

Solar energy

Solar has grown rapidly

Between 2009 and 2018, the amount of electricity generated from the sun increased nearly 170-fold in Massachusetts.²⁵ Today, there are more than 2.5 gigawatts of solar energy capacity installed in Massachusetts, enough to generate 5.6% of our annual electricity consumption.²⁶

The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects a record amount of solar capacity to come online across the country in 2020, accounting for nearly a third of all electricity generation capacity added this year.²⁷

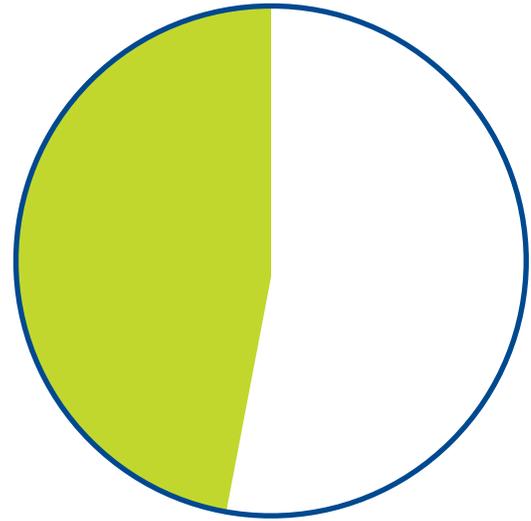
Prices are coming down

The cost of building a utility-scale solar farm in the United States fell by 77% between 2010–2018, while the cost of a typical residential rooftop solar installation decreased by 63%.²⁸ Globally, the cost of solar is predicted to decline by 71% by 2050.²⁹

Massachusetts' solar energy potential

Rooftop solar panels could produce up to 47% of the electricity consumed in Massachusetts each year.³⁰ The potential to generate electricity from larger, ground-mounted solar installations is even greater.³¹

In order to reduce the region's carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, New England will need to add an average of 2–5 gigawatts of solar per year.³²



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Benefits of distributed solar energy

Solar panels can be installed on rooftops, on canopies over parking lots, on capped landfills, and even on floating structures on the surface of reservoirs. Increasing the amount of solar installed in our communities, close to the places where electricity is consumed, will bring several benefits:

- Improved grid resiliency and reliability.
- A reduction in the amount of energy lost when electricity is transmitted and distributed.
- The opportunity for homeowners and businesses to stabilize and reduce their energy costs.
- Investment in local businesses and jobs.³³