



# Your Summer Report

## Let's put an end to plastic foam pollution

### And choose wildlife over waste

Every day, people throw away tons of plastic “stuff”—cups, plates, bags, containers, forks, knives, spoons and more. Too often, this waste washes into our oceans, where it forms enormous garbage patches and harms marine wildlife.

For a bird or a fish or a turtle, it's easy to mistake a small piece of plastic for food—especially when there are millions of pieces of plastic floating in the ocean.

Scientists have found plastic fragments in literally hundreds of species, and sadly, ingesting these fragments is often fatal. Animals can starve when they eat too much plastic that they can't digest. Toxic chemicals in plastic can harm animals' health—and find their way into people as they make their way up the food chain.

### Waste that never goes away

Experts are still documenting the scope of plastic pollution and investigating its effects. But for decades, we've known that one of the worst forms of plastic pollution is polystyrene, like the kind used in foam cups and take-out containers—what most of us call Styrofoam.

Polystyrene foam breaks apart easily, but it persists in the environment in tiny particles—and every bit of it ever made is still out there and could continue to threaten wildlife for hundreds of years to come.

Nothing we use for a few minutes should pollute our oceans for hundreds of years—especially when we don't need it. That's why we're calling for a statewide ban on take-out foam cups and containers.



Idreamphoto/Shutterstock

▲ Marine wildlife like sea turtles, dolphins and whales are being harmed and even killed by ingesting plastic pollution.

### Let's ban polystyrene now

Of course, there are plastics companies that don't like this idea. Their opposition helped block a ban on plastic foam containers in California earlier this year. But across the country, more than 200 cities and communities have successfully passed bans on polystyrene foam.

Moving beyond polystyrene foam is something we can do right here, right now. With your support, we can convince our leaders in Massachusetts to ban polystyrene foam cups and take-out containers, and make a difference for our oceans and the animals that call them home. It's time to move beyond plastic and choose wildlife over waste.



JBPhoto/Shutterstock

### take action

We need your help to protect the wildlife in our oceans from plastic waste. Take action online to urge our leaders to ban foam cups and take-out containers in Massachusetts.

[www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](http://www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org)

◀ Every year, Americans throw away 25 billion foam cups. That's about 82 cups per person.



Staff

## You make the difference

Here at Environment Massachusetts, we're all about protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, the places we love, and the future our kids will inherit. Platitudes, however, are easy. Putting values into action is the hard part, especially when confronted by real choices.

What, for example, do we value more: the convenience of a plastic foam cup? Or the wildlife that will suffer if those cups end up in our oceans? What's more important: cheap, imported beef? Or the tropical forests that will be cleared if agricultural companies don't change their ways? Are we willing to pay a little more up front for solar and wind power if it means cleaner, healthier energy for the long run?

At Environment Massachusetts, you can trust that, no matter how tough the choice, we put the environment first on every campaign. Thank you for making it all possible.

Ben Hellerstein  
State Director



## Toward a greener future

Environment Massachusetts and Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org).

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## Your Impact

### Here's how we can save tropical forests

What can Americans do to protect tropical forests? And why do they matter? Well, for one thing, tropical forests can play a critical role in slowing down climate change.

Tropical forests work as Earth's lungs—they breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen, reducing global warming and cleaning the air. But for years, agricultural companies considered deforestation to be the fastest, cheapest path to profit. Razing forests to make way for crops and cattle accounts for 10 to 15 percent of the pollution that's changing our climate, and it drives out orangutans, elephants, tigers, jaguars and other threatened or endangered animals.

With your support, Environment Massachusetts and our national network are calling on companies in the palm oil, soybean and beef industries to commit to zero deforestation. Already, 74 percent of palm oil refineries have taken action—now, we need to call on more companies to make the commitment.

### Supporters stand for oceans over drilling

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the sunny Gulf of Mexico to the frigid Arctic, America's oceans are beautiful, wild and worthy of protection. But the Trump administration put them at risk when it vowed to open 90 percent of our coastal waters to expanded offshore oil and gas drilling.

Everyone who remembers the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf or the Exxon Valdez spill off Alaska's coast understands that drilling is a threat to the waters and wildlife we love. And across the country, millions of Americans have spoken out against these dangerous plans.

Thanks to the support and action of members like you, Environment Massachusetts and our national network held rallies and events, packed public hearings, and delivered more than 35,000 public comments to the Department of the Interior. Together, we can save our shores and coasts from offshore drilling.



Ricky Mackie Photography

▲ Our national network held events across the country to oppose the Trump administration's plan to open our oceans to offshore drilling.

# Massachusetts moves closer to 100% renewable energy

Clean, green and renewable energy is on the rise, and Massachusetts is in a position to be a national leader. Massachusetts cities, towns, colleges and businesses have taken steps toward 100 percent renewable energy, and this spring, Environment Massachusetts worked hard on Beacon Hill to build support for a statewide commitment to 100 percent renewable energy.

## Progress on Beacon Hill

In February, the Massachusetts Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change approved an omnibus clean energy bill (S.2302) that includes a statewide commitment to 100 percent renewable energy.

The bill, which includes most of the provisions of the Environment Massachusetts-backed 100% Renewable Energy Act, would put our state on a path to achieve 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035 and power other sectors of the economy, like heating and transportation, with 100 percent renewable energy by the year 2050.

## Business leaders show the way

In March, Environment Massachusetts held a briefing at the Statehouse, giving legislators an opportunity to hear from business leaders who have made commitments to renewable energy.

“Businesses are showing that a clean, renewable future is within reach,” said Environment Massachusetts State Director Ben Hellerstein. “With support from the business sector and action by state officials, Massachusetts can lead the nation to a 100 percent renewable future.”

“We’re finding that clean energy and energy efficiency make sense from a business standpoint because, increasingly, it’s what our customers and investors value, as well as from an environmental and public health standpoint,” said Andy Ellis of Cambridge-based Akamai Technologies. “Over the past nine years, as our business has grown by double digits, we’ve been

able to achieve a 93 percent reduction in our energy and greenhouse gas emissions intensity while saving millions of dollars.”

## Students call for clean energy

Later in March, student activists from campuses around the state joined Environment Massachusetts to advocate for a clean, renewable future. Students met with nearly 20 legislators at the Statehouse to discuss their support for a statewide commitment to 100 percent renewable energy.

“It was inspiring to see college students on Beacon Hill take their climate futures into their own hands, and say, ‘It’s time for bold action by the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Baker,’” said Sen. Jamie Eldridge (Acton), who addressed the students to kick off the lobby day.

Hellerstein stressed the opportunity for bold leadership from Massachusetts. “It’s not a question of if we will power Massachusetts with 100 percent renewable energy, it’s a question of when,” he said. “But why wait? Massachusetts should get back in first place for our environment by committing to a vision of 100 percent renewable energy.”

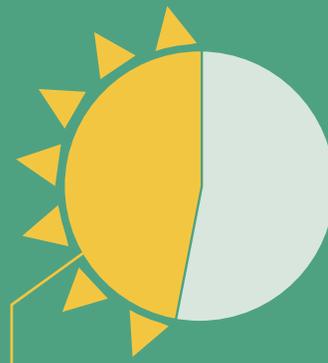


## Explore more online

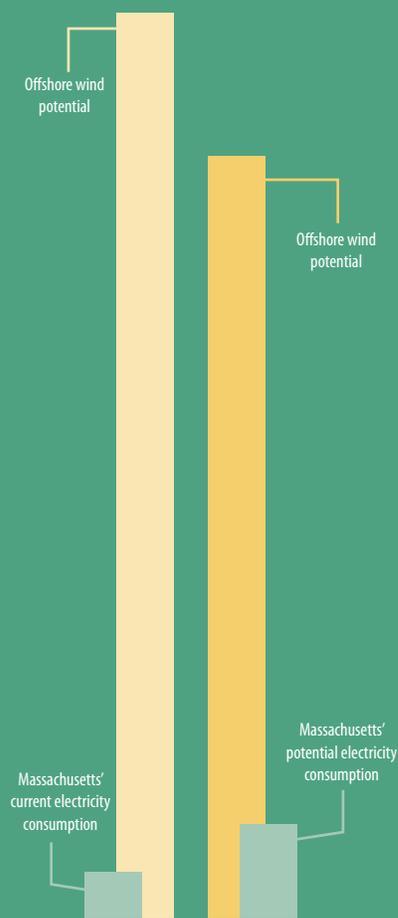
▲ Jim Boyle, chairman and CEO of Sustainability Roundtable Inc. speaks to legislators about the renewable energy movement at a briefing organized by Environment Massachusetts.

Learn more about our work at: [www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](http://www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org)

# MASSACHUSETTS' RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL



47% of Massachusetts' electricity demand could be met with solar



Offshore wind potential is 19x greater than the state's current energy consumption, and 8x greater than potential consumption, if all heating and transportation are electrified.

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# Environment Massachusetts

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## Your Summer Report

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### Environment Massachusetts

#### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Massachusetts, Incorporated, a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus on protecting Massachusetts' air, water and open space. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

## Offshore wind could fully power Massachusetts

By harnessing the winds that blow off our coast, we could meet Massachusetts' energy needs many times over, according to a report released in March by Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center.

The report, titled "Wind Power to Spare: The Enormous Energy Potential of Atlantic Offshore Wind," found that Massachusetts' offshore wind potential is equivalent to more than 19 times the state's annual electricity consumption. And if all heating and transportation in Massachusetts were converted from fossil fuels to electric power, offshore wind could still meet the state's annual energy consumption eight times over.

"We have a practically limitless clean energy resource off our shores," said Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center's Ben Hellerstein. "Tapping into our offshore wind potential means cleaner air, healthier communities, and a more stable climate."



Staff



### Support our efforts

**Support efforts to promote offshore wind.**

Donate online at:  
[www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](http://www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org)

Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center's Ben Hellerstein (left) joined New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell (right) to speak about the city's work to develop offshore wind.