



# Springfield Can Benefit From More Clean Energy

*Across Massachusetts, clean energy is booming – reducing pollution, cleaning our air, creating jobs and saving money. Contributing to the boom is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – America’s best regional clean air and climate program – which is limiting pollution and generating funding for clean energy programs.*

*But we can do much more. We have the tools to power our society entirely with clean energy sources like the wind and the sun, while also using energy more efficiently. Clean energy can help protect Springfield from the worst impacts of global warming, such as more frequent and severe heat waves, and build a healthier and more prosperous future.*

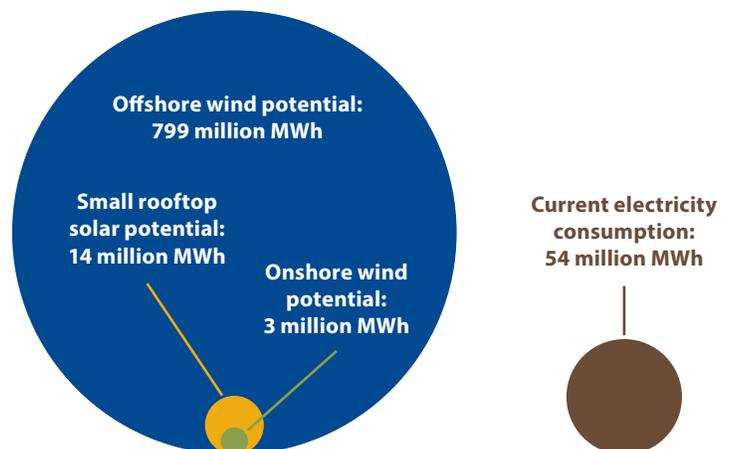
*To accelerate our progress, Massachusetts and other New England states should double the strength of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to help create an even stronger market for clean energy.*

*Here’s how more clean energy can benefit Springfield – and Massachusetts:*

## Massachusetts Has Immense Renewable Energy Potential

Massachusetts could generate **15 times more electricity with solar and wind power than it uses** in the course of a year. Tapping even a fraction of that potential could enable Massachusetts to power itself entirely with clean energy.

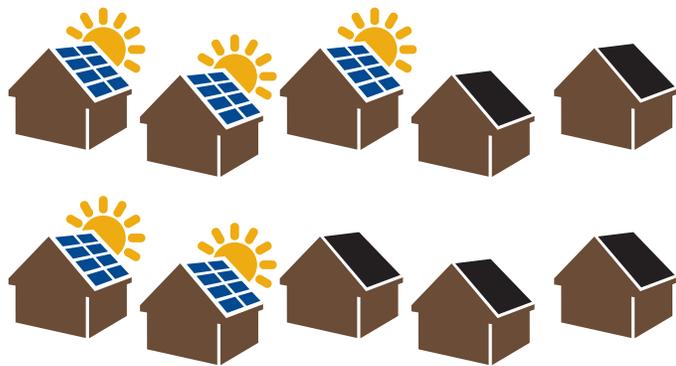
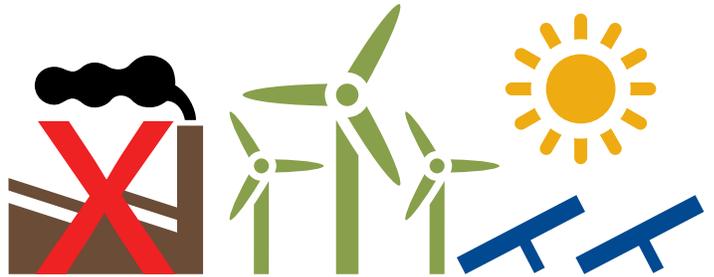
### Comparison of Renewable Energy Technical Potential and Current Consumption in Massachusetts



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## Clean Energy Can Replace Dirty Fuels

Massachusetts has the potential to generate nearly **37 times more electricity from wind and solar than is currently produced by polluting fuels**, like gas, in the state.



## Springfield's Rooftops Can Generate Clean Electricity Locally

Nearly **half of small buildings in Springfield have the potential to host rooftop solar panels** – providing reliable electricity for residents and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, according to data from the U.S. Department of Energy.

## Massachusetts Has Tremendous, Untapped Wind Energy Potential

Massachusetts has the potential to produce enough power with onshore and offshore wind turbines to **power all the homes in Massachusetts 44 times over**.



*Offshore wind, pictured here in Denmark, is currently undeveloped in Massachusetts.*

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## Energy Efficiency Is Saving Money and Cutting Pollution

Massachusetts ranks 1st among states for energy efficiency, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. Energy efficiency programs implemented in 2015 in Massachusetts saved enough energy to power more than all of the homes in Hampden County.



## Clean Energy Creates Jobs

More than 1,500 people in the Springfield area are employed in solar energy jobs, with 15,000 people working in solar in Massachusetts.

## Renewable Energy is Good Business

Businesses and organizations in Springfield and across Massachusetts benefit from a **growing clean energy economy**. For example, through funding from Massachusetts' climate program, Springfield Technical Community College launched an energy efficiency training program to provide workforce skills training across the state.



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## Stronger Action Will Make Us Healthier

Clean air means better health. In its first six years, the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative saved 60 lives in Massachusetts** and prevented 4,500 missed work days due to respiratory illness, according to Abt Associates. Cutting pollution faster would save even more lives and improve public health in Massachusetts.



## Stronger Action Will Boost Our Economy

Between 2009 and 2014, the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative boosted Massachusetts' economy by \$768 million**, according to reports by Analysis Group. Doubling the strength of the program as part of a larger climate change program could reduce energy bills in the nine participating states by \$25 billion and create nearly 60,000 new jobs, according to a report by the Sierra Club.

## Massachusetts Should Take the Lead

Massachusetts has set strong goals on clean energy and fighting climate change – now it's time to achieve them. **Governor Baker should double the pace at which Massachusetts is cutting pollution and investing in clean energy.** In 2017, the state should strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to cut carbon pollution by 5 percent per year – and persuade neighboring states to do the same.



For more information and citations, please visit [www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org/RGGISpringfield](http://www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org/RGGISpringfield)

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