

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2841**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Carolyn C. Dykema***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to expand the green communities program to mitigate climate change.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>

<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Biele</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2841**

By Ms. Dykema of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2841) of Carolyn C. Dykema and others that the Division of Energy Resources be directed to expand the green communities program to mitigate climate change. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act to expand the green communities program to mitigate climate change.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 25A of the General Laws is hereby amended in section 10 by  
2 striking subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following new subsection:-  
3 -

4 (b) The division shall establish a green communities program. The purpose of the  
5 program shall be to provide technical and financial assistance, in the form of grants and loans, to  
6 municipalities and other local governmental bodies that qualify as green communities and or  
7 green plus communities under this section. These loans and grants shall be used to finance all or  
8 a portion of the costs of studying, designing, constructing and implementing energy efficiency  
9 activities, including but not limited to, energy conservation measures and projects; procurement  
10 of energy management services; installation of energy management systems; adoption of demand  
11 side reduction initiatives; deployment of energy storage, microgrids, or district energy systems  
12 connected to renewable energy generation; installation of zero-emissions vehicles, charging

13 equipment or infrastructure, or related technologies; coordination of residential or small business  
14 clean energy outreach, technical assistance, or financing programs; and the adoption of energy  
15 efficiency policies. They shall also be used to finance the siting and construction of renewable  
16 and alternative energy projects on municipally-owned land.

17 SECTION 2. Said section 10 is hereby further amended by inserting after subsection (c)  
18 the following new subsection:--

19 (c ½ ) To qualify as a green plus community, a municipality or other governmental body  
20 shall: (1) file an application with the division in a form and manner to be prescribed by the  
21 division; (2) establish an greenhouse gas emissions baseline inventory for residential,  
22 commercial and industrial buildings sited within the municipality, which may also include  
23 transportation and other sources of emissions within the municipality; (3) put in place a  
24 comprehensive program whose implementation begins within 1 year from the date of initial  
25 participation in the program, designed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions baseline inventory  
26 by a percentage approved by the division that is not less than 20 per cent within 5 years of initial  
27 participation in the program; and (4) fulfill qualifications subsection 2 through 6 inclusive of the  
28 green community program as described in section (c). Preference shall be given to those  
29 municipalities that include additional sources of emissions within their greenhouse gas emissions  
30 baseline inventory. Not later than one year after the adoption of this section, the division shall  
31 adopt a tracking system for community-wide greenhouse gas emissions, to include but not be  
32 limited to the building, transportation, energy, and waste sectors that can be used by  
33 municipalities. The secretary may waive these requirements based on a written finding that due  
34 to unusual circumstances, a municipality cannot reasonably meet all of the requirements and the

35 municipality has committed to alternative measures that advance the purposes of the green plus  
36 communities program as effectively as adherence to the requirements.

37 SECTION 3. Said section 10 is hereby further amended in subsection (d) by striking the  
38 figure “20,000,000” and inserting in place thereof “40,000,000 with not less than \$10,000,000  
39 going to green plus communities”.

40 SECTION 4. Said section 10 is hereby further amended in subsection (e) by inserting at  
41 the end the following sentence:--

42 “The division may also adopt regulations enabling those communities served by  
43 municipal lighting plants to participate in the green communities program through alternate  
44 means which shall include consideration of, but not be limited to, a funding match from  
45 municipal light plant on behalf of the served community.”