



## NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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### **NextZero Launches to Accelerate Commonwealth Decarbonization**

Ludlow, MA -- February 18, 2022 -- Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), the Commonwealth's designated joint action agency for municipal utilities in Massachusetts, is announcing the launch of its NextZero program to help public power communities accelerate decarbonization. The NextZero program will replace residential, commercial and industrial energy efficiency programs in alignment with a shift in focus to a carbon-free future.

MMWEC's energy efficiency programs, previously known as Home Energy Loss Prevention Services (HELPS) and Green Opportunity (GO), have served MMWEC and its participating municipal light plants (MLPs) well for more than three decades. The driving purpose of the NextZero brand is to help the Commonwealth reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The new brand and its mission were developed through a rigorous strategic planning process with a sub committee consisting of representatives of participating MLPs. NextZero's mission is to "provide the most efficient, innovative and equitable path to energy decarbonization for our communities." The new mission emphasizes the critical role that community owned electric systems play in developing the clean energy future.

"We believe the NextZero name and brand better conveys the forward-leaning, next generation of our programs for both residential and commercial customers," said Bill Bullock, MMWEC's Sustainable Energy Policy and Program Senior Manager. "Our participating light departments offer a variety of programs, services and rebates to help support their customers' efforts to reduce their carbon footprints. The NextZero brand is a reflection of this progressive, evolving work."

Municipal light departments participating in MMWEC's residential energy efficiency programs through NextZero offer programs such as the Connected Homes demand response program, electric vehicle scheduled charging program, energy audits and rebates for energy-efficient appliances, electrification technologies and weatherization. Several light departments also participate in commercial and industrial energy efficiency programs, including energy efficient lighting retrofits and customized efficiency upgrades.

"MMWEC is proud to facilitate these innovative programs for our participating light departments and their customers," said MMWEC CEO Ronald C. DeCurzio. "Municipal utilities are committed to supporting the Commonwealth's electrification and decarbonization targets, and NextZero will be part of the solution."

To find out more, visit [nextzero.org](http://nextzero.org).

MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1975 and authorized to issue debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities.

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