



For Immediate Release:

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Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter Response to MassDEP Draft VW Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan

On Thursday, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection released the draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (BMP) for public comment about the use of the Volkswagen settlement funds. In the first year, Massachusetts plans to spend \$23.5 million on the following projects:

- \$11 million on electric buses for Pioneer Valley and Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority
- \$ 5 million on electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- \$7.5 million will be available through competitive procurement for eligible projects that reduce vehicle emissions

Based on an estimated 14,000 vehicles equipped with defeat devices in Massachusetts, the Commonwealth will receive approximately \$75 million as part of the VW Settlement. Massachusetts has up to 10 years to spend 80% of its allocation, and an additional five years to spend the remaining 20%.

In response, Massachusetts Sierra Club Chapter Director Emily Norton made the following statement:

"This a big win for electrification efforts among Massachusetts transit agencies. It is encouraging to see \$11 million allocated for zero emission electric buses to Martha's Vineyard and Pioneer Valley transit agencies. We hope that Governor Baker and the state government continue to prioritize projects that support the electrification of our transportation fleets, reduce air pollution, and prioritize the benefits to serve communities hit hardest by air pollution," said Norton.

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About the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit www.sierraclub.org.