Policy Recommendations for Green Hydrogen



From the new report: Impact of Green Hydrogen Production on the Availability of Clean Electricity for the Grid

This report recommends legislative and regulatory changes needed to reserve wind energy for decarbonizing our electricity and to restrict green hydrogen only for the hardest to decarbonize uses.

Two proposed Massachusetts bills address needed limits and reforms:

- The Future of Clean Heat: S.2105 and H.3203
- Reforming Energy System Planning for Equity & Climate Transformation: <u>S.2091</u> and <u>H.755</u>

More policies are needed to realize the report recommendations listed below.

1. REFORM utility planning process

- Follow Acadia Center's RESPECT model.
- Ensure that utility investments and decision-making are aligned with state emissions reductions mandates.

2. PLAN decommissioning of gas infrastructure

- Reduce gas demand to achieve the Commonwealth's goals for cutting emissions.
- Include decommissioning the gas system in integrated energy policy for 2050.
- Incorporate equity and environmental justice by prioritizing the most impacted communities.
- Redefine the roles of gas utilities so their financial interests will be successively decoupled from their current business model.

3. RESTRICT green hydrogen uses

- Establish criteria for appropriate, on-site uses of green hydrogen in a process that is independent of the gas industry and draws on expertise from multiple sources.
- Ensure no additional burdens on already impacted communities.
- Include analysis of available alternatives, efficiency, cost, reliability, air quality impacts, health and safety risks, and full life cycle greenhouse gas emissions.
- Apply appropriate incentives to limit green hydrogen to hard-to-electrify industries where emissions reductions can be maximized.

4. PROHIBIT blending hydrogen with methane for heating homes and buildings

Read the report and view the complete recommendations: bit.ly/GH2Report