



TOWN OF NATICK

Massachusetts 01760

www.natick.ma.gov

Martha L. White
Town Administrator

Michael Walters Young
Deputy Town Administrator

March 14, 2013

11:20 20 2013

Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

As the Town Administrator of Natick, a designated Green Community, I'm writing to thank you for your efforts in promoting solar energy at the state level. Your work has made an enormous difference in increasing renewable energy generation in Massachusetts. To keep the momentum going, I'm asking that you consider setting new solar performance goals, like installing solar array on 50,000 roofs by 2020 and 150,000 roofs by 2030.

As you know, Massachusetts, like the rest of the country still relies heavily on energy produced by Green House Gas (GHG) emitting fossil fuels. In fact, an estimated 90 percent of our energy needs still comes from "dirty" fossil fuels. The town of Natick, as a designated Green Community, is doing its part to reduce GHG emission by both improving energy efficiency and converting to renewable energy sources. In fact, Natick has reduced its energy use by 26% since 2008 and installed 1.07 megawatts (mW) of solar power on the roofs of six of its town owned buildings in 2011. But, there is still more we must do.

As you know, solar energy is on the upswing. In 2012 alone 110.68 megawatts (mW) were installed in the Commonwealth, bringing it to a total of 194 mW of installed solar power. Natick's contribution to the solar power total is 1.7 mW from solar panels installed on roofs of Natick homes, business and town owned buildings.

This progress means we are nearing the state's goal of getting 250 mW of solar power installed by 2017. If solar continues to grow at the current rate, this goal may be realized as early as 2014. This is certainly great news for the Commonwealth and provides you an opportunity to push the state even farther to perhaps adopting a 1 gigawatt (GW) of solar power installed by 2017.

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This new goal will strengthen the Commonwealth's position as the leader in solar energy generation amongst states and help reduce the total volume of GHG emitted from fossil fuel energy generation plants, a known source of Global Warming.

Thank you for the work already completed to bring "clean" energy to Massachusetts. Please continue to lead the way by resetting Massachusetts' goal perhaps to 1 GW of installed solar power by 2017, enabling us to get solar on 50,000 roofs by 2020 and 150,000 roofs by 2030. The town of Natick looks forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF NATICK

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Martha L. White', is written over the printed name.

Martha L. White

Town Administrator

Cc Natick Board of Selectmen

Karen Spilka, State Senator

David P. Linsky, State Representative

Alice Peisch, State Representative