

# ENERGY COMMITTEES OF THE CAPE & ISLANDS (ECCI)

SPONSORS:



CAPE COD  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
COLLABORATIVE

## DEFINITIONS

Although every effort has been made to provide complete and accurate information, the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative and its agents make no warranties, express or implied, or representations as to the accuracy of content in this document. The Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative and its agents assume no liability or responsibility for any error or omissions in the information contained herein.

**Behind the Meter:** A **Behind the Meter** (BTM) photovoltaic (PV) or wind turbine is a renewable energy generating facility that produces power intended for on-site use in a home, office building, or other commercial facility. (See the definition of Stand Alone for installations that do not directly feed energy to a facility).

**BESS:** A **BESS** is a Battery Energy Storage System. As part of a recent rate case, the Department of Public Utilities approved a plan by Eversource Energy to build two energy storage facilities: one on the Outer Cape and the other one on Martha's Vineyard. The agency's order allows the utility, which distributes electricity on the Cape and Vineyard, to spend up to \$15 million to build a 5-megawatt energy storage facility on the island and up to \$40 million to build a 12-megawatt project on the Cape. "The facilities will prevent the need for additional wire projects, including a new cable from the mainland to Martha's Vineyard, increasing distribution reliability and facilitating the development of distributed clean energy resources," according to a statement from the Department. Eversource plans to use lithium ion batteries for both the facilities but details about how they would work and where they would be located are still being hashed out, said Eversource spokeswoman Priscilla Ress.

- Source: capecodtimes.com

*Currently the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative is proceeding with a BESS at the Dennis Yarmouth Regional Emergency Shelter located at the High School.*

**Cape Light Compact JPE:** The **Cape Light Compact** JPE is a nationally recognized award-winning energy services organization operated by the 21 towns on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard and Dukes County. The Compact's mission is to serve its 200,000 customers through the delivery of proven energy efficiency programs, effective consumer advocacy and renewable competitive electricity supply.

**Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc.:** The **Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative** (CVEC), a governmental non-profit, was created to provide the municipalities of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard a way to work together to integrate clean, renewable energy as part of a more sustainable Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. CVEC works in concert with the ongoing mission of the [Cape Light Compact](#) to advance the interests of electricity consumers throughout Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. To date CVEC has managed the installation and net metering credit transactions for over 32 megawatts (MW) of power.

## Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative: The **Cape Cod Climate Change**

**Collaborative** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Membership is made up of organizations and individuals on Cape Cod, that have committed themselves to reducing their carbon footprints or assisting others in doing so.

## MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (DPU): The Department

of Public Utilities (DPU) is an adjudicatory agency overseen by a three-member Commission. It is responsible for oversight of investor-owned electric power, natural gas, and water utilities in the Commonwealth. In addition, the DPU is charged with developing alternatives to traditional regulation, monitoring service quality, regulating safety in the transportation and gas pipeline areas, and the siting of energy facilities. The mission of the DPU is to ensure that consumers' rights are protected, and that utility companies are providing the most reliable service at the lowest possible cost. The DPU oversees the public safety from transportation and gas pipeline-related accidents, and the energy facilities siting process. The DPU seeks to promote safety, security, reliability of service, affordability, equity, and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

- Source: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-public-utilities>

## MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES (DOER): The

DOER develops and implements policies and programs aimed at ensuring the adequacy, security, diversity, and cost-effectiveness of the Commonwealth's energy supply to create a clean, affordable and resilient energy future for all residents, businesses, communities, and institutions.

- Source: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-energy-resources>

## MAYFLOWER WIND: Mayflower Wind is developing a federal offshore lease area—located over 30

miles south of Martha's Vineyard and 20 miles south of Nantucket—that has the potential to generate over 2,000 megawatts (MW) of low-cost clean energy, or enough to power over half a million homes. They expect to deliver clean energy from the project by the mid-2020s.

- Source: <https://mayflowerwind.com/>

EV: An **EV** is an Electric Vehicle. (PHEV is a hybrid vehicle with battery backed up by combustion engine).

## Green Communities: The **Green Community** Designation and Grant Program provides a road map

along with financial and technical support to municipalities that 1) pledge to cut municipal energy use by an ambitious and achievable goal of 20 percent over 5 years and 2) meet four other criteria established in the Green Communities Act:

- Criterion 1 is met by a municipality passing zoning in designated locations for the as-of-right siting of renewable or alternative energy generating facilities, research and development facilities, or manufacturing facilities.
- Criterion 2 is met by a municipality adopting an expedited application and permitting of one year at most, under which facilities interested in locating their facility in a designated renewable zone may be sited within the municipality.
- Criterion 3 is met by a municipality when an energy use baseline inventory is made for municipal buildings and facilities (which can include schools, water, wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations, and open space), street and traffic lighting, and vehicles; and an Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) is adopted demonstrating a reduction of 20 percent of energy use after five years of implementation.
- Criterion 4 is met when all departments purchase fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use, whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

- Source: [mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division](https://mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division)
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**MassEnergy Insight:** MassEnergyInsight (MEI) is a web-based tool that enables cities and towns to perform key energy management tasks:

- Develop an energy use baseline
- Examine energy use by departments and by fuel type
- Forecast energy budgets
- Show the results of energy efficiency investments
- Develop a greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- Facilitate communication and awareness about energy use
- Generate reports for stakeholders.

▪ Source: [massenergyinsight.net](http://massenergyinsight.net)

**Net Metering:** **Net metering** allows customers to offset their energy use and transfer energy back to their electric companies in exchange for a **net metering credit (NMC)**. If you have a solar or another renewable energy facility, and your electric company allows it, you may be able to **net meter**.

- Source: [Mass.gov/guides/net-metering-guide#:~:text=Net%20metering%20allows%20you%20to,of%20electricity%20that%20you%20use.](http://Mass.gov/guides/net-metering-guide#:~:text=Net%20metering%20allows%20you%20to,of%20electricity%20that%20you%20use.)

**Currently the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative manages the distribution of over 30 megawatts (MW) of net metering credits annually with annual savings to CVEC participants of over 2.5 million dollars.**

**Power Purchase Agreement:** A **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** is a financial arrangement in which a third-party developer owns, operates, and maintains the photovoltaic (PV) or wind system, and a host customer agrees to site the system on its property and purchase the system's electric output from the solar services provider for a predetermined period. This financial arrangement allows the host customer to receive stable and often low-cost electricity, while the solar services provider or another party acquires valuable financial benefits, such as tax credits and income generated from the sale of electricity. • Source: [epa.gov](http://epa.gov)

**Rate Case:** A **rate case** is the formal process used to determine the amounts utilities are allowed to charge customers for their regulated services. Rate cases are the primary instrument of government regulation of these industries.

**RPP:** The Cape Cod Commission Act requires the preparation of a **Regional Policy Plan (RPP)** that presents "a **coherent set of regional planning policies and objectives to guide development** throughout said Barnstable County and **to protect the region's resources.**" The plan, which is updated at least once every five years, must:

- **identify critical resources and management needs**
- **state a growth policy for the region**
- **present regional goals, and**
- **present a policy for coordinating regional and local planning efforts**

Among the goals for the 2017 RPP update are:

- to develop a land use strategy for the region
- to facilitate the local comprehensive planning process
- to provide regulatory incentives for neighboring towns to plan together
- to simplify the regulatory process, and
- to create a framework for regional capital planning

• Source: [capecodcommission.org](http://capecodcommission.org)

**SREC to SMART INCENTIVE PROGRAM:** In the past, Massachusetts solar owners have been able to earn [Solar Renewable Energy Certificates \(SRECs\)](#) for the energy produced by their solar energy systems, as well as earning any net metering credits for power sent to the grid. For municipalities, with projects owned by third parties, the third party system owner was the beneficiary of this SREC incentive. The SREC I and SREC II programs have ended. *If you are already in the SREC I or SREC II program, **nothing changes**. You will continue to earn SRECs for the remainder of your 10-year period.* The replacement is the **SMART** (Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target) program. The incentive values are scheduled to decline by 4% for every 200MW reached, so timely installation of PV is key. Batteries or other methods of energy storage are eligible for SMART rewards. Program design steers projects towards optimal PV installation through Compensation Rate Adders. NOTE: The Massachusetts Net Metering program is not changed by the implementation of the SMART program. Net Metering is regulated by the Department of Public Utilities. The value of energy calculated for behind the meter projects does not change. As a result, a Behind the Meter project may receive the SMART incentive and may also receive net metering credits. In the case of third party ownership models, the incentive will be paid to the third party owner, not to the utility customer.

- Source: [Mass.gov](http://Mass.gov)

**Standalone:** A standalone PV system is not tied behind the meter into a home or facility that would utilize the energy produced. The energy is sent to the grid with the power measured and compensation made to the PV system owner.

**Stretch Code:** A **stretch code** is a locally mandated building **code** or alternative compliance path that is more aggressive than the base building **code**, resulting in buildings that achieve higher **energy** savings.

- Source: [NewBuildings.org](http://NewBuildings.org)

**Vineyard Power:** **Vineyard Power** is a 501(c)12 nonprofit community-owned cooperative. The mission is to produce electricity from local, renewable resources while advocating for and keeping the benefits within the Martha's Vineyard island community •

- Source: [vineyardpower.com](http://vineyardpower.com)

**Vineyard Wind:** **Vineyard Wind** is one of three companies leasing area south of Martha's Vineyard through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. The offshore wind project is to be located 14 miles from the nearest shore and will consist of an array of wind turbines, spaced at least eight-tenths of a mile apart, each capable of generating over 8 MW of power. Submarine cables will be installed along a route from the project site to a landing point on shore, buried up to six feet below the sea floor, along proposed routes in either Yarmouth or Barnstable. Following selection in a competitive bid process, in May 2018 the company began negotiations to secure all necessary transmission services and power purchase agreements to facilitate the delivery of 800 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind electricity to Massachusetts customers. Once satisfactory contract terms are secured, those documents will be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities for formal review.

- Source: [vineyardwind.com](http://vineyardwind.com)