



## **Thompson Climate Plan: State of Blue – and Green**

**Massachusetts is a beautiful Commonwealth. From our ocean coastlines to the Berkshires. But, climate change is an existential threat to life as we know it across the Commonwealth - right now.**

- The climate crisis is not off in the future. It is happening all around us – from coastal flooding to dramatic shifts in fishing and lobstering right here on the North Shore. New England temperatures are warming faster than almost anywhere on the planet. These are the facts as agreed upon by hundreds of climate scientists from around the world.
- Massachusetts has passed a law to get to Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050 and a 50% reduction by 2030. This is a good start, but it is not good enough. Numerous detailed action steps must be taken by state government, businesses and individuals to achieve our goal of keeping temperature increases below 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit and avoid the worst potential climate crisis effects.

**Currently, less than 1% of our \$48B state budget is spent on the environment. We need to invest more and aim higher if we hope to avoid a dramatic increase in the negative impacts we are already seeing.**

- The good news is we have the ability to not only meet this goal, but to do even better. We have opportunities to lead on this issue and build good-paying jobs right here on the North Shore and across Massachusetts as we transition to a green economy.

**We need to make progress in 8 Main areas: Transportation, Power Sources, Buildings, Industrial Production, Food Production, Natural Habitat, Conservation and Carbon Sequestration. Today, I am releasing my plan to address the 3 biggest drivers of carbon emissions – Transportation, Power Sources and Buildings and to meet our coastal resiliency needs.**

**First, we need to make dramatic progress in eliminating emissions in transportation. 40% of our carbon emissions come from transportation.**

- **We need to electrify all of our public transportation – trains, buses, and school buses by 2035.** This will make transportation more dependable and cleaner both for riders and for the environment. And we need to make public transportation more affordable for all. Both of these investments will lead to more people using public transportation and begin to address the environmental and economic justice issues embedded in our current public transportation. And it will decrease the horrible traffic we all encounter as the 46th worst

transportation system in the country. Locally, that means electrifying the commuter rail, reinstating the ferry from Lynn to Boston and increasing parking near commuter rail stations.

- **We need to move to all cars being emission-free by 2035.** We need to increase the maximum state incentive to purchase electric cars to a nation-leading \$6,000 to ensure electric cars are not more expensive than an equivalent fossil fuel car, especially for people with lower incomes. And we need to invest in charging infrastructure, so fast charging is ubiquitous. We need to go from about 50,000 electric cars now to 1 million by 2030 to hit our targets. We also need to immediately convert the state vehicle fleet to electric and invest in battery technology companies to help center that industry in Massachusetts.

**Second, we must decarbonize our power sources by 2030. Power sources generate another 19% of our carbon emissions.**

- We are making great improvements in cutting emissions in this sector as we transition away from oil and gas. **Solar and wind are leading the way and now cost less than fossil fuel power sources** with prices coming down dramatically as scale has increased. The first large-scale offshore wind farm in the US will open next year. It is 15 miles off Martha's Vineyard and will power 400,000 homes in Massachusetts. The next windfarm will come soon after that.
- But, we have to double down on our efforts to harness offshore wind. Other states like NY and Rhode Island are passing us in the development of offshore wind (even though our wind farm sites are windier, and our ports, like right here on the North Shore, are more suited to supplying the industry).
- **We have to do for offshore wind in Massachusetts what we did for life sciences—invest, incentivize, and create a new industry in the United States centered here in the Bay State.** We need to increase our target offshore wind-power procurements to 10,000 MW by 2030, up from the 5,600 MW target now.
- We also have to **reform the Solar development process known as SMART** that is regulated by the Department of Public Utilities. The fastest way to clean energy during offshore windfarm development is to use our Solar resources.
- And **we certainly shouldn't be investing in the Peaker Plant in Peabody** – how can it make sense to build carbon-producing infrastructure now that will last for 50 years when we are in a carbon emission crisis?

**Third, we need to electrify heating and cooling of residential and commercial buildings. Oil and gas building heating and cooling generates another 40% of our carbon emissions.**

- We need a massive effort and incentives to move 1 million homes in Massachusetts to convert to electric heat from oil or gas by 2030. MassSave program statutory authority needs to change so they aren't required to provide incentives to fossil fuel sources. Similarly,

ISO-NE must immediately change its minimum offer price rule so we aren't forced to pay more for clean energy than it costs.

- We must give municipalities the tools and funds to implement new super stretch building codes that require all new buildings to be net zero and to prohibit use of gas or oil heating and cooling.
- And we need to keep up the pioneering work of our former State Representative Lori Ehrlich to invest in eradicating methane gas leaks.

**Fourth, we need to address our coastal resiliency needs. Even with perfect implementation of the above aggressive plan, sea levels will continue to rise significantly over the next 50 years.**

- We must prepare now – or pay more later in flooding damage, lost economic productivity and decreased enjoyment of our beautiful oceanside communities. We don't need Front Street in Marblehead, Humphrey Street in Swampscott or Lynn Shore Drive in Lynn as waterways!
- We must reinforce our seawalls and harbors for rising sea levels. And we need to ensure adequate State funding is available to clean up King's Beach, one of the dirtiest beaches in the Commonwealth. As your State Representative, I will be laser-focused on ensuring we address these pressing investments.

#### **A major challenge – and opportunity**

- While achieving this plan will be an extraordinary challenge, we really have no choice. It will require significant investment, but will cost little compared to not taking these steps. Our way of life is literally at stake.
- The upside is huge. We will live cleaner, healthier lives. And we will hand off a sustainable planet to the next generation. We have benefitted from a century of industrial production that undergirds our economy and prosperity. In the next few decades we need to set the planet on a more livable path.
- In the process, we will **create an economy powered by the next technological revolution** – in solar, offshore wind, large capacity battery storage, hydrogen, fusion, etc. We are fortunate to live in a state that can once again lead the country and capitalize on the opportunity to create thousands and thousands of new clean energy jobs. In the last decade, 23% of all new jobs created were in the clean energy industry and most of those were in small businesses. The next two decades can bring many more clean energy jobs to Massachusetts and the North Shore.

**Under the Thompson Climate Plan, the next two decades will bring critical improvements to our environment, communities, businesses, families and economy. Let's get to work.**