

## GREEN ENERGY COMMITTEE

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Established in 2007, the Green Energy Committee (GEC) serves as the Town's primary resource to identify and promote ways to reduce Lincoln's emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), the gases that drive global warming. The GEC's work is supported by a strong bench of active volunteers who are not formal members. Jennifer Glass is the Select Board Liaison to the GEC.

### Electricity supply

The Lincoln Green Energy Choice Program took effect in early 2021, enabling Lincoln residents to use more clean renewable energy at reasonable cost. Now, for most ratepayers in Lincoln, 47% of their electricity is attributed to clean renewable energy produced in our region, compared to the mere 20% that state law currently requires Eversource to provide. The program buys "Class 1 Renewable Energy Credits" (RECs), thereby driving the construction of additional wind, solar, and other renewable energy production facilities. Shifting to renewably generated electricity is necessary to eventually make our homes and electric vehicles in Lincoln carbon neutral.

In 2021, the GEC and volunteers did various forms of public outreach to encourage Lincoln residents to opt up to the "Lincoln 100% Green" option and have all their electricity usage tied to clean renewable energy. Over 11% of participants in Lincoln's program have opted up to 100%, the highest participation rate in Massachusetts. And compared to the Eversource price that took effect January 1, 2022, "Lincoln 100% Green" is less expensive! (Future savings compared with Eversource cannot be guaranteed.) To "opt up" now, just find your electricity bill and go to [LincolnGreenEnergyChoice.com](http://LincolnGreenEnergyChoice.com) or call customer support at 1-844-651-8919.

### Climate action planning

A new subcommittee of the GEC and additional volunteers are working on a town-wide, collaborative process to develop a Climate Action Plan for the Town of Lincoln. This process aims to produce a plan and a timeline for how Lincoln will reduce its GHG emissions consistent with the goals set in recent state legislation, including reaching "net zero" by 2050.

Members have reviewed climate action plans in 14 nearby towns, spoken with sustainability managers in 6 towns, and consulted with 11 Town boards and committees in Lincoln. They reported on their goals and progress at the 2021 State of the Town meeting. Jen Curtain, Assistant Director of Planning and Land Use, is looking for grant opportunities to support the process, which we aim to start in September 2022 complete within a year.

### Support for residents

The GEC continued to provide information to Lincoln residents about how they can reduce their climate impact through means such as switching to electric vehicles (EVs); getting free home energy assessments; improving home insulation; switching to heat pumps; adding solar panels; and opting up to "Lincoln 100% Green". The GEC shared this information through Lincoln Talk, a Town-wide mailing, tabling events, and its website, [www.lincolngreenenergy.org](http://www.lincolngreenenergy.org).

### Tracking Lincoln's GHG emissions

A foundation for the GEC's efforts is the Lincoln Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report completed in 2019. In 2021 the GEC began the process of updating that report, aiming to complete in 2022.

### School Building

In 2021, GEC members continued to support implementation of the plans to make the new school building "net zero emissions". That including working with the School Building Committee and school administration to (1) implement the power purchase agreement associated with onsite photovoltaic (solar) arrays and (2) monitor efforts to achieve energy efficiency in operations and maintain a healthy environment.