

Green New Deal

Central to that future is the enactment and thoughtful implementation of a Green New Deal, by which we mean (1) the rapid elimination of greenhouse gas emissions from all sources; (2) rebuilding our economy on an environmentally sustainable basis; (3) prioritizing the needs of those most impacted by past discrimination as well as workers in affected industries.

Do you agree to make working for a Green New Deal a priority for yourself and your level of government?

Yes

Comment:

Action to Eliminate Green House Gas Emissions

Will you actively support requiring the government to immediately create and implement a comprehensive plan, containing sequences of intermediate enforceable goal deadlines, leading to becoming greenhouse gas negative by 2050 -- and which engages all stakeholders, and addresses housing, transportation, business, residential, employment, and governmental concerns?

Yes

Comment: I support the 2050 Roadmap bill (H.3983) that would set interim emission targets of 50 percent below 1990 by 2030 and 75 percent by 2040, before the final net zero requirements in 2050. The bill also requires the Administration to develop a plan to meet the 2050 requirements by reducing emissions across all sectors (i.e. construction and transportation), providing a comprehensive roadmap for how the Commonwealth will achieve these goals.

Clean Electricity Generation

Will you actively support requiring that all Massachusetts electricity be procured from sources that do not emit greenhouse gases within two decades (2040) with major advance towards zero emissions happening by 2035 -- with an incrementally-increasing, enforceable, set of deadlines for key actions and goals?

Yes

Comment: I support the 100% Renewable Energy Act (H.2835/S.1958) that would set a goal of 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035, and 100 percent renewable energy economy-wide, including heat and transportation, by 2045. The bill would also accelerate the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to reach 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035 and require the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to set interim renewable energy targets for 2030 and 2040 along with regulations to meet those targets. The 100% Renewable Energy Act creates a Clean Energy Workforce Development Fund to support training and job placement assistance for Massachusetts residents to work in the clean energy industry.

Do you agree that the government must stop construction and installation of new fossil fuel infrastructure, and promote its replacement with zero greenhouse gas emission alternatives?

Yes

Comment: I support legislation that would prevent any sort of "pipeline tax" to ensure that consumers will not assume the cost nor risk of additional fossil fuel infrastructure. I also support legislation that would reform the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and provide more transparency and accountability in regards to the agency's oversight on gas infrastructure projects.

Transportation

Will you push for the rapid transition of the public vehicular fleet to non-polluting technologies (e.g. electric or hydrogen) as well as using state contracts to require vendors to do the same?

Yes

Comment: I support legislation (S.2476) that would require the MBTA to transition its vehicular fleet to zero-emissions beginning in 2030 and have a full zero-emissions bus fleet by December 21, 2040. S.2476 would also make the existing rebate program for electric car purchases (MOR-EV) permanent.

Will you work for allocating the resources and authority for a rapid and large expansion of the public mass transit system in all parts of the state using non-polluting technologies?

Yes

Comment: Earlier this year, I voted in support of legislation that would increase the gas tax by 5 cents and the diesel tax by 9 cents, generating an estimated \$600m a year for transportation. A portion of this new revenue would be dedicated to the MBTA and RTAs and could be used for expanding the use of non-polluting technologies in public transit across the state. I'm also supportive of the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) which uses the same regional approach to reduce emissions in the transportation sector that the popular Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) uses to reduce emissions in the power sector. Moreover, I support legislation (H.3008) that would provide more oversight to ensure TCI revenues are invested in transportation options and other programming in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by poor air quality or lack of public transit.

Rebuilding Sustainably

Will you work to actively promote the "Green Economy" -- renewable energy, building upgrades, etc. -- while eliminating incentives and supports given to greenhouse gas emitting activities?

Yes

Comment:

Divestment

Will you actively push for the divestment of all state pension funds from fossil fuel firms?

Yes

Comment: I support legislation (H.2220) that would require the Massachusetts state pension system to divest its holdings in thermal coal. The bill would also establish a commission chaired by the State Treasurer tasked with analyzing the financial and environmental impacts of investments in gas and oil. If the Commission recommends divestment, the pension fund would be required to cease new investment and divest its oil and gas holdings over 3 years as long as the value of the fund does not drop more than 0.5% as a direct result of divestment. I also support legislation (H.3662) that would allow the 104 Massachusetts independent public retirement systems in Massachusetts to divest fully or in part from fossil fuel companies.

Environmental Justice

Do you agree that climate policies must address the needs of citizens and neighborhoods (particularly low-income, non-white, and immigrant communities) most vulnerable to the immediate impacts of climate change?

Yes

Comment: I support the Environmental Justice Act (EJA) which would require all state agencies to develop policies to ensure that low-income communities, communities of color, and immigrant communities have the right to participate in decision-making process when polluting industries want to move into their neighborhoods. The bill would also require regulators to actively protect vulnerable

communities from bearing an unfair and disproportionate share of pollution, environmental degradation, and risks to public health.

Carbon Pricing

Will you actively support legislation putting a steadily increasing economy-wide price on greenhouse gas emissions -- with rebates or exemptions designed to protect low and moderate-income families?

Yes

Comment: I am a co-sponsor of H.2810, a revenue a revenue-positive bill that would (1) incentivize people to change behaviors and reduce their carbon footprint, and (2) allow the Commonwealth to invest in renewable energy and green infrastructure projects. H.2810 specifically allocates 70% of the money generated by putting a price on carbon to households and employers via rebates, and the remaining 30% (an estimated \$400-600 million a year) to be put into a new Green Infrastructure Fund that would support clean transportation, climate resilience and renewable energy projects. Under the bill, carbon pollution charges would start at \$20 per ton before increasing by \$5 annually until the fee is \$40 per ton. The rebates in H.2810 are set up in a thoughtful way to minimize the impacts on poor and working people from increased energy or transportation costs due carbon pollution fees. Furthermore, the bill guarantees that a significant percent of the revenue that's generated would be spent in low-income communities that have little access to the green economy and/or lack access to public transit.

Legislative Transparency and Reform

Are you or your campaign accepting contributions from the PACs, lobbyists, or SEC named executives* of fossil fuel companies — companies whose primary business is the extraction, processing, distribution, or sale of oil, gas, or coal -- or of companies involved in bio-mass or nuclear power production?

No

Comment: I signed a pledge to refuse money from fossil fuel companies

Do you have any direct investments in Fossil Fuel companies and, if so, explain why you are holding those assets or when are you planning to divest from those?

No

Comment:

Which of the following changes in Legislative rules and procedures would you support:

standing for roll call on climate bills you co-sponsor

open and democratic voting for Committee chairs

term limits for House speaker and Senate president

other: _____

Personal History

Please describe your past activity and commitments to climate and environmental protection and to creating a more equitable and just society.

In addition to the pending legislation I advocate for on Beacon Hill (see above), I was a supporter of the Massachusetts Green Communities Act of 2008, which significantly reformed the state's energy policy, making significant investments in energy efficiency measures, implemented RGGI, strengthened the Commonwealth's RPS, and created the Green Communities Program.

I was also proud to support Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016 and Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018 which position Massachusetts to be a leader in offshore wind procurement and will support legislation to expand the Commonwealth's procurement commitment from 3.2 GW to 6+GW by July 31, 2022. I also support legislation that would set up a competitive bidding process to select a single transmission development company that would permit, build and operate an "expandable transmission" system to serve all of the anticipated offshore wind farms. A transmission system of this nature would provide sufficient capacity to consolidate and deliver power flows to the mainland through fewer lines, lowering energy costs to ratepayers and reducing environmental impacts.

The Administration recently released updated regulations for the SMART program, expanding its capacity from 1,600 to 3,200 megawatts. There is also a set aside (5%) for projects serving low-income communities and requirements for projects greater than 500 kilowatts to connect to an energy storage system. I will support legislation increasing the SMART program's capacity beyond the 3,200 megawatts. I'd also like to see a program specifically tailored to develop solar projects serving low-income, environmental justice and other disadvantaged communities.

Energy storage is critical for improving the reliability of electricity generated from renewables and reducing peak demand. I support legislation to double the state's target for battery storage to 2,000 MW and would be open to additional measures encouraging individuals/businesses to adopt and deploy these systems.