

RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSERVATION BILLS

The Nature for All Bill (H.901/S.597): This bill would dedicate a portion of the existing state sales tax for conservation, restoration and improvement of lands and waters to benefit nature and people. This bill could support the creation and improvement of parks, protection of land to link wildlife and recreation corridors, and provide funds for stewardship.

An Act Increasing the Conservation Land Tax Credit (S.2083/H.3147): This bill would expand the annual cap on the state's conservation land tax credit (CLCT) program, resolving a long-standing waitlist for landowners willing to permanently conserve their environmentally significant properties.

An Act Relative to Maintaining Adequate Water Supplies Through Effective Drought Management ("Drought Bill") (S.586): This bill would give the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs the authority to require regional water conservation measures during a declared drought, yielding bigger water savings when our rivers and water supplies need it most. Water use for agriculture or business would be exempt. The bill would also make watering rules consistent and clearer for the public. More uniform conservation measures would make outreach easier for municipalities.

FY2026 State Operating Budget: Protecting the Commonwealth's land, water, air, and wildlife, while meeting our climate goals and supporting healthy communities, requires state agencies that are well-resourced and well-staffed. Adopting recommendations of The Green Budget Coalition will ensure robust, sustainable state funding for climate and conservation work to meet the scope and scale of our climate, conservation, and adaptation challenges.

Environmental Bond Bill: In 2025, The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, Massachusetts River Alliance and our partners will advocate for the legislature to pass a Bond Bill that sets robust capital spending caps for a wide range of state programs that are essential to land, water and environmental conservation.

An Act Relative to Urban Farmland (S.61/H.121): These bills aim to support the conversion of vacant lots and underutilized land in environmental justice communities into urban farms, community gardens, and other agricultural enterprises. Urban agriculture supports increased economic development, food security, and climate and heat resilience.

Proposal For a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution Relative to Agricultural and Horticultural Lands (S.11/H.71): Article 99 of the Massachusetts Constitution authorizes lower tax rates for agricultural land, but only on parcels greater than five acres. This proposed amendment will remove the acreage requirement, making farmland of any size eligible for tax relief, providing greater access for small sustainable farms, new farmers, and farmers of color.

An Act Investing in Natural and Working Lands (H.1005/S.549): An Act investing in natural and working lands to promote their acquisition and management, reducing impacts of climate change.

An Act Relative to Uniform Partition of Heirs property (H.1964/S.1239): An Act to increase protection for legal heirs of property owners who die without a will in place.

An Act Accelerating Wetlands Restoration Projects (H.906/S.557): An Act accelerating wetlands restoration projects to facilitate expanded wetlands restoration.

An Act Restricting the Use of Rodenticides in the Environment (S.664): This bill would end the registration of anticoagulant rodenticides unless deemed necessary for a public health emergency.

An Act Responding to the Threat of Invasive Species (S.607): An Act aiming to address the threat of invasive species by establishing the Invasive Species Trust Fund. This fund was intended to support efforts including prevention, management, education, and collaboration to combat invasive species within the state.

An Act Relative to Plastic Bag Reduction (S.590): This bill bans single-use plastic carryout bags at the point of sale. Establishments will be able to provide recycled paper bags, compostable plastic bags, or durable, reusable bags for customers at the point of sale for \$0.10 or more. It passed the Senate in 2019.

An Act Providing State Grants for Municipal Sustainability Directors (S.1444): Sustainability Directors provide much needed added capacity to their communities, allowing for increased efficiencies and improved services. This bill creates a Municipal Sustainability Director Fund to support cities and towns to fund an environmental sustainability director position.

An Act Relative to a Feasibility Report on Solar Rooftop Energy on New Buildings (S.2267): This bill creates a legislative commission on solar rooftop energy on new buildings. The commission would review the policies and procedures related to solar energy systems, battery storage systems, and building construction pursuant to the base energy code. They would stretch energy code and specialized stretch energy code and submit a feasibility report on the requirement of solar energy system installations systems on new buildings.

An Act Establishing a Climate Change Superfund (S.588): This legislation creates a Climate Adaptation Superfund to finance climate adaptation projects across the commonwealth by recovering funds from large fossil fuel companies that are responsible for over one billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions released between 2000 and 2018.

An Act Facilitating Distributed Energy Resources in the Commonwealth (S.2269): As Massachusetts continues to make progress on its climate commitments, we need to prioritize access to distributed energy resources (DERs) to ensure that the Commonwealth's grid can flexibly, reliably, and affordably meet the demands of the clean energy transition. This bill proposes the common sense fixes that get us there feasibly and efficiently. The bill includes directives to streamline permitting and interconnection processes for small solar projects, facilitate residential solar and storage for low-income and retired Bay Staters, and allow greater establishment of microgrids.

An Act Maximizing and Optimizing Small-Scale Assets in Communities (SD.2270): As Massachusetts continues to make progress on its climate commitments, we need to prioritize access to distributed energy resources (DERs) to ensure that the Commonwealth's grid can flexibly, reliably, and affordably meet the demands of the clean energy transition. This bill sets Massachusetts on the path toward the distributed clean energy future we need. The MOSAIC Act directs Massachusetts to draw 20% of our generation from small-scale distributed resources by 2035, and maximizes DERs benefits to the grid by integrating virtual power plants (VPPs) as a central force in reducing peak demand and realigning utility incentives to foster greater adoption of distributed resources.

An Act Protecting Drinking Water Quality in Private Wells (S.585/H.1049): Requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to create a state private wells code to make standards for private wells used for human consumption. It also requires a seller to test a well for contaminants before selling their property.

An Act to Protect Pollinators and Public Health (S.587/H.108): This bill would ban the use of harmful pesticides called neonicotinoids, which peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown to negatively impact pollinator health. It would also ban the sale of blooming or flowering plants, plant material, or seeds that have been treated with a neonicotinoid within the commonwealth.

An Act Protecting Massachusetts Public Health from PFAS (H.2450): This bill would create a PFAS Remediation Trust Fund. This would be expended to mitigate the impact of PFAS contamination, including PFAS contamination in drinking water, groundwater, soil, sediment, surface water, wastewater, sludge or sludge products, and landfills.