

GLOSSARY

AQ31 REPORT	Optional reports submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection that account for the ownership and/or use of generation sources in reporting greenhouse gas emissions. ¹
CLASS I RECS	Renewable energy credits from facilities that began operating after 1997 and generate electricity using any of the following technologies: solar photovoltaic, solar thermal electric, wind energy, small hydropower, landfill methane and anaerobic digester gas, marine or hydrokinetic energy, geothermal energy, eligible biomass fuel. ²
CLASS II RECS	Generation units that use eligible renewable resources, including all energy types eligible for Class I RECs as well as waste energy, but have an operation date prior to January 1, 1998. ³
CLEAN ENERGY	Class I eligible energy sources including solar photovoltaic, solar thermal electric, wind energy, small hydropower, landfill methane, anaerobic digester gas, marine or hydrokinetic energy, and geothermal energy. MCAN does not consider biomass to be a clean energy source.
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN	A comprehensive roadmap that outlines specific activities that a municipality, state, or country will undertake to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, based on information gathered from greenhouse gas inventories.
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES (DOER)	A department within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) that focuses on developing and implementing policies and programs aimed at ensuring the adequacy, security, diversity, and cost-effectiveness of the Commonwealth's energy supply to create a clean, affordable, and resilient energy future for all residents, businesses, communities, and institutions. ⁴
DPU ANNUAL REPORT	Reports submitted by each MLP every year to the Department of Public Utilities. In these reports, MLPs must provide information on utilities financials and operations. ⁵

- 1 "AQ 31, 32: Retail Seller of Electricity Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting," Mass.gov (Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection), accessed August 2021, <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/aq-31-32-retail-seller-of-electricity-greenhouse-gas-emissions-reporting>.
- 2 "14.07: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Class I," 225 CMR 14.00: RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD - CLASS I (Department of Energy Resources, n.d.), <https://www.mass.gov/doc/rps-class-i-regulations-clean/download>, pg 36.
- 3 "15.00 Eligibility Criteria for RPS Class II Generation Units," Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - CLASS II (Department of Energy Resources, n.d.), <https://www.mass.gov/doc/rps-class-i-regulations-clean/download>, pg 133-136
- 4 "Doer Divisions and Services," Mass.gov (Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources), accessed August 2021, <https://www.mass.gov/guides/doer-divisions-and-services>.
- 5 "Find an MLP Annual Return," Mass.gov (Massachusetts Department Public Utilities), accessed August 2021, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-an-mlp-annual-return>.

EMISSIONS-FREE ENERGY CREDITS (EFECs)	Credits that track the zero-carbon generation attributes associated with emission-free generation. While renewable energy can be eligible for EFECs, some non-renewable resources (e.g., nuclear) are also eligible for such credits. ⁶
ENERGY EQUITY	The distribution of costs and benefits of an energy system (e.g., an electric grid) and the accessibility to affordable energy and programs across customers in a region or utility service territory.
ENERGY JUSTICE	The goal of achieving equity in both social and economic participation in the energy system while remediating social, economic, and health burdens on groups historically harmed by the energy system (“frontline communities”).
ENERGY MIX	The legally accepted method of quantifying the percentage of fuel types, clean energy, and non-emitting energy based on the number of RECs retired that are given MA Class I attributes, MA Class II attributes, or non-emitting attributes.
ENERGY NEW ENGLAND (ENE)	A municipal cooperative that serves its members in areas such as management, procurement, and energy efficiency.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	All people and communities have the right to equal environmental protection under the law and the right to live, work, and play in communities that are safe, healthy, and free of life-threatening conditions.
ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM	Actions and decisions that result, whether by conscious design or institutional neglect, in the disproportionate exposure of people of color to environmental hazards and environmental health burdens.
GREEN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM	A program that provides financial and technical support to municipalities that 1) pledge to cut municipal energy use by an ambitious and achievable goal of 20% over 5 years and 2) meet four other criteria established in the Green Communities Act. ⁷
INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES (IOUs)	Large electric distributors, such as Eversource and National Grid, that issue stocks and are owned by private shareholders.
MASS SAVE	An energy efficiency program available to customers of investor-owned utilities. This program was established following the passage of the Green Communities Act, enacted in 2008. ⁸

6 “How Emission-Free Energy Certificates (EFECs) Help Companies Achieve Their Carbon Goals” (Constellation, July 29, 2021), <https://blogs.constellation.com/sustainability/how-emission-free-energy-certificates-efecs-help-companies-achieve-their-carbon-goals/>.

7 “Becoming a Designated Green Community,” Mass.gov (Green Communities Division), accessed August 2021, <https://www.mass.gov/guides/becoming-a-designated-green-community>.

8 “An Act Relative to Green Communities,” Chapter 169 (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2008), <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2008/Chapter169>.

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY (MMWEC)	A non-profit public corporation and political subdivision that serves its 20 MLP members in areas including power procurement and energy efficiency programs.
MLP GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS STANDARD (GGES)	An emissions standard which requires MLPs to derive 50% of their fuel mix from non-emitting energy by 2030, 75% non-emitting by 2040, and net zero by 2050. ⁹
MUNICIPAL ACTION PLANS	An action plan submitted annually by MLPs that provides information on energy efficiency budgets, a breakdown of the budget into various activities, gross annual retail revenue, and a description of the utilities' energy efficiency program. ¹⁰
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS (MEAM)	A professional association that serves 40 MLPs in the Commonwealth in numerous ways, such as by providing technical, accounting, financial, purchasing, and counsel services as well as political lobbying.
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARDS	Boards and commissions composed of appointed or elected members who are responsible for governing MLPs.
MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANTS (MLPs)	Non-profit utilities that are owned by municipalities.
NET METERING	A billing mechanism that credits renewable energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid. In other words, if customers generate additional electricity, they will be credited or paid for that service. In this billing mechanism, customers are only billed for their "net" energy use. ¹¹
NON-EMITTING ENERGY	Energy sources that are considered non-emitting include nuclear energy, hydro-powered energy, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal electric, wind energy, small hydropower, landfill methane and anaerobic digester gas, marine or hydrokinetic energy, geothermal energy, eligible biomass fuel, and more. In other words, non-emitting energy is generally energy that is eligible for Class I RECs, Class II RECs, or EFECs.
POWER SUPPLY	The combination of various energy sources used to meet demand within MLPs. The power supply is based solely on the actual energy being used by an MLP; it does not account for environmental attributes (i.e., RECs) of an energy source and whether that source was retired by the MLP, sold, or purchased by another entity.

9 Ibid. Sections 11F3/4 (b)10 "Guideline Interpreting 225 CMR 4.00" (Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, February 20, 2020), <https://www.mass.gov/doc/rcs-guideline-revised-2202020/download>.

10 "Guideline Interpreting 225 CMR 4.00" (Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, February 20, 2020), <https://www.mass.gov/doc/rcs-guideline-revised-2202020/download>.

11 "Net Metering," SEIA (Solar Energy Industries Association), accessed August 4, 2021, <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/net-metering>.

REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE (RGGI)	A cooperative, market-based effort among the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia to cap and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector. ¹²
RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS (RECs)	Credits representing the positive environmental attributes associated with energy production. One REC is created each time a qualified facility generates one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity. ¹³
RENEWABLE ENERGY TRUST FUND (RETF)	A fund created in 1997 with the purpose of increasing the supply of and demand for green power while expanding economic activity in the Commonwealth's renewable energy industry. The fund has developed three program areas to achieve these objectives: industry support, clean energy, and green buildings and infrastructure. ¹⁴
RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS)	A policy that requires retail electricity suppliers to obtain a percentage of the electricity they serve to their customers from qualifying renewable energy facilities. ¹⁵ In 2019 and 2021, the renewable energy percentage, as mandated by the RPS, was 14% and 18%, respectively. ¹⁶
RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION SERVICES (RCS)	A program within the DOER that is designed to encourage residential customers to conserve energy by providing them with accurate information concerning what they can do to save energy in their own homes, services and programs, and consumer protection. ^{17, 18}

12 "The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative," Welcome | RGGI, Inc., accessed August 2021, <https://www.rggi.org/>.

13 "Program Summaries: Program Summaries Summaries of All the Renewable and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Programs." (Commonwealth of Massachusetts), accessed May 26, 2021, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/program-summaries>.

14 "Community Loan Fund," Sustainable Business, accessed August 2021, <https://www.sustainable-business.com/green-venture-capital-directory-56/green-vc-categories-367/community-loan-fund-819/name/massachusetts-renewable-energy-trust/>.

15 "Program Summaries: Program Summaries Summaries of All the Renewable and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Programs." (Commonwealth of Massachusetts), accessed May 26, 2021, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/program-summaries>.

16 "14.07: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Class I," 225 CMR 14.00: RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD - CLASS I (Department of Energy Resources, n.d.), <https://www.mass.gov/doc/rps-class-i-regulations-clean/download>, pg 36.

17 "225 Mass. Reg. 4.02 - RCS Program," Legal research tools from Casetext, accessed August 4, 2021, <https://casetext.com/regulation/code-of-massachusetts-regulations/department-225-cmr-department-of-energy-resources/title-225-cmr-400-residential-conservation-service-program/section-402-rps-program>.

18 "Residential Conservation Services (RCS)," Mass.gov (Energy Efficiency Division), accessed August 2021, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/residential-conservation-services-rcs>.