

Introduction to Becoming a Climate Leader Community

What are the benefits of becoming a Climate Leader Community (CLC)?

As an approved Climate Leader Community, **the Town could apply for a state grant for up to \$1 MILLION (in the current grant period) in energy & cost-saving upgrades to Town buildings!**

- **The longer we wait, the less grant funding may be available.**
- Funds could be used for the following types of municipal projects: solar panels (including using grant money to cover costs of expired federal incentives), heat pumps, energy use reduction, & energy storage.
- The Town would join 19 MA communities that are CLCs, lowering our climate impact, potentially lowering our municipal energy bills, preparing the Town for power outages, & providing grants for energy upgrades.

How do we become a CLC?

A. If the Town meets the 5 requirements to becoming a Climate Leader Community, a step up from being a Green Community, we could apply to the state to be a CLC.

- We already meet 2 of the 5 requirements: ✓ Being a *Green Community* in good standing ✓ Having an energy committee to lead clean energy & climate work.

We'll need to:

A. Adopt two Town Meeting articles that:

1. **Commit to ending the on-site burning of fossil fuels in municipal buildings by 2050** (a non-binding resolution).
2. **Adopt the Opt-In Specialized Stretch Code**, which affects **only new construction (not additions or renovations)**, and builds on the energy efficiency and clean energy measures of the Stretch Code that we follow now as a Green Community.
 - 55 communities have adopted the Specialized Stretch Code.
 - The added requirements provide market choices.
 - 2020-2024 the Town has added 2-6 new single family homes and 2-10 commercial buildings yearly: applies to few buildings.

B. The Town would also need to agree to a Zero-Emission Vehicle First policy, gradually replacing town-owned fossil-fuel powered vehicles with ones powered by electricity or other zero-emission options.

- Are there exceptions for vehicles like fire and dump trucks not currently available as electric vehicles?
 - Yes, while zero-emission vehicles must be prioritized, there are exceptions if vehicles are not yet available and able to function in ways that meet our needs.

About the Opt-In Specialized Stretch Code (*Specialized Stretch Code*):

How would NEW HOMES meet the Specialized Stretch Code?

- **ALL-ELECTRIC homes of any size would meet the Specialized Stretch Code, and most are less expensive to build than homes with fossil fuels because of \$15,000 or \$25,000 Mass Save new home incentives & more.**
- **New homes using some fossil fuels (“mixed fuel” homes) have the same energy efficiency requirements as in the current Stretch Code and will have to include the following:**
 - Be pre-wired for future electrification of heating & cooling and other appliances, saving on future upgrades.
 - Smaller mixed fuel homes under 4,000 square feet (SF) must include at least 4 kilowatts of rooftop solar panels (with exceptions for roofs unsuitable for solar) or meet the Passive House efficiency standard.
 - Homes 4,000 SF or larger must fully offset fossil fuel use with on-site solar panels (with exceptions for roofs unsuitable for solar).

NEW COMMERCIAL & MUNICIPAL buildings (including schools) have similar requirements as residential homes:

- No additional code requirements for all-electric buildings.
- Pre-wiring and rooftop solar requirements for mixed-fuel buildings.

NEW LARGE APARTMENTS & CONDOS. (12,000 SF+) meeting the Specialized Stretch Code are required to:

- Meet the highly energy-efficient Passive House building standard.
- Pre-wire for future electrification of mixed-fuel buildings.