



Legislative Scorecard

Votes and Leadership

2013-14 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Environmental League of Massachusetts

This is the inaugural edition of the Environmental League of Massachusetts legislative scorecard. We produced this scorecard to inform citizens about how their legislators voted on important environmental issues. We are pleased and grateful for the support of so many environmental leaders in the legislature.

The scorecard relies first on roll call votes on legislation that deals with environmental and energy issues. Because there are so few roll call votes each session—and often these votes are unanimous—we have scored additional actions by legislators to further distinguish environmental champions. Bonus points were awarded to legislators who introduced bills that were ELM priorities or who introduced important amendments, particularly budget amendments to increase funding for state environmental agencies. In addition, we subtracted points for legislators who introduced legislation or amendments that we opposed. We want to recognize leadership and courage, in addition to votes, and have made every attempt to be fair and transparent in our scoring.

Much happens during the legislative process that is impractical to score such as committee redrafts, committee votes to move or hold a bill, and measures that would improve flawed legislation. We have not attempted to include these actions, but we recognize that they greatly influence the process and outcomes.

None of the bills or amendments scored here should be a surprise to legislators in terms of ELM's support or opposition. Going forward, ELM will include votes and other actions that support additional revenues for transportation and promote transit, walking and biking.

George Bachrach, President Erica Mattison, Legislative Director

Highlights of the Session

The legislature passed a number of important bills that will move the state forward on natural resource and public health protections.

- A \$2.2 billion **environmental bond bill** was enacted that includes authorization for capital projects related to land acquisition, water and air quality, state and urban parks, farm protection and viability, climate change adaptation, and solid waste and recycling, among other items.
- **Natural gas leaks** legislation passed—a good first step in dealing with this critical issue. These leaks pose a triple threat to Massachusetts: endangering public safety, releasing the potent greenhouse gas methane, and costing ratepayers millions of dollars. We have some of the oldest natural gas pipelines in the country, and thousands of leaks—at least 20,000 throughout the state. The bill requires uniform leak classifications and repair timelines and establishes benchmarks for reducing lost and unaccounted for gas to reduce costs to customers. The bill will significantly reduce risks to the public, the climate and customers' pocketbooks.
- Progress was made on dealing with aging **water infrastructure** that has been long ignored. This legislation establishes a new Massachusetts Clean Water Trust as the successor to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust and increases funding available for water infrastructure

projects. Notably, the bill includes a definition of “green infrastructure” for the first time in statute and allows Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to use “green infrastructure” as a criterion for granting additional financial incentives.

Methodology

The top score for those who voted in line with our position on all roll call votes is 95%. In the Senate, we included 10 roll call votes, so each vote is valued at 9.5 points. In the House, we included six roll call votes, with each vote valued at 15.8 points. Five bonus points for leadership were added for introducing an ELM priority bill or amendment and five points were subtracted for introducing a bill or amendment we opposed.

We capped scores at 100%, although it is worth noting that a number of legislators received scores over 100% due to multiple leadership actions. We thank these legislators for going above and beyond in their advocacy for a clean and healthy environment.

The scorecard excludes lawmakers from last session who are no longer in the legislature. We have prorated scores for those that were elected in special elections. We did not subtract points if a legislator was absent from a roll call vote.

We hope that the public and our elected officials find this scorecard a useful and balanced reflection of the 2013-2014 legislative session.

Roll Call Votes

We awarded bonus points to those who filed bills and amendments we supported.
We deducted points from those who filed bills and amendments we opposed.

HOUSE

FY14 Budget (HB3400) — 4/23/2013
Consolidated Amendment C.
Increases funding for Energy and Environmental Affairs agencies.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

FY15 Budget (HB4000) — 4/29/2014
Consolidated Amendment C.
Increases funding for Energy and Environmental Affairs agencies.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

Environmental Bond Bill (HB4138) — 6/4/2014
Consolidated Amendment.
Increases funding.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

An Act relative to natural gas leaks (HB4164) — 6/11/2014
Filed by Rep. Lori Ehrlich:
Establishes natural gas leak classification standards and requirements for repairs.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2014).

Environmental Bond Bill (HB4375) — 7/31/2014
Authorizes \$2.2 billion for capital projects related to land acquisition, water and air quality, state and urban parks, farm protection and viability, climate adaptation, and solid waste and recycling, among other items.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 286 of the Acts of 2014).

An Act improving drinking water and wastewater infrastructure (SB2021) — 7/31/2014

Filed by Sen. Jamie Eldridge:
Establishes a new Massachusetts Clean Water Trust as the successor to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust and increases funding available for water infrastructure projects.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014).

SENATE

FY2014 Budget (SB3) — 5/22/2013
Amendment #130, filed by Senator Richard Ross: Would give the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight authority to review all newly adopted state agency regulations; also would give authority to approve, disapprove, or disapprove and amend regulations before they take effect.

ELM position: **Oppose**
Status: **Failed**

An Act relative to natural gas leaks (SB2073) — 4/10/2014

Amendment #12, filed by Senator Jamie Eldridge: Would require that Dept. of Public Utilities review include a full analysis of the greenhouse gas emissions impacts of proposed expansion, including an accounting of life cycle fugitive emissions.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Failed**

FY15 Budget (SB4) — 5/21/2014
Amendment #4, filed by Senator Cynthia Creem: Approves a transfer of up to \$25 million from the state surplus to the Community Preservation Trust Fund.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014).

FY15 Budget (SB4) — 5/21/2014
Amendment #54, filed by Senator Cynthia Creem: Establishes Massachusetts Zero Emission Vehicle Commission for the purpose of studying benefits and costs of zero emission vehicle use in the Commonwealth.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014).

An Act relative to the expansion of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (SB2188) — 6/12/2014

Amendment #7, filed by Senator Brian Joyce: Adds a requirement to the \$1 billion Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) expansion bond bill that the BCEC Authority achieve LEED Silver New Construction Certification, and also comply with the energy efficiency requirements of either the "Stretch Energy Code" or the Massachusetts energy code, whichever is more stringent.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 195 of the Acts of 2014).

An Act relative to natural gas leaks (HB4164) — 6/12/2014

Filed by Rep. Lori Ehrlich: Acceptance of the conference committee version; establishes natural gas leak classification standards and requirements for repairs.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2014).

An Act fueling job creation through energy efficiency (SB2255) — 7/10/2014

Filed by Senator Brian Joyce: Requires that the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency establish a commercial sustainable energy program and issue Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) bonds to fund sustainable energy projects on a commercial or industrial property. Provides municipalities the option to participate in the program; requires that a benefitted property owner requesting financing agree to betterment assessments.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed Senate**

Environmental Bond Bill (SB2250) — 7/10/2014

Amendment #151, filed by Senator Bruce Tarr: Increases the Conservation Land Tax Credit from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 286 of the Acts of 2014).

Environmental Bond Bill (HB4375) — 7/31/2014

Appropriates \$2.2 billion for capital projects related to land acquisition, water and air quality, state and urban parks, farm protection and viability, climate adaptation, and solid waste and recycling, among other items.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 286 of the Acts of 2014).

An Act improving drinking water and wastewater infrastructure (SB2021) — 7/31/2014

Filed by Senator Jamie Eldridge: Establishes a new Massachusetts Clean Water Trust as the successor to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust and increases funding available for water infrastructure projects.

ELM position: **Support**
Status: **Passed**

(Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014).

Budget Amendments

We awarded bonus points to legislators who filed amendments that supported our budget priorities.

HOUSE	Bruce Ayers	FY14: Seasonal Staff (DCR), #780
	James Cantwell	FY15: MassGIS (A&F), #1146
	Nick Collins	FY15: Climate Change Preparedness (EEA), #724
	Paul Donato	FY14: State Parks and Recreation (DCR), #118
	Carolyn Dykema	FY14: Compliance and Permitting Fee Retained Revenue (DEP), #754 FY15: Stormwater Management (DCR), #990
	Anne Gobi	FY14: Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI), #513 FY14: Administration (DEP), #508 FY14: Hazardous Waste Clean-up (DEP), #502 FY14: State Parks and Recreation (DCR), #499 FY15: State Parks and Recreation (DCR), #648 FY15: Toxics Use Retained Revenue (DEP), #556
	Jonathan Hecht	FY15: Recycling (DEP), #671
	Kate Hogan	FY14: Land Stamp Fund (DFG), #578
	William Pignatelli	FY14: Division of Ecological Restoration (DFG), #712 FY14: Dam Safety (DCR), #713
	David Rogers	FY15: Administration (DEP), #799
	Paul Schmid	FY15: Administration (DAR), #1143
	Frank Smizik	FY15: Dam Safety (DCR), #632 FY15: Watershed Management (DCR), #634 FY15: State Climatologist (EEA), #635
	William Straus	FY14: Commissioner's Office (DFG), #156
	Chris Walsh	FY15: Brownfields Redevelopment Fund (DEP), #915 FY15: Hazardous Waste Clean-up Program (DEP), #1046

SENATE	Michael Barrett	FY14: Recycling (DEP), #215
	William Brownsberger	FY14: Division of Ecological Restoration (DFG), #188 FY14: Watershed Management (DCR), #249
	Cynthia Creem	FY15: Recycling (DEP), #277
	Kenneth Donnelly	FY14: Hazardous Waste Clean-up (DEP), #183
	Benjamin Downing	FY15: Hazardous Waste Clean-up (DEP), #220
	Jamie Eldridge	FY14: Administration (DEP), #189 FY15: Stormwater Management (DCR), #281 FY15: Administration (DEP), #282
	John Keenan	FY14: Recycling (DEP), #282
	Michael Moore	FY15: MassGIS (A&F), #225
	Marc Pacheco	FY15: Administration (DAR), #207
	Michael Rodrigues	FY14: Division of Marine Fisheries (DFG), #191 FY14: Administration (DAR), #192
	Michael Rush	FY15: State Parks and Recreation (DCR), #258
	James Timilty	FY15: Seasonal Staff (DCR), #222
	Daniel Wolf	FY14: State Parks and Recreation (DCR), #231 FY15: Division of Ecological Restoration (DFG), #263

HOUSE

Green = Vote was with our position
 Red = Vote was against our position
 Gray = No vote

NAME & PARTY	FY14 Budget (HB3400): Consolidated Env. Amendment	FY15 Budget (HB4000): Consolidated Env. Amendment	2014 Env. Bond Bill (HB4138): Amendment	Natural Gas Leaks (HB4164)	2014 Env. Bond Bill (HB4375)	Water Infrastructure (SB2027)	# of positive leadership actions awarded bonus points	ELM Score
Vote Preference	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Paul Donato (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Shawn Dooley (R)	1	1	-	1	1	1	0	79%
Peter Durant (R)	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	79%
James Dwyer (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Carolyn Dykema (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	100%
Lori Ehrlich (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	100%
Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Ryan Fattman (R)	-	1	-	1	1	1	0	63%
Robert Fennell (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Kimberly Ferguson (R)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
John Fernandes (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Michael Finn (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Carole Fiola (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Gloria Fox (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Paul Frost (R)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
William Galvin (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Sean Garballey (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Denise Garlick (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Colleen Garry (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Susan Gifford (R)	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	79%
Anne Gobi (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	100%
Thomas Golden (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Kenneth Gordon (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Danielle Gregoire (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Patricia Haddad (D) ¹	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	90%
Sheila Harrington (R)	1	1	-	1	1	1	0	79%
Jonathan Hecht (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	100%
Paul Heroux (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Bradford Hill (R)	1	1	-	1	1	1	0	79%
Kate Hogan (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Russell Holmes (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Kevin Honan (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Steven Howitt (R)	1	1	-	1	1	1	0	79%
Dan Hunt (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%

¹⁾ Five points were deducted for filing Amendment #64 in the FY15 budget to divert energy efficiency funds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to municipalities hosting coal or oil plants.

* Score exceeded 100% cap

HOUSE

Green = Vote was with our position
Red = Vote was against our position
Gray = No vote

NAME & PARTY	FY14 Budget (HB3400): Consolidated Env. Amendment	FY15 Budget (HB4000): Consolidated Env. Amendment	2014 Env. Bond Bill (HB4138): Amendment	Natural Gas Leaks (HB4164)	2014 Env. Bond Bill (HB4375)	Water Infrastructure (SB202)	# of positive leadership actions awarded bonus points	ELM Score
	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Randy Hunt (R)	-	1	-	1	1	1	0	63%
Bradley Jones (R) ²	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	74%
Louis Kafka (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Jay Kaufman (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Mary Keefe (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Kay Khan (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Peter Kocot (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Robert Koczera (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Stephen Kulik (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	100%
Kevin Kuros (R)	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	79%
John Lawn (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
David Linsky (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Jay Livingstone (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Marc Lombardo (R)	-	1	-	1	1	1	0	63%
James Lyons (R)	-	1	-	1	1	1	0	63%
Timothy Madden (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
John Mahoney (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Elizabeth Malia (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Brian Mannal (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Ronald Mariano (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Paul Mark (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Christopher Markey (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Paul McMurtry (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
James Miceli (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Aaron Michlewitz (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Leonard Mirra (R)	1	1	-	1	1	1	0	79%
Frank Moran (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Michael Moran (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
James Murphy (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
David Nangle (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Harold Naughton (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Shaunna O'Connell (R)	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	79%
James O'Day (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Keiko Orrall (R)	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	79%
Jerald Parisella (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%

2) Five points were deducted for filing a regulatory reform amendment (FY14 Budget Amendment #374).

* Score exceeded 100% cap

HOUSE

Green = Vote was with our position
 Red = Vote was against our position
 Gray = No vote

NAME & PARTY	FY14 Budget (HB3400): Consolidated Env. Amendment	FY15 Budget (HB4000): Consolidated Env. Amendment	2014 Env. Bond Bill (HB4138): Amendment	Natural Gas Leaks (HB4164)	2014 Env. Bond Bill (HB4375)	Water Infrastructure (SB2021)	# of positive leadership actions awarded bonus points	ELM Score
Vote Preference	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Sarah Peake (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Alice Peisch (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Thomas Petrolati (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
William Pignatelli (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	100%
Elizabeth Poirier (R)	-	1	-	1	1	1	0	63%
Denise Provost (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
David Rogers (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
John Rogers (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Dennis Rosa (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Jeffrey Roy (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Byron Rushing (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Dan Ryan (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Jeffrey Sanchez (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Tom Sannicandro (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Angelo Scaccia (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Paul Schmid (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
John Scibak (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Alan Silvia (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Frank Smizik (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	100%
Todd Smola (R)	-	1	-	1	1	1	0	63%
Theodore Speliotis (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Thomas Stanley (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Ellen Story (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
William Straus (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Benjamin Swan (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Walter Timilty (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Timothy Toomey (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Aaron Vega (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
John Velis (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
David Vieira (R)	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	79%
RoseLee Vincent (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Joseph Wagner (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Chris Walsh (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	100%
Donald Wong (R)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Jonathan Zlotnik (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%

* Score exceeded 100% cap

SENATE

Blue = Vote was with our position
Red = Vote was against our position
Gray = No vote

NAME & PARTY	FY14 Budget (SB3) Amendment #130: Regulatory Reform Natural Gas Leaks (SB2073) Amendment #12: GHG Analysis FY15 Budget (SB4) Amendment #4: CPA FY15 Budget (SB4) Amendment #34: Zero Emission Vehicles Natural Gas Leaks (HB4164) Convention Center (SB2188) Amendment #7: Green Building PACE bonds to fund clean energy projects (SB2255) 2014 Env Bond Bill (SB2250) Amendment #151: Conservation Land Tax Credit (HB4375) Water Infrastructure (SB2021) # of positive leadership actions awarded bonus points											ELM Score	
	Vote Preference	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Michael Barrett (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	91%
William Brownsberger (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	96%
Harriette Chandler (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Sonia Chang-Diaz (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Cynthia Creem (D) *	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	100%
Sal DiDomenico (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Kenneth Donnelly (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	96%
Eileen Donoghue (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Benjamin Downing (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	96%
Jamie Eldridge (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	100%
Jennifer Flanagan (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Linda Forry (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Robert Hedlund (R)	+	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	76%
Donald Humason (R)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Patricia Jehlen (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Brian Joyce (D) *	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	100%
John Keenan (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	91%
Thomas Kennedy (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Jason Lewis (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	95%
Joan Lovely (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Thomas McGee (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Mark Montigny (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Michael Moore (D) ³	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	86%
Kathleen O'Connor Ives (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Marc Pacheco (D)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100%
Anthony Petrucci (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Michael Rodrigues (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	96%
Stanley Rosenberg (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Richard Ross (R) ⁴	+	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	71%
Michael Rush (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	91%
Karen Spilka (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Bruce Tarr (R) ⁵	+	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	76%
James Timilty (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	91%
James Welch (D)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	86%
Daniel Wolf (D) *	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	100%

3) Five points were deducted for filing a bill that would repeal the 5 cent bottle deposit law (SB379).

4) Five points were deducted for filing a regulatory reform amendment (FY14 Budget Amendment #130).

5) Five points were deducted for filing a bill that would weaken the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (SB411).

* Score exceeded 100% cap



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Legislative Priorities

Each year, securing sufficient funding for our state environmental agencies is a top priority for ELM. See below for our other priorities for the 2013-2014 legislative session.

CLEAN ENERGY

An Act to Transition to a Clean Energy Commonwealth

(Rep. Lori Ehrlich)

Provides a framework for a gradual and responsible phase-out of coal-fired electric generation in Massachusetts, including support for reuse planning and smooth transitions for workers.

An Act Further Promoting Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs

(Rep. Frank Smizik)

Massachusetts has nation-leading electric and natural gas efficiency programs, but no dedicated heating oil efficiency program. Establishes a 2.5 cent assessment on each gallon of heating oil sold in the state, producing an estimated annual revenue of \$20 million to invest in more efficient oil-heated homes and delivering more than \$120 million in customer savings and other economic benefits.

An Act Enhancing Natural Gas Pipeline Safety

(Rep. Lori Ehrlich)

20,000 known gas leaks are estimated to release between 8 and 12 billion cubic feet of unaccounted for natural gas annually throughout the state. Establishes leak classification and repair timelines, expands targeted infrastructure replacement programs and enhances monitoring and reporting requirements.

An Act relative to Public Investment in Fossil Fuels

(Senator Ben Downing)

Directs the State Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board to cease new investments in fossil fuel-based companies and to divest the public fund of all fossil fuel holdings within five years.

LAND USE

An Act Promoting the Planning and Development of Sustainable Communities

(Rep. Stephen Kulik and Senator Daniel Wolf)

Reforms outmoded zoning laws to discourage sprawl; gives communities and developers tools and incentives to support mixed use development, denser development in appropriate areas, and natural resource protection.

An Act to Protect the Natural Resources of the Commonwealth

(Rep. Ruth Balser and Senator Jamie Eldridge)

Requires an alternatives analysis prior to natural resource lands being converted to another use. In cases where disposition is allowed, requires the provision of replacement natural resource land.

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

An Act Updating the Bottle Bill

(Rep. Jonathan Hecht and Senator Cynthia Creem)

Adds non-carbonated beverages to the state's successful redemption system and directs forfeited deposits to environmental programs.

An Act to Reduce Solid Waste, Increase Recycling and Generate Municipal Cost Savings

(Rep. Jason Lewis; has since been elected to the Senate)

Directs the DEP to establish performance standards for municipal solid waste on the basis of pounds per capita to incentivize recycling and reduce solid waste.

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act

(Rep. Stephen Kulik)

Defends the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act by statutorily establishing and defining priority habitat as a tool to determine whether a project or activity will result in the "take" of a state-listed species; requires updating of current priority habitat maps subject to public notice and a public comment process.

TOXICS USE REDUCTION

Healthy Families and Businesses Act

(Rep. Jay Kaufman and Senator Kenneth Donnelly)

Creates a program to support businesses in transitioning away from using and selling products containing harmful toxic chemicals and replacing them with safer alternatives.

WATER

An Act to Mitigate Water Resource Impacts

(Rep. Frank Smizik and Senator Jamie Eldridge)

Authorizes municipalities to adopt a "water-banking" fund and charge a reasonable fee for new or increased water withdrawals and sewer use with funds used to address environmental impacts and/or infrastructure improvements.

An Act Improving Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

(Senator Jamie Eldridge)

Establishes a Massachusetts Clean Water Trust as the successor to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust and increases funding available for water infrastructure projects. For the first time in a Massachusetts statute, defines "green infrastructure" and allows DEP to use "green infrastructure" as a criteria for granting additional financial incentives. Appropriates funding for water pollution technical assistance grants. Requires the establishment of a water leak classification standard for public water systems.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Investment Act

(Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier)

Stabilizes our transportation finances by eliminating the practice of using capital funds to pay for operating expenses. Requires an analysis of transportation projects based on factors that reduce energy consumption, congestion and dependence on oil; promote fairness and regional equity; increase transportation choices; and improve our public health.



Photo: Sarah Nichols



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts, Office of Coastal Zone Management

The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) is the oldest environmental advocacy organization in Massachusetts. Established in 1898, ELM is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting the air, land, and water for the people of the Commonwealth. ELM voices citizens' concerns, informs the public, advocates for strong environmental laws, and ensures that state laws are implemented and enforced.

Environmental League of Massachusetts



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