

## **An Act Creating a Next-Generation Road Map for Massachusetts Climate Policy Round Two**

### **A Major Massachusetts Climate Change Bill**

On January 28, 2021 the Massachusetts Legislature passed a major climate change bill identical to one that Governor Baker recently vetoed. Baker vetoed the original bill because he disagreed with some of its provisions. Because the bill was passed at the end of the legislative session there was not time for Baker to propose amendments.

The landmark bill includes the following provisions:

- Net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
- Increased requirements for purchasing offshore wind energy
- The creation of clean energy jobs
- Prioritizing access to solar programs for low income communities
- Establishment of mandatory emissions limits for six sectors of the economy: electric power, transportation, commercial and industrial heating and cooling, residential heating and cooling, industrial processes and natural gas distribution and service
- Establishes emissions limit reviews every five years to ensure progress
- Creates criteria to define environmental justice populations

In his veto letter, according to the Boston Globe, Baker noted that he shared the lawmakers' goals but differed on how they should be achieved. Now that bill has been passed again in a new legislative session Baker can either sign it, veto it, or return it to the legislature with proposed amendments.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission supports this landmark legislation.