



# MOTHERS OUT FRONT

## MOBILIZING FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE

### **Summary of Beyond Gas Campaign led by Mothers Out Front moms August 2019**

#### **Overview:**

In Massachusetts, we have launched a two-year campaign called **Beyond Gas**. The goal of this campaign is a swift transition off of "natural" gas, which remains popular despite its harm to human health and our climate.

In addition, we engage gas utilities by giving them the opportunity to do the right thing by being part of the transition and in so doing ensure that they can stay in business in the clean energy future. The change happens by mothers and their allies holding the utilities accountable when they do the wrong thing and rewarding them when they do the right thing. It also comes through energy policy change and support for new legislation.

#### **The Beyond Gas campaign is comprised of three working groups:**

##### **Gas Leaks**

This working group works in coalition with allied organizations to change the narrative about gas being safe and environmentally friendly by organizing and advocating for gas utilities to fix the biggest gas leaks through direct action, regulations and public policy. The working group has also been instrumental in proposing and advocating for public policy that would provide a plan and incentives for gas utilities to transition to renewable energy sources. This group has garnered public attention to the problem by mobilizing moms to tag leaks in cities and towns across the state.

##### **Pipelines**

This working group focuses on organizing to prevent the construction of new gas infrastructure. They are currently working with frontline community group FRRACS (Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station) in the fight to stop the Weymouth Compressor Station, a piece of infrastructure that would facilitate the transportation of massive amounts of gas through Massachusetts to the coast for export

abroad. It also would further pollute and endanger the health and safety of surrounding communities.

### **Corporate Social Responsibility**

This working group uses the mom voice to push asset managers, insurance companies, and big banks to decarbonize and stop funding and/or insuring gas infrastructure. We partner with the Climate Majority Project to score and analyze top asset managers as to how they vote on climate proposals at utility shareholder meetings. The campaign will hold them publicly accountable to use their power as shareholders to pressure the top 20 dirtiest utilities to decarbonize.

### **Suggested background reading:**

In order to connect these global movements to our own communities, we thought it might be helpful to highlight two recent articles about the dangers of natural gas.

- The Grist, [Natural gas leaks are a much bigger problem than we thought](#) by Molly Enking.
- Item Live, [State needs to transition off natural gas](#), by Massachusetts State Representative Ehlich