

A net-zero climate law

2021 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

Words to know

goal — something people aim to achieve

evidence — information that helps support or question a claim

responsibility — a duty to care for something or answer for an action

Look closely



Massachusetts State House

Read the story

Massachusetts enacted a climate law setting a goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. A goal describes something people aim to achieve. Reaching it requires plans, action, and evidence.

The major net-zero roadmap law was enacted in 2021, not 2019. Distinguish passing a target from achieving it. Study how agencies measure emissions and how decisions affect different communities.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. State the main idea. Support it with two details from the reading.
2. Explain a change or challenge described in the text. Which words support your answer?
3. Use one vocabulary word in a new sentence about this event.
4. What can the image and caption help explain? What can they not tell you?

Follow-up reading: A fusion magnet milestone

2021

Researchers at MIT and Commonwealth Fusion Systems tested a powerful magnet. Their work aimed to help future fusion research. A successful test was an important step, but did not mean a working commercial power plant existed.

A 2021 high-temperature superconducting magnet test reached twenty tesla. Separate demonstrated engineering results from future promises. Scientific milestones require precise descriptions of what was measured.

Compare the two readings. Explain one similarity or difference using a detail from each. Their order does not prove that one caused the other.

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.4.1: refer to details; RI.4.2: main idea and summary; RI.4.3: explain events; RI.4.7: interpret visual information; W.4.2 and SL.4.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: Massachusetts enacted a climate law setting a goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. A goal describes something people aim to achieve. Reaching it requires plans, action, and evidence. The major net-zero roadmap law was enacted in 2021, not 2019. Distinguish passing a target from achieving it. Study how agencies measure emissions and how decisions affect different communities.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

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[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.