
No Ordinary Leader
Deval Patrick
D e m o c r a t f o r G o v e r n o r 2 0 0 6

Moving Massachusetts Forward

Energy Independence and Environmental Stewardship

Deval Patrick
Democrat for Governor

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My Vision for Our Future

We are often asked to choose between economic development and environmental stewardship. From my experience in the energy industry, I am convinced that this is a false choice. In Massachusetts, I believe we can and must have both. We need to stimulate our state's economy, and support it with adequate housing, education and health care, so that we are expanding opportunity and attracting and retaining talent. At the same time, we owe ourselves and future generations wisdom in how we promote that growth. With sharp increases in energy cost and limits on supply, and sharp declines in enforcement of environmental laws at the federal level, the time is right to show how we in Massachusetts can balance our common interests in growth and the environment.

Addressing our energy needs is one of the great challenges of our time. The world needs energy that is both clean and affordable. I believe that with long-range vision and smart steps today, Massachusetts can position itself to take full economic and environmental advantage of the growing crisis in the availability and cost of oil and natural gas. The increasing international demand for alternative energy and energy-saving products and services is an opportunity for Massachusetts to seize.

With our universities, research labs, skilled workforce, and entrepreneurial experience, I see Massachusetts as the center of this new market. The whole world will be our customer. I see a growing research and development industry here in wind, solar, and hydrogen power research and development. I see production facilities for turbines and photovoltaics, and research laboratories developing fuel cells for automobiles. I see methane production from municipal waste disposal. I see wind energy and solar panels powering local municipal needs, and regional and municipal electric utility companies adding competition and lowering consumer prices. And I see good technical and construction jobs spawned by this growing industry.

In the near-term, we should develop incentives to conserve energy, both to reduce emissions from burning coal, oil and gas, and to contribute our part to reducing dependence on foreign sources. I see excise and sales tax credits for energy-efficient vehicles, appliances, and construction.

I will also support investment in clean, safe, convenient public transportation, connecting every major city and town to Boston.

In my administration, state government will model what it asks of its citizens. As the state replaces its vehicle fleet, for example, new purchases will be hybrid or other fuel-efficient vehicles. Our public buses, subways, and trains will be as clean as technology can make them. Renovation and new construction of state facilities will be evaluated for environmental efficiency. In making these sound decisions, we will also grow the market for cleaner, more efficient products. I will work to encourage companies that produce these products to locate here in the Commonwealth.

As we expand our inventory of reasonably-priced housing, we will emphasize development near public transportation, taking environmental factors into account. We will target new housing for previously developed sites that are available for reuse, including brownfields, forging new partnerships between state government and local communities. Recognizing that additional housing places greater demands on local schools and other local services, we will work with local government to address the fiscal impact of new development on communities.

Massachusetts has made progress over the last decades in protecting our lakes, rivers, and wetlands, but our water resources are still in jeopardy. My administration will be vigilant in assuring that everyone in Massachusetts has clean, safe drinking water; that we treat wastewater adequately; that we reduce the incursion of development on wetlands; and that we repair crumbling municipal water infrastructure.

Massachusetts will be a state in which *all* communities will have a right to environmental health. Polluted sites will be cleaned up, and facilities will be wisely sited, regardless of the wealth of the community. The mercury that pollutes our waters and makes some fish species inedible will be minimized.

From the dunes of Cape Cod to the hills and valleys of the Berkshires, Massachusetts has remarkable landscapes and natural resources. They are an attraction to visitors from around the world and a blessing to those of us who live here. Sustainable growth preserves and enhances what we have, and makes all our communities stronger. For a

better future, state government holds the public trust to protect our land, water, and air. A Patrick administration, will maintain that trust for the benefit of today's citizens as well as tomorrow's.

The Current Reality

We are consuming undeveloped land at a record pace, far in excess of population growth. Much of this development is poorly planned and unnecessarily harming the environment and our quality of life. New residential subdivisions and office parks are encroaching on our farms and forests, diminishing open space, lengthening commutes because of underinvestment in public transportation, and adding to air pollution and traffic. Meanwhile, state investment in land protection has dropped. Basic maintenance of parks, preservations, and recreational lands is at an all-time low.

Runoff from roads and new residential and commercial development is unnecessarily polluting our rivers and streams. Wetlands that provide filtering of contamination and buffers from storms and floods are being lost, hastening the degradation of waterways. Furthermore, the current administration has failed to adequately support cities and towns in keeping up with repairs to sewers and storm-water systems.

Simple measures that would limit pollution from cars, trucks, and buses are not in place. We have no strategy to reduce the rising rate of vehicle miles traveled, or to promote transition to fuel-efficient vehicles by either individuals or commercial fleets. Subway use in the Boston area is at a five-year low and this administration's plans for additional investment in public transportation are desperately lacking.

Clean Water Action of Massachusetts, together with 17 other environmental groups in New England and Canada, issues an annual *Report Card on Climate Change Action*. Massachusetts received only a C+ in 2005.

The demand for alternative sources of energy, environmental technologies, and energy-efficient products is on the rise worldwide. Massachusetts has the brainpower and creativity to meet that demand. Yet, much as in the case of stem cell research, the Romney/Healey

administration has acted against the interest of the Commonwealth and let opportunities to create business and jobs in these sectors slip away, most notably by opposing efforts to develop commercial-scale wind energy. There is little chance that the Commonwealth will meet the current administration's own renewable energy goals.

A recent Northeastern University report concluded that Massachusetts communities with large minority populations have an exposure rate to hazardous facilities and sites that is over 20 times greater than communities with largely majority populations. Nevertheless, the Romney/Healy administration has cut the program to clean up polluted sites, with the result that the Department of Environmental Protection no longer directly oversees work at some of the worst sites. The administration has also eliminated efforts to discover additional polluted sites that have not been reported to the state. This is especially troubling at a time when the Bush administration has weakened the federal Superfund program.

In addition, while calling for streamlined permitting and approvals, the Romney/Healey administration has cut staffing for environmental oversight and review, hobbling the department's ability to do its job either quickly or thoroughly.

Closing the Gap

Protecting the environment and building a clean, secure energy future are interrelated goals and will inform all decisions in my administration. I will be a new kind of governor, one who listens to all sides of the issues and then provides positive leadership for a better common future. Specifically, I will advance the following policies:

- **Leadership in Renewable Energy.** My administration's Climate Protection Plan will not only set goals, but take actions to meet them. I will *support renewable energy projects* whenever the benefits for all of us outweigh the disadvantages. I believe the Cape Wind project in Nantucket Sound is just such a project. I believe that well-designed renewable energy projects—both large and small—that pass strict environmental and ecological scrutiny deserve our support and encouragement. I also believe we must

- develop a regulatory framework for managing ocean resources, and that we can do so in the context of advancing the Cape Wind project.
- **Encourage Conservation.** My administration will give *excise and sales tax credits* for consumer purchases of energy efficient cars and appliances, and for the use of energy-smart construction materials.
 - **Clean Up Power Plants.** Power plants are essential sources of electric power and good jobs, but they can run with fewer emissions. We will enforce regulations *limiting carbon dioxide emissions* from power plants, and work with all operators to cut carbon dioxide emissions from power plants across the entire region. The Commonwealth will get an A on the annual Report Card on Climate Change Action.
 - **Protecting Water and Wetlands.** *Repairing sewers and storm drains, treating wastewater, and modernizing our water infrastructure* are essential responsibilities of government. My administration will get those jobs done. We will also restore the Commonwealth's leadership among the states in protecting coastal and inland wetlands.
 - **Environmental Health and Justice.** My administration will not sideline poor communities and communities of color when it comes to addressing the use of toxic chemicals and the clean-up of polluted sites. The Department of Environmental Protection will have appropriate *resources to run the state's clean-up program*. Massachusetts has made an important start on reducing toxic mercury emissions from power plants, but my administration will go further, and will also work to phase out the use of mercury in consumer and household products.
 - **Develop Businesses in Energy Efficient Products and Services.** I will work to make Massachusetts *the world's capital for businesses that develop alternative sources of energy* and the next generation of energy-efficient products and technologies. In partnership with local authorities, my administration will create

areas with environmental pre-approval for industrial and commercial development of these businesses.

- **Invest in Public Transportation.** Public transportation is good for the environment, for our communities, for our quality of life and for our economy. I will *invest in high quality, efficient, convenient, safe, and attractive public transportation* across the state.
- **Truly Smart Growth.** Welcoming business and increasing jobs also means creating affordable housing. My administration will make transportation policy a centerpiece of “smart growth,” and will work with local governments and developers on incentives to redevelop under-used parcels of land near public transportation. We will work closely with local and regional land trusts and other partners to protect and manage natural areas and open space that protect drinking water supplies and our natural habitats, provide high quality recreational opportunities, support tourism, increase property values, and improve the quality of life.
- **Practice What We Preach.** As a major owner of buildings and land, and as the owner of fleets of vehicles, the Commonwealth will model the behavior we ask of our citizens. My administration will *replace our state fleet with hybrids or other fuel-efficient vehicles, wherever practicable. We will also require energy-saving products and services in all state-sponsored construction.* The state will lead the way as a purchaser of energy generated from renewable sources.

If you share my vision and support these ideas, or have better ideas, join us by signing up at www.devalpatrick.com. Feel free to tell me what can be improved or modified to make these programs more effective. Remember, it's your government! Have an impact.