



## West Boylston Municipal Light Plant

### **Careful Planning and Local Control by our Ratepayers Results in Lower Rates and Lower GHG Emissions. West Boylston to achieve 80% clean and renewable energy supply by 2030.**

The West Boylston Municipal Lighting Plant (WBMLP) anticipates achieving at least an 80% clean and renewable energy supply by 2030. Fifty-six percent of WBMLP's energy supply was already clean and renewable by the end of 2022. Clean and renewable energy resources include wind, solar, nuclear, and hydroelectricity generation, all of which do not emit greenhouse gases (GHG). Municipal light plants (MLPs), like West Boylston's, are mandated by state law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their energy supply. This mandate is called the Greenhouse Gas Emission Standard (GGES) and essentially requires all MLPs to achieve a 50% clean and renewable energy supply by 2030. The GGES mandate increases to 75% by 2040, and ultimately, net-zero GHG emissions by 2050.

The 40 Massachusetts MLPs already have on average a 37% clean and renewable energy supply, according to MassDEP 2020 emission reports. The same MassDEP report shows that MLPs are ahead of the electric distribution companies, whose average clean and renewable energy supply was 27% in 2020. Although MLPs make up 14% of all electricity sales in MA, MLPs are leading the energy sector in GHG emission reductions and with less expensive electricity rates.

West Boylston's municipal light plant owns or contracts for various sources of energy generation and their associated environmental attributes located throughout or interconnected to ISO New England (ISO-NE). Most of our energy supply is already committed through long-term, fixed price contracts that last as long as 20-30 years. In 2022, WBMLP retired the environmental attributes called renewable energy credits (RECs) from one of its solar systems and expects to retire the RECs from two more solar systems located in West Boylston in 2027 and 2029. Retiring the RECs means the light department can count this energy as renewable and increase its percentage of non-GHG emitting energy supply. In 2030, WBMLP plans to retire the RECs from its wind farm located in Western MA. This wind farm is co-owned with 13 other MLPs and is the second largest land-based wind farm in Massachusetts.

West Boylston recently secured additional hydroelectricity from Canada and New Hampshire which will start delivery in 2024 and 2026 respectively. West Boylston also recently negotiated a long-term 20-year, fixed cost, firm contract with NextEra's Seabrook nuclear plant for 2 megawatts (MWs) of additional clean energy, which again doesn't emit any GHG emissions. This clean energy contract starts in 2030 and lasts until 2050.

By taking the time to plan its transition to net-zero GHG's, WBMLP's actions today will result in a clean and reliable energy supply that should exceed 80% in 2030. West Boylston's GHG emission reductions also come with one of the lowest residential electricity rates in Massachusetts that hasn't changed since 2009. West Boylston's residential customers, who own their MLP, pay approximately \$0.14 per kWh in total for their electricity. This means the average household pays only \$105 per month for their electricity and again, this hasn't changed in almost 14 years. In West Boylston, electrification with heat-pump HVAC systems, heat-pump hot water heaters, electric induction stoves, and electric vehicles saves customers money and reduces GHG emissions.