

# Primer on the Green Budget FY18 - 2/14/2017

A few things to know about the state's environmental budget...

## Snapshot of Governor's FY18 Environmental Budget (H1)

Agency	FY 2015 GAA	FY 2016 GAA	FY 2017 GAA	FY 2018 H1
DAR	\$20,793,746	\$23,242,351	\$23,351,998	\$22,526,376
DCR	\$85,520,812	\$90,190,723	\$86,856,407	\$82,441,224
DEP	\$57,640,647	\$58,739,063	\$51,345,834	\$53,688,382
DFG	\$27,046,308	\$27,508,142	\$28,087,460	\$27,972,674
EOEEA	\$28,864,579	\$30,862,097	\$29,805,877	\$31,391,043
<b>Environmental Total</b>	<b>\$219,866,092</b>	<b>\$230,542,376</b>	<b>\$219,447,577</b>	<b>\$218,019,699</b>
<b>Total State Budget</b>	<b>\$36,326,224,233</b>	<b>\$38,161,690,347</b>	<b>\$39,249,261,765</b>	<b>\$40,909,016,091</b>
Share of budget spending	0.61%	0.60%	0.56%	0.53%

GAA = General Appropriations Act (funding allocated by legislature)

## Key points about the Massachusetts environmental budget

- The percentage of the state operating budget that supports environmental agencies is on the decline. In the early 2000's, 1% of the state budget went to environmental agencies. Currently, only half a penny of every dollar goes to environmental agencies.
- Environmental agency funding is not even keeping up with inflation (\$219M today doesn't buy as much as it did in FY2015).
- A healthy environment supports a healthy economy. Tourism, agriculture, outdoor recreation, the fishing industry, and clean energy are just a few examples of relevant job creation and revenue for the Commonwealth.
- Environmental agency funding is insufficient to meet demands and growing responsibilities.
  - Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) have suffered drastic cuts in recent years and staffing is down 30% compared to a few years ago.
  - Many DCR properties are unstaffed or have such minimal staff presence that enforcement, safety, programming, and user experience are being negatively impacted.
  - Massachusetts is not on track to meet the emission reduction requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act.
  - Much of Massachusetts has been in a state of severe drought for several months and action by environmental agencies is needed.
  - Executive orders and legislation create new responsibilities and require resources to ensure implementation, i.e. environmental justice, climate change and resiliency.

## The Ask

Legislators are urged to include one of the line-item recommendations from the Green Budget report in their top priority budget requests to leadership.

For more information: Erica Mattison, Legislative Director, Environmental League of Massachusetts  
[emattison@environmentalleague.org](mailto:emattison@environmentalleague.org), 617-742-2553