



**REDIRECT  
GAS PIPELINE INVESTMENT  
TO CLEAN ENERGY**

A new report, [GSEP at the Six-Year Mark](#), shows that the Massachusetts Gas System Enhancement Program (GSEP) is in immediate need of redirection.

The program's original intent was sound—to enhance public safety and reduce gas leaks by replacing leak-prone pipes. However, GSEP has become one of the largest, most expensive infrastructure projects ever undertaken in the Commonwealth, with total costs likely to top \$20 billion—rivaling the Big Dig in scale.

Gas customers are on the hook for over half a billion dollars every year as gas companies race to replace a cracking, corroding system now at odds with our state climate mandates.

## RECOMMENDED POLICY CHANGES

### **1** TRIAGE: Prioritize safety.

Incentivize successful repair of the biggest, most hazardous leaks, while strategically replacing only pipes with a history of corrosion and cracking.

- Create clear, strategic criteria for prioritizing leak repair vs. pipe replacement based on safety and climate impacts using improved pipe and leak classification systems.
- End cost recovery bias toward pipe replacement and incentivize successful repair using advanced repair technologies and leak monitoring.
- Revise GSEP regulations to include repairs that extend the life of pipes.

### **2** TRANSITION: Redirect GSEP funds into renewable, zero-emissions energy.

Align GSEP with the Commonwealth's decarbonization mandates by investing in clean energy solutions instead of trying to maintain pipes that lock us into fossil fuels.

Pass the [Future of Heat Act](#) (S.2148, H.3298) to:

- Incentivize gas utilities to sell non-emitting, renewable thermal energy instead of gas.
- Deploy GSEP funds to clean, efficient heating and cooling solutions that use renewable energy and create quality jobs.

# GAS LEAKS **ALLIES**

## **3** PROTECT RATEPAYERS.

Administer GSEP as a mega-project, with clear goals and performance targets integrated with the Commonwealth's energy transition. Overhaul the administration, management, and oversight of GSEP to create system-wide accountability and ensure that GSEP becomes a constructive building block, not an obstacle, to clean energy.

- Create rigorous program metrics and interim performance targets.
- Institute comprehensive and standardized reporting for all gas companies.
- Institute spending limits to ensure that new GSEP costs are not incurred for projects that fail to meet revised goals, reducing the risk of serious inequities for ratepayers.

## **4** NO HYDROGEN FOR HEATING.

Redirect GSEP funds into non-explosive, non-emitting renewable energy, not to maintain gas pipes for false solutions.

Heating with hydrogen is not affordable, equitable, clean, safe, or healthy and doesn't lower emissions.

- Hydrogen is more explosive than fossil gas. Replacing gas pipes to heat with hydrogen increases safety risks.
- Hydrogen available for heating buildings is not "low-carbon" or "decarbonized." Using hydrogen to heat our homes will worsen greenhouse gas emissions.

## **GSEP AT THE SIX-YEAR MARK IS A WAKE UP CALL TO OUR STATE LEADERS.**

The Governor, the Executive Office of Environment and Environmental Affairs, the DPU, and the legislature can stop the billions being dumped into outdated fossil fuel infrastructure and instead invest our money intelligently in the clean energy we need now: solar, wind, geothermal, demand response, and efficiency at scale, providing clean energy to everyone and creating quality jobs.

- Instead of doubling down on fossil fuels, we can:
  - Focus on strategically and successfully fixing the worst gas leaks.
  - Prioritize leaks in communities most impacted by fossil fuel-related pollution.
- And build the world we need now:
  - Redirect GSEP funds toward investments in renewable, zero-emission energy for all.
  - Invest in quality jobs in clean energy and support fossil fuel worker transition.

Read *GSEP at the Six-Year Mark*. <https://gasleaksallies.org/gsep>

## **WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY. WE CAN SHIFT MONEY INTO SOLUTIONS NOW.**