

A Tale of Two Town Halls

Decarbonization of Neighboring Historic Town Halls in Hamilton and Wenham

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ENERGY INITIATIVES

- ❖ Hamilton and Wenham were two of the thirty-five pioneer Green Communities in May 2010
- ❖Hired a part-time shared Energy Manager in 2014 (me!)
- Pursued GC grants, LED Streetlight Retrofit (both Towns), Lighting, HVAC Controls, Projects for RSD
 - ❖ Hamilton received \$1,034,848 in GC funding through 2023
 - ❖ Wenham received \$1,025,118 in GC funding through 2023





❖ Developed Renewables

- Hamilton installed 1 MW ground mount solar array on capped municipal landfill in 2018
- ❖ Wenham installed 137 kW rooftop solar array on Hamilton Wenham Library in 2022





EVOLUTION TO GHG REDUCTION INITIATIVES

- ❖ Both Towns adopted Climate Resolutions at their 2022 Annual Town Meetings
 - ❖ 20% Reduction in Municipal GHG Emissions by 2025
 - ❖ 50% Reduction in Municipal GHG Emissions by 2030
 - ❖ 75% Reduction in Municipal GHG Emissions by 2035
 - ❖ Net Zero by 2040
- ❖ Hamilton installed public-access DC Fast Chargers in 2023 using EVIP grant funds





- ❖ Hamilton contracted for 100% renewable electricity supply for all municipal accounts in 2023
- Wenham fully electrified the COA in 2024, eliminating all gas to the building





How we got there...

- *Renovation/Preservation project was conceptualized in **2016** to bring building up to code and conduct exterior preservation (ADA, Sprinkers, Insulation, Roof, Historic Elements).
- ❖Building Committee established in **2017**.
- ❖Town requested CPC funding in **2017** and **2019** for alternatives analysis and design, approved at Annual Town Meetings (ATM).
- ❖Bids were opened for Renovation/Preservation project in **2020** and Town went to Special Town Meeting (STM) for construction funding. STM voted ★ on required debt exclusion.
- ❖ Town conducted municipal vote (ballot) in April 2020, required for debt exclusion. Voters voted NO.
- ❖ Town went to April **2021** ATM with lower ask for debt exclusion (shifted more of project to CPC). ATM voted YES on required debt exclusion.
- ❖ Town conducted second ballot vote in April 2021, required for debt exclusion. Voters voted NO.
- ❖Building Committee disbanded in June 2021.



To be Continued...





How we got there continued...

❖ Project divided into two projects in Fall 2023; Renovation/Preservation and Energy/Decarbonization

	Renovation Project	Energy Project
Scope Elements	 Exterior Preservation ADA Accessibility Fire Sprinkler Full Interior Renovation 	 Geothermal Heating and Cooling Full HVAC Replacement Mechanical Systems and Controls Electrical Upgrades LED Lighting Rooftop Solar
Price Tag	\$6.5M	\$2M
Funding Sources	\$4M CPC / Municipal Bond \$2M Free Cash Transfer \$500K CPC Cash Grant	Energy Services Contract (ESCo) Potential GC Decarbonization Grant Local MassSAVE Incentives Federal Direct-Pay Incentives

STM voted YES on all articles in Fall 2023!

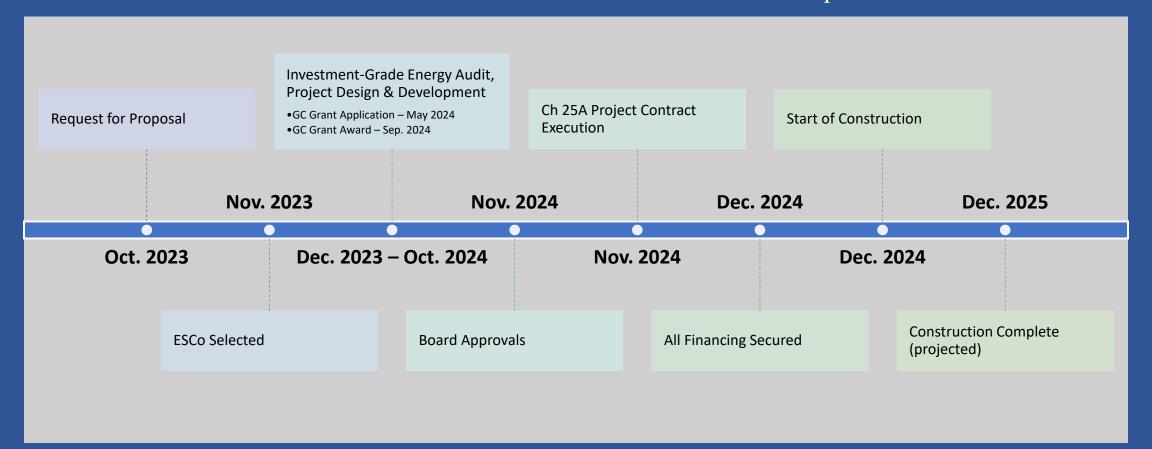




How we got there continued...

- ❖ May **2024** Town applied for GC Decarbonization Grant for \$500k hoping to boost Town support for the project. Received notice of award in the Fall. Worked with NGrid in applicable incentives. META Grant for OPM Services.
- ❖ Fall **2024** Town asked STM for additional CPC funding and an additional Free Cash Transfer to close the gap between the estimate and the as-bid pricing. STM voted YES. No impact to the tax rate.

Meanwhile...we had an ESCo Procurement to complete.







December 2024 – we broke ground!





Eight Year Development Period

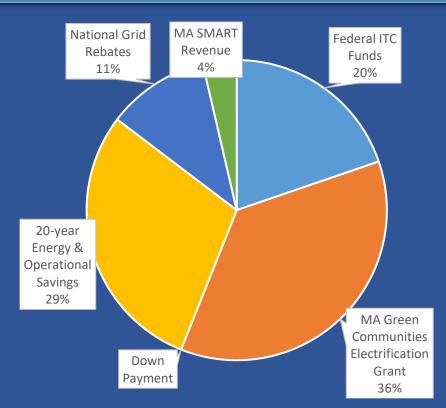
Project Concept: 2016 — Project Kickoff: 2024





Final Energy Project Funding and Energy Savings Pictures

Project Value	\$1,377,371
Federal ITC Funds	\$272,037
Green Communities Decarbonization Grant	\$500,000
20-year Energy & Operational Savings	\$403,372
National Grid Rebates	\$151,923
MA SMART Revenue	\$50,039



	Electric (kWh/year)	Thermal (therms/year)	Energy Spend (\$/year)
Baseline	55,960	5,754	\$22,991
Baseline Adjustment	+17,379	+926	+\$5,726
Adjusted Baseline	73,339	6,680	\$28,717
Lighting, Plug Loads, BMS Upgrades	-23,384	0	-\$5,659
Geothermal System	+17,736	-6,680	-\$6,677
Solar PV	-56,432	0	-\$13,656
Post-Project Energy Use	11,259	0	\$2,725

Baseline Adjustments

- 100% cooling at the building's baseline SEER
- Mechanical ventilation in compliance with ASHRAE 62.1
- Slightly expanded building footprint

Major sources of Savings

- Ground source heat pump system operating at high COP (/SEER) year-round
- Energy recovery ventilation to partially offset OA conditioning load
- Networked, generation 4 LED lighting with integrated controls
- <u>Solar PV production</u>; offset grid-purchased electricity 1:1 (behind the meter & net metered)
- Installation of a web-based, IOT-ready and open-source <u>Building Management System</u> for control of all building systems





Before









After













❖ Projected Completion Date: Spring, 2026





WENHAM TOWN HALL DECARBONIZATION

How we got there...

- ❖ Weatherization and LED lighting completed through GC grant funding in 2019 and 2023
- ❖HVAC Upgrade project was conceptualized in **2022** to utilize ARPA funds. Initial concept was to replace in-kind (natural gas boiler and air-cooled chiller) for \$500,000
- ❖META Grant funded an electrification study of Town Hall in 2022, Study completed in 2023
- ❖ Engineering design was not funded could not get from META concept of electrification to bid documents
- ❖ Hamilton has success with ESCo approach Wenham conducts their own ESCo procurement in August 2024
- ❖ Wenham applies for Green Communities Decarbonization grant in Fall 2024, receives award in March 2025. Works with NGrid on Heat Pump incentives
- ❖ Wenham applies for CPC funding in January 2025 to fund remaining \$390K
- *ATM votes to approve CPC funding in April 2025 we are fully funded and construction starts in June.

Project Concept: 2022 — Three Year Development Period



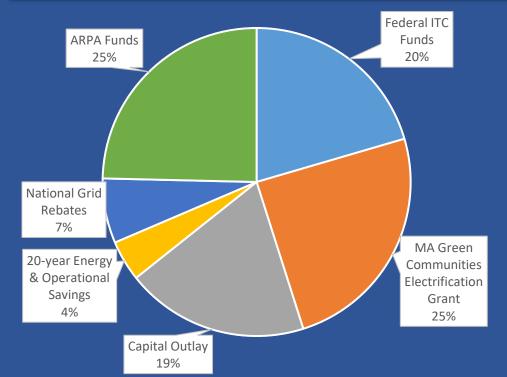


WENHAM TOWN HALL DECARBONIZATION

Final Energy Project Funding and Energy Savings Pictures

Project Value	\$2,030,293
Federal ITC Funds	\$415,618
Green Communities Decarbonization Grant	\$500,000
Capital Outlay / CPC Funding	\$390,000
20-year Energy & Operational Savings	\$86,660
National Grid Rebates	\$138,015
ARPA Funds	\$500,000

	Electric (kWh/year)	Thermal (therms/year)	Energy Spend (\$/year)
Baseline	61,770	4,098	\$22,539
Baseline Adjustment	+ 8,025	-60	+\$1,879
Adjusted Baseline	69,795	4,038	\$24,418
Geothermal System	+7,441	-4,038	-\$5,307
Post-Project Energy Use	77,236	0	\$19,111



Baseline Adjustments

- 100% cooling at the building's baseline SEER
- Mechanical ventilation in compliance with ASHRAE 62.1

Major sources of Savings

- <u>Ground source heat pump</u> system operating at high COP year-round
- <u>Energy recovery ventilation</u> to partially offset OA conditioning load
- <u>Canopy Solar</u> over Parking Lot to be developed in parallel.





WENHAM TOWN HALL DECARBONIZATION

Before









Site of old chiller is now open space; considering EV chargers

After...











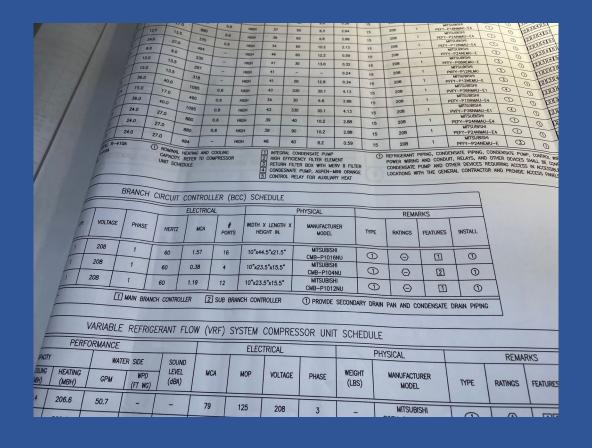
CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

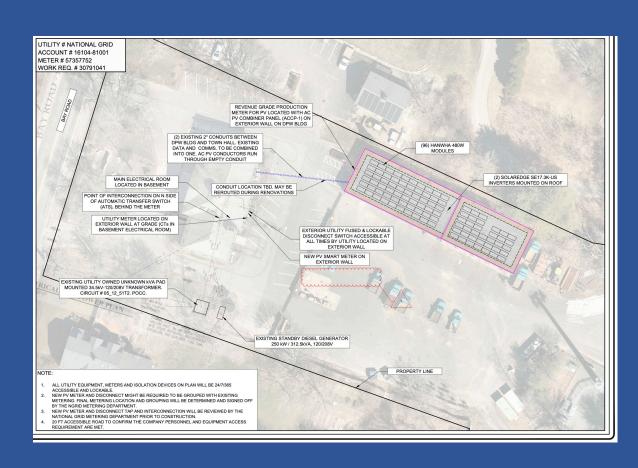
* Compiling Different Fundings Sources / Associated Timelines



- Solar Interconnection / Group Study Delays
- * Engaging Volunteer Committees in Decision-Making
- ❖ Satisfying all stakeholders! ■









Please ask your questions!



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