



Energy New England Applauds Inclusion of Municipal Light Plants in Historic Climate Bill

Legislation signed today by Governor will align municipal utilities with statewide climate goals

For Immediate Release

Mansfield, Massachusetts. March 29, 2021 - Energy New England, LLC. (ENE) is saluting legislative leaders and Governor Baker and his Administration for their hard work on the Energy and Climate Bill, S.9., signed into law on Friday, March 26, during a virtual Bill signing event at the Statehouse. ENE and our member clients recognize the significant time and effort to develop this Bill which lays the groundwork for real climate action. Today's actions bring the Commonwealth to nation leading climate policy goals that engage all sectors in the energy life cycle.

As the largest provider of wholesale and retail services to municipal light plants (MLPs) in Massachusetts, ENE is pleased that the Climate Bill recognizes the importance of MLPs in the Commonwealth's clean energy future. With 41 MLPs representing hundreds of thousands of residents, Section 33 of the new law will formalize the clean energy work already well underway at these utilities.

"The MLPs have been voluntary clean energy leaders for a long time," said John G. Tzimorargas, President & CEO of ENE. "This legislation recognizes our efforts and the fact that municipal utilities have a critical role to play in reaching the Commonwealth's emission goals. We thank Chairman Thomas Golden for introducing the MLP provisions, fighting for our inclusion in this Omnibus Bill and recognizing the value of the role of public power in Massachusetts."

The Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy sets statewide emissions limits compiling a comprehensive roadmap plans for reaching each limit; and producing regular reports on how well the plans are doing. It also creates a first-time greenhouse gas emissions standard for municipal lighting plants, requiring them to purchase 50% non-emitting electricity by 2030 and get to "net zero" emissions by 2050.

"While the Legislature worked on advancing this law governing how municipal light plants will support the Commonwealth's net-zero by 2050 commitment, the MLP's continued their significant expansion of procuring renewable and carbon-free electricity" said State Representative Thomas A. Golden, Jr., Former Chairman of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. "MLP's are climate leaders because they are so agile. They now have a formal obligation to meet the new standards and assist the Commonwealth in achieving a clean energy future."

ABOUT ENERGY NEW ENGLAND (ENE)

ENE is the largest wholesale risk management and energy trading organization serving the needs of municipal utilities in New England. ENE works with numerous businesses, residents, and utilities to help promote the principles of conservation, efficiency, and environmental stewardship, and advances the many benefits available through integrated sustainability planning - including home energy audit programs, electric vehicle programs, wholesale energy procurement and risk management programs, regulatory and lobbying services. www.ene.org

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