



August 2019

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM MASSACHUSETTS CITIES AND TOWNS

Dear Supporter,

The Climate Leadership newsletter features stories of environmental and climate action in Massachusetts. It provides a platform to highlight work being done by municipalities, climate leaders, and local groups in communities across the Commonwealth. To share local climate actions in your community, email [Veena Dharmaraj](mailto:Veena.Dharmaraj@sierraclub.org).

Clean Energy and Climate

Vote on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code



Has your city or town registered to vote on the 2021 updates to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)? If yes, you have till [September 23rd to register](#) your slate of voters. Only representatives that are validated by Sept 23rd will be eligible to participate in the online voting scheduled to take place in November. [Here's a tutorial video](#) developed by our partners at the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) that takes you through the process of registering your full slate of voters for the 2021 IECC. With your help the next code will maximize building efficiency and safety, ensuring that every new building we build is better for the planet and our wallets. For more information contact [Veena Dharmaraj](mailto:Veena.Dharmaraj@sierraclub.org).

The New Buildings Institute (NBI) is hosting a webinar on [Thursday, September 19, 1:00 – 2:30](#) for those who want to learn about the top energy efficiency proposals being considered in the 2021 IECC update. Attendees will learn about critical

proposals and public comments, steps governmental members must take to register to vote, and deadlines between now and the online voting in November. [Click here to register.](#)

Solar Project at Natick High School to go Online

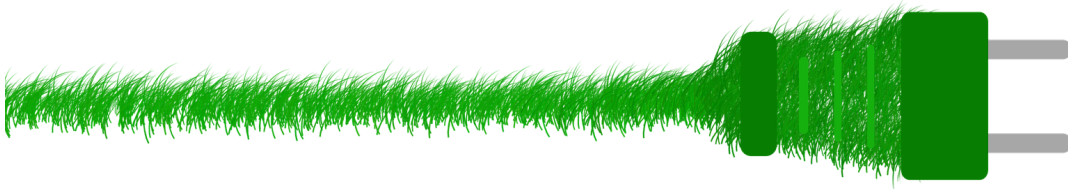


Natick is partnering with Framingham based Ameresco Inc. to install solar panel over the faculty and visitor parking lot at Natick High School. As a part of a 20-year power purchase agreement, Ameresco will install and maintain the solar canopy of around 1450 solar panels. The town is estimated to save \$20,000 in annual utility costs once the project is operational in October. Solar canopies already exist on six other school buildings in Natick.

On a related note, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) will share the results of a review of the new solar incentive, [Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target \(SMART\) Program](#), at four stakeholder meetings from September 5-13, 2019. Click [here for more information](#) on the meetings. Public comments can be submitted electronically to DOER.SMART@mass.gov by Friday, September 20, 2019.

Report Highlights Clean Energy Efforts Across the State

The [Renewable Communities 2019 report](#) released by Environment Massachusetts Research and Policy Center showcases innovative clean energy efforts in 21 communities across the Commonwealth, including Arlington, Everett, Wayland, Sudbury, Newton, New Bedford, Pelham, Northampton, Boston, Cambridge and Gosnold.



Case studies illustrate ways in which cities and towns can progress deployment of clean energy by implementing innovative programs for energy efficiency, renewable electricity, clean heating and transportation, and energy storage. The report hopes to inspire more communities to accelerate Massachusetts' progress toward obtaining 100% of our energy from clean, renewable resources.

UMass Dartmouth Launches Battery Storage System

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth recently installed a 520-kilowatt battery storage system, the largest public system of its kind in the state. The battery in combination with other measures, including a 1.6 megawatt-hour co-generation plant and a system of solar photovoltaic panels will reduce the electrical load of the university during peak usage times, when energy rates are higher. The battery system and the co-generation plant are projected to save the university around \$500,000 in energy costs annually.

Vineyard Wind Offshore Wind Project Delayed



The U.S Bureau of Ocean Energy Management' decision ordering a cumulative impacts analysis has held up issue of the final environmental impact statement, a key permit for Vineyard Wind to move forward. No timeline has been set for this review. In 2018 Vineyard Wind was awarded the first round of contracts for the 84 turbine, 800 megawatts commercial offshore wind farm to be built 14 miles south of Martha's Vineyard. The nation's

first foray into large-scale offshore wind was projected to become operational by 2021.

Meanwhile, as part of the Commonwealth's [second offshore wind procurement](#), Vineyard Wind, Bay State Wind, and Mayflower Wind Energy have submitted proposals for 400 MW and 800 MW options.

Clean Transportation

Celebrate National Drive Electric Week

Several communities in Massachusetts are celebrating [National Drive Electric Week](#), September 14-22 with a variety of

events showcasing electric vehicles. Is your city or town replacing vehicles in your municipal



fleet or are you thinking about going electric? Join us at events across the state to test drive and learn more about electric vehicles. Co-sponsored by the Sierra Club, National Drive Electric Week features family-friendly events such as ride & drives, games, prizes, food, and more.

Events vary by city, but people will have the opportunity to test drive EVs, as well as to learn about purchasing and using electric vehicles, and incentive programs for switching from gas or diesel vehicles. Electric vehicles are fun to drive, less expensive and more convenient to fuel than gasoline vehicles, and better for the environment. Join us for events in [Hyannis](#), [Beverly](#), [Lowell](#), [Braintree](#), [Worcester](#), [Cambridge](#), [Tewksbury](#), [Northborough](#), [Melrose](#), [Plymouth](#), [Hingham](#), and [Oak Bluffs](#).

Massachusetts Releases Congestion Report



A [new report analyzing traffic congestion](#) in the Commonwealth has found that the Greater Boston area has reached tipping point when it comes to roadway congestion. The report identified ways to address congestion including enhancing bus service at MBTA and the regional transit authorities, increasing MBTA capacity and ridership, more affordable housing near transit, creating infrastructure to support shared travel modes and congestion pricing. MassDOT will establish a new grant program to support first/last mile service to connect transit to workplaces, partnerships between municipalities or employers with regional transit authorities, vanpools and carpools. [Click here](#) to read the report.

Ride Hailing Companies Increasing Traffic and Emissions

A [recent analysis](#) by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) shows that the rapid and widespread growth of ride hailing services such as Uber and Lyft are increasing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. Ride hailing



services provided 81 million trips in 2018, consuming an estimated 18 million gallons of gasoline and producing 163,300 metric tons of carbon emissions. Results of the analysis conclude

that unchecked growth in ride hailing will make it tough to reach our climate goals. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Brookline to Add New Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



Brookline Select Board approved a license agreement with Greenspot to add 10 dual-port [electric vehicle](#) charging stations. Half of these parking spaces will be set aside for EV car sharing and the other half will be available to the public.

As a part of efforts to achieve zero emission community wide by 2050, the town will prioritize modes of transportation that do not rely on fossil fuels. This includes adding new EV charging infrastructure on Beacon Street—a major thoroughfare in Brookline—via a joint partnership with Greenspot, Electrify America, Greenlots and Eversource. Through this effort the town want to provide reliable EV charging infrastructure to residential garage orphans, businesses and visitors.

Events

Clean Heating and Cooling for Massachusetts Municipalities

Across the Commonwealth, municipalities are



embracing clean heating and cooling systems such as air-source heat pumps, ground-source heat pumps, and solar thermal systems as important tools for reducing their energy costs and their greenhouse gas emissions.

To learn more about these low-carbon heating and cooling technologies, incentives available to municipalities and to hear from

municipal leaders who have installed these systems, join this webinar hosted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) on Wednesday, September 11; 12:00 – 1:15 pm. [Register here.](#)

Sustainability Film Series Debuts Third Season



On September 7th, Cape Cod based Sustainable Practices will kickstart their third Sustainability Film Series with the screening of documentary [Reuse, Because You Can't Recycle The Planet](#). The film series runs from September 2019 to June 2020 highlights documentary films that focus on an aspect of sustainability: economic, environmental and social justice. Co-sponsored by the Chatham Orpheum Theater, all films are screened on the first Saturday of each month. [Click here to see the complete listing.](#)

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