



Renewable Communities 2021

Massachusetts cities and towns
leading the way to 100% renewable energy

CVEC: Cooperative solar and storage development

The Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC), founded in 2007, has grown in size from three initial members – the Cape Light Compact, Barnstable County, and the town of Barnstable – to 25 municipal members and 11 governmental participants.¹ As of June 2020, CVEC had saved its members roughly \$16.9 million in energy costs.²

CVEC is a non-profit cooperative with authority to enter into agreements with towns, school districts and other government entities to develop large-scale power generation and storage facilities without burdening municipal debt capacity, as developers pay project capital costs.³ In addition to the benefits of sharing project costs, CVEC provides members and participants with solar project expertise and access to industry and government leaders.⁴

Since its formation, CVEC has completed three rounds of solar and battery development, totaling 28 megawatts of capacity.⁵

CVEC's fourth and fifth rounds of solar and battery development are now underway, and will bring the cooperative's total portfolio up to 54.8 megawatts. Of the 11 Round 4 projects, six will include battery storage; and of the 14 final Round 5 projects, nine will include battery storage.⁶ These upcoming projects include solar canopies over parking lots, roof-mounted panels on public buildings, and ground-mounted arrays.⁷

The rooftop solar installation at Monomoy High School, the first project to be completed in Round 4, has generated 187 megawatt-hours of electricity as of August 12, 2021.⁸

CVEC's request for proposals for its sixth round of solar projects, scheduled to be bid in August 2021, consists of 14 projects totaling 4.4 megawatts of solar capacity. Several of these projects will include battery storage.⁹ In addition, CVEC plans to install a 250-kilowatt battery at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, which serves as the region's emergency shelter, funded through a \$1.4 million grant from the state's Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative.¹⁰

1. Founded in 2007: *Annual Report FY 2020*, Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, <<https://cvecinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Annual-Report-FY20-2020.09.02-for-Board-Review-v4.pdf>>, 1. Current membership: Email communication with Maria Marasco, Executive Director, Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, 10 August 2021.

2. *Annual Report FY 2020*, Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, <<https://cvecinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Annual-Report-FY20-2020.09.02-for-Board-Review-v4.pdf>>, i-ii.

3. Email communication with Maria Marasco, Executive Director, Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, 10 August 2021.

4. Ibid.

5. *CVEC project summary*, Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, May 2021, <<https://cvecinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CVEC-project-summary.pdf>>.

6. Email communication with Maria Marasco, Executive Director, Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, 10 August 2021.

7. Ibid.

8. First project in round 4: "View daily PV system production," Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, <https://cvecinc.org/?page_id=5221>. Electricity generation: "Monomoy High School," AlsoEnergy, <<https://hmi.alsoenergy.com/powerhmi/publicdisplay/f10fd87-ea4145c6-92de-3b2d21671cad/main?arg=NTM2OTM%3d&lang=en-US>>.

9. Email communication with Maria Marasco, Executive Director, Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, 10 August 2021.

10. Ibid.