



Future of Gas in Buildings and Implications for the Gas Distribution System

**New England Electricity
Restructuring Roundtable**

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Clean Energy Targets in Massachusetts

- Commonwealth set a target of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008
- Established sector-specific emissions reduction targets for 2025 and 2030 in the Clean Energy and Climate Plan (June 2022)



Clean Energy Targets in Massachusetts

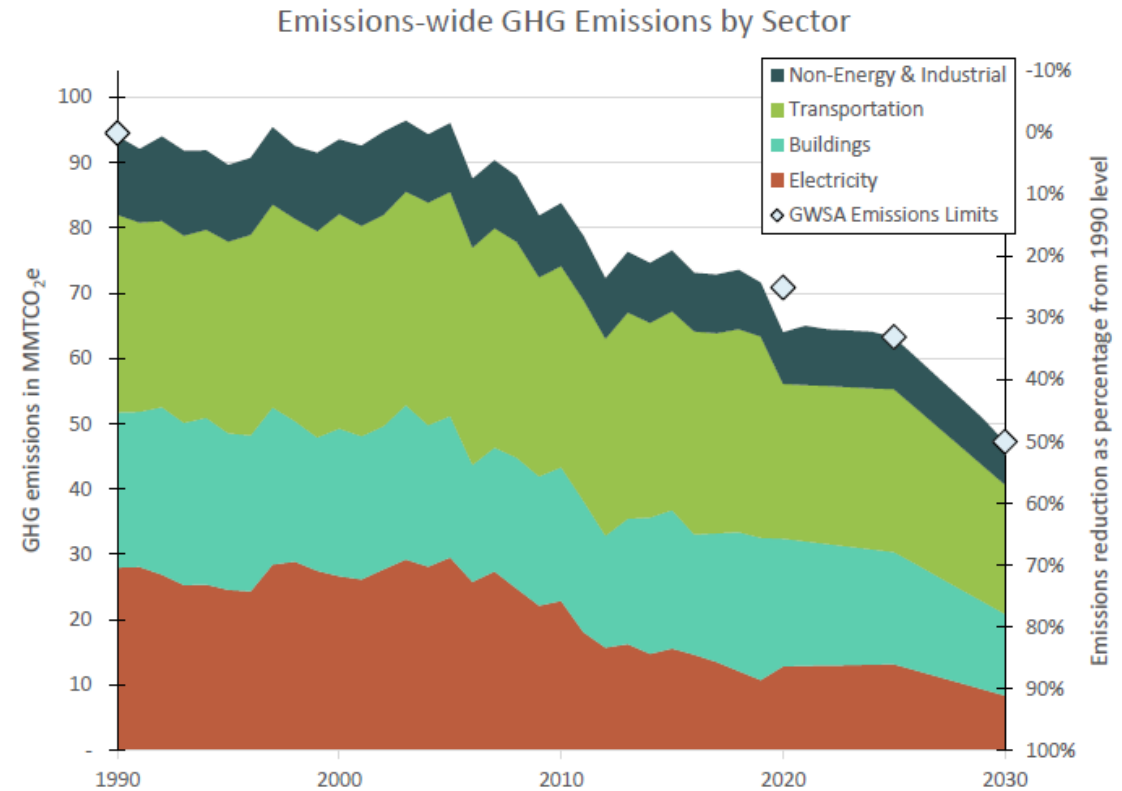


Table ES.2. Historical GHG Emissions and 2025/2030 GHG Emissions Sublimits for Residential and Commercial Building Heat

[Source: 2022 CECP]

Buildings (Residential & Commercial) Sector GHG Emissions (MMTCO ₂ e)	1990	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Residential	15.3	13.7	13.6	12.2	10.8	7.8
Commercial (without Industrial)	8.4	6.7	7.6	7.3	6.4	4.7
Total Gross Emissions (MMTCO ₂ e)	23.8	20.4	21.2	19.5	17.2	12.5
Total Percent Reduction from 1990		14%	11%	18%	28%	47%



Regulatory Framework

- D.P.U. “Future of Gas” proceeding
 - Order 20-80-B (December 6, 2023)
 - Electrification is primary pathway to achieve GHG emissions reduction targets
 - Requires consideration of non-gas pipeline alternatives (NPAs) before investing in additional natural gas distribution infrastructure
 - Local Gas Distribution Companies (LDCs) required to engage in integrated energy planning



Regulatory Framework

- Actions following Order 20-80-B
 - Each LDC filed a Climate Compliance Plan (CCP) on April 1, 2025
 - Included proposed NPA framework
 - Strategy for reducing reliance on Everett Marine Terminal
 - Each LDC required to file a targeted electrification demonstration project by March 1, 2026



Regulatory Framework

- Actions following Order 20-80-B
 - Currently evaluating whether to continue authorizing LDCs to provide line extension allowances
 - Revisiting criteria for approving gas special contracts (D.P.U. 18-152)
 - Addressing the continuing obligation to serve existing natural gas customers



Related Proceedings

- Gas transition elements in 3-Year Energy Efficiency Plans for 2025-2027
 - State electrification pool proposal
- “Reset” of Gas System Enhancement Plans (GSEPs) to address leak-prone pipe
 - Convening of Risk Assessment Working Group
- Implementing electric heat pump rates for winter season



Questions?



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