

Climate Leader Community status for Shutesbury

Public Forum and Public Hearing
March 17, 2025



Introductions

Shutesbury Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC)

Michael DeChiara

Gail Fleischaker

Isaac Goldstein

Nate Heard

Bert Schwarz (appointed)

Dept of Energy Resources (DOER) - guest presenters

Chris Mason, Regional Coordinator, Green Communities

Mike Rossi, Energy Code Specialist

Agenda

1. Introduction to the Climate Leaders Program
2. Adopting the Specialized Opt-In building code for new construction
3. Public Hearing at 6:45, to be followed by more discussion and Q&A, as needed.
4. Decarbonization by 2050 Resolution
5. Adopting a Zero-Emission Vehicle first policy for municipal vehicles
6. Questions and answers

What is Climate Leader Community Program?

The Climate Leader Communities (CLC) is a state program that builds on Green Communities.

CLC provides resources to help municipalities reduce greenhouse gas emissions through electrification and maximizing the efficiency of buildings and transportation.

Towns that participate in the CLC program are eligible for grant funding (up to \$1,000,000) to support part or all of the costs of activities that would implement greenhouse gas emissions reductions, including:

- On-site Solar Photovoltaic (PV)
- Solar thermal
- Heat pumps
- Energy Storage
- Technical studies
- Other decarbonization activities



Why Be a Climate Leader Community?

Access to grants and funding to advance town clean energy goals

Advances the town's ability for resiliency, decarbonization and clean energy adoption



What is Required

To be eligible for Climate Leader Community certification, communities must meet the following requirements:

Currently in place

- 😊 Be a Green Community in good standing
- 😊 Have an energy committee that advises the town on clean energy/climate initiatives

For vote at Town Meeting

1. Adopt the Specialized Opt-In building code for new construction
2. Adopt a Zero-Emission Vehicle first policy for municipal vehicles
3. Adopt a Decarbonization by 2050 Resolution

Following Town Meeting Vote (if approved)

4. Create a municipal decarbonization roadmap

REQUIREMENT #1

Specialized Opt-In building
code



What We Have Now

*The Town of Shutesbury has previously adopted the Stretch Energy Code and as a Green Community is required to adhere to all subsequent stretch codes; **the most recent version that automatically took effect on July 1, 2024.***

Where We Hope to Go

*The Specialized Energy Code builds on the current Stretch Code with additional provisions that help **meet our climate goals.***

*The additional provisions of the Specialized Energy Code currently **apply only to new construction of residential and commercial buildings.***

Dept of Energy Resources (DOER) Presentation

Chris Mason, Regional Coordinator, Green Communities
MA DOER

Mike Rossi, Energy Code Specialist, MA DOER

Public Hearing

by the Shutesbury Energy and Climate
Action Committee
regarding the
Specialized Stretch Code Bylaw



REQUIREMENT #2

Decarbonization by 2050 Resolution



What We'd Vote On

Be It Resolved, that the members of Shutesbury Town Meeting call on Town government to *commit to, **with appropriate support from the state and federal governments,*** to bring municipal net carbon emissions to zero as quickly as reasonably possible, with a target date of 2050.

Some “Whereas” Reasons

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Net Zero Carbon Energy goal by 2050 will drive the adoption of cleaner energy sources, bolster energy efficiency and resilience, and mitigate adverse impacts associated with fossil fuel dependency;

WHEREAS, the Town of Shutesbury has the potential to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy sources while simultaneously enhancing energy efficiency, promoting conservation measures, and electrifying transportation, heating, and water systems;

WHEREAS, the Town of Shutesbury has the opportunity to apply for state technical assistance in developing a Decarbonization Roadmap

REQUIREMENT #3

Adopt a Zero-Emission Vehicle-first policy for municipal vehicles



Why? Zero Emission First Policy

- Accelerate the adoption of emissions-reduction technologies and the transition of the fleet to all electric or other environmentally advantageous vehicles
- Minimize the long-term environmental and financial impacts of fleet vehicles
- Optimize the composition of the fleet to achieve maximum fuel efficiency
- Advance the installation of electric charging infrastructure across municipal facilities

How?

All vehicles shall be replaced following the electric-first hierarchy

1. **Battery-electric vehicle (BEV)**
2. **Plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV)**
3. **Hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) or other alternative fuel vehicle (AFV)**
4. **Standard vehicle operated by the most fuel-efficient internal combustion engine fueled by fossil fuels**

Vehicles shall be replaced when **they are no longer operable and will not be recycled from one municipal department** to another unless the recycled replacement is more efficient than the vehicle it is replacing.

When considering vehicle replacement, **the function of the vehicle will be reviewed** for potential replacement with a more fuel-efficient vehicle, including a zero emission non-exempt vehicle.

Exceptions for Practicality

This policy applies to all divisions and departments of the Town of Shutesbury. It applies to roadworthy passenger vehicles, pick up and utility trucks, and SUVs. **It does not apply to specialized equipment or off-road vehicles.**

If it is determined that a ZEV **does not meet operational needs**, the purchased or leased vehicle must be the most fuel-efficient class, drive train, and model available that will fulfill the intended municipal function.

Climate Leader Status for Shutesbury: Next Steps

1. ECAC will review comments and discuss final versions of these three items, making sure they comply with DOER requirements
2. The three Climate Leader items will be on 2025 Town Meeting Warrant for consideration and Vote
3. If approved, ECAC/Shutesbury will apply for DOER funding to develop a Decarbonization Roadmap - the final item needed for Climate Leader Community status

Questions?

