuts of 30% to their budgets since 2001 and lost hundreds of staff. We are calling on the Governor and legislature to commit to "1% for the Environment."

Improving Home Energy Efficiency

Homebuyers should have as much information about the energy costs of operating a home as car buyers do for operating a vehicle. We support legislation that would require home sellers to obtain an energy efficiency rating and disclose it to potential buyers. This would incentivize homeowners to make cost-effective energy efficiency improvements, and provide consumers with critical information on what to expect for their future utility bills.

Enhancing Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)

The current RPS statute requires that utilities increase the amount of renewable power they provide by 1% each year. ELM supports increasing the current annual percentage of renewable energy that utilities must obtain for their customers to 2-3%. This would help ensure that Massachusetts meets its legally binding greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements, increase the number of jobs in the renewable energy sector, and provide stable and long-term incentives for the development of new renewable resources.

Putting a Price on Carbon

ELM supports the development of a carbon fee and rebate system designed to reduce the carbon content of the fuels we use in our homes, businesses, and vehicles. A fee placed on carbon would increase over time, be collected in a special fund, and rebated directly to all households and businesses. The rebates would be designed to minimize the economic impact on low- and moderate-income residents and rural residents who typically drive longer distances and have few if any transit options.

Improving Drought Management

With droughts expected to increase in frequency as a result of climate change, we need to improve how the state responds. We support legislation that would remedy the current confusing patchwork of water conservation requirements and give authority to the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to require consistent water conservation measures during a drought.

Preserving Public Lands

We support legislation that would prevent the loss of protected public parks, conservation land, forests, watersheds and other natural resource lands. The Public Lands Preservation Act requires a municipality or state agency proposing a change in the use of any lands acquired for natural resource purposes to provide replacement land of comparable acreage, location, and natural resource value. The Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs will assess the need for the proposed change in use, the availability of feasible alternatives, and the suitability of the replacement land being provided.