

Enhancing racial justice and mitigating climate change

steps taken in Massachusetts	outcomes	challenges
convening of Green Justice Coalition: 50 organizations, including environmental, labor, faith-based, and community groups	working class communities and communities of color will get their full share of benefits of efficiency established green justice principals	
	produced report showing need to include all communities in weatherization in order to reach goals set in Global Warming Solutions Act multiple quantifiable improvements	
access funds from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)	pays 100% of cost for weatherization for those below 60% of state median income	created short-term jobs with rampant abuse, including wage theft
Passed Green Communities Act	Required utilities to use least cost procurement, including conservation or enhanced efficiency before supply	Homes of lower income residents are more likely to have structural problems that must be solved before weatherization: knob and tube wiring, roof leaks and other sources of moisture, poor dryer ventilation, unabated asbestos No funding for pre-weatherization renovations
	Created Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC)	All Massachusetts households contribute to "Mass Save" through a surcharge on their energy bills (per kilowatt hour). Low income households cannot reap benefits because of unaffordable co-pays.
	Sec. 116(b)3 requires equitable distribution of services	no benchmarks and no plan to reach low-income communities previously
	EEAC required utilities to report their progress toward reduced greenhouse gas emissions, which generated more funding than ARRA	those at 60 - 120% of state median income required to pay 25% of weatherization costs, effectively unaffordable; this group is 27% of Massachusetts households
Passed law creating the Green Energy Technology Center	Allocated millions for job training	
Passed Global Warming Solutions Act	Required reduced greenhouse gas emissions: 10% below 1990 level by 2020, 80% below 1990 level by 2050	
Effectively advocated before EEAC for increased greenhouse gas emission goals and equitable access to weatherization	Created arena for organized voice that was not possible before the Department of Public Utilities, the state regulatory agency Brought issues of racial and economic equity before EEAC	
Negotiation with Utility Companies	Utilities agreed to Community Mobilization Initiative Model: engaging community organizations in hard to reach neighborhoods, customize community engagement plans, engage municipal officials and local businesses, address barriers to participation, use multi-lingual outreach strategies, and create performance-based savings goals	
	Utilities created Efficient Neighborhoods Plus (EN+), targeting low income neighborhoods for Mass Save interventions and special outreach efforts involving collaboration with community groups	
	Established subsidies for pre-weatherization in low-income neighborhoods (access to subsidies based on geography rather than personal income verification)	
	Conversation about weatherization "de-coded" with thousands of residents involved in advocacy for energy efficiency in all neighborhoods	
	Created job standards encoded in responsible contracting provisions used by NSTAR and National Grid with Conservation Services Group (lead contractor) and all subcontractors	
	Worked with NSTAR to reduce barriers to work for those with juvenile criminal records	
Negotiated MOU with Next Step Living	Next Step Living will do 25% of work with union contractors who hire locally	
Advocating that Mass Save devote 25% of its marketing budget to EN+ outreach		
Advocating for energy efficiency database maintained by DOER		