



Renewable Communities

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

Lincoln, Sudbury, and Wayland: Solarize Mass Plus

In 2012, the towns of Lincoln, Sudbury, and Wayland participated in the Solarize Mass program, with 137 residential solar photovoltaic system contracts signed.¹ The success of the program spurred town leaders to join together again to launch a Solarize Mass Plus program in the summer of 2017.²

Solarize Mass is a program sponsored by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and the Green Communities Division of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Since 2011, Solarize Mass has helped communities give residents and small businesses the opportunity to install solar panels at a lower cost. The program reduces the cost of going solar by selecting installers through a competitive solicitation process, while using grassroots educational campaigns to identify potential solar customers.³

Solarize Mass Plus, launched as a pilot program in 2017, allows communities to offer other clean technologies, such as air source heat pumps, solar hot water, and electric vehicles, alongside solar photovoltaic panels.⁴ Sudbury, Lincoln, and Wayland chose solar hot water as the second technology for their Solarize Mass Plus program.⁵

While solar photovoltaic panels convert sunlight to electricity, solar hot water installations use the energy of the sun to heat water, reducing the need for oil or gas boilers. Solar hot water systems require less direct sunlight than solar photovoltaic panels to function, so they are a compelling renewable energy option for homeowners with roofs that are not ideal for solar power generation.⁶

During the 2017-18 Solarize Mass Plus campaign, residents of Lincoln, Sudbury, and Wayland installed 53 solar photovoltaic systems totaling 407 kilowatts of capacity. Additionally, 27 solar hot water systems were installed in the three towns. The amount of carbon emissions avoided through these solar photovoltaic and solar hot water installations is equivalent to keeping nearly 100 cars off the road.⁷

1. *2012 Solarize Massachusetts Program Update*, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the Green Communities Division of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, 23 July 2013, <<http://files.masscec.com/uploads/attachments/2012%20Solarize%20Massachusetts%20Program%20Update.pdf>>.

2. "Success Story Snapshots: 2017 Solarize Mass Plus Program in Lincoln-Sudbury-Wayland," Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, <<https://www.masscec.com/success-stories/2017-solarize-mass-plus-program-lincoln-sudbury-wayland>>.

3. "Solarize Mass," Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, <<https://www.masscec.com/solarize-mass-1>>.

4. Ibid.

5. "Announcing Solarize Plus Installers," Town of Sudbury, 13 July 2017, <<https://sudbury.ma.us/energy/2017/07/13/announcing-installers-for-solarize-plus/>>.

6. "Auburn Court- Solar Hot Water Case Study- MassCEC," Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, 1 March 2019, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvnUv9ovCoo>>.

7. "Success Story Snapshots: 2017 Solarize Mass Plus Program in Lincoln-Sudbury-Wayland," Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, <<https://www.masscec.com/success-stories/2017-solarize-mass-plus-program-lincoln-sudbury-wayland>>.