

## SMALL CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY SITING AND PERMITTING

On November 21, 2024, Governor Maura Healey signed into law [An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity, and Protecting Ratepayers](#) (2024 Climate Act).

In addition to other provisions, the 2024 Climate Act contains historic and comprehensive reforms of the state’s siting and permitting processes for clean energy infrastructure. The Commonwealth is required to promulgate regulations and guidance to implement these reforms by March 1, 2026.

The reforms to the siting and permitting processes are based on the recommendations of Governor Healey’s [Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting](#). The existing permitting process was widely recognized as a key barrier to the development of clean energy and the Commonwealth’s ability to meet its future electricity demand and climate goals. The Commission included representatives from municipalities, environmental justice organizations, advocacy groups, electric utilities, agriculture, energy siting, the clean energy industry, labor, housing and real estate.

The law requires municipalities to offer an optional, expedited permitting process that features a consolidated application and a 12-month deadline for the municipal government to issue a final single decision. It also requires most infrastructure projects determine a site suitability score and propose minimization or mitigation where appropriate. Similarly, state permits will be issued together by the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) after a 15-month period. Appeals of municipal decisions will be directed to the EFSB, ending the years-long appeals process that has delayed vital infrastructure.

### Timeline

Date	Activity
Summer 2025	Targeted Stakeholder Engagement and Interagency Consultations
Fall 2025	Publish Draft Regulations, Hold Public Hearings (see above for dates)
Winter 2026	Prepare Final Regulations
Spring 2026	Technical assistance, training for stakeholders
Summer 2026	Regulations take effect on July 1; municipalities may start offering the consolidated permit application
Fall 2026	Municipalities must start offering the consolidated permitting pathway by October 1.

