



17th Annual Leading by Example Awards December 4th, 2023

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance



Recognizing outstanding decarbonization, clean energy and environmental efforts among agencies, public higher education institutions, municipalities, and individuals in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) provides wholesale water and sewer services to 3.1 million people and more than 5,500 large industrial users in 61 metropolitan Boston communities. Delivering this mission results in a large energy footprint, making MWRA the 7th largest emitter of Scope 1 (onsite fossil fuel) greenhouse gas emissions and largest consumer of fuel oil in the state government portfolio. Recognizing its responsibility to lead by example, MWRA has taken great strides to decarbonize its operations.



MWRA Accomplishments



About 15% of MWRA's fleet of light- and medium-duty vehicles are zero-emission vehicles; it has 13 plug-in hybrids and 42 battery-electric vehicles (BEVs). MWRA plans to purchase at least 6 BEVs per year to achieve the fleet electrification targets of Executive Order 594.



MWRA is evaluating 14 oil-using facilities to chart a pathway to decarbonization. Three sites underwent an audit in 2021, and MWRA is now working with National Grid and Eversource to audit the remaining sites and determine the feasibility of converting from oil to renewable thermal alternatives.



MWRA has installed 1.3 MW of solar across three locations, 2.1 MW of wind, and a ground-source heat pump system at the Wachusett Aqueduct Pump Station. MWRA also began buying voluntary renewable energy credits in 2021, effectively eliminating Scope 2 (electricity) emissions from its operations.



MWRA's Senior Management adopted an internal social cost of carbon to incorporate greenhouse gas emissions into cost-benefit analyses for capital projects and equipment purchases, placing more value on lower-emitting strategies and technologies.