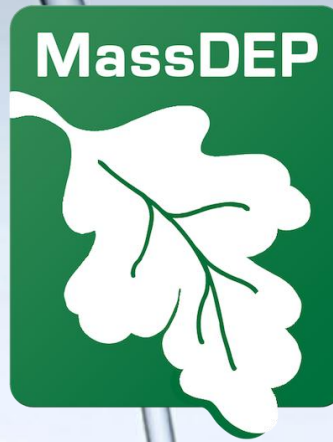


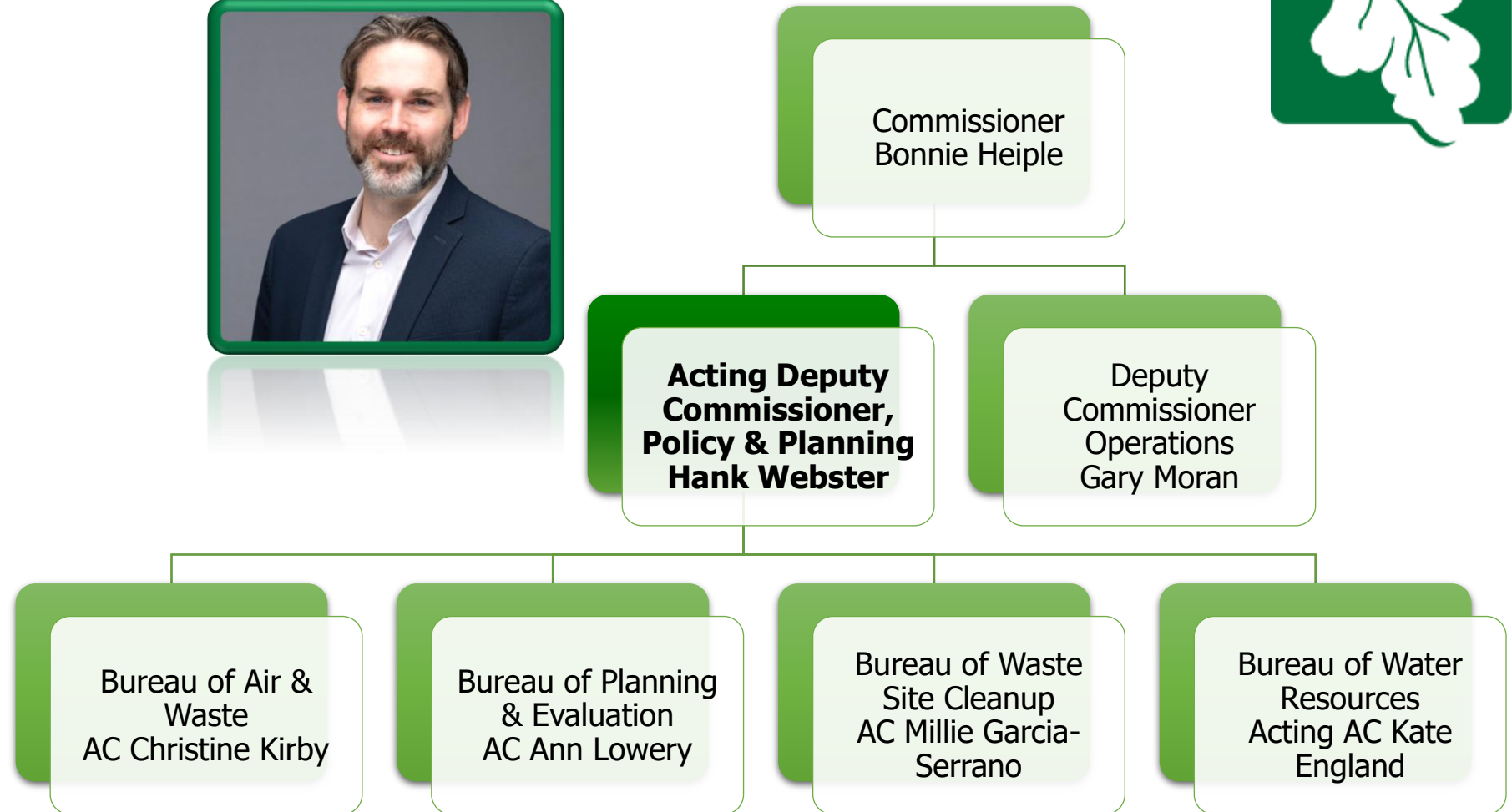


American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC/MA) 2026 State Markets Conference

October 20, 2026

OUR MISSION:

Protect and enhance the Commonwealth's natural resources - air, water, and land - to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of all people, and to ensure a clean and safe environment for future generations.





DEP3 Permits
Partnership
Performance
[Mass.gov/DEP3](https://www.mass.gov/DEP3)

Created the Office of Permitting, Partnership And Performance (DEP3)

- Coordinate with MassDEP Regional Directors and Boston Permitting Managers to streamline permitting and support priority projects aligned with Administration goals,
- Ensure timely, consistent permitting that upholds environmental standards and regulatory compliance,
- Coordinate permitting for complex projects across agencies and MassDEP regions,
- Manage MassDEP's Fast Track Permitting to expedite reviews and decisions,
- Identify process and policy improvements to increase permitting efficiency and innovation.



MASS READY ACT

\$308 million
to address high-risk
dams, inland flood
control systems, and
coastal and marine
infrastructure

\$200 million
to implement
ResilientCoasts
recommendations

\$28 million
to manage solid
waste and
decrease
pollution

**STRENGTHENS OUR
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**\$315 million
for the Municipal
Vulnerability Preparedness
Grant Program** to identify
climate hazards, assess
vulnerabilities, and implement
action plans

Creates a new **Resilience
Revolving Fund at the
Clean Water Trust** to
provide low-interest loans for
resilience projects

**INVESTS IN OUR
LOCAL ECONOMIES**

\$385 million
to invest in drinking
water and clean water
infrastructure

\$120 million
to treat and remove PFAS
contamination

**PROTECTS CLEAN
WATER & LAND**



Grants & Loans

State Revolving Funds



2026 Drinking Water Intended Use Plan

- \$315M capacity
 - \$167M for 16 new construction projects
 - \$13M for 20 previously approved multi-year projects
 - Funding for emergency projects
 - Set-aside: \$118M
- PFAS remediation, Lead service line replacement, treatment, transmission, source protection, storage, public well rehabilitation

2026 Clean Water Intended Use Plan

- \$702.5M capacity for 41 projects
 - \$413M for 29 new construction projects
 - \$289M for 12 previously approved multi-year projects
 - Funding for emergency projects
 - \$5M for Community Septic Management Program
 - Set-aside: \$25M
- Combined sewer overflows, wastewater treatment, collection systems, stormwater management, green infrastructure, Infiltration/Inflow, sewer system rehabilitation

Advantages of Financing Through SRF Program and Clean Water Trust



Fixed Low-Interest Rates

- Loans with a 20-year term will have an interest rate of 2%
- Certain projects qualify for reduced or 0% interest



Loan Forgiveness

- Disadvantaged Communities based on an annual affordability calculation ranking communities into tiers
- Fixed percentage of forgiveness provided based on the tier and program



Additional Subsidies

- 0% Interest Lead Service Line Planning and Construction Loans
- 0% Interest Nutrient Enrichment Reduction Loans
- 0% Interest Income-Based Community Septic Management Program Loans



Interim Loans (Construction Loans)

- The Trust currently offers interim loans with no fees or interest charged

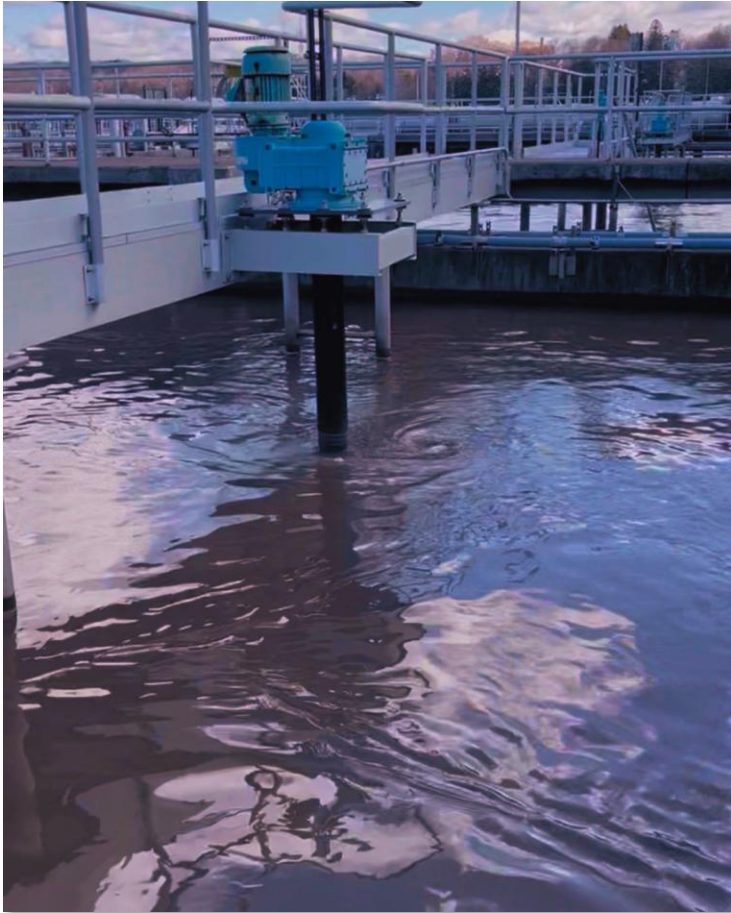
Additional Water Resources Grants & Financial Assistance



Grant Name	Posted	Applications Due	Status
Water Management Act	8/17	9/21	In Review
Long Island Sound Nitrogen Reduction	9/3	12/21	Posted
MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program	9/8	10/8	In Review
Natural Resource Nitrogen Sensitive Areas (Cape Cod Communities)	9/24	10/26	Posted
Water Quality Management Grants (Nonpoint Source (604b & 319)	9/29	10/29	Posted
Ipswich River Water Supply & PFAS Grant	10/6	11/6	Posted
Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant	Rolling	Rolling	Posted

Wastewater Energy Recovery (WWER) Grants

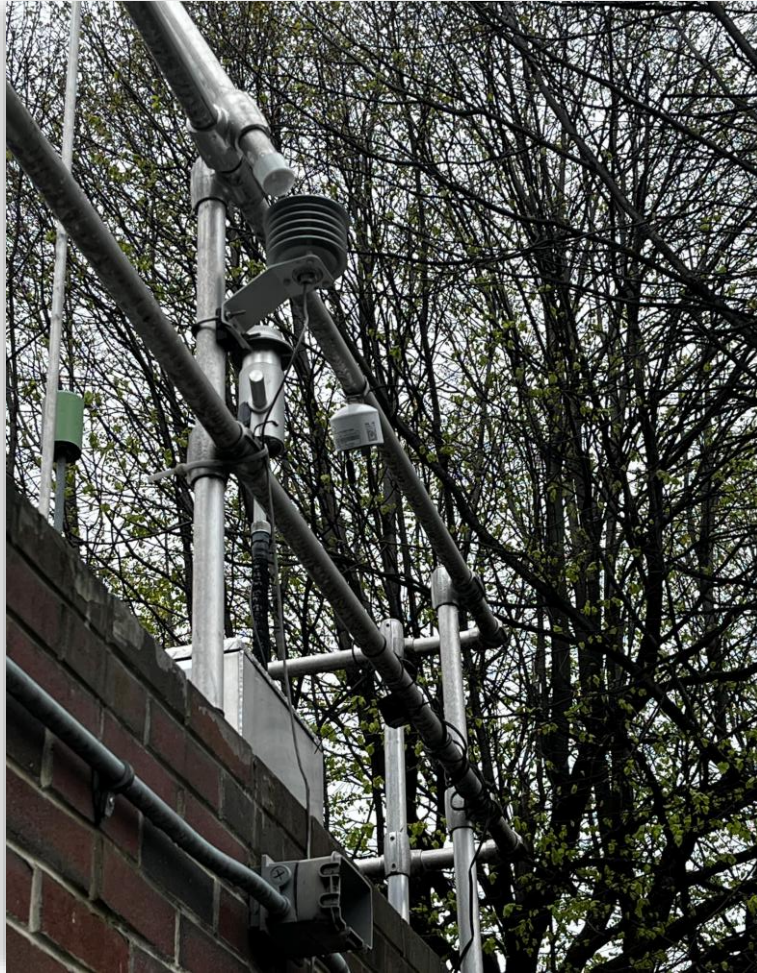
[Mass.gov/info-details/wastewater-energy-recovery](https://mass.gov/info-details/wastewater-energy-recovery)



- AKA Sewer Thermal Energy
 - Very efficient heating and cooling with renewable, zero carbon source
 - Applies standard heat transfer principles using consistent temperatures in wastewater
- Pilot grant program – Program launched May 2026.
- Applications now open for **Feasibility Assessments** and **System Design**
- Opening soon: Applications for **Installation and Construction**
- \$5 million in funding available

Air Sensor Grants

[Mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-massdep-air-sensor-grant](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-massdep-air-sensor-grant)



With these sensors, tribes, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and municipalities can:

- Work with residents, schools, businesses, and community groups to assess PM2.5 levels in the outdoor air;
- Increase public understanding of local conditions and their effects;
- Identify areas where pollution levels might be higher and mitigation efforts can be directed to protect public health.

Brownfields Assistance & Funding



Working with eligible parties to **assist** with understanding of the MGL 21E brownfields Liability Relief, Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) process, brownfields funding, technical & compliance assistance, networking and teaming.

Funding Opportunities:

- MassDEP / EPA 128(a): Assessment or Cleanup \$4,000,000 thru 2027
- MassDEP / EPA 104(k) Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes \$2,000,000 thru 2029
- US EPA Grants: Assessment, Clean-up, Revolving Loan Funds
- MassDevelopment: Brownfields Redevelopment Fund

Financial Incentives:

- MassDOER – SMART Program
- MassDOR – Brownfields Tax Credits

Technical Assistance:

- MassDEP Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) grants
- UConnTAB and UMass Dartmouth BRADs

Questions?

Contact: David Foss
David.Foss@Mass.Gov





Regulatory Updates

Wetlands Ecological Restoration Regulations



The draft regulations would:

- **Expand streamlined permitting** for four additional ecological restoration project types, including retired cranberry bog restoration, invasive plant management, and new techniques to restore degraded salt marshes.
- **Support healthier wetlands and forests** by allowing removal of invasive plants and diseased or damaged trees in certain buffer zones and riverfront areas without requiring a filing under the Wetlands Protection Act.
- **Improve access to nature** by allowing routine construction and maintenance of unpaved trails in buffer zones and riverfront areas.
- **Incorporate the latest science** by updating wetland boundary methods and plant lists used to identify bordering vegetated wetlands.
- **Protect important wetland functions** by strengthening standards for wetland replacement soils and recognizing the role of mature trees, forest canopy, and soil carbon in maintaining healthy wetlands.

Status:
Reviewing
Comments

NEW PROPOSED REGULATIONS FILED!

- ✓ Reduce Flooding
- ✓ Improve Water Quality
- ✓ Support Wildlife
- ✓ Strengthen Climate Resilience



Well Services Regulations

The draft regulations would:

- **Expand the certification classifications** of well service professionals from two to six classifications, which better reflect the different types of work being performed today, aligns with other states, and gives prospective drillers more specialized ways to get certified.
- **Create alternative pathways to certification** and reduces the required years of experience from 3 years to 2 years.
- **Introduce continuing education requirements** for individuals to renew their annual certification, ensuring our workforce stays current on the latest industry knowledge and practices and keeping Massachusetts labor and energy sector competitive.



Status:
Comment
Period Opens
10/23/26

NEW PROPOSED REGULATIONS FILED!

- ✓ Support Clean Energy Job Growth
- ✓ Support More Geothermal Projects
- ✓ Ultimately Lower Energy Bills



Chapter 91 Regulations: Permit Streamlining



The draft regulations would:

- **Allow Waterways permit review to begin during MEPA proceedings** by removing requirements to complete MEPA proceedings before Waterways review can start. This change will provide more flexibility to applicants, allowing for concurrent review instead of having to wait for a MEPA Certificate indicating that MEPA review is complete before filing a Waterways application.
- **Allow chapter 91 review to begin before a Wetlands Notice of Intent is filed** at the discretion of MassDEP. The change would still require that the applicant ultimately demonstrate compliance with the Wetlands Regulations prior to issuance of a license or permit.

Status:
Reviewing
Comments



Upcoming Regulatory/Policy Initiatives



Regulation/Policy	Status
Stream Crossing Standards	Complete! Guidance Posted
Wetlands and Waterways Resiliency Regulations	Reviewing Comments
Wetlands Ecological Restoration Regulations	Reviewing Comments
Well Services Regulations	Public Comment Period
Noise Policy	Reviewing Comments
Clean Heat Standard Regulations	Reviewing Comments
Engineered Barriers Policy	Reviewing Comments
COMM-26 Soil Policy	Reviewing Comments
Chapter 91 Permit Streamlining Regulations	Reviewing Comments



THANK YOU