



April 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

Lexington adopts integrated building design policy, bans plastic straws, and adds EV charging stations



Kudos to Lexington for adopting several clean energy and clean transportation proposals at their recent town meeting. The town voted to develop and adopt an [integrated building design policy](#) that sets clear targets for the performance of current and planned buildings in the areas of health, energy performance, energy management and resilience; and evaluates gaps against those outcomes. They also passed bans against the use of [plastic straws](#) and single use [styrofoam](#)

[\(polystyrene\) food packaging](#), and approved funding to install 10 additional electric vehicle ([EV](#)) [chargers](#) in five locations.

Has your community made [clean energy](#) or [clean transportation](#) commitments? We would love to feature your efforts, email [Veena](#) with details.

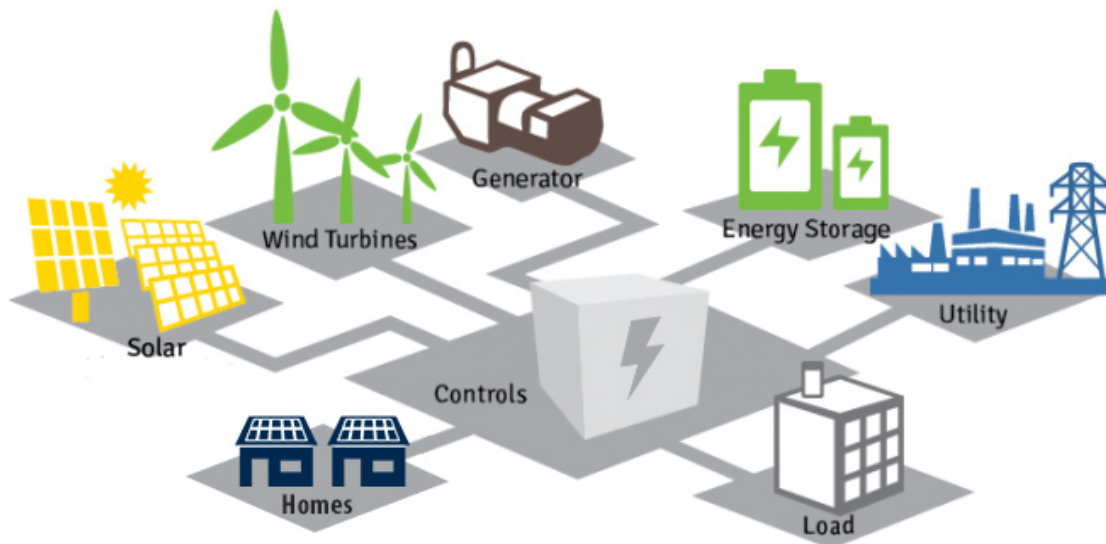
Massachusetts approves 800 MW of offshore wind



The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) [approved a long-term contract for 800MW](#) of offshore wind between [Vineyard Wind](#) and the Commonwealth's electric distribution companies. The proposed project involves the installation of up to 106 wind turbines of 8 – 10 MW each and is expected to be operational in 2021.

As per the contract Vineyard Wind has committed to contribute \$15 million to a fund that will invest in projects designed to promote the use of battery storage in low-income communities and support the Commonwealth's goal to further the development of energy storage systems across the state. This March a [second RFP](#) for up to 800MW of additional offshore wind was submitted to DPU.

Medford to Install a Microgrid Energy Management System



Medford awarded Solect Energy a contract to install a microgrid and energy storage demonstration project at the city's Department of Public Works (DPW). The system includes a 235kW PV solar array and a 100kW/255kWh distributed storage solution. Built with a \$833,000 grant through the [Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative](#), the project will improve resiliency and reduce the city's electric demand charges. In addition, the city plans to take advantage of the storage capacity to effectively participate in demand response programs to further reduce operating expenses.

Winchester Adopts Target to Reduce Emissions by 80 Percent

This Earth Day the Select Board in Winchester unanimously adopted a commitment to reduce greenhouse emissions by 80 percent by 2050, with interim targets of a 40 percent and 60 percent reduction below 2006 levels by 2030 and 2040 respectively. In Winchester, the residential sector accounts for 86% of emissions. The newly formed Climate Action Plan Committee will help develop a roadmap to achieve the town's climate goals. For more information contact [Ruth Trimarchi](#), Chair of the Climate Action Advisory Committee.

Pollution and Toxics

Grant Helps Plymouth Clean Wastewater Released into the Harbor



A grant of \$135,000 from the [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center](#) (Mass CEC) will help the wastewater treatment plant at Camelot Industrial Plant in Plymouth clean the effluent more effectively before it is discharged into the harbor. The grant will help pay for tank sensors to measure pH and nitrates in the effluent so that the treatment process can be optimized to lower nitrogen levels before treated water is discharged. The sensors will help reduce energy costs and improve the quality of the 1.7 million gallons of treated effluent that is released into the Plymouth Harbor every day.

West Tisbury, Lynn, and Hingham Pass Bylaws to Limit Use of Single Use Plastic



The town of West Tisbury on Martha's Vineyard voted unanimously to ban plastic water and soda bottles, 34oz or smaller. A big shout out to the [fifth and sixth graders at West Tisbury School](#) for leading these efforts and for taking the bylaw to neighboring Chilmark and Aquinnah. While several communities in Massachusetts including Concord, Great Barrington and Sudbury have bans on smaller single-use plastic bottles, West Tisbury is the first town in the nation to also ban soda bottles.

Lynn and Hingham joined other Massachusetts communities including Chatham, Acton, Pittsfield, Gloucester, and Mansfield to ban single use plastic bags. As of April 2019, [98 Massachusetts cities and towns](#), representing over 45% of the state's population, regulate single-

use plastic shopping bags.

Clean Transportation

Sierra Club Releases Guide on Using Volkswagen Settlement Funds for Clean Transportation Projects



Did you know that there are [millions of dollars available](#) through the Volkswagen Settlement to invest in clean electric vehicles? Sierra Club has released a [guide for municipalities, transit agencies, and school districts](#) to access Volkswagen Settlement funds to invest in electric charging infrastructure, electric transit buses, electric school buses, electric garbage trucks, and electric port or airport vehicles.

The Commonwealth is taking a multi-phase approach to spending its share of \$75 million in Volkswagen Settlement Funds. [Read how Year 1 funds of \\$23.5 million will help us reduce emissions](#) from the transportation sector and use [this guide](#) to accelerate transportation electrification in your community.

The Commonwealth Awards Grants for Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure



The Commonwealth awarded grants totaling \$370,566 to support electric vehicles and related infrastructure across the Commonwealth through the [Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program \(MassEVIP\)](#) and Workplace Charging initiatives. The grant supported the procurement of 50 electric vehicles by communities including Littleton, Waltham, Cohasset, Oaks Bluff, Woburn, Marion and Newton. Grant recipients include municipal governments, public colleges and universities, state agencies with vehicle fleets, and workplaces with 15 or more employees.

The MassEVIP Fleets program provides up to \$7,500 per vehicle to purchase or lease plug-in EVs and up to another \$7,500 to install the stations needed to charge them. The [MassEVIP Workplace Charging program](#) funds 60 percent of the cost of charging stations, up to \$50,000 per address, for employers with at least 15 employees on-site. The MassEVIP Workplace Charging funds are part of Massachusetts \$75 million allocation under the Volkswagen Settlement. These incentives are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To apply click [here](#).

Task Force Releases Report Outlining Vision for RTAs



The Task Force on Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Performance and Funding [released their report](#) on the how transit authorities could better improve services for their communities, maximize ridership and ensure that fares, local contributions, and other revenues cover an appropriate share of costs. The 15 RTAs serve a vital role in communities across Massachusetts and provides bus service for millions of people to get to where they need to go.

To read the 24 recommendations by the Task Force, focusing on five categories: Investment & Performance, Accountability, Service Decisions, Quality of Service, and Environmental Sustainability, click [here](#) .

Brookline Launches Electric Scooter Pilot



As part of a pilot program, Brookline became the first community in the Commonwealth to [test a fleet of 200 dockless electric scooters](#). The scooters operated by two companies, Lime and Bird can reach speeds up to 15 MPH. Riders can unlock the scooters through a smartphone app and start riding a scooter for \$1, with additional charges based on the length of the trip.

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