

Clean Heat Standard Update

From MassDEP <climate.strategies@massdep.ccsend.com>

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Dear Massachusetts Clean Heat Standard Stakeholder:

Clean heating technologies like heat pumps and geothermal heat loops present a tremendous opportunity for Massachusetts families and businesses. These technologies are the most efficient heating and cooling technologies on the market today and are increasingly the preferred option for consumers, having outsold gas furnaces in recent years. Used at scale, clean heating will save energy, increase affordability, improve health outcomes, and help Massachusetts reduce climate-warming pollution.

In 2022, in response to Governor Baker's Executive Order, the bipartisan Commission on Clean Heat issued its recommendations to accelerate the deployment of energy efficiency programs and clean heating systems across Massachusetts. In November 2023, MassDEP published a Clean Heat Standard (CHS) Draft Framework, with emissions reduction and electrification requirements that would phase in gradually from 2026 to 2030. Since that time, MassDEP has held 13 public stakeholder meetings and reviewed more than 1,000 pages of written comments on the [**CHS Draft Framework**](#). On November 22, 2024, MassDEP also finalized new emission reporting requirements for heating fuel suppliers.

A number of state agencies, including MassDEP, are working to ensure there is a robust market for affordable clean heat in Massachusetts, despite changing federal tax incentives. To allow sufficient time for those initiatives to take effect, and to inform development of a Clean Heat Standard tailored to the needs of Massachusetts residents, MassDEP now plans to phase-in this standard no earlier than 2028. The following steps will ensure ongoing progress:

- **Evaluate New Fuel and Emissions Data** – Fuel and emissions data reported under MassDEP’s new reporting requirements and under the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources’ new Large Building Energy Reporting program will provide new information that can inform refinements to the CHS program design.
- **Analyze Affordability Trends** – Since the publication of the CHS Draft Framework, Massachusetts is offering new reduced electricity rates for heat pumps and there have been major changes to relevant federal tax incentives.
- **Monitor Heat Pump Adoption** – The CHS Draft Framework included building electrification in line with Mass Save in the early years of program implementation. MassDEP will monitor heat pump adoption rates with the goal of implementing a CHS that creates a market to spur further progress.
- **Collect Additional Information** – MassDEP will assess additional steps to support refinements to the CHS Draft Framework, including gathering more information about heating fuels.

MassDEP appreciates the ongoing participation of our stakeholders as we continue our work to expand access to clean heat and reduce air pollution from our buildings.

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