

Global Warming Solutions Implementation Act

H.2149 (Smizik); S.479 (Pacheco)

In 2008, Massachusetts became a leader in the U.S. and worldwide by requiring all state agencies to ensure that we reduce our total statewide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below 1990 levels (the scientific baseline) by the end of 2050. But just passing a tough goal-setting law – the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) – is only the first step. To save ourselves from the existential threat of climate change **we need a detailed, long-term plan** to actually achieve that challenging goal, a plan that lays out how we intend to transition our homes, our vehicles, our businesses, and our industries off of fossil fuels between now and 2050. Without that kind of a roadmap, we have no assurance we will reach our destination.

But **right now, Massachusetts doesn't have a comprehensive plan for how to reach that challenging 2050 goal (reducing emissions by 80%)**, and the Baker Administration has demonstrated through its modestly incremental actions that it has no intention to come up with one. Time is of the essence! We need to “get real” about what needs to happen today, tomorrow, and the next day. We need a clean energy roadmap to 2050 and we need it ASAP!

*That's where the **Global Warming Solutions Implementation Act** comes in.*

Patterned after the very same process the European Union has now used, the Global Warming Solutions Implementation Act will direct the state Executive branch to develop and implement a long-term plan, a roadmap, for achieving “deep decarbonization” in Massachusetts by 2050.

- First, by 2020, it will require the state to conduct detailed, quantitative “backcast” modeling and analysis of the Commonwealth's entire energy economy and its emissions in order to identify multiple technically and economically feasible pathways for reducing statewide emissions by 80% by 2050, as the GWSA requires.

Modeling backwards from 2050 is critical to avoiding near-term “lock-ins” (like more reliance on natural gas) that might look good now, but are dead-end paths that can prevent us from achieving our ultimate emission reduction goals. Developing multiple pathways to get there cost-effectively gives us a range of options and will broaden support among the public, legislators, and business and labor leaders for concrete climate action.

- Second, it will require the state to use that “2050 pathways analysis” to set the GWSA's interim 2030 and 2040 emissions limits and then to issue a coordinated suite of “2050 regulations” to guide Massachusetts along one or more of the viable 2050 pathways identified, in order to ensure that we reduce emissions by 80% by 2050.

We can't put this off any longer! We need real climate action to set Massachusetts on a path for 2050 success that will give us all clear signals about where and how to invest in our future.

We can and will succeed in fighting climate change, but it won't happen by accident. It takes a plan.