



Cutting Mass Save would raise energy bills for those who can least afford it

In February 2026, the Massachusetts House passed legislation directing utilities to cut \$1 billion from Mass Save – a state program that helps families and businesses across Massachusetts lower their energy bills and reduce climate and air pollution. The proposed funding cut comes on top of a \$500 million reduction already approved by regulators last year (reducing the 2025-2027 budget to \$4.5 billion). Because we're already nearly halfway through the three-year budget period, a \$1 billion cut at this point could mean cutting 2027 programs in half.

These cuts go beyond trimming overhead

Fully funding Mass Save lowers bills, strengthens the grid, creates jobs, and delivers real relief on people's energy bills. The proposed \$1 billion cuts would weaken Mass Save's ability to help families and businesses lower their energy bills and drive higher costs for MA customers.

This critical program delivered [nearly \\$2.4 billion](#) in energy bill reductions for MA families and businesses from 2022-2024. And that doesn't include reductions in water bills, operation and maintenance cost reductions, comfort improvements and numerous other non-energy benefits. The program is projected to continue to return [more than \\$2 in benefits](#) for every dollar invested. If energy affordability is the goal, cutting the program will hurt rather than help.

What Mass Save provides the Commonwealth

Mass Save is a nation-leading program that helps MA families and businesses lower energy bills through proven upgrades that reduce energy use while keeping temperatures at healthy levels. The program provides benefits worth [more than double](#) the costs. Key benefits include:

- **Free home weatherization** for low-income households, including insulation upgrades and air sealing.
- **Rebates** that lower the upfront cost of high-efficiency appliances like heating and cooling systems, lighting and industrial equipment.

- **Rebates** that help customers switch from oil and propane to cleaner, lower-cost electric heat pumps.
- **Support for [76,000+ jobs](#)** in 2024, more than three times the state's renewable energy jobs and two-thirds of all clean energy jobs in MA.

How Mass Save lowers energy costs

Mass Save reduces costs across the entire energy system – not just for participants, but for every customer on the grid. The program:

- Cuts the amount of electricity utilities need to buy
- Avoids building costly new power plants
- Reduces spending on poles, wires and grid upgrades
- Lowers wholesale electricity prices for all customers
- Protects households and businesses from fuel price spikes

Energy efficiency pays for itself – and then some – while making the grid more reliable. From 2022 to 2025, Mass Save programs produced enough electricity savings to power [nearly 200,000 homes](#) across the state.

Why Mass Save matters for families in need

Mass Save is one of the most effective tools MA has to lower energy bills and improve living conditions for low- and moderate-income households. The program has recently expanded access to include more families:

1. In 2024, the program expanded eligibility to moderate-income households earning 61-80% of area median income, driving a 200% increase in participation.
2. As part of Mass Save, the Strategic Renters Plan now covers 100% of weatherization costs, removing upfront barriers for income-qualified renters.

These programs lower energy costs for the entire system, providing direct bill savings for individuals and businesses, and leading to healthier homes. Mass Save prioritizes those who need it most, with 26.2% of program funding going to low-income households ¹ – even though they account for a far smaller percent of MA’s electricity sales ².

From 2013 to 2024, the program reached [more than 225,000 low-income households](#), or about 25% of the state’s low-income population ³. The program needs

continued support to serve even more households – and cutting funding will only mean fewer families see these benefits going forward.

What a \$1 billion cut means

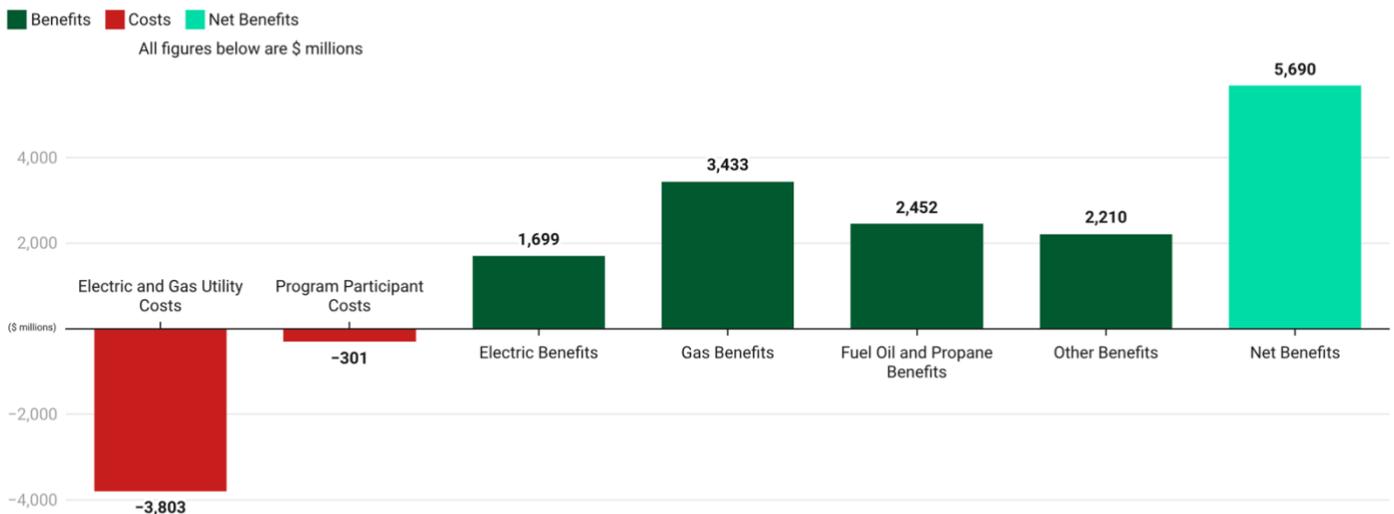
Cutting \$1B from Mass Save budget will make energy less affordable in Massachusetts. These cuts would:

- Reduce incentives that help families and businesses lower their energy bills
- Increase system costs, which flow back to ratepayers
- Put thousands of clean energy jobs at risk
- Undermine a program that consistently delivers more value than it costs

Massachusetts needs more affordable energy, not less. Cutting Mass Save would take us backwards – shifting costs onto families who can least afford it.

Costs and Benefits of Mass Save's Energy Efficiency Programs, 2025-2027

Mass Save's 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Budget provides over \$5.6 billion dollars in savings for ratepayers, captured by reduced electricity and gas consumption and other benefits, compared to the costs of running the program.



This chart only focuses on benefits from energy efficiency and does not include the impacts of electrification, which are also cost-effective, especially by reducing costs from fuel oil and gas. Other benefits include gasoline, water, and non-resource benefits. Values were taken from Mass Save's Utility Filings' Total Resource Costs, last updated in June 2025.

Chart: EDF • Source: Mass Save • Created with Datawrapper

¹ Appendix C (Statewide Tables Revised) to filed utility plans

² Total electricity sales in MA in 2024 were 49.4 million MWh, of which 19.9 million (~40%) were residential (EIA Electric Sales and Revenue). Approximately 32% of Massachusetts households have incomes at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level, the standard used by the utilities to target their low-income programs

(<https://www.kff.org/state-health-policy-data/state-indicator/distribution-by-fpl/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>). Thus, assuming the average annual electricity consumption of a low-income home is similar to that of other residential customers, only about 13% of the state’s electricity sales are to low-income households.

³ Census data suggest 2.785 million households in MA. If 32% are below 300% FPL, that’s ~890,000. 225k served out of 891k is ~25%.

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