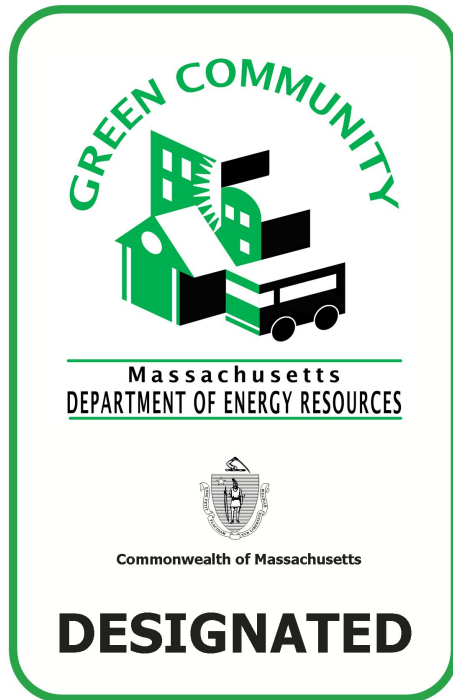


COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES
Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner

Climate Leader Communities

MMA Inspiring Climate Action Series
June 2024

Today's Discussion

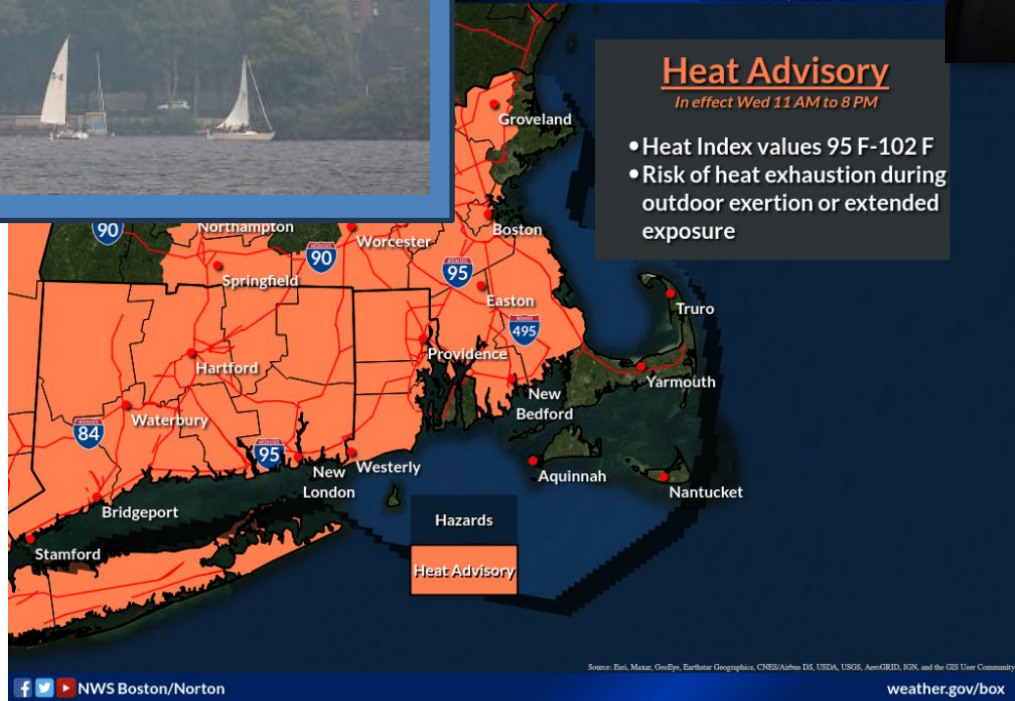


- Overview of Commonwealth clean energy and climate goals
- Climate Leader Community certification requirements
- Resources available to municipalities

Why we are here



Weather Forecast Office
Boston/Norton, MA
Issued Jul 19, 2022 4:07 AM EDT



Green Communities Resources for Municipalities

MassEnergyInsight energy tracking and analysis tool

Municipal Energy Technical Assistance

ESPC model documents and templates

Green Communities Designation and Grant Program

Opportunities offered by other state agencies

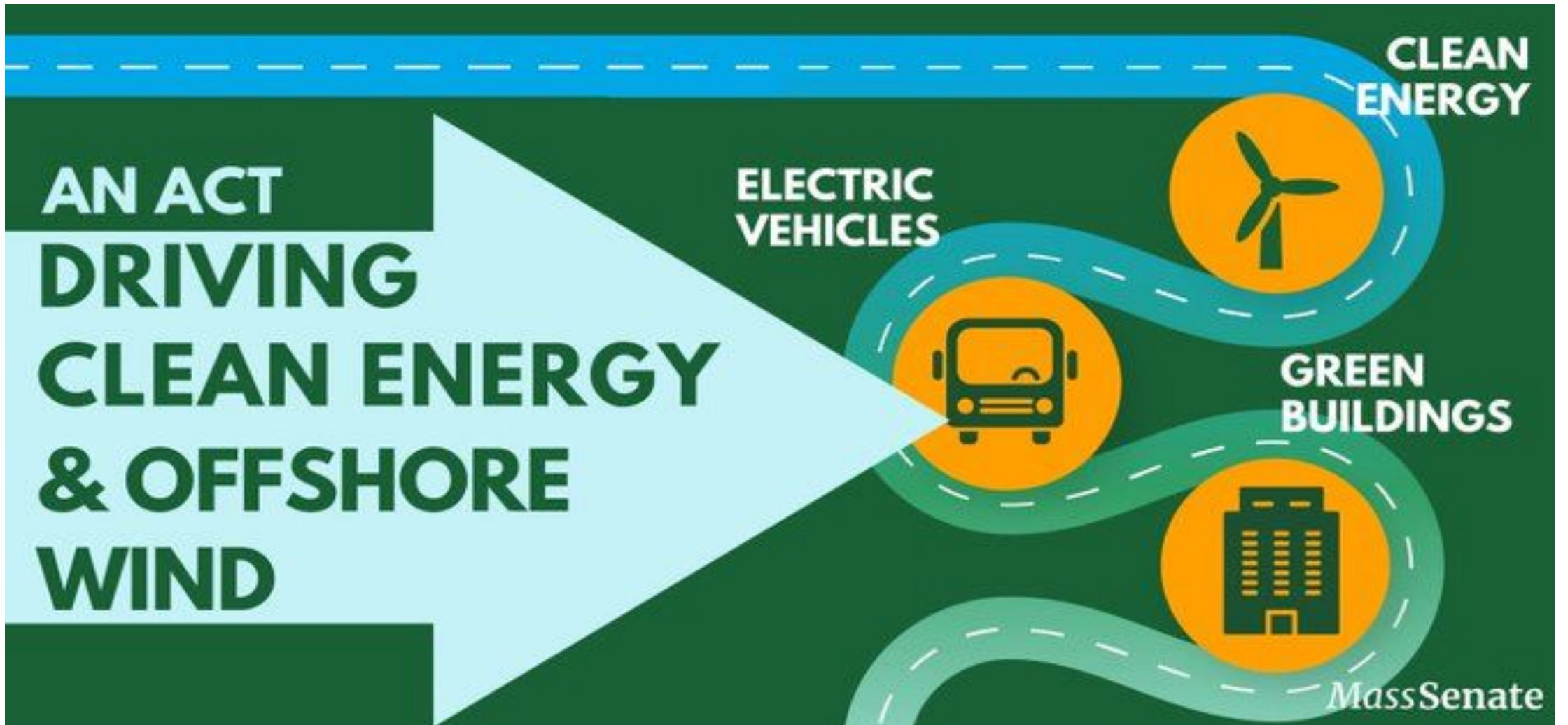
Website filled with tools & resources
www.mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division

Climate Act 2021



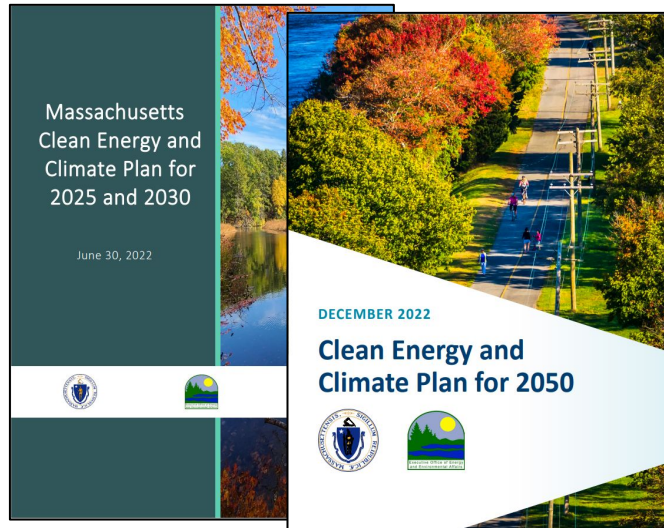
Commits Massachusetts to achieve **Net Zero emissions in 2050**, and authorizes the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to establish an emissions limit of no less than **50% for 2030**, and no less than **75% for 2040**

An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind – August 2022

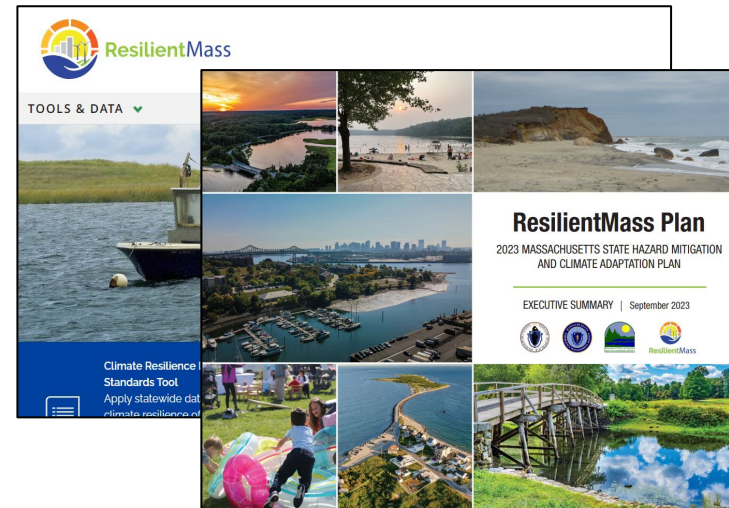


Guiding Climate Action Across Massachusetts

Clean Energy & Climate Plans (CECPs)



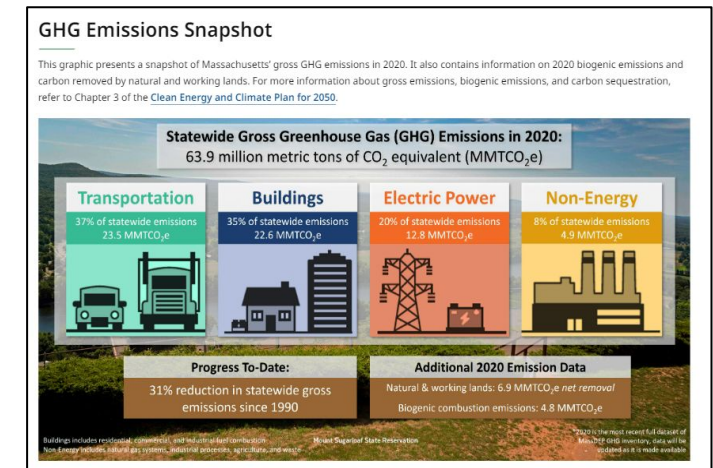
ResilientMass Action Plan



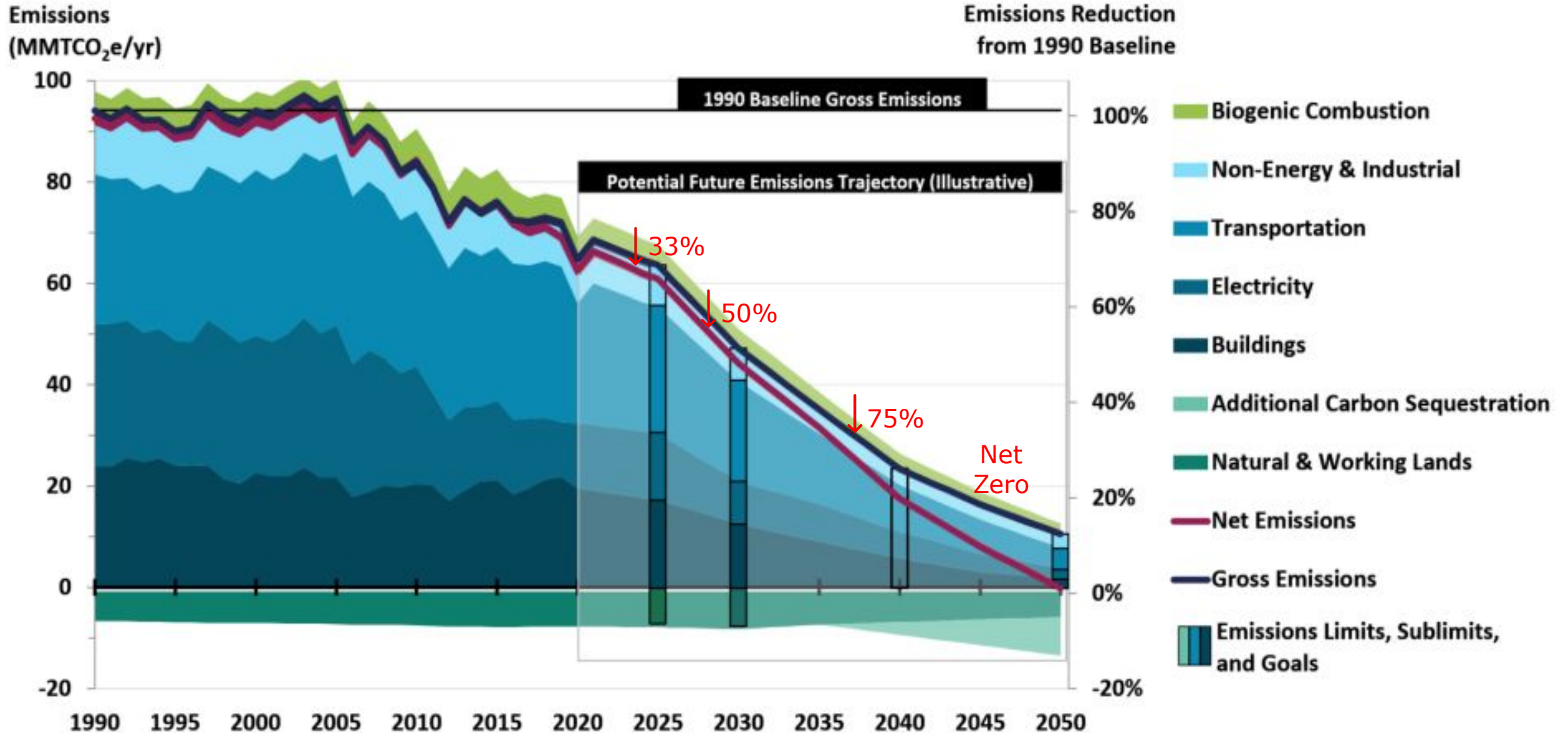
MA Climate Assessment

Massachusetts Climate Report Card

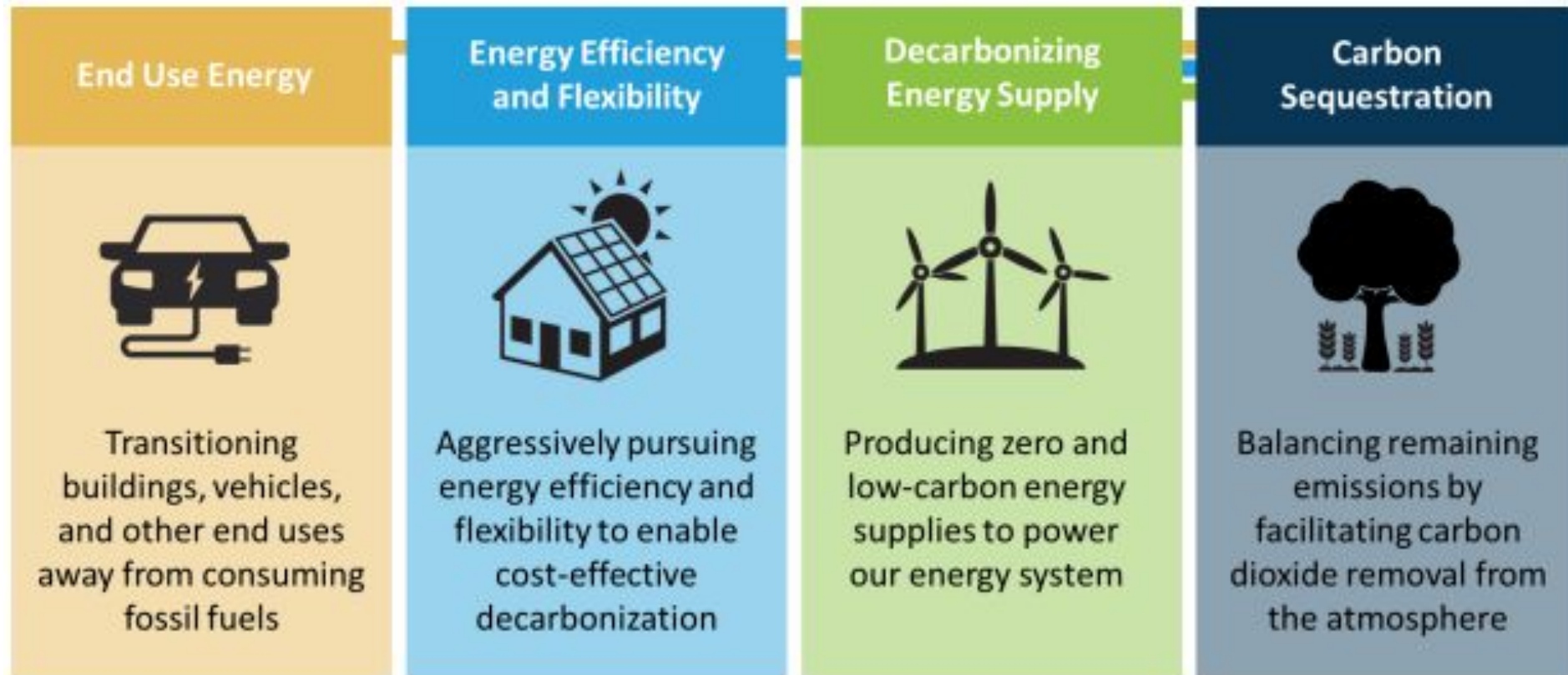
Clean Energy & Climate Metrics Dashboard



Massachusetts Has Set Ambitious GHG Reduction Goals



How Are We Going to Get There?



Climate Leaders – Next iteration of Green Communities



Builds on success for Green Communities program



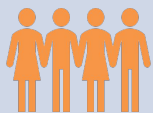
Aligns resources for municipalities with EEA energy and climate goals



Enhances engagement and forward progress with municipalities






Encourages adoption of climate/clean energy policies and programs



Expands opportunities for community engagement

Program Evolution: From Green Community to Climate Leader

Green Communities Criteria		Climate Leaders Criteria
Adopt as-of-right siting for RE/AE generation, R&D, or manufacturing		Establish/maintain local committee to advise, coordinate, and/or lead clean energy and climate activities
Adopt expedited permitting process		Municipal decarbonization commitment
Create an Energy Reduction Plan to reduce energy use by 20% in 5 years		Create Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap with 2030 & 2050 goals
Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles		ZEV-First vehicle policy
Minimize life cycle cost in new construction – a.k.a adopt the Stretch Code		Specialized Stretch Code Adoption

Recertify every 3 years – must complete a community engagement "best practice"

295 of 351 Cities/Towns
are Green Communities

91% of the population
lives in a Green
Community

\$177M+ grants awarded
since 2010

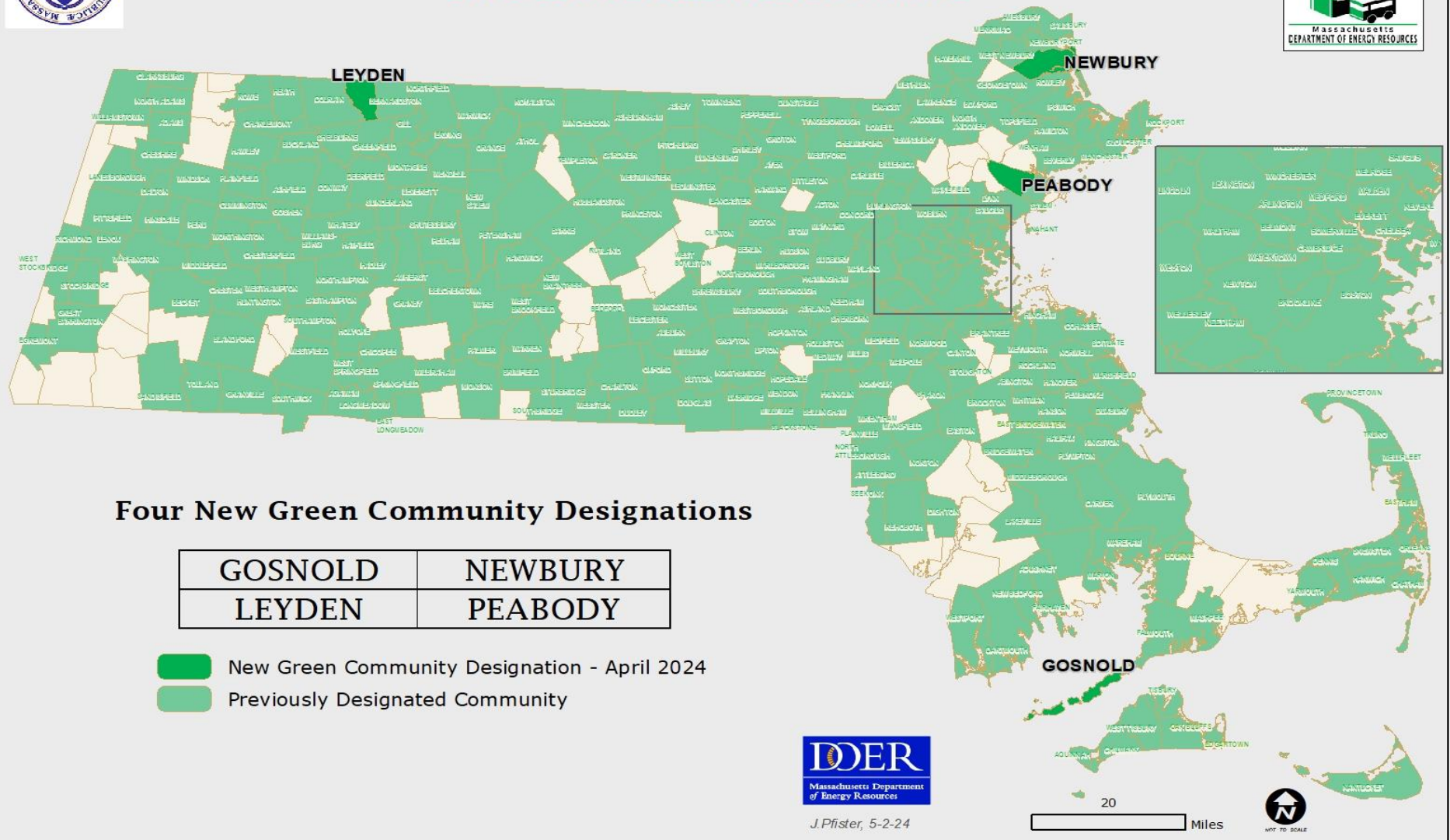
\$41M Leveraged in
MassSave Incentives

\$28M Annual Energy
Cost Savings

72K tons GHG reduced



GREEN COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS REACH TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE



Why Be a Climate Leader



Climate Leader Best Practices



Proposed Climate Leader Best Practices in:

Clean energy policies and planning
Community Engagement
Clean mobility and transportation



A toolkit for municipalities under development



To be recertified (3 yrs) Climate Leaders are required to implement one Community Engagement Activity for the first cycle

Proposed Climate Leaders– Best Practices Recommended

Clean energy and climate policy/planning	Community Engagement – Equity Consideration Required	Clean transportation & mobility
Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)	Community Climate Action/Net Zero Plan	Incorporate EV charging stations in parking and/or zoning regulations
Tree City USA Certification	Community Choice Aggregation with 100% Class 1 renewable option	Deploy and/or actively promote the use of publicly accessible EV charging stations within community.
Building benchmarking/performance ordinance	Community Clean Energy Campaign (Solarize, HeatSmart, EV promotion, etc.)	Tier 3 Complete Streets certification PLUS implementation one policy/plan addressing bike/pedestrian safety and access
Streamline permitting for renewables	Youth outreach/education	Fleet electrification plan
Additional "Green Zoning" to promote smart growth, including walkability, reduce heat island effect, and reduction in water runoff	Targeted clean energy for historically marginalized and over-burdened populations. Can be in conjunction with MassSave Community First Partnership and/or Mass CEC's EmPower program	Deploy and/or actively promote EV/E-Bike or "regular" bike share *
Land Policies promoting carbon sequestration	Climate/clean energy event	School bus electrification plan
Electricity for municipal use purchased via competitive supply at least double the minimum RPS Class 1 requirements	Participating in MVP 2.0	Development and promotion of local mobility hub OR micro-mobility

Climate Leader Grants



Implementing Climate Leader Best Practices



Municipal building electrification/decarbonization



Seed funds for a municipal clean energy/climate coordinator



Support for on-site solar PV + storage



Support for geothermal for new and existing buildings



Other innovative projects

Approach to Grants

Include capacity-building and non-capital-intensive projects on existing Competitive Grant application

- Encourages continued focus on efficiency
- Encourages “best practice” implementation
- Simpler application/evaluation process

Create a Climate Leader “accelerator” grant focusing on:

- Building decarbonization
- On-site solar + storage
- Geothermal technologies

Climate Leaders Decarbonization Accelerator Grant



Municipal building electrification/decarbonization



Support for on-site solar PV + storage



Support for geothermal for existing buildings and new construction

Pre-construction

- Feasibility studies
- Pre-electrification work
- Test wells
- Procurement documents

Equipment and installation

- Buy down the cost of direct ownership or PPA

Quick Win

- Solar on newly constructed all-electric schools

Program Timeline

Summer 2024	Fall 2024
Start accepting applications July 25; reviewed on a rolling basis	Announce availability of Climate Leader grants
Specialized Code community education	Support Town Meeting/City Council votes
MassEnergyInsight updates	Offer 2 nd round of decarbonization roadmap planning assistance

Green Communities Contacts

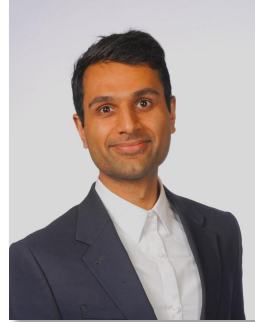
Regional Coordinators act as direct liaisons with cities and towns

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Questions?

