



University of Arkansas • School of Law • Division of Agriculture

An Agricultural Law Research Project

**Climate Change Statutory Citations**  
**State of Massachusetts**

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## Climate Change Statutory Citations

### STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

*This compilation of state statutory citations focuses predominantly on climate change laws in effect January 1, 1970 through August 31, 2010. In some instances, regulations have been included in the compilation due to their significance. This compilation is intended to serve as a researcher-friendly inventory of state laws by providing the formal title of relevant legislation, the standard legal citation for each statute and a brief description of the law. Some statutes and regulations listed do not specifically relate to climate change, but are included because of their complementary relationship to the evolution of climate change law in the state.*

| Title   | Citation  | Description  |
|---|---|--|
| Office of Transportation Planning (2009)  | <a href="#">MASS. GEN. LAWS. ch. 6C, § 10</a>                                 | Office shall undertake planning and research tasks on issues related to climate change adaptation to ensure that infrastructure can withstand stresses related to climate change.  |
| Ocean Management Plan (2008)  | <a href="#">MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 21A, §4C</a>                                  | Directs the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to develop an integrated ocean management plan, which shall address climate change and sea level rise.                   |
| Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; Function of Office (2008) | <a href="#">MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 21A, § 2</a>                                  | Directs the office to oversee efforts to address and diminish climate change impacts by achieving greenhouse gas limits set by the Climate Protection & Green Economy Act of 2008. |
| Definitions (2008)  | <a href="#">MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 21A, § 22</a><br>(effective to Dec. 31, 2011) | Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is to work to develop a cap and trade program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation.                 |

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| Climate Protection & Green Economy Act (2008)   | <a href="#">MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 21N, §§ 1 - 9</a>                                | Requires the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and establish a registry for these emissions. Adopt emission limits for greenhouse gases between 10 to 25 percent below 1990 levels. Can use market-based mechanisms to limit.        |
| Energy Advisory Board (2008)  | <a href="#">MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 25A, § 10</a>                                    | Green Communities Program will be funded through moneys generated from cap and trade program.  |
| Determination of impact by agencies; damages to environment; prevention or minimization; foreseeable climate change impacts; definition applicable to this section and Sec. 62 (2008) | <a href="#">MASS. GEN. LAWS Ch. 30, § 61</a>                                     | Agencies will take into account reasonably foreseeable climate change impacts when looking at all works, projects, or activities conducted by them.  |
| Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative  |  | Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont joined together to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Goal is to reduce emissions through development of a cap-and-trade program. |