

Multiple MMWEC Members Install Energy Storage

Several MMWEC members have recently installed or plan to install utility scale storage in their communities, leading the way towards the Commonwealth's decarbonized future grid.

Under a partnership with Lightshift Energy, up to 13 municipal utilities plan to install a total of approximately 54 megawatts (MW) of energy storage. To date, four municipal utilities have installed five battery systems with Lightshift totaling 19 megawatts. In addition, the municipal utilities in Ipswich and Holyoke have recently signed contracts to install new energy storage systems with Lightshift.

In 2024, the following energy storage systems came online through the partnership: Holden Municipal Light Department – 5 MW, Paxton Municipal Light Department – 3 MW, Groton Electric Light Department – two systems, 3 MW each.

Earlier this year, Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department's 5 MW Lightshift battery reached commercial operation. This system will be part of the innovative Wakefield Energy Park, a unique initiative to provide backup power to two high schools, serve as a microgrid and provide peak shaving opportunities for the light department. The Energy Park is expected to be completed in 2026.

"Since Groton's first system went live in July of 2024, the



Groton Ribbon Cutting

MMWEC/Lightshift projects have saved participants over \$1.3 million in transmission-related charges, and provided key load relief to participating MLPs during the many heat waves we saw in the summer of 2025," said Jason Viadero, MMWEC Director of Engineering and Generation Assets. "Energy storage has proven its value to MMWEC members and is something we will continue to help MLPs pursue as tools to mitigate rising capacity and transmission charges."

In addition to the energy storage systems installed with Lightshift, several MMWEC members are in the process of installing battery systems with other developers. They include the West Boylston Municipal Light Plant, which is installing a 3 MW system expected to come online this fall, and Chicopee Electric Light, which is currently planning for three, 5 MW batteries to be installed in the city. Holyoke Gas & Electric, which already had two energy storage projects totaling 8 MW installed, is adding two new batteries totaling an additional 11 MW in the first quarter of 2026.

Despite changing economics associated with new import tariffs and the phasing out of the investment tax credit in 2026, MMWEC and Lightshift are committed to providing MLPs with energy storage solutions now and maximizing savings to project participants. ∞

MMWEC Legislative Team Pushes Public Power Agenda on Beacon Hill

Since the beginning of the new legislative session in January, MMWEC's government affairs team has been busy developing and advocating for its legislative agenda. Throughout the early months of the session, MMWEC's legislative team reviewed hundreds of proposed bills, and even submitted a couple of their own, to develop a legislative agenda. As the legislative process continues to play out, MMWEC has continued its public power advocacy. In fact, MMWEC staff have testified both in person, in front of the Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy (TUE), and in writing.

MMWEC's advocacy has centered around the following bills so far this session:

H. 3570/S. 2326 – "An Act to Update Vehicle Emissions Standards." MMWEC's legislative team provided both in-person and written testimony in support of these MMWEC-sponsored bills. This legislation would exempt municipal light plants (MLPs) from complying with California's vehicle emissions standards until the infrastructure and technology are in place and allow for

implementation.

H. 3514 / S. 2295 – "An Act Reforming the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company Board of Directors." MMWEC testified in person and in writing in opposition to this governance proposal, which would undermine the mission MMWEC was created by the Legislature to undertake and, in so doing, threaten the ability of MLPs to achieve their 2050 net zero goals.

H.3549/S. 2288 – "An Act to Remove Woody Biomass from the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standard for Municipal Lighting Plants." MMWEC formalized its position supporting the exclusion of woody biomass from emissions accounting. This better reflects the Commonwealth's climate goals and supports the direction in which MLPs are already moving—away from carbon sources and toward truly clean,



MMWEC's Jim Leydon testifying

MMWEC Welcomes Department of Energy Fellow

MMMWEC is a new host to a federal Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Innovator Fellow.

MMWEC applied to host a fellow through the DOE earlier this year. As part of the application process, MMWEC submitted a detailed project and work plan for the fellow.

The project, entitled “Distribution System Reliability and Forecast Analysis,” aims to utilize smart meter technology to better inform MMWEC’s

operations in assisting municipal light plant (MLP) staff with identifying future grid upgrades and planning needed to accommodate their electrification forecasts, and enhance electrification/ decarbonization programs. The goal is to improve the understanding of MLP distribution systems and their reliability constraints, as well as

opportunities.

MMWEC matched with candidate Jacob Franzmeier, a St.



Jacob Franzmeier

Olaf’s College graduate with a degree in math.

Franzmeier also has experience as an operations analyst. He started at MMWEC in late August. He will serve in the role for at least one year, with the option for the fellowship to be extended to two years. DOE fellows receive compensation from the federal government.

Franzmeier will work under MMWEC’s energy efficiency and sustainability policy and program senior manager, and will work with various departments within the joint action agency to house, analyze and overlay advanced metering infrastructure data of pilot MLPs with various other sources of data to achieve the project results. This foundational work will enable accurate

analysis and visualization of the distribution system’s performance.

“At the ground level, distribution system health is one of the most important functions of an MLP, and the impacts of electrification have raised a lot more concerns and questions on the grid’s ability to hold that much electricity demand at once,” said MMWEC’s Director of Energy Markets, Tom Barry. “MMWEC is proud and excited to be working with a DOE fellow to cement our partner abilities for MLPs in assisting them with this ongoing challenge.” ∞

Templeton Municipal Light & Water Plant Joins NextZero Commercial Programs

Templeton Municipal Light & Water Plant (TMLWP), the not-for-profit, public power utility serving the communities of Templeton, East Templeton, Baldwinville and Otter River, has joined the NextZero program’s commercial and industrial energy efficiency and decarbonization programs.

TMLWP has been a longtime participant in MMWEC’s NextZero residential energy efficiency and decarbonization programs. TMLWP joined the NextZero commercial and industrial programs on August 1, 2025.

TMLWP commercial and industrial customers now have access to all four commercial and industrial programs offered under NextZero: Prescriptive Lighting, Prescriptive HVAC, New Construction and Major Renovations, and Custom Retrofit.

The NextZero Prescriptive Lighting and HVAC programs are fast-track processes for reviewing and implementing lighting and HVAC projects. The programs are ideal for customers who have identified lighting or HVAC improvement projects and have procured cost quotations from licensed installers. Qualified customers may be eligible for up to \$1,000 in incentives for lighting improvements and up to \$5,000 for HVAC projects.

The NextZero Custom Retrofit Program is intended for commercial and industrial customers interested in exploring options for energy efficiency measures but aren’t sure where to start.



Once enrolled, the NextZero team works with the customer and their preferred contractors to define work scopes for recommended projects, and produces a cost-effectiveness evaluation based on estimated annual energy savings. TMLWP commercial and industrial customers may be eligible for up to a \$5,000 rebate under this program.

Under the New Construction and Major Renovation Program, the NextZero team works with applicants to develop a customized plan that may consist of co-funded technical services, custom or prescriptive rebates, or both.

The plan is developed to provide maximum value to the customer in their project planning process. Customers may be eligible for up to a \$5,000 rebate under this program.

“Templeton has for many years now participated in MMWEC’s NextZero program, which offers incentives and rebates to our residential customers on home heating and cooling measures in addition to a multitude of home energy efficiency programs,” said John Driscoll, TMLWP General Manager. “We are pleased that our commercial and industrial customer will now be able to benefit from MMWEC’s multi-tiered approach to energy conservation and efficiency via their NextZero program.”

For more information and application forms, visit <https://nextzero.org/templeton/commercial/>. ∞

Connected Homes Adds New EVs, Tesla Batteries

The Connected Homes program is expanding its scope of eligible devices once again. The program is introducing new electric vehicles (EVs), EV chargers, and residential battery models.



Connected Homes is a demand response program that leverages the technology of smart appliances and devices into cost savings for light departments and their customers. Select models of Wi-Fi thermostats, mini-split controllers, electric vehicles and chargers, electric hot water heaters, and residential batteries are eligible for enrollment. Using peak demand forecasting, the program issues adjustments to enrolled devices during times of peak electric demand and rewards its customers with monthly incentives.

Select electric and plug-in hybrid electric models of Alfa Romeo, Chrysler, Fiat, Jeep, Mazda, Porsche, Ram 1500, and Subaru have been added to the list of eligible vehicles in the Connected Homes program.

On September 1, 2025, the program is adding EvoCharge electric vehicle chargers as well as two new models of residential batteries: Tesla Powerwall and NeoVolta.

Connected Homes has the ability to send control requests to both of the new battery brands as opposed to just alerting customers and asking them to abstain from charging during predicted energy peaks.

The program is especially pleased to be partnering with brands as popular as Tesla.

"Public power in Massachusetts, in the scope of the country, is sometimes considered by national brands to be too small for them to consider working with us," says MMWEC Sustainable Energy Program & Policy Senior Manager Zoe Eckert. "But with years of pushing and strategic conversations, MMWEC is thrilled to have worked hard to achieve getting Tesla to integrate their Powerwall batteries into the Connected Homes program."

As Massachusetts's decarbonization goals approach, it becomes more important than ever that light departments work with their customers to shift energy use, electrify, and decarbonize.

Connected Homes will continue to expand its programming by adding new devices and brands to help make the energy transition easier. ∞

MMWEC, Berkshire Wind Award Scholarships to Graduating Seniors

Summertime brings scholarships for local high school students, courtesy of MMWEC and the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation (BWPCC). Through the MMWEC and BWPCC scholarship programs, \$4,000 in scholarships has been awarded to four deserving members of the Class of 2025.

Since 1998, MMWEC has awarded \$70,000 in scholarships to help students defray the cost of higher education. To be eligible, students must pursue a college education in engineering, environmental sciences, business, finance, accounting, or a related field.

This year's scholarship MMWEC recipients are Owen McCarthy and Sophia Scyocurka from Ludlow High School.

McCarthy plans to attend Western New England University and major in finance. In high school, he participated in the Marketing and Best Buddies clubs, the soccer and track and field teams, and served as a math tutor. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of the Junior Book Award.

Scyocurka will also attend Western New England University and major in accounting. At Ludlow High School, she played on the varsity volleyball team for four years. She was also a member of the National Honor Society and served on the Student Council.

This is the third year of the BWPCC scholarship program. The BWPCC owns and operates the Berkshire Wind Power Project, a 12 turbine, 19.6-megawatt wind farm located on Brodie Mountain in Hancock and Lanesborough, Mass. The non-profit BWPCC consists of 16 municipal utilities located in

Ashburnham, Boylston, Chicopee, Groton, Holden, Hull, Ipswich, Marblehead, Paxton, Peabody, Russell, Shrewsbury, Sterling, Templeton, Wakefield, and West Boylston, and their joint action agency, the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC).

The BWPCC scholarships are awarded to qualifying seniors at select schools in the Berkshires who reside in Lanesborough or Hancock and are planning to attend either a two- or four-year college or trade school program.

This year's BWPCC scholarship recipients are Malia Koffi (Mount Greylock High School) of Lanesborough and Dylan Turner (McCann Technical School) of Hancock.

Koffi will attend Berkshire Community College and major in Health Sciences. In high school, she served as captain of the Mount Greylock softball team, as a member of the Black Student Union, and was a three-time recipient of the Greylock Way Award, which recognizes students and staff who exemplify the school's main core values of Accountability, Respect, Integrity, Stewardship, and Excellence in their everyday lives.

Turner will attend the Elite Lineman Training Institute in Georgia. While at McCann, he played on the varsity baseball team, was a member of the National Honor Society, and participated in SkillsUSA, and McCann's Corporate Work Experience, where he worked for a local electrician.

"We are proud to support the 2025 scholarship recipients, whose proactive perseverance was demonstrated throughout their successful high school journeys," said MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ron DeCurzio. ∞

MMWEC's NextZero Program Honors Participants with Awards

MMMWEC's NextZero decarbonization and electrification program has recognized several participating municipal light plants for outstanding work over the past year.

Annually, NextZero gives out three awards, recognizing superior efforts in marketing, impactful work, and innovative ideas.

Marketing Award – Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant

As the Commonwealth approaches its clean energy goals by encouraging electrification, demand response programs, like Connected Homes, will become paramount in the equation. Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant is proactive in its approach to market the Connected Homes program through its social media platforms, encouraging customers to be a part of the clean energy solution. The program has been a resounding success for the light department. In its first year of

participation in the program, HMLP had 60 customers enroll 112 devices into Connected Homes.



Hingham Award

Impact Award – Peabody Municipal Light Plant

Peabody Municipal Light Plant (PMLP) offers a full set of energy efficiency and decarbonation efforts for its residents. Their staff is extremely knowledgeable and attentive to program activities and customer interactions, making sure that their customers have the best service experience possible. PMLP goes above and beyond in making sure their customers stay informed on the latest offerings with efforts like their Energy Awareness Forum and Latest Updates Newsletter.

Innovation Award – Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department

All municipal light plants have innovative ideas, but Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department (WMGLD) has brought theirs to life with the Wakefield Energy Park, currently under construction. This endeavor will provide cost savings to WMGLD customers, environmental benefits, and educational opportunities for local high school students. ∞



Peabody Award

MMWEC Legislative Team... Continued from Page 1

zero-carbon power, in order to uphold environmental and public health standards.

H.3571/S.2258 – “Resolve Establishing a Commission to Consider the Inclusion of Nuclear Energy in Massachusetts’s Future Energy Planning.” MMWEC advocated in both written and in-person testimony. MMWEC echoed the bill’s authors to include MMWEC on a commission that would evaluate nuclear energy as part of the Commonwealth’s long-term clean energy strategy. MMWEC’s inclusion would leverage its almost 40 years of experience in owning nuclear assets.

H. 4144 – “An Act Relative to Energy Affordability, Independence and Innovation.” MMWEC testified in front of the TUE Committee to give feedback on Governor Healey’s Affordability Bill. Staff stated MMWEC’s support for the removal of barriers to add new nuclear generation to the grid, specifically

small modular nuclear reactors, and the concept that would offer public power the opportunity to participate in clean energy procurements. In addition, MMWEC’s testimony articulated concerns around reporting requirements, and data sharing.

H.3486/S. 2252 – “An Act Relative to Municipal Light Plant Emergency Mutual Aid” H. 3457 / S. 2277 – “An Act Relative to Municipal Light Plants” MMWEC provided supportive testimony both in person and in writing on the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM)-sponsored mutual aid bills. These bills would strengthen mutual aid mechanisms among MLPs during emergencies and weather-related outages.

MMWEC’s government affairs team continues to engage directly with the Massachusetts State Legislature throughout the legislative process and will continue to advocate and promote MLP and public power objectives and perspectives. ∞



Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company

MMWEC

A not-for-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth
Joint Action and economies of scale for Massachusetts municipal utilities

327 Moody Street, Ludlow, MA 01056

(413) 308-1351

mmwec@mmwec.org

www.mmwec.org