



June 15, 2025

The Honorable Aaron M. Michlewitz  
Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means  
State House Room 243

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State House Room 212

The Honorable Kip Diggs  
Assistant Vice Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means  
State House Room 238

The Honorable Joanne M. Comerford  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State House Room 410

The Honorable Todd M. Smola  
Ranking Minority, House Committee on Ways & Means  
State House Room 124

The Honorable Patrick M. O'Connor  
Ranking Minority, Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State House Room 419

**Green Budget Coalition FY27 Conference Priorities**

Dear Chair Michlewitz, Chair Rodrigues, and Honorable Members of the Conference Committee:

Thank you for your leadership and dedication as you work together to craft a final Fiscal Year 2027 budget that reflects the key spending priorities and critical needs of the Commonwealth in a challenging fiscal environment. As members of the Green Budget Coalition, we advocate for robust, sustainable state funding to meet the scope and scale of our climate, conservation, and adaptation challenges.

Investment in these programs ensures that our communities remain healthy, thriving, and resilient, while supporting much-needed growth. The staff and programs this funding supports is critical to safeguarding clean water and air, supporting communities with technical expertise, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and deploying affordable clean energy; and protecting wildlife, sensitive natural resources, and access to the outdoors.

We respectfully request your support for the following items for inclusion in the final budget at the levels recommended:

**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (2000-0100): \$20,722,773**

As Massachusetts faces increasing federal headwinds toward meeting its 2030 climate and clean energy goals, it is essential that the Executive Office remains adequately staffed to manage the state’s ongoing and rapidly evolving strategy to secure and deploy new renewable energy sources and to support local emissions-reductions and adaptation initiatives. EEA serves as a critical hub for support for



communities, businesses, and developers as the work to advance clean energy solutions and prepare for future climate impacts.

**Department of Environmental Protection (2200-0100): \$51,701,172**

DEP plays an essential role in ensuring that all residents have access to clean air and water, both of which face greater threats than ever before. PFAS contamination and its impacts on communities and vulnerable residents continue to require the Department to increase its testing, monitoring, and technical assistance capacity and to support municipalities shouldering the burden of remediation. DEP also supports permitting processes for ecological restoration, housing, and transportation, providing critical services for communities such as water resource protection, waste management, and air quality monitoring.

**Department of Conservation and Recreation State Parks and Recreation (2810-0100): \$105,730,957**

DCR continues to work to reduce maintenance backlogs and maintain access to its properties while also preparing state-owned land for future climate impacts. The Department also plays an important role in ensuring equitable access to the outdoors, as roughly a quarter of its properties are in environmental justice communities. It is essential to preserve funding for core agency functions to prevent the possibility of significant staff cuts.

**Office of Environmental Justice and Equity (2000-0102): \$4,591,056**

OEJE provides critical support for all EEA agencies to ensure that decisions are made with best practices for community engagement and assessment of project impacts. The 2024 clean energy bill advances ambitious development goals and new siting and permitting reforms for clean energy that require robust community engagement and a cumulative impact analysis. It is more important than ever that historically overburdened communities receive the support and guidance they need to build support for beneficial projects and address past environmental harm.

**Department of Fish and Game (2300-0100): \$2,547,475**

DFG continues to play an essential role in land conservation, endangered species protection, and implementation of “blue carbon” restoration projects. The technical and scientific expertise housed at DFG helps to ensure that sensitive natural communities and land of high ecological value are identified and responsibly managed statewide. The Department is also responsible for implementation of the state’s Biodiversity Plan and targets, ensuring that sensitive ecosystems are protected, restored, and sustained while increasing connections between people and nature



Thank you for your consideration of these important priorities and for your tireless ongoing work to finalize the FY27 budget. Please contact David Melly at [dmelly@environmentalleague.org](mailto:dmelly@environmentalleague.org) or (617) 650-5024 with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

**The Green Budget Coalition**

- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Charles River Watershed Association
- Environmental League of Massachusetts
- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Coalitions
- Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
- Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists
- Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
- MassAudubon
- The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts
- The Trustees