

Report of the Energy Committee to the Select Board 2025

This year, the Town attained Climate Leader designation from the MA Department of Energy Resources. Our certification as a Climate Leader Community opens up the possibility of funding that can support studying, designing, constructing and implementing decarbonization measures, increasing solar, and enhancing our resiliency through battery storage for Town buildings.

To attain Climate Leader certification, the Town adopted a Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) policy that set guidelines for purchase, operation, and maintenance of Town fleet vehicles in a way that advances the economic, energy, and climate sustainability of Town operations. The policy doesn't mandate procurement of products that are not commercially available or practicable. It asks that in purchasing new vehicles, the Town consider hybrid or electric vehicles first before making a practical decision in line with Town finances and contingencies. The ZEV policy's first implementation came in Town procurement of a new hybrid truck for Facilities and Maintenance.

The Energy Committee also, with the help of ICF consultants, completed a Decarbonization Road Map for all Town buildings. This Road Map covers various aspects of municipal emissions from building construction, operation, and maintenance to vehicle fleet emissions. Its goal is to identify Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) to achieve complete fossil-fuel elimination for municipal buildings and vehicles and reduce overall energy-use intensity by the year 2040. It also projects potential costs associated with ECMs to achieve this decarbonization by the target year. The Energy Committee worked closely with the consultants to identify the scope of the Road Map, incorporate stakeholder feedback, develop municipal goals, and identify implementation processes and roles. You can access our Decarbonization Road Map, and our ZEV policy, on the Energy Committee web page.

We continued our work with the Cape Light Compact, for which Nicola Blake is representative of both the Town and the Island. The Compact consistently sells electricity to retail users below the Basic Service rate from Eversource.

We also applied for and received a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant of \$25,000 to assess the possibility of a renewable-source heating system in the Public Safety Building apparatus bay. The bay's current oil-fired boiler is due for replacement. With analysis from RISE engineering, it was determined that an air-to-water heat pump system is feasible for the space. The Energy Committee has applied for a Climate Leaders Accelerator Grant to determine the specifics that would allow the Town to put out a bid for the project; this analysis

will also assess the possibility for a solar-powered battery to complement the Public Safety Building's generator.

The Library successfully installed its new HVAC system, which will now include a solar array and a battery. This battery, which will operate as a micro-grid, can provide back-up power so that the generator will start only after the battery is depleted. In the meantime, the battery can recharge through the solar array

We welcomed two new members to our committee, Alex Salop and Jim Leonard. With Alex as a representative of the Up Island Regional School District, we hope to work toward the retrofitting of the West Tisbury School, which consumes the vast majority of our town's fossil-fuel usage.

We look forward to another productive year in 2026.

Richard Andre, chair

Nicola Blake

Jim Leonard

Alex Salop

John Stanwood