

Municipally Owned Clean Energy



Brockton Mass, "Brightfields" www.brockton.ma.us

The 535 Megawatt hours of clean electricity generated from the Brightfield will result in a reduction of 589,570 lbs. of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas), 1,086 pounds of sulfur dioxide and 289 pounds of nitrogen oxide emitted into the atmosphere each year.

Converts a blighted industrial brownfield into a clean energy showcase

Enhances local property values and encourages reinvestment

What are the objectives of municipally owned clean energy?

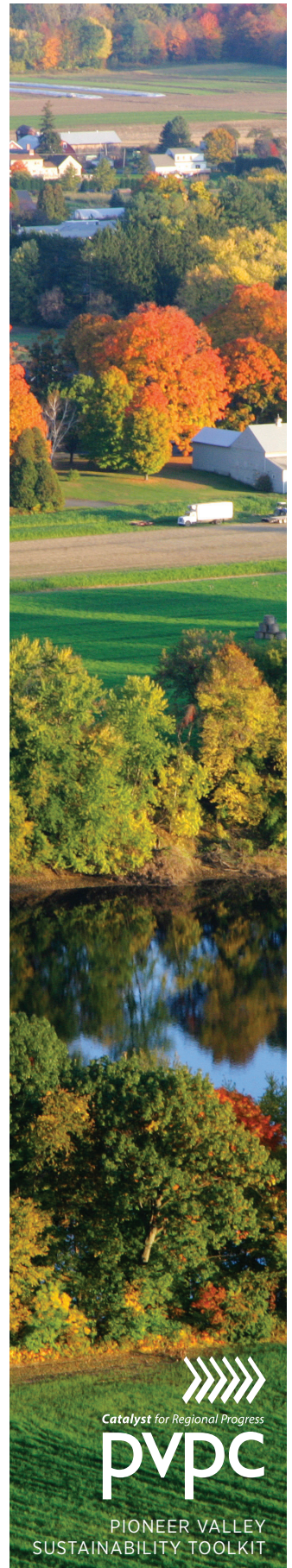
To manage risk, stabilize municipal budgets, and combat climate change.

Why do we need municipally owned clean energy?

All levels of government around the world have recognized the need to invest in clean and safe renewable energy sources. Climate change must be addressed to ensure a safe and healthy future for our children and grandchildren. The United States is dependent on foreign sources of non-renewable dirty energy. We have reached peak oil production and we need to transition to safe, sustainable, clean 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 and created a very competitive market for clean energy. Municipalities can save money and manage risk by investing in municipally owned clean energy.

How does municipally owned renewable energy work?

We recommend reviewing the [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center \(CEC\)](#) website for detailed resources on municipally owned clean energy. Municipally owned clean energy is



just like any other municipal asset. You make the decision to invest your limited resources in clean energy. You use local staff and community resources, including PVPC and Department of Energy Resources, and hire consultants as necessary and possible; to help you determine what source(s) of clean energy is/are available and make the most sense for your community. You allocate the resources necessary (some funding is available from CEC—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.

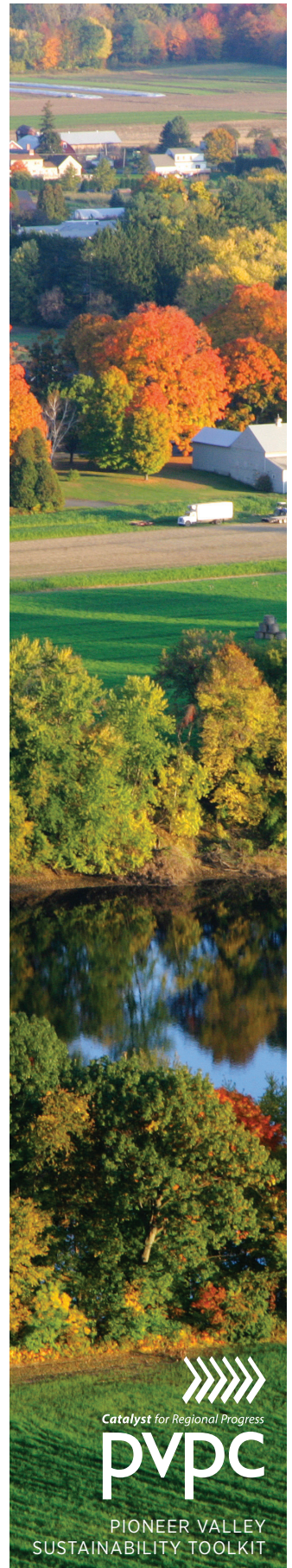
DID YOU KNOW...

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

Easthampton Solar Project

Easthampton is interested in capitalizing on current state and federal government policy initiatives by enlisting a private developer to construct and operate a solar array on its closed landfill. Private sector partners can utilize the tax advantages while the city provides the location and consumption necessary to make the project financially feasible. Such a partnership can be beneficial to both parties by saving money for the city and providing a profit incentive for the developer, while at the same time fostering a conservation ethic by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuel.



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

A model bylaw or strategy is included in the Pioneer Valley Sustainability Toolkit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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