

MUNICIPALLY OWNED RENEWABLE ENERGY



Solar Panels on the JFK Middle School in Northampton

What are the objectives of municipally owned renewable energy?

To combat global climate change, and help municipalities plan for a secure and sustainable energy future.

Why do we need municipally owned renewable energy?

All levels of government around the world have recognized the need to invest in clean and safe renewable energy sources. Municipalities in western Massachusetts are no different. The United States is over dependent on foreign

sources of energy. The world is over-dependent on polluting sources of energy. In 1998 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts joined a select number of states being one of the first to pass a renewable energy portfolio standard. This legislative act committed the Commonwealth to secure an ever increasing percentage of its electricity needs from clean and safe renewable sources. Every level of government needs to do their share to help us all transition away from dirty energy sources. Clean renewable energy will also save your municipality money.

How does municipally owned renewable energy work?

We recommend reviewing the [Massachusetts Technology Collaborative website](#) for much more detailed resources on municipally owned clean energy. Basically, municipally owned clean energy is just like any other municipal asset. You make the decision to invest your limited resources in clean energy. You hire consultants to help you determine what source of clean energy is available and makes the most sense for your community. You allocate the resources necessary (some funding is available from MTC—on a reimbursement basis) and you install the facilities. Massachusetts law prohibits municipalities from generating their own power for sale to the grid—unless you have a municipal utility. Therefore we recommend that you design your municipal clean energy facilities to generate only enough power to use on site. If you want to be an electricity generator, you can create a municipal utility or you can petition Congress for permission.

DID YOU KNOW...

that the city of Northampton has received more than one hundred thousand dollars from MTC for clean energy installations because 3% of residents agreed to pay more to buy clean energy?

EXAMPLES FROM THE PIONEER VALLEY



Northampton Solar Project

The Western Massachusetts city of Northampton used a Clean Energy Choice community matching grant to install solar panels on a public building. Northampton purchased a 10 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system for John F. Kennedy Middle School. To increase educational opportunities, the system also includes a data acquisition system with an active computer display on which students can observe the operation of the solar panels and the environmental impacts of its performance. The total cost of the project was \$92,665, of which \$53,000 will come from Clean Energy Choice community matching grants. The city will apply for MTC's Small Renewables Initiative to help cover the rest of the costs. The town contracted with SolarWorks to install the PV system.

EXAMPLES FROM OUTSIDE THE PIONEER VALLEY

Town of Hull, MA

The state's first recent, commercial-scale turbine began generating green energy in the coastal town of Hull. A 660-kW turbine, Hull Wind 1, was installed on the harbor in 2001. In spring 2006, the Hull Municipal Light Plant dedicated a second turbine. Hull Wind 2 is a 1.8 MW Vestas V80, installed on a closed landfill. The two wind turbines supply more than 10 percent of the community's energy needs. For more information on this project, please visit the [Hull Wind](#) webpage.

For more information on Smart Energy, please visit the state's [Smart Growth / Smart Energy toolkit](#), developed by Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs