



Natick's Net Zero Action Plan

JANUARY 2021



2004

Natick joins ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, which required the Town to establish a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory for school and municipal operations and set reduction goals.

2010

Natick is designated as a founding Green Community by the MA Department of Energy Resources. Over the next decade, Natick will receive more than \$1.5 million in grants to support energy efficiency projects from this program.



2014

Natick achieves a 20% reduction in energy use from school and municipal operations. The Town also becomes the first MetroWest community to hire a Sustainability Coordinator.

2017

Natick passes a Solar Bylaw and is designated as a SolSmart Gold community, the highest SolSmart designation offered by the SolSmart Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. Natick also begins sourcing more renewable energy to support its electricity aggregation program.

2019

Natick works with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the communities of Arlington and Melrose to develop a publicly available, community-wide GHG inventory tool and completes its first community-wide GHG inventory.

2020

The Natick Sustainability Committee partners with community members to draft its first net zero action plan, with the goal of finalizing the plan in 2021.

Natick establishes a staff-led Energy Task Force, focused on implementing energy efficiency measures such as lighting retrofits, in school and municipal buildings.

2007

Natick becomes one of the first MA municipalities to install solar on public buildings, including Natick High School, Kennedy Middle School, Wilson Middle School, Bennett-Hemenway Elementary, Memorial Elementary and the Community Senior Center. In future years, solar is added to the Department of Public Works, the Chase Arena, Lilja Elementary School and West Natick Fire Station.

2012



Natick adds its first electric car to the municipal fleet and begins installing public electric vehicle charging stations.

2015

Natick runs the state's most successful Solarize Mass campaign as measured in terms of capacity. The program adds more than one megawatt of new solar, across 156 properties in the community.

2016



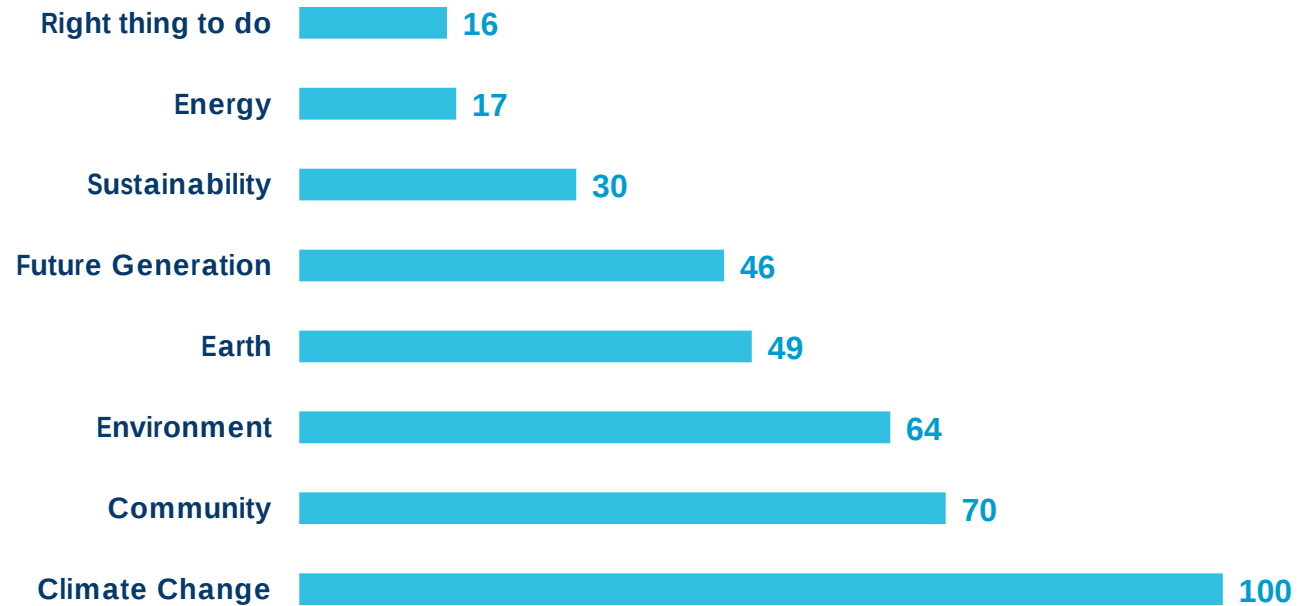
Natick Fall Town Meeting passes a non-binding resolution to adopt a goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and receives a grant from the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to develop a net zero plan. The Town also becomes a founding member of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program.

2018



Developing This Plan

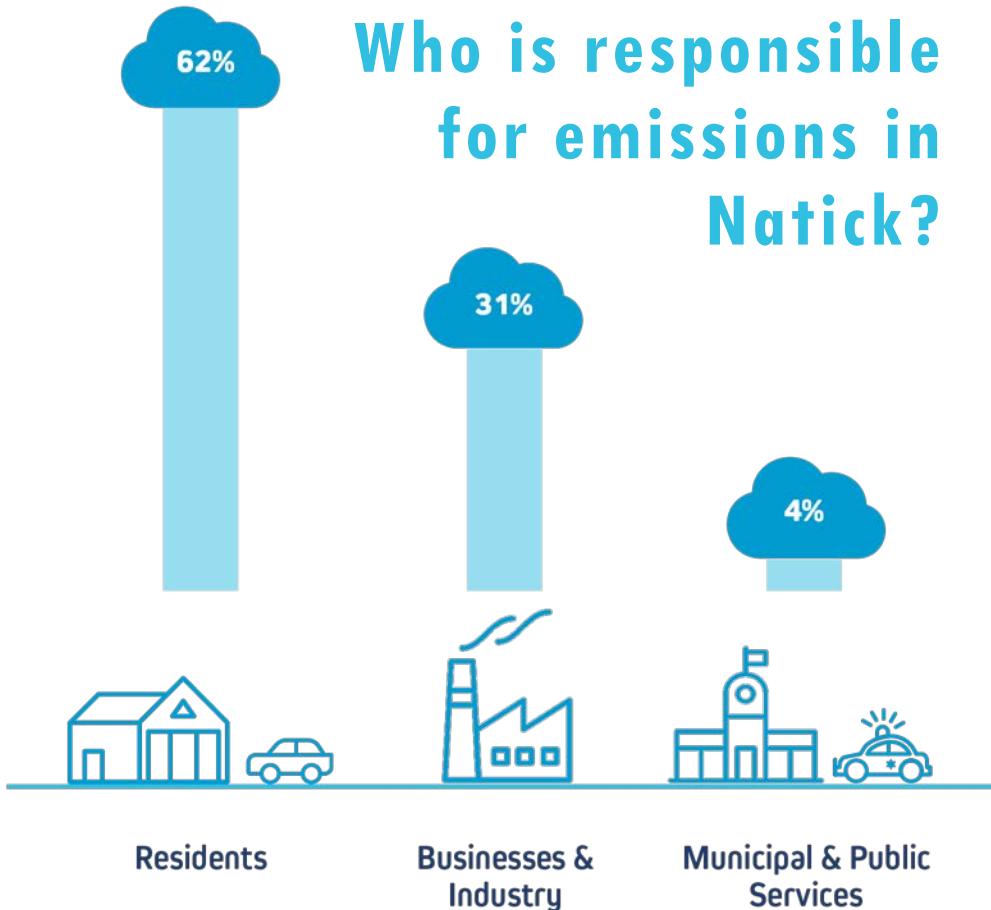
- Partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Arlington, and Melrose
- Sustainability Committee leadership
- Collaboration with other committees
- Net zero heroes
- Community input survey
- Virtual Earth Day
- Focus group with Town leaders
- Online Open House
- Newsletter to 3,000+ residents



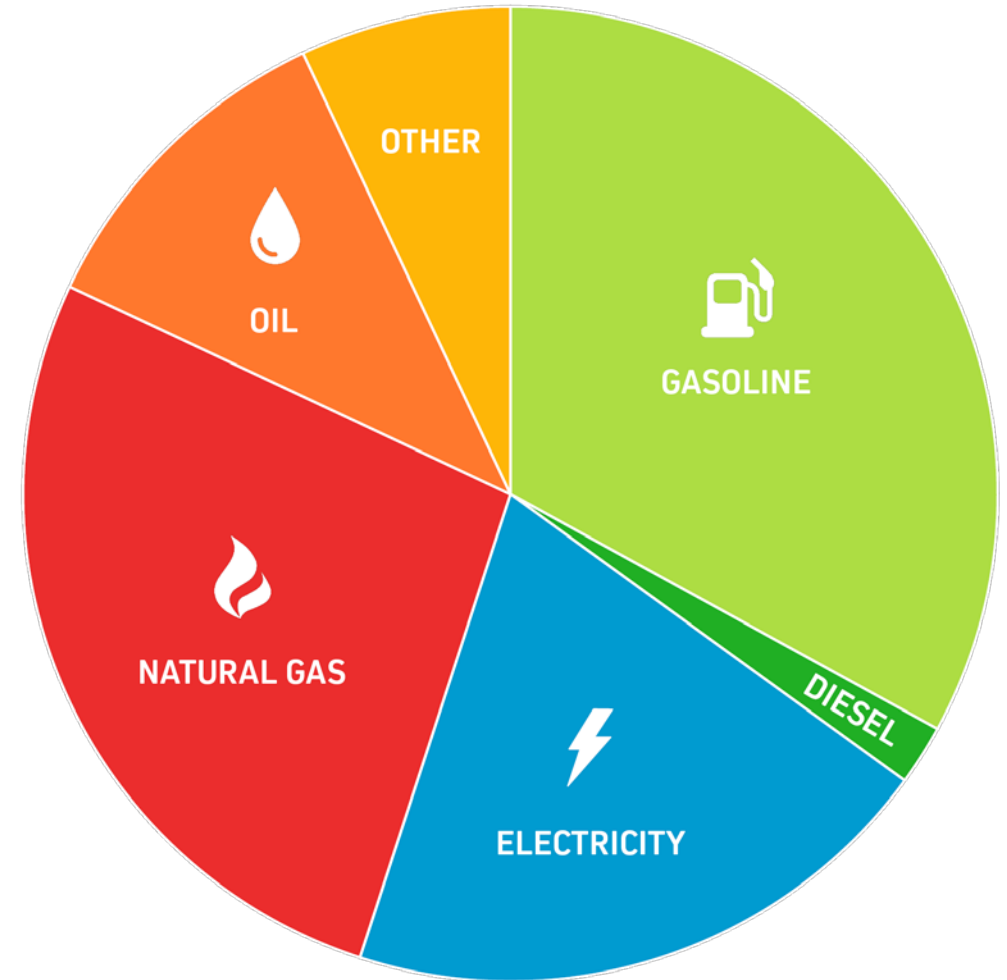
SOURCE: NATICK'S 2020 COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY, CONTENT ANALYSIS OF "WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN NATICK'S NET ZERO PLAN?" RESPONSE THEMES

Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Natick

Who is responsible for emissions in Natick?



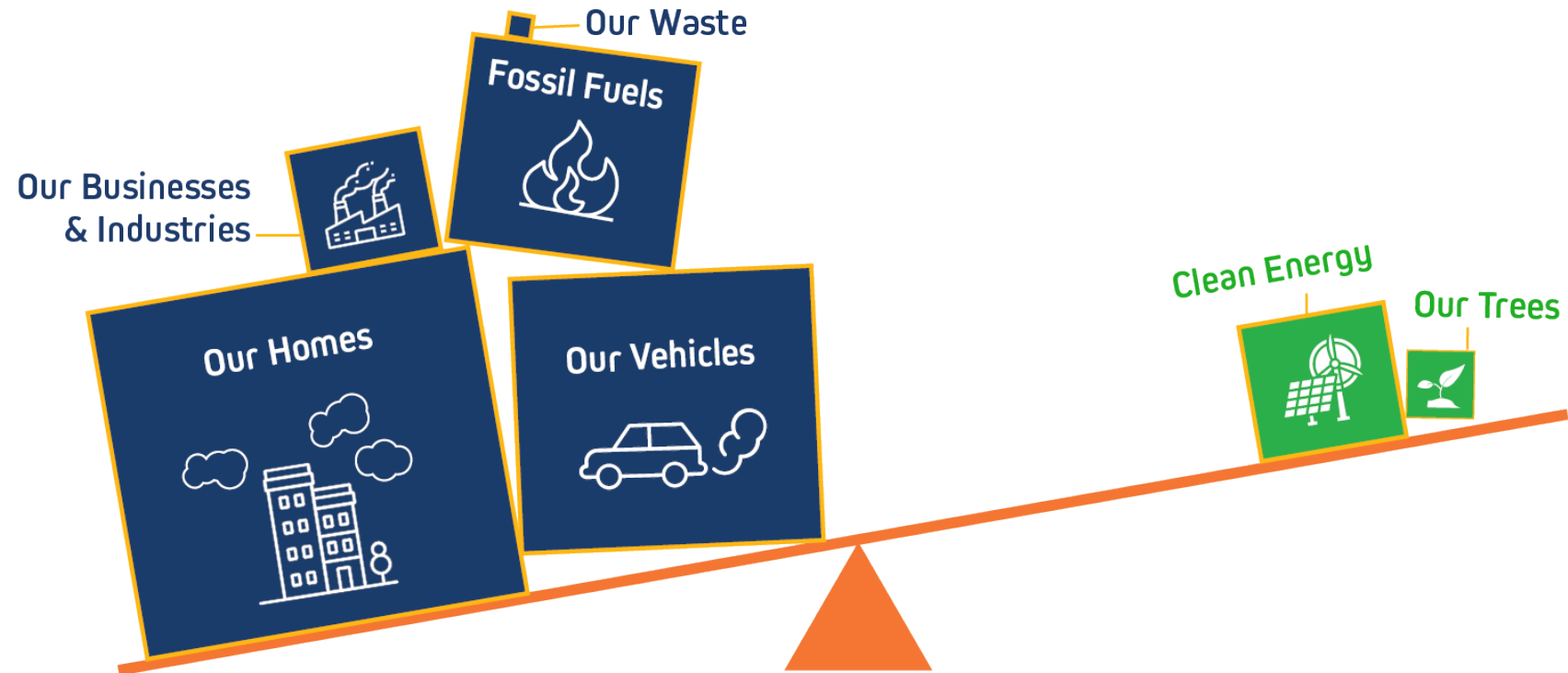
Which fuels generated the most emissions in Natick?



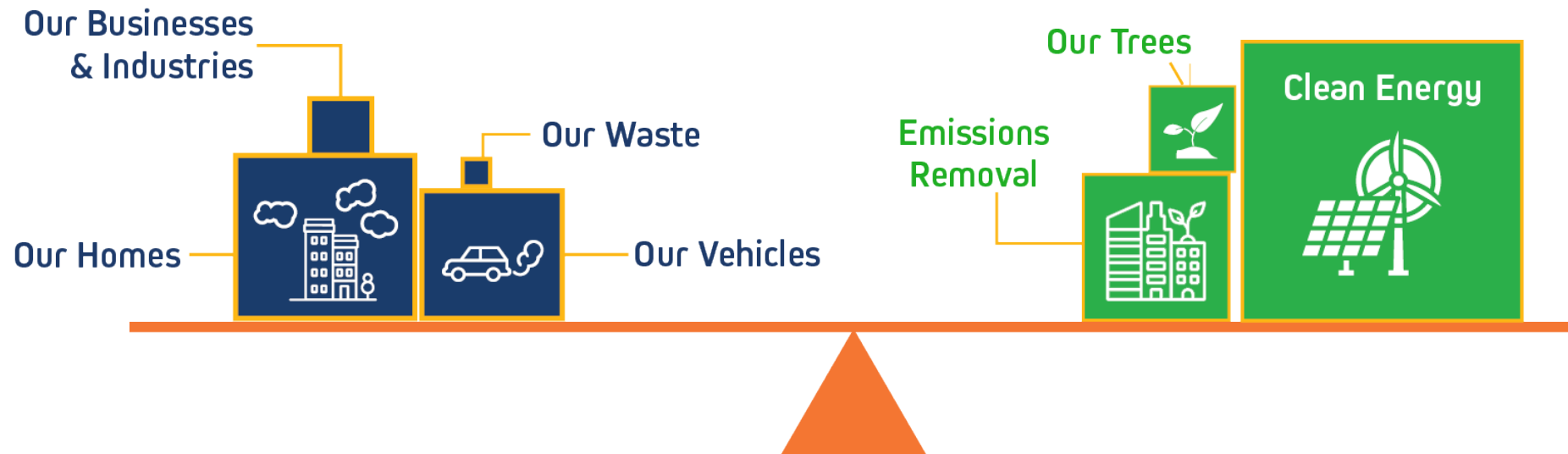
Getting to Net Zero

What does it mean and how do we get there

From this...



...to this!





Getting to Net Zero Equitably

As we develop, and then implement, the plan, we will consider:

Who has been historically impacted in our community?

Both by the change this measure aims to mitigate, and by previous solutions.

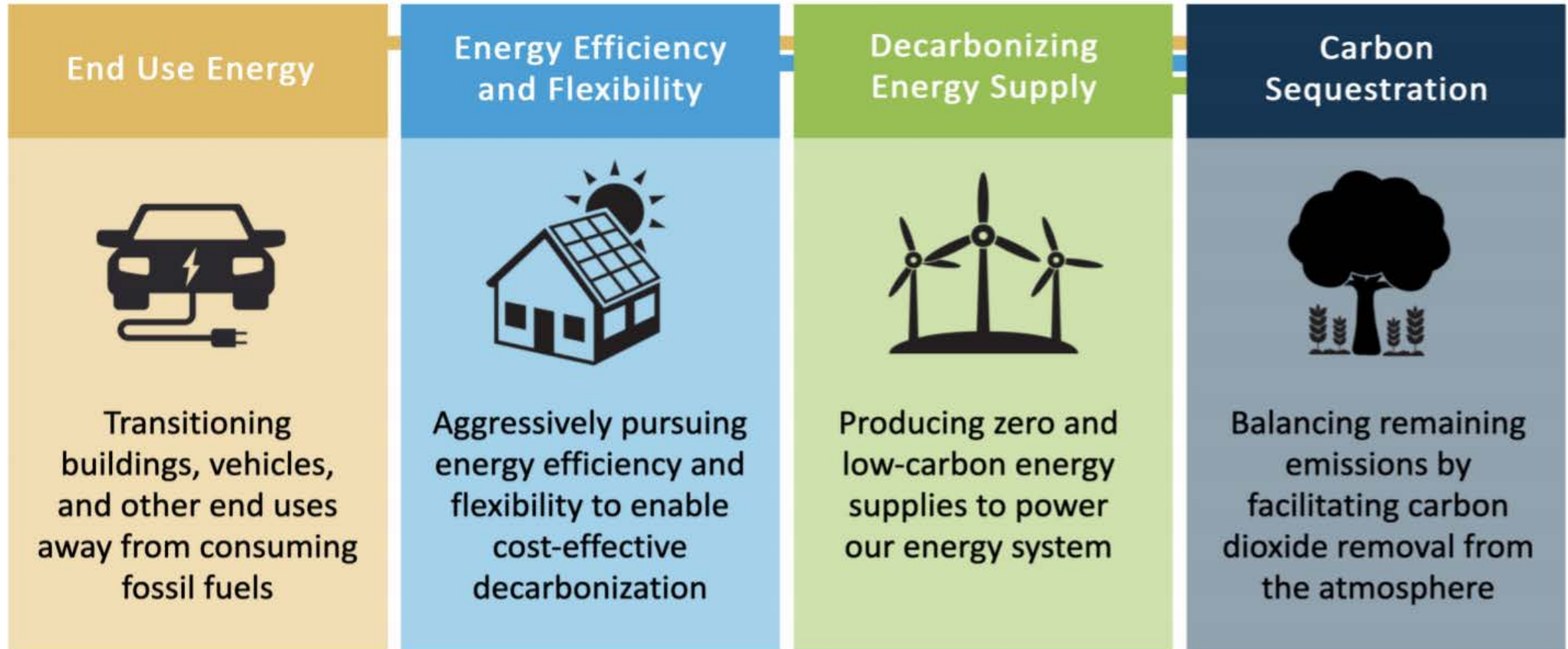
Who would be most impacted in the types of changes in our climate we expect to see?

Which populations are most vulnerable to the change? Who is least likely to be able to enact this solution without action?

How will the co-benefits of this plan and each action be distributed?

Where will assets be located?
Where will health benefits be realized?

How is Massachusetts getting to Net Zero?



Source: [Massachusetts 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap](#)

How will Natick get there?



Green the grid with
renewable energy sources.



Make our homes and
buildings super-efficient.



Electrify cars, trucks, buses,
trains, and other ways we
get around.



Produce more renewable
energy locally.



Electrify heating and
cooking equipment.



Make walking, biking, and
public transit the best way
to get around.

Natick's Net Zero Roadmap

Where we are headed



Roadmap Milestones

	TODAY	2030	2050	
 Green the grid with renewable energy sources.	Our electricity supply comes from 26% carbon-free sources.	Our electricity supply comes from 100% carbon-free sources.		
 Produce more renewable energy locally	There are 15.5 megawatts of installed solar capacity in Natick.	Half of all viable roofs in Natick have solar.	Maximize the installation of solar capacity in Natick.	
 Make our homes and buildings super-efficient.	All new buildings built to the state stretch energy code. 25% of residents participate in the MassSave Program	All new buildings are built to net zero standards and nearly half of all homes have been retrofitted.	Nearly all existing homes and businesses in Natick have been retrofitted.	
 Electrify heating and cooking equipment.	Approximately 21% of homes rely on electric heating.	Every new heating and cooking system installed is electric.	Nearly all homes and businesses rely on electric heating.	
 Make walking, biking, and public transit the best way to get around.	Approximately 17% of residents walk, bike, take public transit or telecommute to work.	All new developments are accessible by biking walking or connected to public transit.	Nearly every Natick home and business is accessible by biking or walking or connected to public transit.	
 Electrify cars, trucks, buses, trains, and other ways we get around.	Less than 0.1% of vehicles registered in Natick are zero emissions.	Nearly all new vehicle purchases are zero emissions (where feasible).	Nearly all passenger and commercial vehicles registered in Natick are zero emissions.	

Priority Actions for 2021-2025

							
WHERE OUR ENERGY COMES FROM	1. Pursue 100% carbon-free electricity in Natick's aggregation by 2030.	•	•				
	2. Transition municipal electricity to 100% carbon-free electricity by 2030.	•	•				
	3. Change zoning to make it easier to install clean energy technology.		•	•			•
	4. Maximize clean energy technology on municipal and school properties.		•				
	5. Support state legislation and policies to decarbonize the region's electricity.	•	•				
	6. Advocate for the accelerated repair of natural gas leaks.	•					
	7. Partner with residents and businesses to increase local solar capacity.	•	•				
OUR HOMES AND BUSINESSES	8. Create an ongoing program to help home and business owners reduce emissions.		•	•			•
	9. Require large, new commercial buildings to gradually achieve net zero by 2040.		•	•			
	10. Require large commercial building owners to report on and reduce energy use.		•				
	11. Adopt net zero standards for new public buildings and major renovations.		•	•			
	12. Support state legislation to establish a net zero stretch code.		•	•			•
	13. Require at least one climate-ready feature on all new or replaced roofs.		•				
	14. Opt into the state's commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy law.		•	•			
	15. Support training for Town staff, leaders, and developers on net zero buildings.		•	•			•
HOW WE GET AROUND	16. Expand access to and better promote electric vehicle charging stations.						•
	17. Prioritize zero emissions mobility options in community planning.					•	•
	18. Pilot bike, electric car and ride share programs.					•	
	19. Adopt zero emission standards for the municipal fleet.						•
	20. Advocate for improvements and electrification of transit.					•	•
	21. Partner with local EV dealers to offer discounts and promote state rebates.						•
	22. Advocate for changes that are beneficial to EV owners and the electric grid.	•					•

Partnering with the Commonwealth



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Leading by Example

							
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Our Plan for Implementation

Working together to achieve net zero by 2050

Implementation Strategies



GOVERNANCE

Establish a net zero action task force to support implementation across the community.

Align municipal department responsibilities with plan objectives.

Report on metrics of success and update the Town's greenhouse gas inventory on a semi-annual basis.

Revisit and update the plan every five years.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Build relationships and capacity to engage with vulnerable populations in Natick.

Support training for Town staff, leaders, and developers on net zero.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Build a local action coalition with community business partners.

Coordinate climate action regionally with Metro West municipalities.

Strengthen collaborative relationship with Eversource.