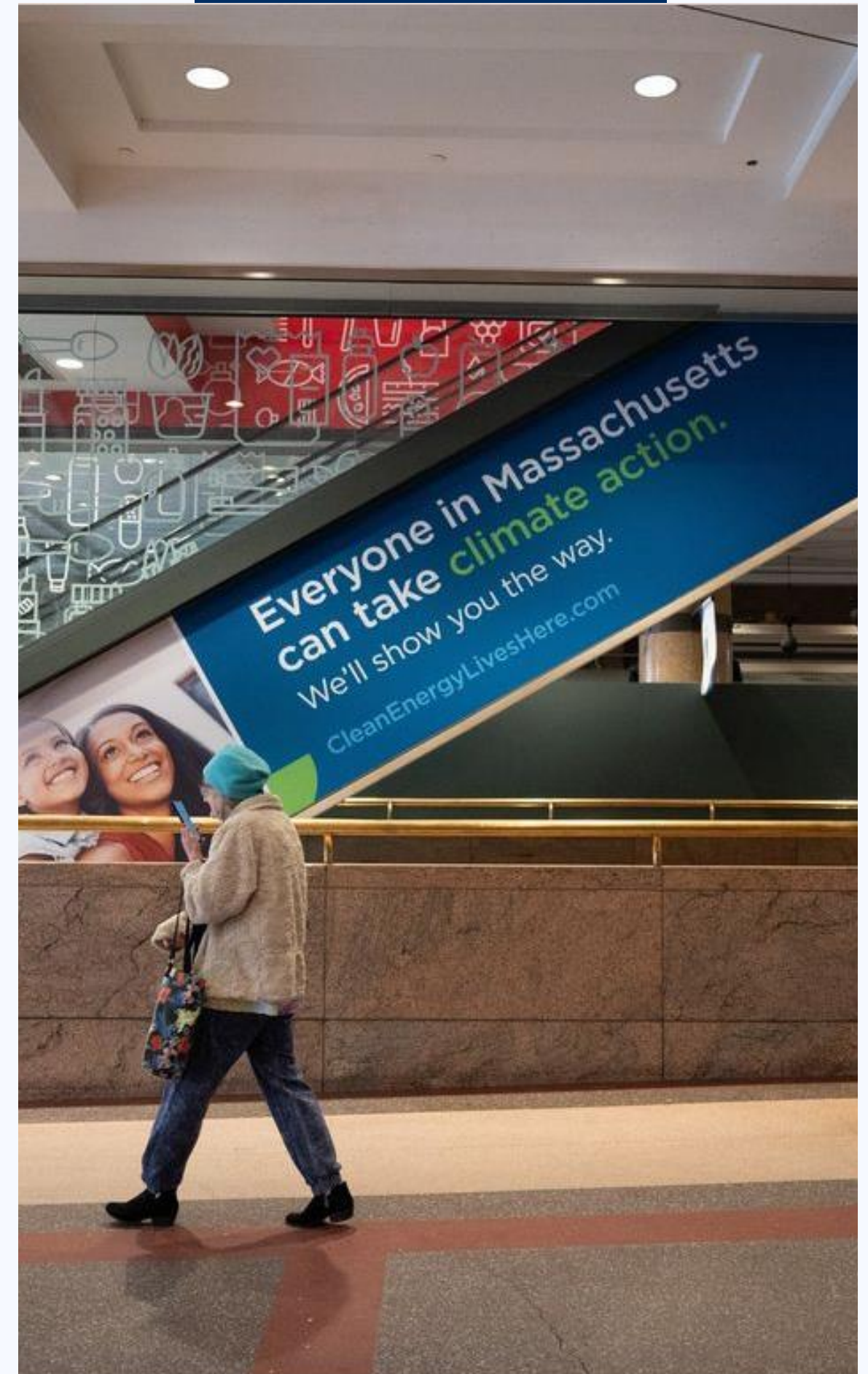


New England
Restructuring Roundtable
September 20, 2024

GRID MODERNIZATION, DERs, AND AFFORDABILITY: REGULATORS' BALANCING ACT

Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
Staci Rubin, Commissioner



Credit: EEA



Balancing Priorities: New Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

Increasing public access and transparency.

- Road Shows
- Energy Burden Workshop
- Distributed Generation Workshop
- Language Access, Public Involvement Listening Sessions



Addressing Affordability and Energy Burden

01

Increased income-eligible discount rates

02

Requiring regulated entities to pursue grants, tax incentives, and low-cost financing

03

Exploring tiered discount rates, disconnection protection changes, eligibility, and verification

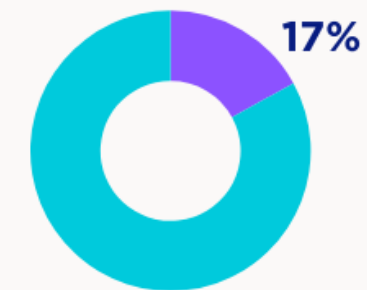
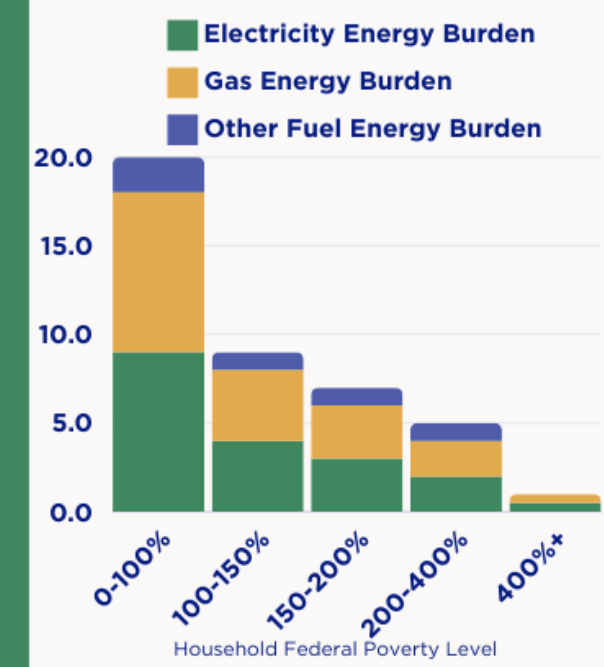
MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY BURDEN

23% of households reported having to go without expenses like food or healthcare to pay their energy bill in the last year.



That's 1.3 million residential ratepayers in the state.

Over one million households in Massachusetts reported facing some form of **energy insecurity** in the last year.



In the last year, **920k households** in MA were unable to pay their energy bill some months.

Low-and-middle-income households spend almost **one fifth of their income** on energy bills.

WHY IT MATTERS

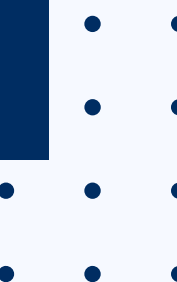
No one should have to struggle with the choice between buying food or medicine and having to pay their energy bill.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey and U.S. Department of Energy, LEAD Tool (2020). A special thank you to RMI for compiling the above statistics.



03



Expanding Equitable Distributed Energy Resource (“DERs”) Options

01

Electric Sector Modernization Plans (“ESMPs”) are strategic plans that facilitate interconnection of DERs and evaluate options and alternatives through equity framework

Net Metering now allows transfer of credits across utilities and load zones, exempts facilities from caps serving on-site load, further changes to come in late 2024

02

03

Approved one low-income community shared solar initiative and directed refile of another

Approved several capital investment projects

04

04



Improving Reliability and Resiliency



Credit: Woods Hole

90%

of

Distribution automation devices deployed in municipalities with EJ populations

89%

of

Volt-VAR Optimization devices deployed in municipalities with EJ populations



Credit: Cape Cod Times

Approved ESMPs, which guide future climate vulnerability assessments and require planned targeted resiliency investments

53% of municipalities in Massachusetts have environmental justice (“EJ”) populations. All data sourced from 2018-2022 Grid Modernization Plans.



Empowering Customers



Municipal Aggregation Plans



Energy Efficiency Programs



Grid Modernization



Residential Heat Pump Rate



EJ Strategy



Language Access Plan



Public Involvement Plan





Interesting Reading and Viewing Opportunities

- [ESMP Plan Phase I Order](#): D.P.U. 24-10, 24-11, 24-12
- Energy Burden Investigation [Opening](#) and [Interlocutory](#) Orders: D.P.U. 24-15
- [SMART II Order](#): D.P.U. 20-145-D
- [CIP Order](#): D.P.U. 22-52, 22-53, 22-54, 22-55
- [Road Shows & Materials](#)
- [DPU YouTube Page](#)
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