



# Boston 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 Boston from the worst impacts of global warming, such as sea-level rise, and build a healthier and more prosperous future.*

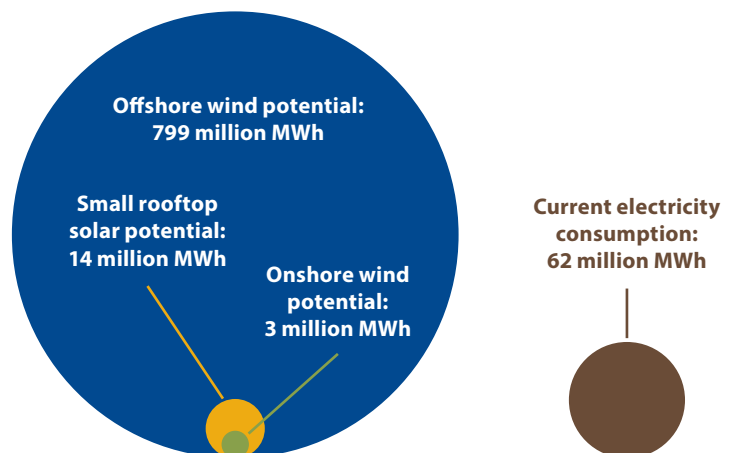
*To accelerate our progress, Massachusetts and other New England states should double the strength of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to help create an even stronger market for clean energy.*

*Here’s how more clean energy can benefit Boston – 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.

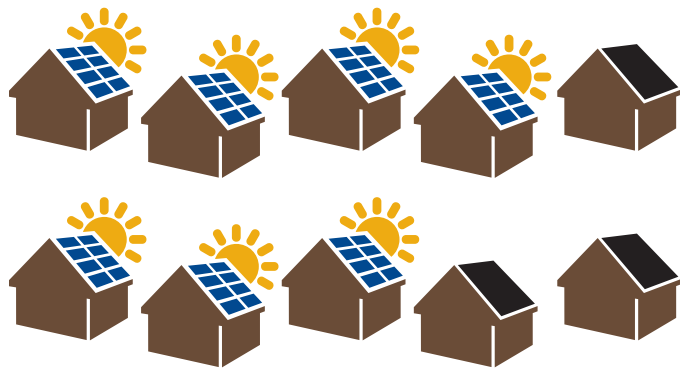
### Comparison of Renewable Energy Technical Potential and Current Consumption in Massachusetts



# Boston Can Benefit From More Clean Energy

## 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.

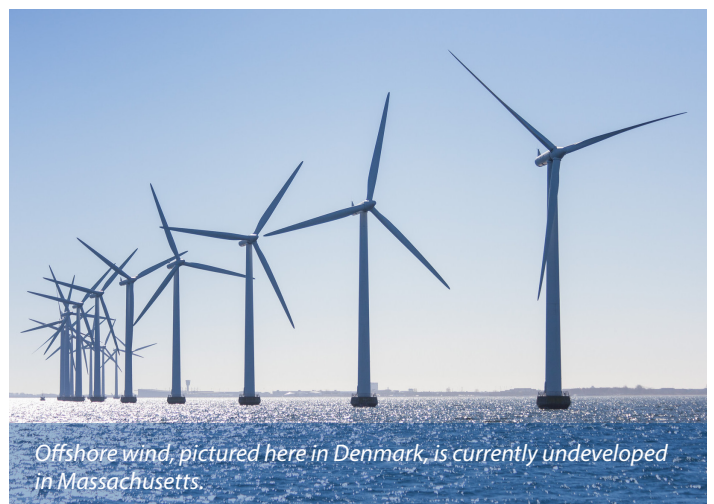


## Boston's Rooftops Can Generate Clean Electricity Locally

More than **7 out of 10 small buildings in Boston 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.*

# Boston Can Benefit From More Clean Energy

## Energy Efficiency Is Saving Money and Cutting Pollution

**Boston ranks 1st among cities 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 most of the homes in the city of Boston.



## Clean Energy Creates Jobs

**The Boston metro area is one of the top cities for jobs in solar energy**, employing more than 10,000 people. Across the state, more than 100,000 people are employed in renewable energy.

## Renewable Energy is Good Business

Businesses and organizations in Boston and across Massachusetts benefit from a growing clean energy economy. For example, energy efficiency programs between 2008 and 2014 **saved Massachusetts residences and businesses more than \$691 million** in lifetime energy bill savings.



# Boston Can Benefit From More Clean Energy

## 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/RGGIBoston](http://www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org/RGGIBoston)

Photo credits: Page 1—Flickr user James/monkeyatlarge CC-BY-2.0; Page 2—European Wind Energy Association; Page 3 (from top)—CC-BY-2.0/Mike Mozart via Flickr, Mass. Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, ilfede/Bigstock; Page 4 (from top)—CC-BY-2.0/Alan Levine via Flickr, iStock.com, Tony Hisgett via Flickr.