



# Better Building Codes

**YOU can change the way buildings are built around the world for the better.**



**SIERRA CLUB**  
MASSACHUSETTS



# What is MCAN?

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- Founded in 2000
- We provide a network and expertise to help town level groups take action on climate locally
- A network of organizations (our 50+ chapters) and advocates at the town and city level
- Work to make community level change and turn that into state and national level change.



# SIERRA CLUB

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- Largest and oldest grassroots environmental group in the country
- Environmental Organization with Social Justice at our core
- Here in MA, we are working to support community members on sustainable initiatives in their communities, and to advocate for decarbonization of energy economy-wide: increasing energy efficiency as part of achieving 100% renewable electricity.

# Climate Change is Happening



# The national picture?

## Trump's pick for EPA already rolling back climate change protections

By Scott Bronstein, Drew Griffin and Collette Richards, CNN

Updated 10:44 PM ET, Mon December 3, 2018



EPA chief wanted for climate change denials (5/14)

AMERICA

## Trump Announces U.S. Withdrawal From Paris Climate Accord

June 1, 2017 - 10:54 AM ET



CAMILA DOMONOSKE



COLIN DWYER



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump



Following

The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.

RETWEETS

24,831

LIKES

14,654



2:15 PM - 6 Nov 2012





# It's all about the local action!



Local has always led on climate change

# We have the tools

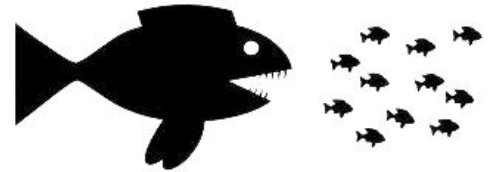


# Why You?

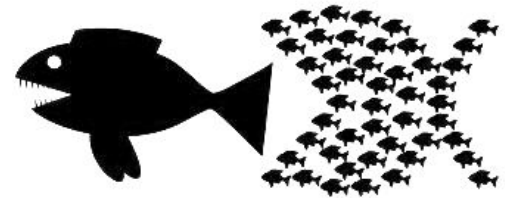
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Advocates make change happen!

MA has **thousands** of eligible officials,  
but during the last code cycle **less**  
**than a quarter** registered to vote and  
**less than 100** actually voted.



**Don't panic,**



**ORGANIZE!**





# **Codes for Climate: Improving Our Building Energy Code**

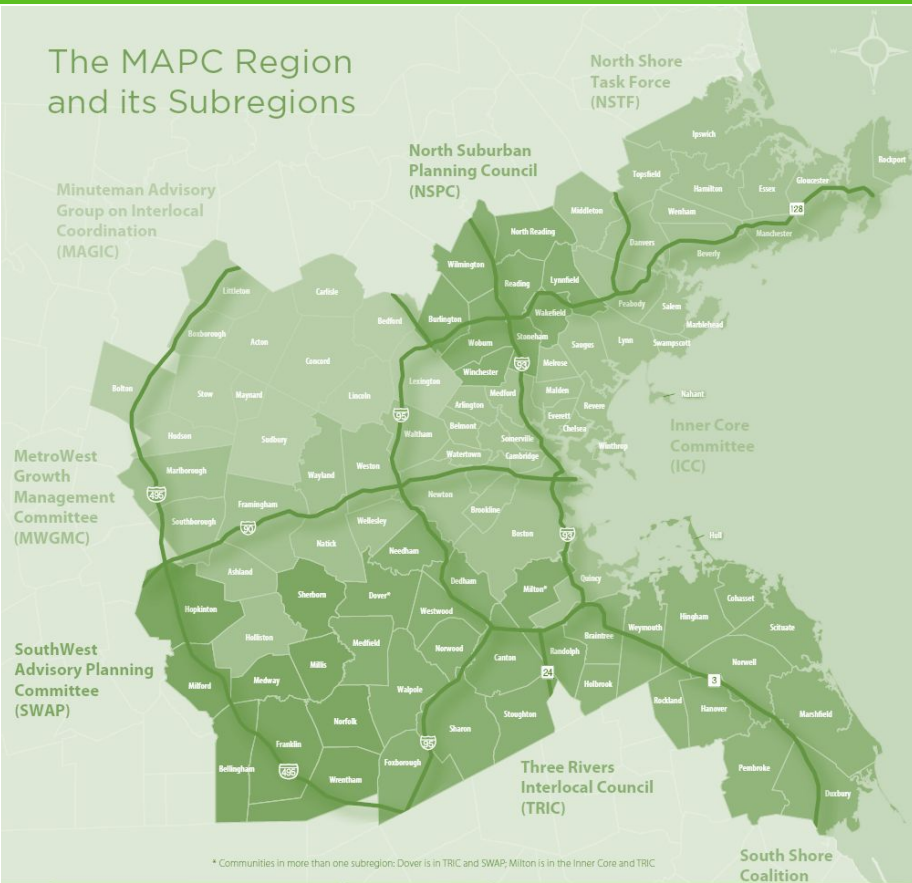
Cammy Peterson, Director of Clean Energy  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

January 16, 2019

# MAPC: About Us



## The MAPC Region and its Subregions



\* Communities in more than one subregion: Dover is in TRIC and SWAP; Milton is in the Inner Core and TRIC

# Net Zero as a Framework for Holistic Climate Planning

## Multi-Benefit Outcomes

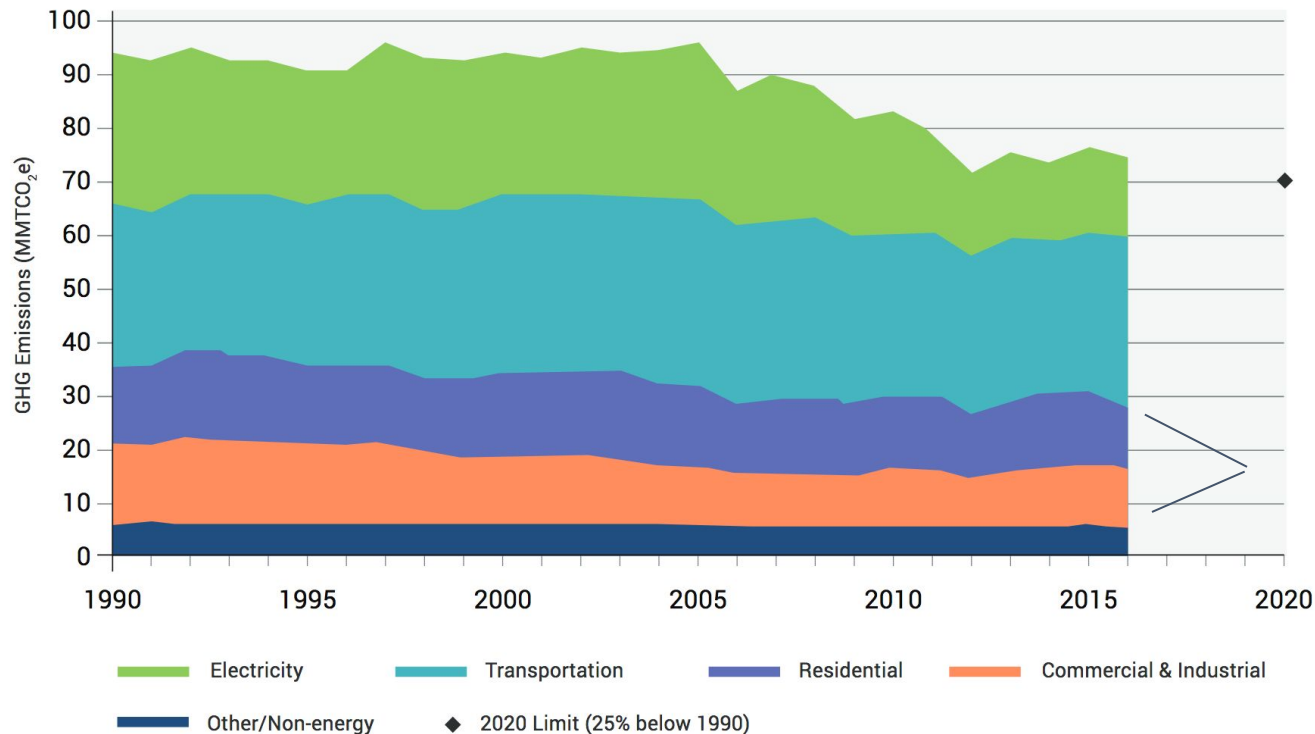
- **Energy**
- **Economic**
- **Environmental**
- **Public Health**
- **Equity**
- **Livability**



*Bringing Net Zero to 101 Cities and Towns  
and Beyond*

# Buildings and Climate

**FIGURE 2 | MASSACHUSETTS GHG EMISSIONS, 1990 – 2016**



Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) 10-Year Progress Report, 2019.  
<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/01/02/GWSA-10-Year-Progress-Report.pdf>



## Higher Performing Buildings

International  
Energy  
Conservation  
Code (IECC)

Base Building  
Energy Code

Stretch  
Energy Code

Local  
Ordinances

# What is Code?

Q: What is code?

A: “Building codes are sets of regulations that address structural integrity, fire resistance, safe exits, lighting, ventilation, and construction materials. They specify the minimum requirements to safeguard the health, safety, and general welfare of building occupant.” – FEMA



# IECC and the State Building Code

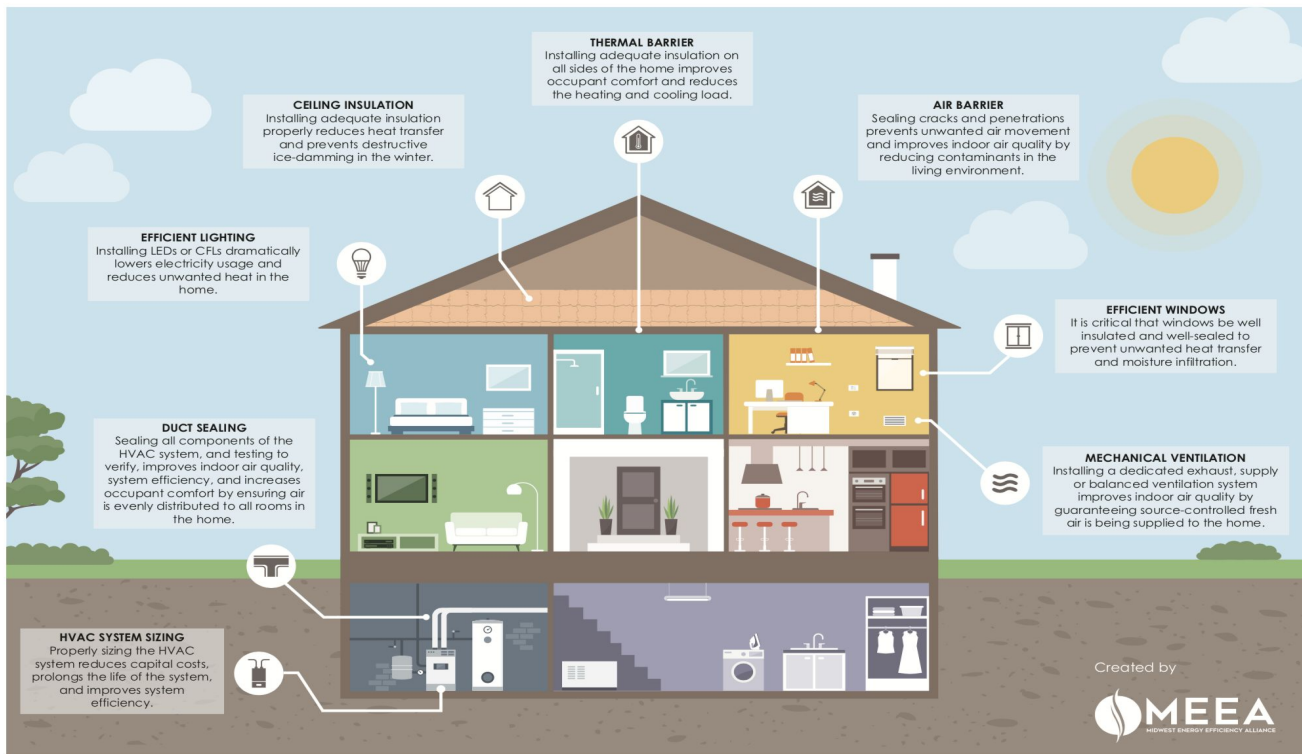
## Mass General Law (MGL), Chapter 143, Section 94

“To adopt and fully integrate the latest **International Energy Conservation Code** as part of the state building code, together with any more stringent energy-efficiency provisions that the board, in consultation with the Department of Energy Resources, concludes are warranted.”



# Better Buildings

## How the Energy Code Improves a Home





# Thank you!

**Cammy Peterson**  
**Director of Clean Energy**  
**Metropolitan Area Planning Council**  
**[cpeterson@mapc.org](mailto:cpeterson@mapc.org)**

# What's Next?

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In 2019, we have the chance to boost efficiency of new buildings



If we register enough pro- efficiency local officials we can make buildings better, safer and more cost-effective for everyone regardless of income



Help us identify, reach out to and register local officials in your town /city. Their votes will help ensure that the 2021 IECC updates get us closer to achieving our climate and energy goals



Here's what the process and timeline looks like going forward

# Glossary of Terms

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**Governmental Member:** The governmental unit, agency or department that must register to vote. This can be any Town or any eligible department in the Town (ie: Town of Westborough, or Planning Board of Westborough, or Select Board of Westborough.) *From now on referred to as **Entity**.*

**Governmental Member Voting Representative (GMVR):** The number of voters per registered Entity. *From now on referred to as **Voter***

**Primary Representative:** The person responsible for registering the slate of voters for each Entity. *From now referred to as **Point Person***

**ACTION:** Join or renew  
registration to International Code  
Council (ICC)



# JAN 1ST

## 2019 registration opens



Population	Registration Costs
0-50,000	\$135
50,000 – 150,000	\$240
150,000 +	\$370



**ACTION:** Deadline to register your entity and designate your Point Person



# MARCH 29TH

Deadline for Primary Representative registration

- A city/ town can register multiple departments or entities. Each entity is eligible to register a full slate of voters



**ACTION:** Deadline for entities or departments to register their slate of voters

→ Designated point person registers slate of 4, 8 or 12 voters



**SEPT 23RD**

Deadline for Governmental Members to confirm their roster

Population	Max Number of Votes Per Registered Government Entity
0-50,000	4
50,000 – 150,000	8
150,000 +	12

## **ACTION:** Vote

- Online voting to finalize 2021 IECC is open from 13-27 November (tentative)
- Voting takes 45 mins to 2 hours



# **NOV 13TH**

Voting opens to determine  
2021 IECC

## **Vote Together:**

- Gather your Voters and laptops together for an online 'voting party' (with pizza)

**ACTION:** Final day (tentative) for eligible local officials to vote to put the 2021 IECC on a path of steady progress

**VOTING IS EASY** using the voting guide

- We will have final guidance on which proposals to support two weeks before voting opens



**NOV 27th**

**Final day to vote**

**Red Light / Green Light Voting Guide**



Vote YES for proposals that boost efficiency



Vote NO for proposals that roll back or trade-away efficiency



# TIMELINE & KEY DATES



**JAN 1ST**

2019 registration opens



**MARCH 29TH**

Deadline for Primary  
Representative registration



**SEPT 23RD**

Deadline for Governmental  
Members to confirm  
their roster



**NOV 13TH**

Voting opens to determine  
2021 IECC



**NOV 27th**

Final day to vote

# Next Steps

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# Step 1:

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## Build your team!



## Step 2:

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### **ID eligible voters who are Climate Champs:**

- Members of city councils or boards of selectmen
- Members of planning departments
- City and town managers
- Sustainability directors
- Energy managers



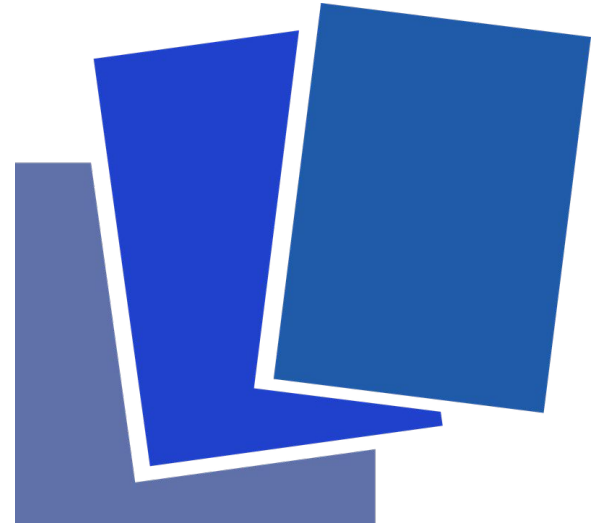
# Step 3:

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## Access our materials

Email [rebecca@massclimateaction.net](mailto:rebecca@massclimateaction.net)  
or [veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org](mailto:veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org) for...

- Scripts for calling advocates & officials
- 2-pager for municipal officials
- 2 pager for advocates (that's you!)





## MAKING BUILDINGS BETTER FOR EVERYONE

IN 2019, WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO MAKE BUILDINGS MORE COMFORTABLE, MORE COST-EFFECTIVE, AND SAFER TO LIVE AND WORK IN. FOR A FEW HOURS OF YOUR TIME, **YOU** CAN MAKE BUILDINGS BETTER AROUND THE WORLD.

### WHY IS A CHANGE IN BUILDING CODES IMPORTANT?

Buildings are responsible for over half of all energy consumption in Massachusetts and are responsible for 48% of carbon pollution.

The good news? In 2019, we have a huge opportunity! Eligible officials across the U.S. will vote on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), the code for new buildings built in the U.S. and beyond. **By passing a better building code, we can make buildings more efficient for everyone.**

Every three years, the code is revised, and in 2019 we have the opportunity to take a **significant leap forward**. With your help, the next code would maximize building efficiency and safety, and minimize climate pollution, ensuring that every new building we build is better for the planet and our wallets. **More comfortable buildings are more equitable for residents everywhere, regardless of income.**



### WHY MASSACHUSETTS?

Although the efficiency code determines building regulations across the world, in the last code cycle, **less than a quarter** of eligible officials in Massachusetts registered to vote. The good news is that means you can make a HUGE difference, just by helping us get more officials registered in MA. We know that if enough towns in Massachusetts have their officials vote the right way, we can win this!

If we can register enough pro-efficiency municipal officials by **March 29th, 2019**, we can make buildings **better, safer, and more cost-effective for everyone.**

### THIS ISN'T JUST A CLIMATE ISSUE — IT'S A SAFETY ISSUE

A study after Superstorm Sandy showed that more efficient buildings allowed residents to stay in their homes for more days during extreme weather conditions—literally saving lives.\*



U.S. News photo of the Charlestown Coastline, Specialized Photo Credit

\* House Unsubcommittee on Disaster Relief, Committee on Homeland Security

2. https://www.mass.gov/info-details/energy-efficiency-and-safety-2019-announcement-of-the-international-energy-conservation-code

Graphic design created by Casey Williams  
Thanks to the IECC for the important information



## WHAT CAN I DO?

### JOIN US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

**Step 1:** Identify some of the people in your town that are eligible to register vote on the code, people like members of city councils or boards of selectmen, members of planning departments, city and town managers, sustainability directors, and energy managers.

**Step 2:** Think about who is eligible that is also a climate champion, and will fight to make buildings more efficient and more equitable for everyone.

**Step 3:** Reach out to your municipal officials! Email [rebecca@massclimateaction.net](mailto:rebecca@massclimateaction.net) to access MCAN's resources for code official outreach.

**Step 4:** Stay involved! We have until March 29th, 2019 to register the right officials and make sure that the new code is a step forward, rather than a step back.

### VOTING TIMELINE



**FOR A FEW HOURS OF YOUR TIME, YOU CAN CHANGE THE WAY BUILDINGS ARE BUILT AROUND THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!**

### CONTACT US AT:

WEBSITE  
[www.massclimateaction.org](http://www.massclimateaction.org)

PHONE  
(781)-691-5519

SOCIAL MEDIA  
@MassClimateAction  
@MassClimate

EMAIL  
[rebecca@massclimateaction.net](mailto:rebecca@massclimateaction.net)  
[vaena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org](mailto:vaena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org)

ADDRESS  
36 Bromfield St, #306  
Boston, MA, 02108





## Step 4:

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**Stay involved & get folks registered!**



**For a few hours of your time, you can help change the way buildings are built around the world.**

***Bonus round:***

**Net Zero  
Stretch Code!**



**SIERRA CLUB**  
MASSACHUSETTS



**Join us to make buildings more  
efficient, more equitable, and safer  
for everyone.**

[rebecca@massclimateaction.net](mailto:rebecca@massclimateaction.net)

[veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org](mailto:veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org)

# Questions?

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Contact Rebecca Winterich-Knox at  
[rebecca@massclimateaction.net](mailto:rebecca@massclimateaction.net)



Contact Veena Dharmaraj at  
[veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org](mailto:veena.dharmaraj@sierraclub.org)