CleanEnergyGroup

CleanEnergy States Alliance

Batteries 101, Part 4:

Municipal Considerations for Battery Energy Storage in Massachusetts

September 12, 2024

Affordable, reliable, clean energy for all.

Climate Resilience and Community Health

Distributed Energy Access and Equity

Energy Storage and Flexible Demand

Fossil Fuel Replacement

Celebrating 20 Years of State Leadership

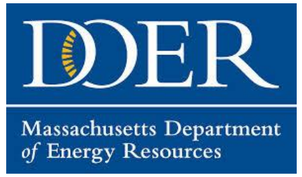
Clean Energy States Alliance

The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is a national, nonprofit coalition of public agencies and organizations working together to advance clean energy.

CESA members—mostly state agencies—include many of the most innovative, successful, and influential public funders of clean energy initiatives in the country.

CleanEnergy States Alliance

www.cesa.org



Webinar Speakers

Batteries 101, Part 4: Municipal Considerations for Battery Energy Storage in Massachusetts

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MassDEP
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

MAPC
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

Town of Acton Massachusetts

September 12, 2024

About This Webinar Series

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- Three Massachusetts agencies – Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) – have been working together since 2011 as the Clean Energy Results Program (CERP).
- This webinar series is a collaboration between CEG/CESA and the three Massachusetts agencies working collectively as CERP.

About This Webinar Series

Today's webinar is #4 of a 4-part series

Webinar 1: Intro to Energy Storage

- Battery storage basics
- Role of battery energy storage in the Massachusetts decarbonization plan
- Available incentives and technical support

Webinar 2: Energy Storage Benefits and Applications

- Fossil fuel peaker plant replacement
- Energy and environmental equity
- Grid benefits
- Resilience

Webinar 3: Considerations for Battery Siting

- Fire safety
- Environmental considerations
- Security

Webinar 4: Municipal Considerations for Battery Installations

- Siting
- Permitting
- Planning
- Zoning
- Municipal best practices

NOTE: This webinar series is for informational purposes only.

We will answer as many questions as possible, prioritizing questions from Massachusetts residents or about Massachusetts-specific topics.

All webinars are recorded and will be available, along with the slides, on the CEG/CESA website.

Thank You

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Thank You

Find upcoming webinars and register at

www.cleanegroup.org/webinars

CleanEnergyGroup

CleanEnergy States Alliance

www.cleanegroup.org | www.cesa.org | info@cleanegroup.org

Typical Local Process for Clean Energy and Infrastructure Projects: Acton Case Study

Energy Storage & Ambitious Climate Goals

Climate emissions target (Climate Emergency Declaration called for net zero by 2030)

Actions that address storage in the Climate Action Plan:

- E2.2: Run campaigns to help residents procure solar, **storage,** air source heat pumps, electric vehicle charging stations, and other clean energy technologies.

- E3.1: Maximize the installation of renewable energy and **energy storage systems** wherever feasible on all municipal buildings and Acton-Boxborough Regional School District buildings."

- E4.1: Advocate for greater clean energy investments at the state level. This will include supporting a stronger Renewable Portfolio Standard coupled with greater amounts of **utility-scale energy storage.**

Challenges with Energy Storage

- New and changing market
- Limited understanding and training available about the technology
  - Municipal staff lack understanding to assess projects
  - Public awareness around benefits and risks of energy storage
- Financing projects and procurement (for municipal led ESS)
- Interconnection with utility and islandability
- Franchise agreements/ rights of way if seeking to do a micro-grid

Key Local Processes

- **Planning and Zoning:** Ensure project and construction meets community goals and requirements for land use
- **Permitting:** Code and other regulatory compliance
- **Conservation Commission:** Ensure protection of natural resources
- **Board of Health:** Public health, hazardous materials, and noise
- **Select Board / Council:** Utility poles, tree and other hearings
- **Engineering:** Curb cut /right of way changes
- **PILOT** (payment in lieu of taxes) and **Community Benefits Agreements**

Permitting and Inspections: Code Compliance

Type	Enforcement Authority	Relevant Code
Building	Inspectional Services	Massachusetts State Building Code 780 CMR (10th Edition based on 2021 International Code Series, will be in place in 2024)
Electrical	Inspectional Services	Massachusetts Electrical Code (2023 edition of NFPA National Electrical Code) • Article 705- Interconnected Energy Power Sources • Article 706- Energy Storage Systems (ESS) operating at more than 50 volts AC and 60 volts DC • Article 712- DC Microgrids
Fire	Fire Department	NFPA 1 Fire and Electrical Requirements (2021 Edition) • NFPA 1, Fire Code, Chapter 52 • NFPA 110, Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems • NFPA 111. Stored Electrical Energy Emergency and Standby Power Systems

Case Study: Acton Battery Storage Project

Agency	2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Select Board								
ZBA								
BOH								
Cons. Comm								
Mass DEP								

Lessons Learned:

- More state support is needed to prepare fire departments and permitting offices with training and resources related to battery storage safety.
- Lack of consistent technical and safety standards makes it difficult to navigate permitting process
- Community engagement input improves the project

Scaling up Battery Energy Storage in MA

Municipal Considerations

CEG/CESA Webinar

September 12, 2024

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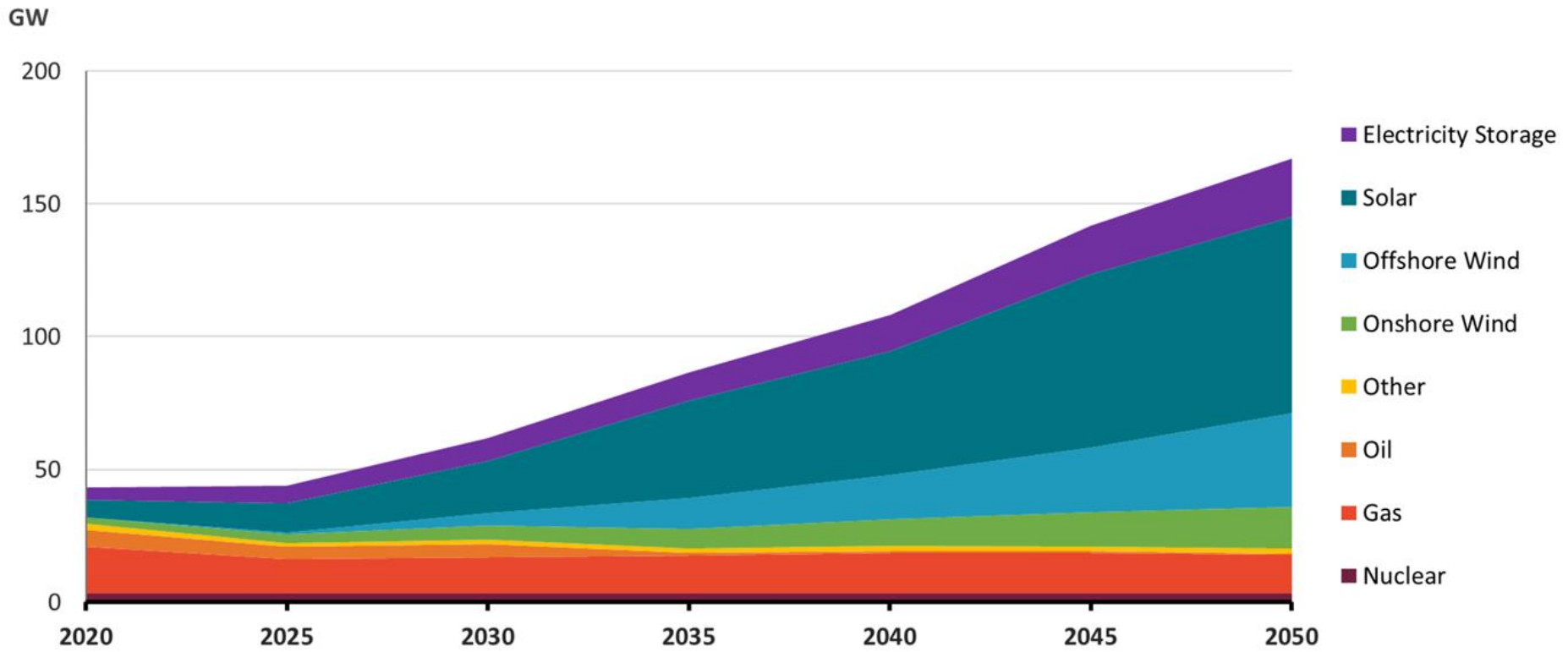
Scale-up of clean energy infrastructure

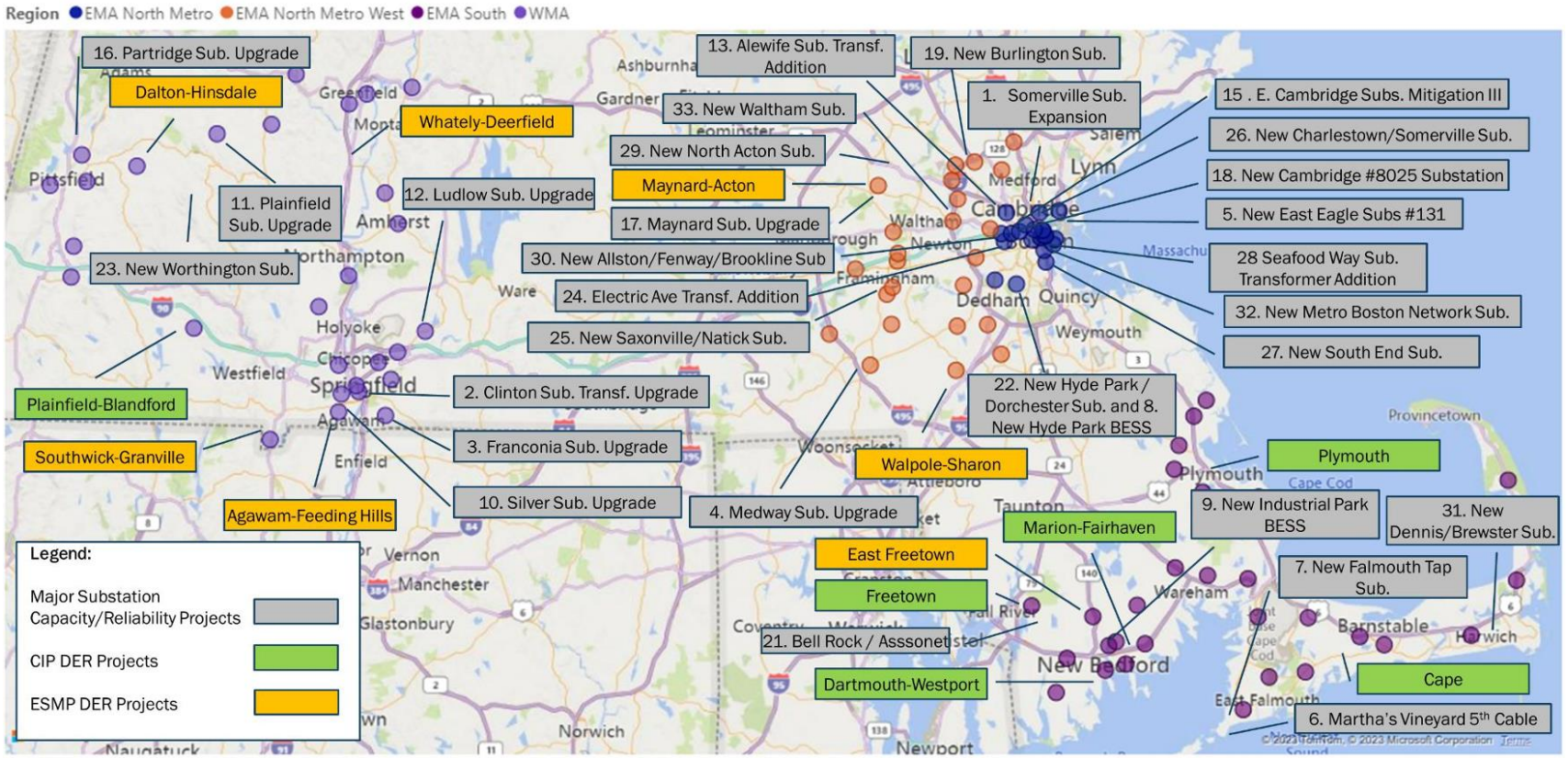
Substantial increase in renewables, storage, and electrical infrastructure needed to meet Commonwealth's climate goals



Source: MA 2025 CECP

Scale-up of clean energy infrastructure

New infrastructure (including renewables, storage, and grid infrastructure) will directly impact Massachusetts communities.



Source: Eversource Electric Sector Modernization Plan

BESS offers many benefits to municipalities

- Interests in installing storage in municipal facilities
- Energy benefits, resiliency for municipal operations and shelters
- Municipal utility grid management
- Lead by example

Photo credit: Enel X

Photo credit: Lightshift

Community Concerns

GREGORY BARBER BUSINESS SEP 8, 2023 7:00 AM

Big Batteries Are Booming. So Are Fears They'll Catch Fire

The world needs thousands of new grid battery installations to fight climate change. They rarely catch fire—but many people are skeptical of hav door.

WIRED Big Batteries Are Booming. So Are Fears They'll Catch Fire SIGN I

A retired natural gas plant in Moss Landing, California, now houses banks of batteries and associated infrastructure to back up the electric grid. PHOTOGRAPH: CARLOS AVILA GONZALEZ/THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/GETTY IMAGES

After three fires and a solar plant toxic fumes scare, New York launches safety probe into battery energy storage

State governor sets up Fire Safety Working Group after residents told to stay at home in third recent incident at solar farm

31 July 2023 11:34 GMT UPDATED 31 July 2023 13:12 GMT

By Cosmo Sanderson

New York governor Kathy Hochul launched a special taskforce to investigate the safety of battery energy storage facilities after a third blaze in the state this year left residents warned to stay indoors.

Home // Local Coverage

As Final Vote On Electrical Substation Nears, East Boston Residents Say State's Approval Process Has Left Them Out

07:17

Updated February 03, 2021 By Miriam Wasser

East Boston resident Diana Cifuentes. (Robin Lubbock/WBUR)

Home // Local Coverage // Environment

Mass. can expand solar without chopping so much forest, report says

04:01

October 02, 2023 By Barbara Moran

A technician removes a solar panel from a lift during a solar panel installation on the rooftop of Boston Building Resources in Jamaica Plain. (Jesse Costa/WBUR)

POLICE & FIRE

Fire and explosion injures Eversource worker at power substation in Newton, leaves thousands without power, according to fire department

Updated: Jun. 21, 2022, 9:33 a.m. | Published: Jun. 21, 2022, 9:02 a.m.

Community Concerns

- Land use impacts from renewable generation, storage, and infrastructure
- Concerns about fire risk and water contamination from batteries
- Conservation of natural and working lands
- Perpetuation of environmental justice and equity issues

Challenges with Energy Storage

- New and changing market
- Changing landscape of federal and state incentives
- Limited understanding and training available about the technology
  - Municipal staff lack understanding to assess projects
  - Public awareness around benefits and risks of energy storage
  - Some municipalities have tried to pass bylaws significantly restricting or banning energy storage projects
- Limited state guidance

Planning and Zoning Overview

- Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals
- Widespread use of zoning bylaws that establish regulations for solar PV installations
- More limited zoning bylaws for storage
  - Broadly characterized as bans, moratoria, and other requirements/regulations
  - Where bylaws exist, typically more detailed requirements for commercial and utility-scale systems
  - Smaller residential systems often allowed by right with fewer restrictions

Planning and Zoning Overview

- EFSB and DPU can exempt projects from local zoning for large-scale facilities
- MGL Ch. 40a, Sec. 3 prevents zoning ordinances/by-laws that *"prohibit or unreasonably regulate [solar installations] except where necessary to protect public health, safety or welfare."*
  - *Tracer Lane* case first SJC interpretation of 40a, Sec 3 in 2022
- DPU rulings deemed two large utility-scale storage as public service corporations in Carver and Medway in June 2023

BESS Zoning since *Tracer Lane*: The Bans

AG has ruled that BESS "qualify as 'structures that facilitate the collection of solar energy' under G.L. c. 40A § 3" and has disapproved all bans/near bans

Municipality	Summary	Status
Wendell	Prohibition on standalone commercial/ industrial-scale BESS	AGO **disapproves** prohibition, ruling that "[BESS] qualify as 'structures that facilitate the collection of solar energy' under G.L. c. 40A § 3" (3/1/23)
Medway	Establishes bylaw for storage (Tier 1 ≤ 1MW, Tier 2 by special permit w/ major site plan review and only in Energy Resource District)	AGO **approves** bylaw except for limitation of Tier 2 storage in Energy Resource District due to overly restrictive setback requirements likely effecting a prohibition of Tier 2 storage in the Town (5/17/23)
Pelham	Prohibits ESS as a principal use in all zoning districts, citing risk of water contamination and fire	AGO **disapproves** prohibition on ESS, noting need for "public health, safety, or welfare concern necessary to justify the prohibition." (12/4/23)
Sherborn	Prohibits BESS that are not secondary and accessory to PV system	AGO **disapproves** BESS prohibition as violation of c. 40a, § 3 (4/2/24)

See also: Spencer (5/30/23), Hubbardston (12/19/23), Hanson (3/7/24), and Wareham (4/22/24)

BESS Zoning since *Tracer Lane*: The Moratoria

AG has largely rejected use of moratoria on storage outside of very limited purposes

Municipality	Summary	Status
Carver	One year moratorium on use of land for BESS	AGO **disapproves** moratorium on battery storage as violation of c. 40a, § 3 (11/14/22)
Ware	13-month moratorium on BESS siting (BESS has been in zoning bylaw since 2020)	AGO **disapproves** moratorium on battery storage as violation of c. 40a, § 3 (3/15/23)
Hanson	Two-year moratorium on Tier 1 BESS, allows Tier 2 BESS by special permit in BESS Overlay District	AGO **disapproves** bylaw as violation of c. 40a, § 3, noting failure to create a BESS Overlay District and acknowledging health and safety risks raised but noting record does not justify moratorium as only solution (3/7/24)
Medway (*pre-Tracer Lane)	18-month moratorium on use of land for BESS	AGO **approves** moratorium, acknowledging proper purpose for "resource problem solving specifically“ given ongoing consultant study to develop new bylaws

BESS Zoning since *Tracer Lane*: The Regulations

AG has approved most bylaws/provisions that do not violate c. 40A § 3, but significant inconsistencies between municipalities on capacity and requirements

Municipality	Summary	Status
Oxford	BESS of 5MW+/10MWh+ in industrial zones with site plan and special permit	AGO **approves** bylaw (11/28/22)
Medway	Establishes standards, differing permit/ zoning requirements for **2 tiers of BESS**	AGO **approves** bylaw except for overly restrictive reqs. for Tier 2 storage in Energy Resource District (5/17/23)
Ware	Establishes standards, differing permit/ zoning requirements for **4 tiers of BESS,** prohibits BESS in Aquifer Overlay District	AGO **approves** bylaw (12/11/23)
Blandford	Establishes standards, differing permit/ zoning requirements for **3 tiers of BESS**	AGO **approves** bylaw (6/26/24)
Spencer	Establishes standards, differing permit/ zoning requirements for **4 tiers of BESS**	AGO **approves** bylaw (8/20/24)

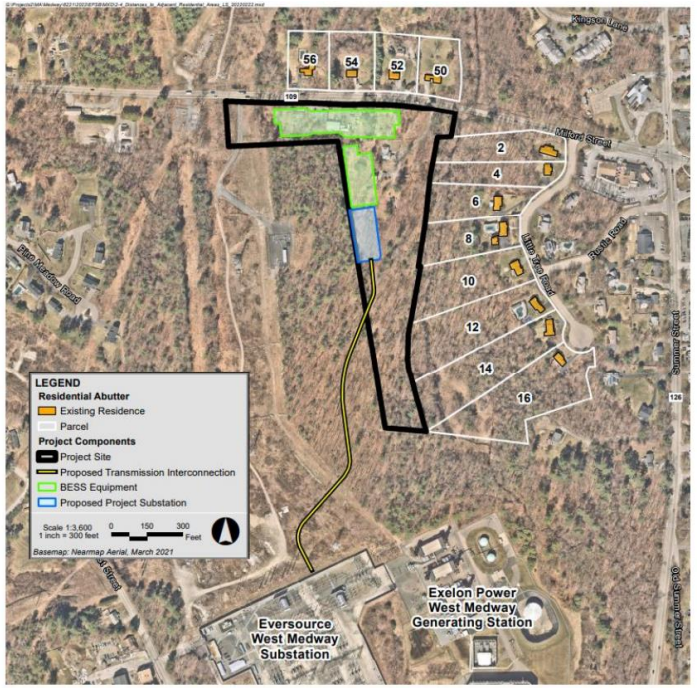
See also: Athol (12/20/22), Lancaster (10/20/23), Shrewsbury (12/21/23), Wilbraham (9/5/24)

Case Study: Medway Grid

- Nov 2021: Medway town meeting imposes moratorium on BESS construction in ER zoning district until 6/30/23
- Feb 2022: Medway Grid files with EFSB for zoning exemption
- May 2022: AG approves moratorium but clarifies EFSB projects like Medway Grid are exempted
- Sep 2022: Medway Grid signs host community agreement w/ Town
- Oct 2022: EEA issues SEIR certificate for MEPA compliance
- Nov 2022: Medway enacts Article 15 and 16
- May 2023: EFSB rules that BESS is not subject to EFSB jurisdiction; AG approves Article 15 and most of Article 16
- Jun 2023: DPU rules project as a public service corporation necessary for public convenience and welfare and granted comprehensive zoning exemptions

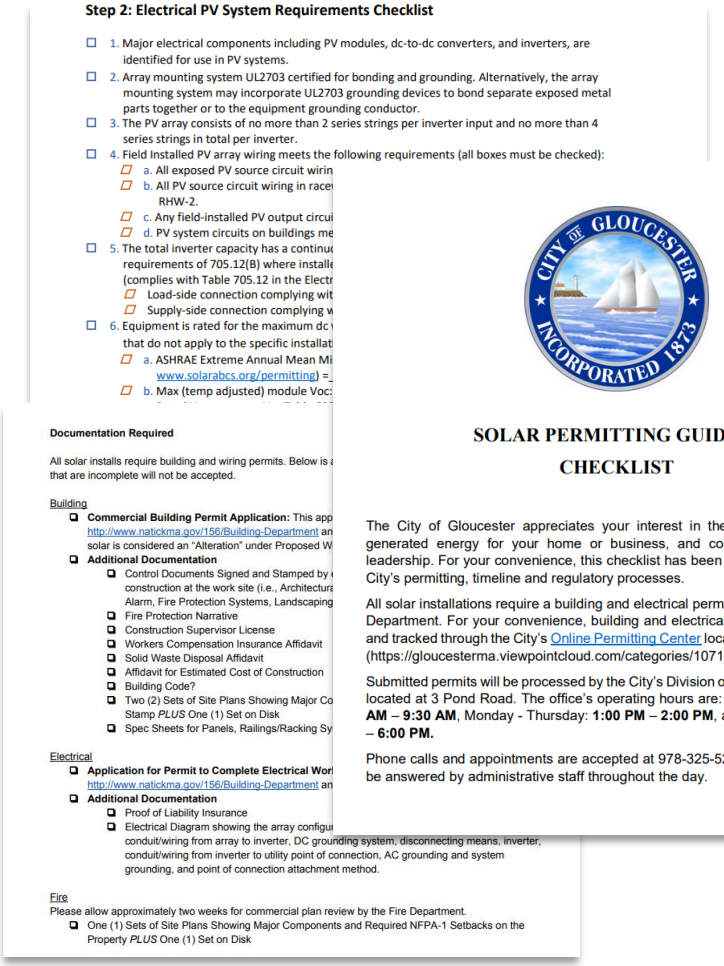
Construction process ongoing

Medway Grid project: 500 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS), substation, and underground transmission line



Strengthening State Guidance

- Successful state support for municipal zoning and permitting for solar PV
  - Over 180 MA municipalities have adopted zoning ordinances for as-of-right siting for solar PV (>250 kW) through Green Communities designation
  - Nearly all communities in MA have adopted some form of expedited permitting for solar
- Forthcoming guidance and model BESS bylaw from DOER will provide valuable clarity and support to municipalities
- Further guidance and resources (as in proposed legislation) will further build municipal capacity and consistency between communities



Step 2: Electrical PV System Requirements Checklist

1. Major electrical components including PV modules, dc-to-dc converters, and inverters, are identified for use in PV systems.
2. Array mounting system UL2703 certified for bonding and grounding. Alternatively, the array mounting system may incorporate UL2703 grounding devices to bond separate exposed metal parts together or to the equipment grounding conductor.
3. The PV array consists of no more than 2 series strings per inverter input and no more than 4 series strings in total per inverter.
4. Field Installed PV array wiring meets the following requirements (all boxes must be checked):
   - a. All exposed PV source circuit wirin
   - b. All PV source circuit wiring in race RHW-2.
   - c. Any field-installed PV output circui
   - d. PV system circuits on buildings me
5. The total inverter capacity has a continu requirements of 705.12(B) where installe (complies with Table 705.12 in the Electr
   - Load-side connection complying wit
   - Supply-side connection complying w
6. Equipment is rated for the maximum dc that do not apply to the specific installat
   - a. ASHRAE Extreme Annual Mean Mi www.solarabcs.org/permitting) =_
   - b. Max (temp adjusted) module Voc:

Documentation Required

All solar installs require building and wiring permits. Below is a that are incomplete will not be accepted.

Building

- **Commercial Building Permit Application:** This app http://www.natickma.gov/156/Building-Department an solar is considered an "Alteration" under Proposed W
- **Additional Documentation**
  - Control Documents Signed and Stamped by construction at the work site (i.e., Architectura Alarm, Fire Protection Systems, Landscaping
  - Fire Protection Narrative
  - Construction Supervisor License
  - Workers Compensation Insurance Affidavit
  - Solid Waste Disposal Affidavit
  - Affidavit for Estimated Cost of Construction
  - Building Code?
  - Two (2) Sets of Site Plans Showing Major Co Stamp *PLUS* One (1) Set on Disk
  - Spec Sheets for Panels, Railings/Racking Sy

Electrical

- **Application for Permit to Complete Electrical Wor** http://www.natickma.gov/156/Building-Department an
- **Additional Documentation**
  - Proof of Liability Insurance
  - Electrical Diagram showing the array configu conduit/wiring from array to inverter, DC grounding system, disconnecting means, inverter, conduit/wiring from inverter to utility point of connection, AC grounding and system grounding, and point of connection attachment method.

Fire

Please allow approximately two weeks for commercial plan review by the Fire Department.

- One (1) Sets of Site Plans Showing Major Components and Required NFPA-1 Setbacks on the Property *PLUS* One (1) Set on Disk

SOLAR PERMITTING GUIDE & CHECKLIST

The City of Gloucester appreciates your interest in the use of clean, locally generated energy for your home or business, and commends you for your leadership. For your convenience, this checklist has been designed to outline the City's permitting, timeline and regulatory processes.

All solar installations require a building and electrical permit from the City Building Department. For your convenience, building and electrical permits are submitted and tracked through the City's Online Permitting Center located on the City website (https://gloucesterma.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1071).

Submitted permits will be processed by the City's Division of Inspectional Services, located at 3 Pond Road. The office's operating hours are: Monday – Friday: **8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**, Monday - Thursday: **1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**, and Thursday: **5:00 PM – 6:00 PM.**

Phone calls and appointments are accepted at 978-325-5210, and questions can be answered by administrative staff throughout the day.

Questions?

Jeremy Koo
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Batteries 101, Part 4
Municipal Considerations for Battery Energy Storage in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Office of Environmental Justice and Equity

September 12, 2024

Goal

To engage regarding environmental justice and equity as a significant component of battery energy storage planning

Q&A

What is your understanding of environmental justice and equity?

History of Environmental Justice

Late 1960s/early 1970s, grassroots effort in the United States where minority and underprivileged communities faced disproportionate environmental burdens.

In the 1980s, the environmental justice movement really came into its own.

Today, the environmental justice movement is at the intersection of other movements – environment/climate, public health, workforce, food equity, and more.

Principles of Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice (EJ) is based on the principle that all people have a **right to be protected from environmental hazards** and to **live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment.**

EJ is the **equal protection and meaningful involvement** of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits.

EEA Office of Environmental Justice and Equity

The Massachusetts Office of Environmental Justice and Equity (OEJE) is **committed to ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of all environmental and energy benefits and burdens**. We work with all agencies under the Secretary to **ensure every policy and program is designed with equity** at the center, **ensuring all voices are heard and all voices are shaping the solutions**. We are working hard to ensure there is meaningful engagement in all processes, resulting in more equitable public policies.

EEA Environmental Justice Strategy

On February 15, 2024, the Healy-Driscoll Administration announced the release of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Strategy. The EJ Strategy is comprised of the environmental justice and equity **strategies** of EEA and its agencies.

The EJ Strategy is designed to inform and assist EEA staff in the **planning and implementation of programs and policies** under EEA's purview and is a tool for **public engagement**.

Cross-cutting strategies across EEA and its agencies include:

- Meaningful Engagement
- Staff Trainings
- Metrics and Tracking
- Language Access Plans
- Analyzing Project Impacts

Environmental Justice and Equity & Energy Battery Storage

The inequities of the power system are usually manifested in two ways: the inequitable distribution of burdens and benefits, and the lack of access to the energy transition technology opportunities

- Burdens: Environmental justice communities have long borne the burden of polluting energy infrastructure.
- Benefits: Energy storage should be sited so that benefits go to local communities. Energy storage deployment advances equitable outcomes.

- Sustainable Solutions:
  - Community engagement should be more extensive than a simple public comment meeting. Siting processes should be transparent and accessible, and communities should have a voice and a vote.
  - Siting decisions should incorporate a cumulative impacts analysis, which considers a community's total pollution burden.
  - Municipalities and industry leaders should ensure that communities are meaningfully involved in battery storage siting processes, and environmental justice communities should have input through mechanisms such as advisory boards or working groups. Siting should incorporate cumulative impacts analysis.

Thank You!

Crystal Johnson

Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Office of Environmental Justice and Equity

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting Reform Overview

Massachusetts' Clean Energy Needs

180 MW of wind by 2025
4,470 MW AC of solar by 2025

3,650 MW of wind by 2030
8,360 MW AC of solar by 2030

24 GW of wind by 2050
27+ GW AC of solar by 2050

IN-STATE RENEWABLE ELECTRIC CAPACITY

113 MW of wind capacity in 2022
3,325 MW AC of solar capacity in 2022

GHG REDUCTIONS

Net zero emissions by 2050

2021 · 2022 · 2023 · by 2025 · by 2030 · by 2050

ENERGY STORAGE CAPACITY

550 MWh of installed energy storage as of February 15, 2023

Energy storage target of **1,000 MWh** by 2025

5.8 GW of storage by 2050

ELECTRIC LOAD

By 2035, likely to have grown by as much as 50% compared to today (60 GWh to 90+ GWh)

Challenges with Current Process

- Permitting processes are lengthy, unpredictable, and sometimes duplicative
  - Timelines vary significantly and some projects have taken up to a decade to complete.
  - Historically, it has taken the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) between 1 and 4 years to issue approval to construct, after which the project still needs to get all other permits.
- Opportunities for appeal of each separate permit can cause years of delays
- Communities feel they often do not have sufficient or impactful input into the siting of major infrastructure projects
- Communities may not have the resources necessary to fully engage in permitting processes

Overview

- Commission was established by Executive Order 620
- Required to advise the Governor on:
  1. **accelerating the responsible deployment of clean energy infrastructure through siting and permitting reform**
  2. **facilitating community input**
  3. **ensuring that the benefits of the clean energy transition are shared equitably**
- Broad range of perspectives represented
- 13 meetings held over eight months
- Two public listening sessions held and over 1,500 public comments received
- Commission voted on a series of recommendations over multiple meetings in March, reaching consensus on some, but not all, topics
- Recommendations sent to Governor Healey on March 29, 2024

Recommendations

- **Define clean energy infrastructure** as solar, wind and anaerobic digestion facilities; storage facilities; and transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- **Consolidate permitting** at both state and local levels
- **Set mandatory timeframes** for permit decisions
- **Streamline appeals** processes
- Establish **community engagement requirements** for developers
- **Provide support to municipalities and organizations** to better engage in permitting processes
- Create **guidance on the suitability of sites** for future energy infrastructure development

Consolidated State Permitting

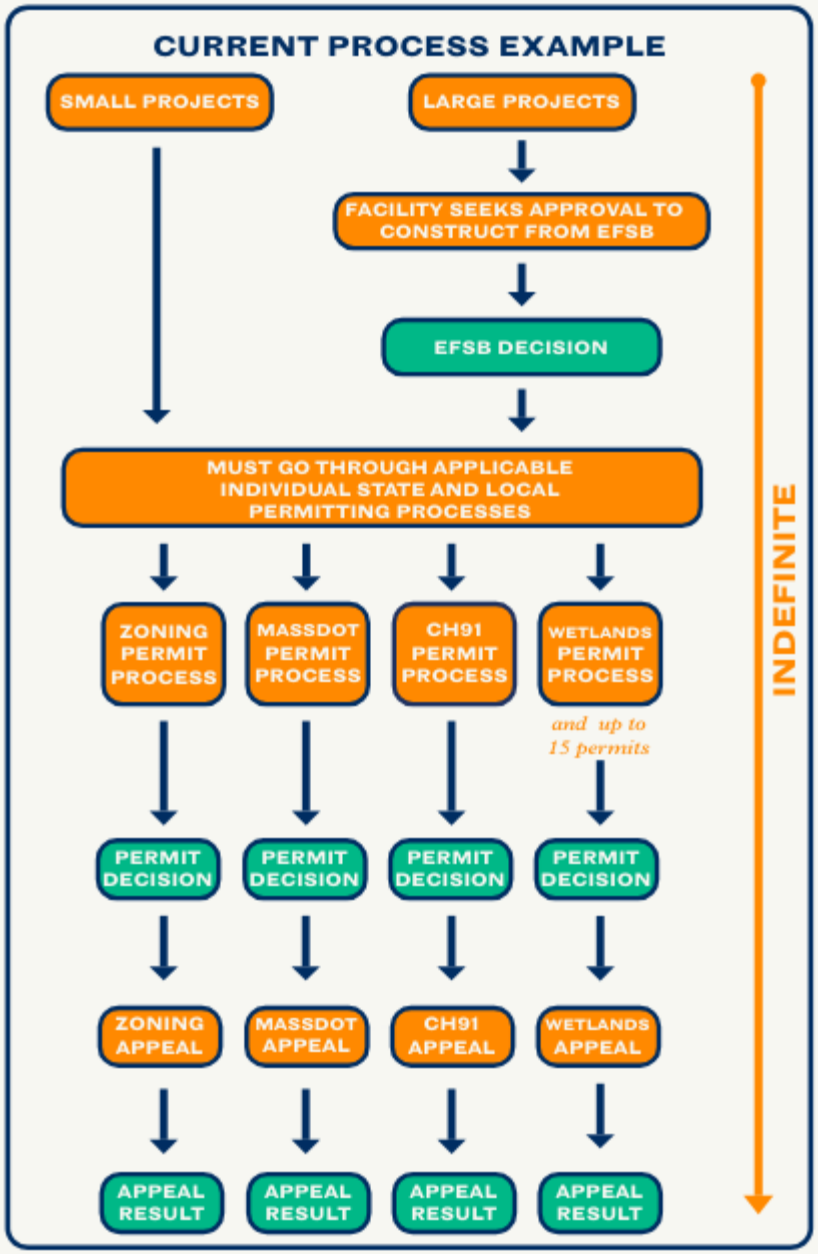
- Consolidate all state, regional, and local permits for larger projects into one consolidated permit issued by the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB).
- State and local agencies would be able to automatically intervene and would participate by issuing statements of recommended permit conditions.
- EFSB decisions can be appealed directly to the Supreme Judicial Court.
- Permit must be issued in less then 15 months from determination of application completeness.

- **Would apply to generation facilities >25 MW, storage facilities >100 MWh, and large new transmission projects**

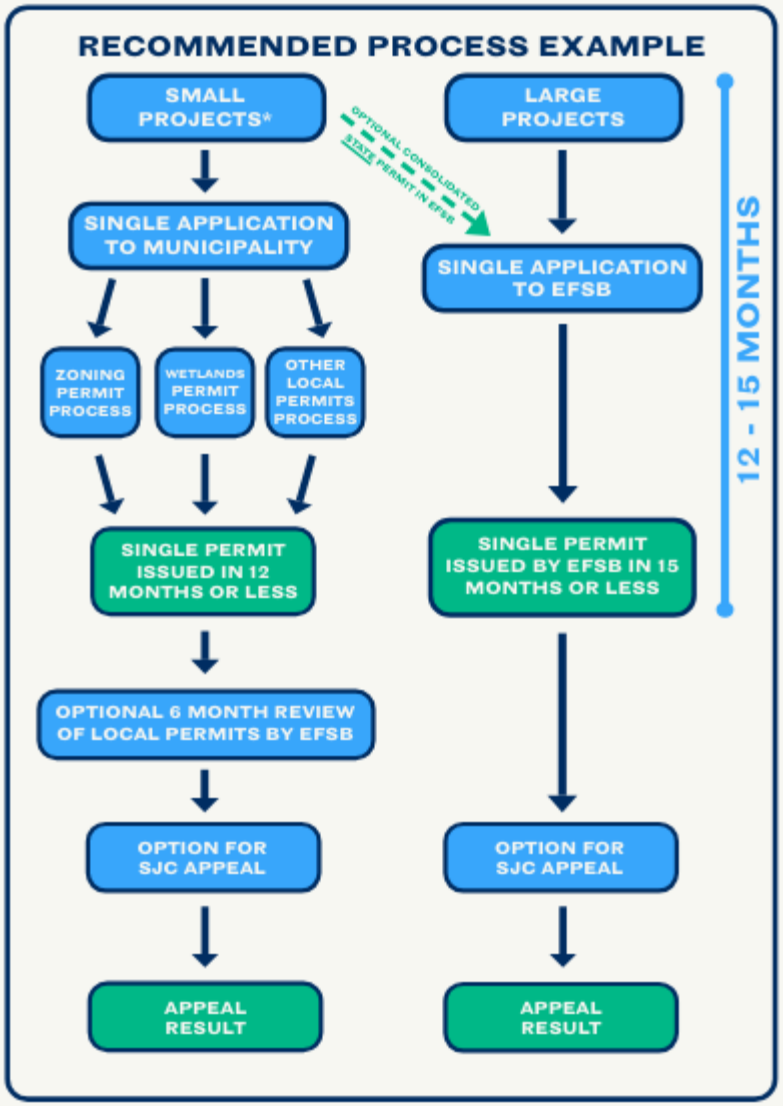
Consolidated Local Permitting

- Local governments retain all permitting powers for projects not subject to review by the EFSB.
- DOER to create a standard municipal permit application and a uniform set of baseline health, safety, and environmental standards to be used by local decision makers.
- Local governments may run separate approval processes concurrently (e.g., wetlands, zoning, etc.), but would be required to issue a single permit within 12 months, inclusive of all individual approvals/denials.
- Local governments can refer permitting review directly to the EFSB if they do not have sufficient resources.
- Parties may request EFSB review of a local government decision if substantially and specifically impacted by the decision.
- Appeals of EFSB then directly to the Supreme Judicial Court.

- **Would apply to generation facilities <25 MW, storage facilities <100 MWh, and non-EFSB jurisdictional transmission and distribution projects**



Current processes are confusing and delay much needed clean energy infrastructure as much as a decade.



Local and state permitting authorities remain largely the same, but timelines are shortened.

*Small utility projects like small transmission expansions can opt into the EFSB permitting process.

More Meaningful & Just Community Engagement

- First-ever mandatory community engagement requirements, including:
  - Project information to be posted on a public website and in locations where communities commonly gather at least 15 days prior to an initial public meeting, with translation provided;
  - Specificity on the number and types of meetings that must occur prior to filing with the EFSB;
  - 60-day written public comment period prior to filing with EFSB; and
  - Demonstration of efforts to involve community organizations and develop community benefit agreements.

- Formal establishment of the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity in statute, with a specific mandate to develop guidance regarding community benefits agreement and cumulative impact analyses.

- A new Division of Public Participation at DPU to assist communities and project applicants with engagement and process questions in DPU and EFSB proceedings.

- A new Division of Siting and Permitting at DOER to assist communities and project applicants with engagement and process questions in local permitting.

Additional Recommendations

- **Allow for large storage projects to apply for EFSB certificate**
- **MassDEP noise policy review**
- Create explicit seat for municipal interests on EFSB.
- Conduct management study to identify increased staffing requirements and clarify and expand funding sources for EFSB.
- Create site suitability methodology and guidance to inform state and local permitting processes about the suitability of sites for clean energy development, and help developers to avoid, minimize and mitigate environmental impacts.

Current Status and Next Steps

- Each chamber adopted bills (S.2838 and H.4884) that include the major reforms recommended by the Commission
- Legislation failed to pass during formal session that ended on July 31
- Siting and permitting reform remains a priority