

Memorandum



To: Natick Select Board

CC: Melissa Malone, Town Administrator
James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator, Operations
Anna Nolin, Superintendent of Schools

From: Jillian Wilson Martin, Sustainability Coordinator

Date: August 17, 2020

Subject: Power Purchase Agreement for West Natick Fire Station

Over the years, the Town of Natick and Natick Public Schools have sought to maximize the solar capacity of public property and take advantage of clean energy savings. To-date, the Town has installed rooftop solar arrays on 10 schools and municipal buildings and one solar canopy in the Natick High School parking lot.

The construction of the new Kennedy Middle School and West Natick Fire Station present opportunities to expand the Town's solar portfolio, and the Office of Sustainability has worked closely with the architect teams, Ameresco, the Planning Board and associated Building Committees to incorporate solar into site plans.

For both the West Natick Fire Station and Kennedy Middle School, the Town is pursuing a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Ameresco to fund the construction and maintenance of clean energy technology. As part of the PPAs, Ameresco will arrange for the design, permitting, financing and installation of solar and clean energy technology at these sites, at no cost to the Town. Ameresco will own the technology and will sell the power the technology generates, which will be installed behind the meter at each building, to the Town at a fixed rate. The difference between what we pay Ameresco and the price Eversource would charge us for the same amount of electricity accounts for the majority of savings in our PPAs. Additional savings can also be achieved by reducing other components of Natick's Eversource electricity bills, such as demand charges. Note, Ameresco was selected as Natick's solar developer of record as part of a 2016 procurement process which was approved by the Department of Energy Resources.

PPAs for the Kennedy Middle School clean energy technology, which include rooftop solar, solar parking canopies and a Tesla battery storage system, are under the purview of the Superintendent of Schools and are expected to be signed this week. Due to its overall size (400+ kW AC in solar PV and 220+ kW AC in battery storage) and ability to manage peak demand charges, the Kennedy Middle School system is expected to generate approximately \$1.7M in savings to Natick Public Schools over the 20-year PPA.

Per Town Counsel, the West Natick Fire Station's PPA falls under the purview of the Select Board. The West Natick Fire Station's rooftop solar array (43 kW AC) is expected to save the Town \$140,000 in electricity costs over the span of the proposed 20-year PPA.

To move forward, we respectfully request your approval of the attached West Natick Fire Station PPA, which has been reviewed and approved by Town Counsel and DOER. Three hard copies of the enclosed contract are available at Town Hall for your signature.