

2023 Annual Town Report

Climate Action Planning (CAP) & Other Green Initiatives

CAP - The Town's Green Energy Committee formed a Climate Action Working Group to oversee the completion of a Climate Action Plan that was undertaken this past year with the goal of providing a living framework to help guide the town and its community members towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also advancing community resilience in equitable and sustainable ways. The Working Group completed its work toward the end of the year. In collaboration with other stakeholder groups, the Working Group has identified short term priorities of (1) creating and launching a "Green Energy Coaching group" that would help residents navigate the maze of available green programs and incentives, and (2) satisfying the requirements for the Town to qualify for continuing participation in the Municipal Vulnerability Program (progressing into the 2.0 phase) which provides ongoing access to a variety of climate vulnerability and adaptation grants. We look forward to continuing progress on a variety of carbon reduction and climate vulnerability adaptation strategies.

Landfill Solar Project – In March 2023, the Select Board awarded a contract to develop a 1.4-megawatt solar project on the town landfill located adjacent to the transfer station at the corner of Rte. 2A/Mill Street. Early-stage due diligence was completed this year including site testing and design, and the filing of applications with the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection and with Eversource. The current schedule anticipates that all necessary approvals will be granted no later than the fall of 2024, so that construction can commence no later than the spring of 2025. If the current schedule holds, the facility will be generating electricity by the fall of 2025.

Lincoln Green Energy Choice Program – Prices for Lincoln's electricity aggregation program decreased by more than 6 cents/kWh for all program participants in January 2024, while program participants receive a higher fraction of their electricity from renewable sources at a price that is lower than Eversource's current winter residential Basic Service price. In addition, Lincoln Green Energy Choice has saved participants more than \$1.4 million since the program's 2021 launch through September 2023, and has helped

the community to avoid more than 12 million pounds of CO2 emissions, equivalent to the emissions associated with more than 1,211 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles for a year. Lincoln's program pricing will remain constant for a 24-month period, through the end of 2025. Since Eversource's future pricing is not known, future savings compared with Eversource cannot be guaranteed.

Ten Town Fossil Fuel Free Pilot Program – In 2022 the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) established a demonstration project in which cities and towns may adopt and amend general or zoning ordinances or by-laws that require new building construction or major renovation projects to be fossil fuel-free. At Lincoln's March 2023 Annual Town Meeting, we voted to enact General Bylaws Article XI, Section 17.2 for the purpose of participating in this pilot program, and in December 2023, DOER approved our application into the program. As a result, beginning in June 2024, new construction and major renovation projects in Lincoln are required to be fossil fuel free.

We thank the Green Energy Committee for their help with and leadership on all of the above climate related projects, and we applaud residents for their dedication to combating climate change.