



CITY COUNCIL  
**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**  
MASSACHUSETTS

Councilors:

- President Gina-Louise Sciarra, At-Large
- William H. Dwight, At-Large
- Michael J. Quinlan, Jr., Ward 1
- Karen Foster, Ward 2
- Vice-President James Nash, Ward 3
- John Thorpe, Ward 4
- Alex Jarrett, Ward 5
- Marianne L. LaBarge, Ward 6
- Rachel Maiore, Ward 7

**Meeting Agenda**  
**On-line Video Conference**  
**Meeting Date: February 18, 2021**  
**Meeting Time: 7 p.m.**

The February 18, 2021 City Council meeting will be held via remote participation. The public can follow the council's deliberations by watching the meeting live on Comcast channel 15, live-streaming it on Youtube or joining the virtual meeting by phone or computer. For the active Youtube link, please see Northampton Open Media's website: <http://northamptonopenmedia.org/>

Live public comment will be available using telephone call-in or video conferencing technology beginning at 7 p.m.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALLING IN OR JOINING THE MEETING**

**Join virtual meeting:** <http://bit.ly/2ZdHzwK>

For telephone call-in, call:

+ 253 215-8785 US

+ 301 715-8592 US

**MEETING ID: 996 5887 4911**

**PASSCODE: 783358**

**1. Announcement that Meeting is Being Held Via Remote Participation and Audio/Video Recorded**

This meeting is being held via remote participation and audio/video recorded.

**2. Public Comment**

### 3. Roll Call

### 4. Public Hearings

A. 7:05 pm **Public Hearing on 21.188 Application for License to Store Flammables and Combustibles at 138 North King Street**

The City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:05 p.m.** on the application of Big Y Foods, Inc. for a License for Storage of Flammables and Combustibles to use the property at 138 North King Street, Northampton, MA (the existing Big Y Supermarket parking lot) for the storage of two (2) 20,000-gallon underground storage tanks: one (1) 20,000-gallon gasoline and one (1) 20,000 gallon split tank with 10,000 gallons of gasoline and 10,000 gallons of diesel. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Documents:

[21.188 Application for License to Store Flammables and Combustibles at 138 North King Street.pdf](#)

B. 7:15 pm **Public Hearing on 20.173 National Grid Petition for Installation of Underground Conduit on Hockanum Road (Petition #16315676)**

Per M.G.L. Chapter 166, Section 22, the City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:15 p.m.** on the petition of National Grid to install underground conduit and associated fixtures on Hockanum Road (Petition #163315676). The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Documents:

[20.173 National Grid Petition for Installation of Underground Conduit on Hockanum Road \(Petition No. 16315676\).pdf](#)  
[20.173 DPW Recommendation.pdf](#)

### 5. Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs

### 6. Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors

### 7. Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor

### 8. Resolutions

**A. 21.193 A Resolution Opposing Internet Data Caps and Committing to Achieving Just Internet Access and Affordability - 2nd reading**

**History:**

- Amended to add "Be it further resolved" clause endorsing HD663, "An Act protecting internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic" and adding Karen Charles Peterson, Commissioner of MA Department of Telecommunications and Cable to distribution list - 2/4/2021
- Passed in 1st reading as amended - 2/4/2021

Documents:

[21.193 A Resolution Opposing Internet Data Caps - POST 1st rdg.pdf](#)

**9. Presentations**

**10. Consent Agenda**

**A. Minutes of January 21, 2021**

Documents:

[01-21-2021\\_City Council Minutes.pdf](#)

**11. Recess for Committee on Finance (See Separate Agenda)**

**12. Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)**

Rule 2.6 requires the Finance Committee to consider certain financial matters.

**A. 21.194 An Order to Rescind Borrowing Authority - 3 Votes - 1st reading**

Documents:

[21.194 An Order to Rescind Borrowing Authority - 3 Votes.pdf](#)

**B. 21.195 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash for COVID Expenses Potentially Ineligible for CARES Act Reimbursement - 1st reading**

Documents:

[21.195 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash for COVID Expenses Potentially Ineligible for CARES Act Reimbursement.pdf](#)

**C. 21.196 An Order to Surplus 56 Vernon Street and Lease for**

## **Continued Use as Head Start Daycare and Early Education Facility - 1st reading**

Documents:

[21.196 An Order to Surplus 56 Vernon Street and Lease for Continued Use as Head Start Daycare and Early Education Facility.pdf](#)

### **13. Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)**

#### **A. 21.191 An Order to Acquire Land on Nash Hill Road in Williamsburg for Water Supply Protection - 2nd reading**

**History:**

- Positive recommendation, Finance Committee - 2/4/2021
- Passed 1st reading - 2/4/2021

Documents:

[21.191 An Order to Acquire Land on Nash Hill Road in Williamsburg for Water Supply Protection.pdf](#)

[21.191 Plan of Proposed Acquisition on Nash Hill Road.pdf](#)

[21.191 Watershed Zones.pdf](#)

[21.191 Survey of Nash Hill Road.pdf](#)

#### **B. 21.192 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to City Clerk for Elections and DPW for Asphalt - 2nd reading**

**History:**

- Positive recommendation, Finance Committee - 2/4/2021
- Passed 1st reading - 2/4/2021

Documents:

[21.192 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to City Clerk for Elections and DPW for Asphalt.pdf](#)

### **14. Orders**

#### **A. 21.190 An Order Endorsing the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan - 2nd reading**

**History:**

- Passed 1st reading - 2/4/2021

Documents:

[21.190 An Order Endorsing the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan.pdf](#)  
[Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan.pdf](#)

### **15. Ordinances (Not yet Referred)**

Rule 5.2.3 provides that no ordinance shall be voted on by the City Council until it has been considered by the Committee on Legislative Matters.

**16. Ordinances**

**17. Information Requests (Charter Provision 2-7) and Committee Study Requests**

**18. New Business**

**19. Adjourn**

*Contact: G-L Sciarra, Council President*  
glsciarra@northamptonma.gov  
(413) 570-3133

CAROLYN A. PARKER  
CONSULTING

January 28, 2021

**City Hall  
City Council  
210 Main Street – Room 16  
Northampton, MA 01060**

Attn: Ms. Laura Krutzler  
Admin Assistant to City Council

**Big Y – Gas station**  
138 North King Street  
Northampton, MA  
Delivery: Regular mail

Dear Ms. Krutzler,

Enclosed please find an Application for License, signed by the owner and the local fire department, and (1) one copy of the proposed Big Y gas station to be located at 138 North King Street, Northampton, MA within the existing Big Y supermarket parking lot. The owner of the property, Big Y Foods, Inc. wishes to be heard by the City Council for a new License to store underground fuel at the proposed gas station. They will install (2) 20,000-gallon fuel storage tanks: (1) 20,000-gallon gasoline and (1) 20,000-gallon split tank: (10K gasoline/10K diesel). I will be drafting a self-serve fire suppression for the site allowing customers to pump their own fuel.

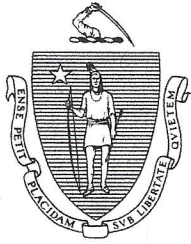
I have obtained a copy of the list of abutters and I will send out the notifications via Certified Mail once I receive the hearing notice. I believe the next available hearing we can be heard at will be February 18, 2021 and I will be in attendance at the Zoom hearing. If you have any questions or need additional information please call me at (774) 239-2781, thank you in advance for your time in helping to expedite this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Carolyn A. Parker

Cc: Big Y Foods, Inc.  
Alfred Benesch & Company  
File

**SPECIALIZING IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY**  
*Project Management, Permit Expediting, Drafting & Fire Suppression Plans*



FP-002A  
(Rev. 1.1.2015)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
City/Town of Northampton

**Application For License**

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148 §13

New License     Amended License

GIS Coordinates	
_____	LAT.
_____	LONG.
_____	License Number

Application is hereby made in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 148 of the General Laws of Massachusetts for a license to store flammables, combustibles or explosives on land in buildings or structures herein described.

Location of Land: 138 NORTH KING STREET  
Number, Street and Assessor's Map and Parcel ID

Attach a plot plan of the property indicating the location of property lines and all buildings or structures.

Owner of Land: BIG Y TRUST

Address of Land Owner: 2145 ROOSEVELT AVE, SPRINGFIELD, MA

Use and Occupancy of Buildings and Structures: GAS STATION W/ KIOSK 01102

If this is an application for amendment of an existing license, indicate date of original license and any subsequent amendments  
NO

Attach a copy of the current license

**Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Flammable Gases and Solids**

*Complete this section for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids, solids, and gases; see 527 CMR 1.00 Table 1.12.8.50; Attach additional pages if needed. All tanks and containers are considered full for the purposes of licensing and permitting.*

PRODUCT NAME	CLASS	MAXIMUM QUANTITY	UNITS gal., lbs, cubic feet	CONTAINER UST, AST, IBC, drums
<u>GASOLINE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>UST</u>
<u>GASOLINE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>UST</u>
<u>DIESEL</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>COMPART- MENTALIZED</u>

Total quantity of all flammable liquids to be stored: 30,000

Total quantity of all combustible liquids to be stored: 10,000

Total quantity of all flammable gases to be stored: 0

Total quantity of all flammable solids to be stored: 0

LP-gas (Complete this section for the storage of LP-gas or propane) N/A

Indicate the maximum quantity of LP-gas to be stored and the sizes and capacities of all storage containers. (See 527 CMR 1.00 Table 1.12.8.50)

❖ Maximum quantity (in gallons) of LP-gas to be stored in aboveground containers: \_\_\_\_\_  
List sizes and capacities of all aboveground containers used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum quantity (in gallons) of LP-gas to be stored in underground containers: \_\_\_\_\_  
List sizes and capacities of all underground containers used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

Total aggregate quantity of all LP-gas to be stored: \_\_\_\_\_

Fireworks (Complete this section for the storage of fireworks) N/A

Indicate classes of fireworks to be stored and maximum quantity of each class. (See 527 CMR 1.00 Table 1.12.8.50)

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.3G: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/class of magazine used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4G: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/class of magazine used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/class of magazine used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

Total aggregate quantity of all classes of fireworks to be stored: \_\_\_\_\_

Explosives (Complete this section for the storage of explosives) N/A

Indicate classes of explosive to be stored and maximum quantity of each class. (See 527 CMR 1.00 Table 1.12.8.50)

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.1: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.2: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.3: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.5: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.6: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

I, MATT D'AMOUR, hereby attest that I am authorized to make this application. I acknowledge that the information contained herein is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I acknowledge that all materials stored pursuant to any license granted hereunder must be stored or kept in accordance with all applicable laws, codes, rules and regulations, including but not limited to Massachusetts Chapter 148, and the Massachusetts Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00). I further acknowledge that the storage of any material specified in any license granted hereunder may not exceed the maximum quantity specified by the license.

Signature [Signature] Date 01.19.2021 Name Matt D'Amour

*Fire Department Use Only*

I, Andrew Pelis, Head of the Nor Thornton Fire Department endorse this application with my

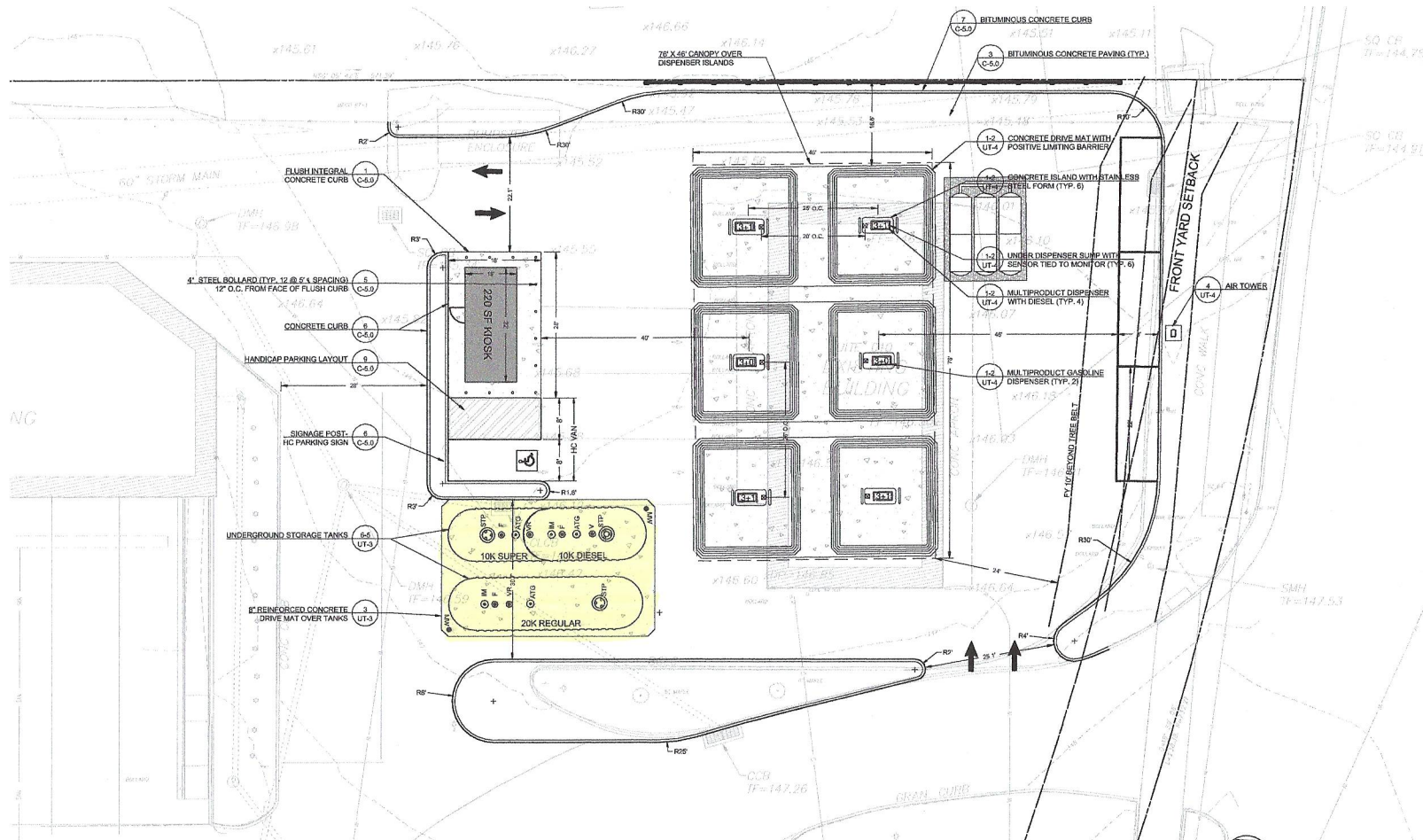
Approval  Disapproval

Signature of Head of the Fire Department [Signature]

Date 1/25/2021

Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED  
 CONVENIENCE/FUEL  
 FACILITY**  
 NORTH KING STREET  
 NORTHAMPTON, MA



**ZONING TABLE**

ZONE: HB HIGHWAY BUSINESS			
USE TYPE:			
EXISTING: AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE (MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE LUBRICATION CENTERS)			
PROPOSED: AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE (MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL SALES - NO CONVENIENCE)			
ITEM	REQUIREMENTS	EXISTING	PROPOSED
MIN. LOT AREA	0	528,434 SF	528,434 SF
MIN. LOT FRONTAGE	0	440 FT (COOKE AVE), 359 FT (PINE BROOKE CURVE), 244 FT (N. KING STREET)	440 FT (COOKE AVE), 359 FT (PINE BROOKE CURVE), 244 FT (N. KING STREET)
FRONT YARD BUILDING SETBACK	0 *	50 FT EXIST. (JEFFY LUBE TO FRONT YARD)	53 FT CANOPY TO FRONT YARD
SIDE YARD BUILDING SETBACK	0	23 FT (JEFFY LUBE TO SIDE LOT)	16 FT (CANOPY TO SIDE LOT)
REAR YARD SETBACK	0	711 FT (JEFFY LUBE TO REAR LOT)	653 FT (KIOSK TO REAR LOT)
MAX. BUILDING COVERAGE	90,000 SF (MAX)	124,466 SF (ALL BUILDINGS ON LOT)	125,780 SF (ALL BUILDINGS ON LOT)
MAX. BUILDING HEIGHT	20 FT MIN 55 FT MAX	16'6" (JEFFY LUBE)	14'-6" (CANOPY)
MIN. PARKING SPACES	0	0 (JEFFY LUBE ONLY)	4 (BIG Y EXPRESS ONLY)
MIN. FRONT YARD LANDSCAPE	10 FT TREE BELT BEYOND WALK	10 FT TREE BELT BEYOND WALK	10 FT TREE BELT BEYOND WALK

\* MEASURED FROM BEYOND A REQUIRED 10-FOOT TREE BELT, 6 FOOT SIDEWALK

**LEGEND**

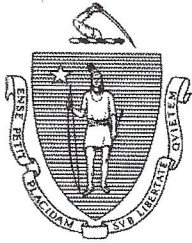
- PROPERTY LINE
- BUILDING
- CONCRETE
- RAIN GARDEN
- CONCRETE CURB
- CATCH BASIN
- BOLLARD
- LIGHT FIXTURE
- HANDICAP PUMP

**PLAN REFERENCE**

SITE INFORMATION FROM PLAN ENTITLED: "TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY, PREPARED FOR BIG Y, INC., NORTH KING STREET, NORTHAMPTON, MA SCALE 1"=20', DATED AUGUST 2016, BY ALFRED BENESCH & CO., 120 HEBRON AVENUE, GLASTONBURY, CT 06033.

**Site Plan**

*138 N. KING STREET*



FP-002  
(Rev. 1.1.2015)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
City/Town of Northampton

### License

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148 §13

New License     Amended License

GIS Coordinates
_____
LAT.
_____
LONG.
_____
License Number

After notice and hearing, and in accordance with Chapter 148 of the Mass. General Laws, a license is hereby granted to use the land herein described for the purposes described.

Location of Land: 138 NORTH KING STREET  
Number, Street and Assessor's Map and Parcel ID

Owner of Land: BIG Y TRUST

Address of Land Owner: 2145 ROOSEVELT AVE, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01102

#### Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Flammable Gases and Solids

Complete this section for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids, solids, and gases. All tanks and containers are considered full for the purposes of licensing and permitting. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

PRODUCT NAME	CLASS	MAXIMUM QUANTITY	UNITS gal., lbs, cubic feet	CONTAINER UST, AST, IBC, drums
<u>GASOLINE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>UST</u>
<u>GASOLINE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>UST</u>
<u>DIESEL</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>COMPARTMENT</u>

#### LP-gas (Complete this section for the storage of LP-gas or propane) N/A

❖ Maximum quantity (in gallons) of LP-gas to be stored in aboveground containers: \_\_\_\_\_  
List sizes and capacities of all aboveground containers used for storage \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum quantity (in gallons) of LP-gas to be stored in underground containers: \_\_\_\_\_  
List sizes and capacities of all underground containers used for storage \_\_\_\_\_

Total aggregate quantity of all LP-gas to be stored: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Fireworks (Complete this section for the storage of fireworks) N/A

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.3G: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4G: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4: \_\_\_\_\_

Total aggregate quantity of all classes of fireworks to be stored: \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS LICENSE OR A CERTIFIED COPY THEREOF MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY POSTED ON THE LAND FOR WHICH IT IS GRANTED.**

**Explosives** (Complete this section for the storage of explosives) *N/A*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.1: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.2: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.3: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.5: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.6: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |

**Licensing Authority Use:**

This license is granted upon the condition that the licensed activity will comply with all applicable laws, codes, rules and regulations, including but not limited to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148, and the Massachusetts Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00) as amended. The license holder may not store materials in an amount exceeding the capacities herein specified unless and until any amended license has been granted.

**ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS:**

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Signature of Licensing Authority \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS LICENSE OR A CERTIFIED COPY THEREOF MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY POSTED ON THE LAND FOR WHICH IT IS GRANTED.**



November 30, 2020

City Council  
Town of Northampton

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a petition of NATIONAL GRID covering the installation of underground facilities.

If you have any questions regarding this permit, please contact:

**Brandon Bravetti 508-298-1513**

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to:

National Grid: Lisa Ayres; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845  
(978)725-1418

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Very truly yours,

*Jim Kehrer/lla*

Jim Kehrer  
Name: Distribution Design Supervisor  
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Questions contact – Brandon Bravetti 508-298-1513

Petition of the Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID  
OF NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS  
For Electric Conduit Location:

To the City Council of Northampton

Respectfully represents the Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID of North Andover, Massachusetts, that it desires to construct a line of underground electric conduits, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, under and across the public way or ways hereinafter named.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted permission to excavate the public highways and to run and maintain underground electric conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity, said underground conduits to be located substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Hockanum Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

The following are the streets and highways referred to: **16315676**

Hockanum Rd. - Beginning at a point approximately 526 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Hockanum Rd. and Hunts Rd. and continuing approximately 351 feet in a northwest direction; National Grid to install 2-4" Conduit from P16 to new heavy duty handhole #1, install 2-4" conduit from Heavy duty Handhole #1 to Heavy duty handhole #2, and install 2-4" conduit from Heavy duty Handhole #2 to P20.

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Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a  
NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer/lla*

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering Department

Dated: November 30

, 2020

ORDERED:

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law, that the Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID be and it is hereby granted permission to excavate the public highways and to run and maintain underground electric conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said company may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, and to make the necessary house connections along said extensions, as requested in petition with said company dated the 30th day of November 2020.

Said underground electric conduits shall be located substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked -Hockanum Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts 16315676

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the underground electric conduits above referred to may be laid:

Hockanum Rd. - Beginning at a point approximately 526 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Hockanum Rd. and Hunts Rd. and continuing approximately 351 feet in a northwest direction; National Grid to install 2-4" Conduit from P16 to new heavy duty handhole #1, install 2-4" conduit from Heavy duty Handhole #1 to Heavy duty handhole #2, and install 2-4" conduit from Heavy duty Handhole #2 to P20.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the .....  
.....  
....., held on the ..... day of ....., 20 .....

....., ..... 20 .....

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of  
Book ..... Page .....

Attest:  
.....

..... hereby certify that on .....20....., at ..... o'clock, ....M  
at ....., a public hearing was held on the petition of  
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID for permission to construct the  
underground electric conduits described in the order herewith recorded, and that I mailed at least  
seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said hearing to each of the  
owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation) along the ways  
or parts of ways upon which the Company is permitted to construct the underground electric  
conduits under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

.....  
.....  
.....

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1 CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE AS-BUILT INFORMATION 10 DAYS AFTER COMPLETION OF CONDUIT INSTALLATION WORK.

2 THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES SHOWN HEREIN ARE DEPICTED ACCORDING TO THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. THEY ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO BE CORRECT OR COMPLETE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM ALL CONDITIONS IN THE FIELD AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AS REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE THE WORK BY GETTING APPROVAL FROM NATIONAL GRID CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FIRST. IT IS ASSUMED ALL PREMISES HAVE WATER, GAS, TEL, ELEC SEWER, ETC LATERAL CROSSINGS WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BASE BID.

3 ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DESIGN OF THESE CONSTRUCTION PLANS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO TRC DISTRIBUTION ENGINEER BRANDON BRAVE (T) AT 508-298-1513 OR ALEX GROSHEV AT 508-298-1527.

4 DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THESE PLANS WITHOUT FIRST CONTACTING NATIONAL GRID CIVIL CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR.

\* PETER GIORGI 781-697-7696

5 ALL UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE INSPECTED AND APPROVED BY NATIONAL GRID PERSONAL PRIOR TO CONCRETE ENCASUREMENT AND BACKFILL. CONTRACTOR SHALL MANHOLE, PROVE, AND INSTALL MILE TAPE IN ALL CONDUITS PER NATIONAL GRID CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS UNDER SUPERVISION OF NATIONAL GRID CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR.

6 CONTRACTOR TO ARRANGE TO HAVE ALL FOREIGN UTILITIES VERIFY THEIR LOCATIONS IN THE FIELD PRIOR TO START OF EXCAVATION WORK BY CONTACTING DIG SAFE AT "811" 1-888-DIG-SAFE. NOT ALL UTILITY SERVICES TO PROPERTIES ARE SHOWN ON THESE PLANS. REFER TO NOTE 2 ABOVE.

7 PROTECT ALL MUNICIPAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL SURVEY CONTROL MONUMENTS AND BENCH MARKS. CONTRACTOR TO CONTACT RESPECTIVE MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTS FOR TYPES AND LOCATIONS BEFORE STARTING WORK AS REQUIRED.

8 PROTECT ALL PLANTS AND TREES AND THEIR ROOT SYSTEMS FROM MECHANICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE DURING EXCAVATION. BACKFILL ROOT AREAS WITH SOIL HAVING TEXTURE AND FERTILITY TO SUSTAIN PLANT LIFE. CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE ALL ROOTS OF DEAD TREE STUMPS FROM TRENCH PRIOR TO PLACING CONDUIT. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NECESSARY EROSION CONTROL (SILT SACKS, MAT BALES, CHECK DAMS, ETC.) APPROVED BY THE STATE, CITY/TOWN, AND QUINCY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS REQUIRED FOR THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT.

9 THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM CLEARANCES SHALL BE MAINTAINED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED:

UTILITY	CROSSING	PARALLEL
GAS MAIN	12"	12"
GAS SERVICE	12"	12"
WATER MAIN	12"	12"
WATER SERVICE	12"	12"
TELEPHONE/COMMUNICATION FACILITIES	12"	12"
STORM & SANITARY SEWERS	12"	12"
RAIL ROAD CROSSINGS	50"	50"

PLEASE NOTE, ANY DEVIATIONS FROM THESE MINIMUM CLEARANCES MUST BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY NATIONAL GRID & TRC.

UTILITY SERVICES AND LATERALS TO BUILDINGS ARE NOT SHOWN ON THESE PLANS. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY THEIR LOCATIONS IN THE FIELD AND SUPPORT, PROTECT, MAINTAIN, AND WORK AROUND THEM AS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE PROPOSED WORK.

10 ALL CONTRACTORS SHALL COMPLY WITH MINIMUM WORKING CLEARANCES FROM ALL ENERGIZED OVERHEAD EQUIPMENT AND CONDUCTORS PER OSHA REGULATIONS 1910.333. IF MINIMUM WORKING CLEARANCES CAN NOT BE MET, CONTRACTOR MUST CONTACT NATIONAL GRID TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE MEASURES. THESE MEASURES MAY INCUR ADDITIONAL COSTS.

11 CONDUIT TO BE PLACED AT MINIMUM 30" BELOW ELEVATION OF NEAREST PORTION OF ROAD PAVEMENT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. MANHOLE ROOF TO HAVE A MINIMUM 18" OF COVER FROM FINISH GRADE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

12 ALL WORK SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL CODES, AS WELL AS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY CODE, OSHA REGULATIONS AND NATIONAL GRID CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS/REQUIREMENTS.

13 AREAS WHERE EXCAVATION IS IN ROCK LEDGE, PROVIDE A SIX (6) INCH MINIMUM SELECT FILL CUSHION AROUND CONDUITS AND TWELVE (12) INCH CUSHION AROUND MANHOLE.

14 CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS REGARDING REMOVAL AND/OR DISPOSAL OF ANY AND ALL EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS.

15 CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN A FULL SIZE SET OF SCALED DRAWINGS (100% OF ALL PRINTS) ON SITE AT ALL TIMES DURING THE WORK.

16 CONTRACTOR TO RECORD AND DOCUMENT A SINGLE, MULTI-PAGE PDF PHOTOLOG OF THE ENTIRE WORK AREA. CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE NATIONAL GRID PROJECT MANAGER A COPY OF THE PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHOTOLOG ALONG WITH A POST-CONSTRUCTION PHOTOLOG OF THE ENTIRE WORK AREA UPON COMPLETION OF ALL CIVIL WORK IN THE FIELD.

17 REFER TO ALL NATIONAL GRID CIVIL CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INCLUDED IN THE BID DOCUMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING MANHOLE AND DUCT BANK INSTALLATION.

PLEASE NOTE, THE 12" MINIMUM CLEARANCES FROM OTHER UTILITIES SHALL BE MAINTAINED WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IF THE 12" MINIMUM CLEARANCE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IN THE FIELD, CONTRACTOR TO USE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO PROTECT THE OTHER UTILITIES AND/OR OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE UTILITY OWNER FOR LESS THAN MINIMUM CLEARANCE.

### DISTRIBUTION DRAWING INDEX

REFER TO DRAWINGS:

CIVIL & PROFILE DRAWINGS	PROPOSED MANHOLE DRAWINGS	DETAIL DRAWINGS
PP-1	PP-1	DET-1

### ABBREVIATIONS

NOTE: NOT ALL ABBREVIATIONS LISTED BELOW ARE USED FOR THIS PROJECT.

#	NUMBER	HV	HIGH VOLTAGE
Δ	AND	HV	HIGH VOLTAGE
⊙	AT	EV	ELECTRICAL
⊕	GREATER THAN	KVA	ELECTRICAL-AMPERE
⊖	LESS THAN	L	LENGTH
∅	DIAMETER	LF	LINEAR FOOT
A	AMPERE	LV	LOW VOLTAGE
ABAND	ABANDONED	M	METER
ABAND	ABANDONED	MAX	MAXIMUM
AC	AIR CONDITIONER	MANH	MANHOLE
AC	ALTERNATING CURRENT	MANH	MANHOLE
APPROX	APPROXIMATE	MISC	MISCELLANEOUS
APP	APPROXIMATE	MJ	MECHANICAL JOINT
B	BOTTOM OF	MB	MONITORING WELL
B	BUILDING	N	NORTH
BVC	BENCH VERTICAL CURVE ELEVATION	N/O	NOT OR FORMERLY
BVCS	BENCH VERTICAL CURVE STATION	NVD	NATIONAL GEODESIC VERTICAL DATUM
C/C	CENTER TO CENTER	NIOSH	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
CB	CATCH BASIN	PC	POINT OF CURVATURE
⊙	CAST IRON	PCB	POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL
⊙	CENTRALISE	PE	POLYETHYLENE
CLR	CLEAR	PIC	PAPER IN LEAD COVERED CABLE
CMP	CORRUGATED METAL PIPE	PV	POINT INDICATOR VALVE
CMPA	CORRUGATED METAL PIPE ARCH	PROP	PROPOSED
CMPT	COMPACT CABLE	PT	POINT, POINT OF TANGENCY
COM	COMMUNICATIONS	PVC	POLYVINYL CHLORIDE
CONC	CONCRETE	PI	POINT OF VERTICAL INTERSECTION
CP	CONTROL POINT	R	RADIUS
CS	CARBON STEEL	RCF	REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE
CU	COPPER	REQD	REQUIRED
EW	CLEAN WATER	RET	RETAINING
D	DIAMETER	RR	RAIL ROAD
DC	DIRECT CURRENT	S	SLOPE
⊙	DUCTILE IRON	SCADA	SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION
DA	DIAMETER	SCD	SCHEMATIC
DIM	DIAM. MANHOLE	SD	STOP DRAIN
DWG	DRAWING	SF	SQUARE FEET
E	EAST	SH	SANITARY MANHOLE
EL	ELEVATION	SQ	SQUARE
ELEC	ELECTRIC	SS	STAINLESS STEEL
ELEV	ELEVATION	STA	STATION
EMH	ELECTRIC MANHOLE	STL	STEEL
EDP	EDGE OF PAVEMENT	STW	STORMWATER
EQ	EXISTING UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC	T&B	TOP AND BOTTOM
EUT	EXISTING UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE	T/F	TOP OF
EVC	END VERTICAL CURVE ELEVATION	TEL	TELEPHONE
EVCs	END VERTICAL CURVE STATION	TV	TELEVISION
ER	EACH BAY	TYP	TYPICAL
EX. EAST	EXISTING	UE	UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC
FFE	FRESH FLOOR ELEVATION	UG	UNDERGROUND
FM	FORCE MAIN	UNQ	UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
FO	FIBER OPTIC	V	VOLT
GALV	GALVANIZED	VR	VOLT-AMPERE REACTIVE
GR	GRATE	VC	VERTICAL CURVE
GRAN	GRANITE	VCP	VERTICAL CLAY PIPE
HCD	HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING	VERT	VERTICAL
HDP	HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE	VP	VALVE PIT
HM	MANHOLE	W	WATER
HORIZ	HORIZONTAL	W/	WITH

### LEGEND

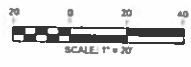
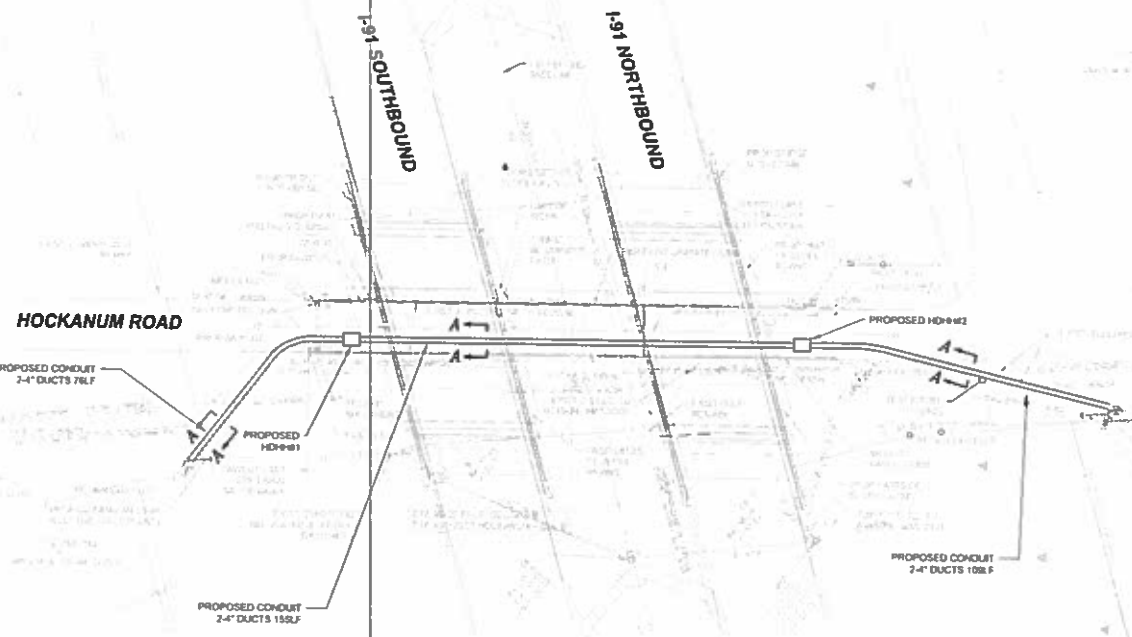
□	CATCH BASIN CLUMP INLET
□	CATCH BASIN
—	12" S&W D. MANHOLE
—	12" S&W S. MANHOLE
—	12" S&W M. MANHOLE
—	ELECTRIC LINE/MANHOLE
—	ELECTRIC LINE
—	LIGHT POLE
—	GAS LINE/GATE
—	RETROF. GAS LINE
—	HYDRANT
—	WATER LINE(LOW PRESSURE)/GATE
—	WATER LINE(HIGH PRESSURE)/GATE
—	ABANDONED WATER LINE
—	TELEPHONE LINE/MANHOLE
—	TELEPHONE LINE
—	CONCRETE CLUMP
—	BIFUNCTIONAL CONCRETE CLUMP
—	VERTICAL GRANITE CLUMP
—	CHAIN LINK FENCE
—	WOOD STOCKADE FENCE
—	HORIZONTAL
—	METAL RAILING FENCE
—	EDGE OF GRAVEL
—	APPROXIMATE STREET LINE
—	WORCESTER HIGHWAY BOUNDARY
—	STONE BOUNDARY HOLE
—	DRILL HOLE
—	IRON PIPE/POH
—	FLOOD
—	BUILDING
—	PARCEL ADDRESS
—	WORKMAN/TRAVERSE POINT
—	W/ APPROXIMATE STATE PLANE COORDINATE
—	BIFUNCTIONAL CONCRETE BY RECORD
—	BOLLARD
—	BRICK RETAINING BALL
—	CONCRETE BLOCK RETAINING BALL
—	CONCRETE RETAINING BALL
—	CONCRETE STAIRS
—	COBBLESTONE EDGING
—	HEAVY DUTY MANHOLE

MANHOLE  
N 2916720 4 P  
E 566817 86

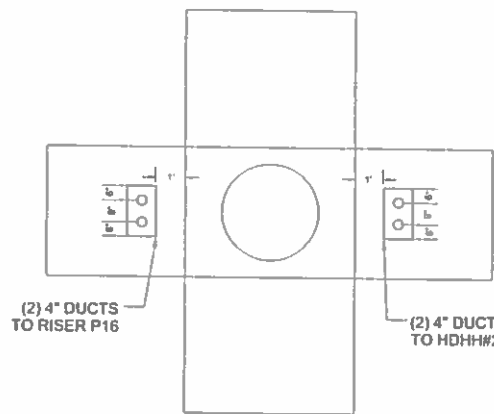
BY EDHC

124 Grove St Framham, MA 02038		PROJECT NO 214538	
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DES. ENE. APP.

HOCKANUM RD NORTHAMPTON, MA LAYOUT PLAN	
	G-1 WR#16315676



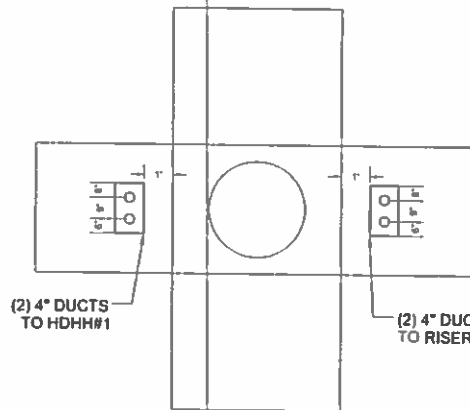
		114 Grove St Franklin, MA 02038		PROJECT NO 214538																												
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REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DES	CHK	APP																											



(2) 4" DUCTS  
TO RISER P16

(2) 4" DUCTS  
TO HDHH#2

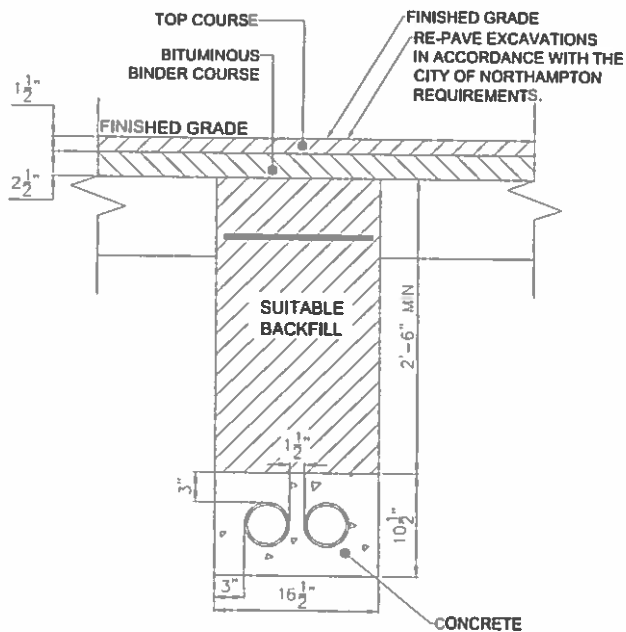
HDHH#1 DETAIL



(2) 4" DUCTS  
TO HDHH#1

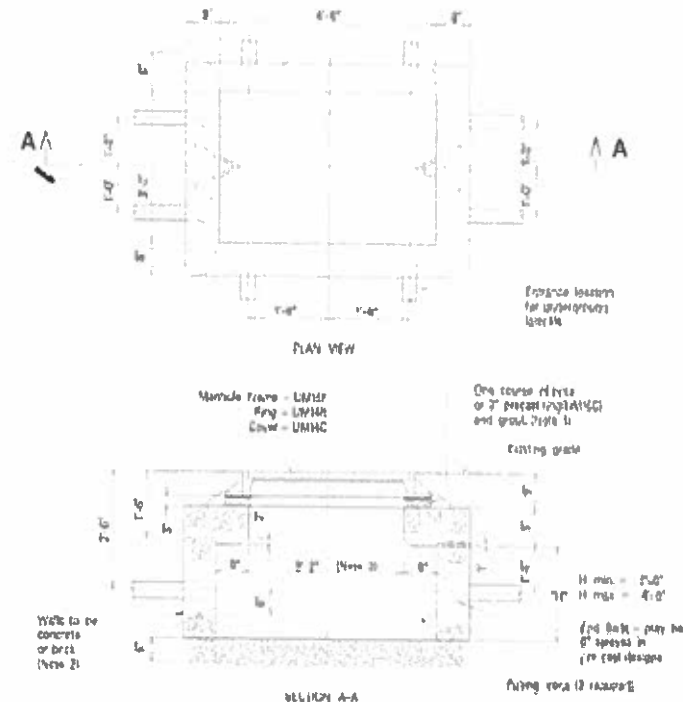
(2) 4" DUCTS  
TO RISER P20

HDHH#2 DETAIL



DETAIL A  
2-4" DUCTS  
SCALE: N.T.S

CONCRETE



PLAN VIEW

SECTION A-A

Notes:

1. Chimney height is kept to a minimum to facilitate placing completed splices in handhole from above grade.
2. Concrete minimum strength - See Section 31.4.30.
3. Roof opening 3' 2" inches x 3' 2".

HANDHOLE DETAIL

		124 Grove St Framingham, MA 02038		PROJECT NO 214538				
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DES	CHK	APP	HOCKANUM RD NORTHAMPTON, MA LAYOUT PLAN		
						DET-1		
						WR#16315676		
						REV	0	





CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
125 Locust Street  
Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-1570  
Fax 413-587-1576

**Donna LaScaleia**  
Director

## Memorandum

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To: Donna LaScaleia, Director, Department of Public Works *Approved 1-28-21 ML*  
From: Greg Newman, Senior Engineer, Department of Public Works  
Date: January 27, 2021  
Re: 20.173 National Grid Petition (#16315676) - Underground Wire & Conduit in Hockanum Road

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National Grid is proposing to install two 4-inch diameter conduits and two handholes in Hockanum Road as part of MassDOT project No. 606552. This work is in the section of the road that passes under Route 91. The following reference plan is provided, "*Northampton I-91 Over US 5, B&M Railroad and Hockanum Road; Sheet 26 of 302; Construction Plan - Hockanum Road, Sheet 1 of 1*". The work for this petition is identified on the plan as "*Proposed Utility Relocation (Electric) (By Others)*". The petition also includes the following details:

- Detail A – showing two 4-inch diameter conduits encased in concrete and installed in a trench approximately 1.5 feet wide by about 3.7 feet deep (from the road surface).
- Detail of handholes located in the paved way; one on the west side of the underpass and one on the east side of the underpass.

The proposed work extends from Pole 16 (on south side of Hockanum Road west of Route 91) to Pole 20 (on the south side of Hockanum Road east of Route 91). The total length of trenching on road and off-road will be about 400 feet.

A site visit and plan review indicate the following:

- The locations of the two proposed handholes do not conflict with City utilities. Be aware that there is a 4-inch cast iron (CI) watermain located on south side of Hockanum Road.
- The proposed conduit trench will cross this CI waterline at two locations west and east of the underpass.
- The proposed conduit trench will also cross a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) drain located east of the underpass and west of Nook Road.

In order to ensure protection of existing City utilities and uninterrupted service to residents, the Department of Public Works (DPW) issues the following requirements:

1. Test pits are required at the proposed utility crossings prior to installing conduits and handholes. The Contractor shall excavate test pits at the two proposed locations where the conduit trench will cross the CI waterline and at the one location where the conduit trench will cross the existing RCP drain.
2. The Contractor shall coordinate with the DPW so that a DPW Engineer will be present when these test pits are excavated. 24 hours notice is required, and the DPW shall be notified at 413-587-1570.
3. The Contractor shall carefully execute the test pits to protect the existing utilities and shall confirm the location, depth and condition of the exposed utilities. This information should be provided in writing, with supporting photographs, to the DPW, attn. Donna LaScaleia.
4. Where the proposed conduit trench will be less than six inches above the top of the waterline and/or drain line, the Contractor shall propose modifications to the proposed conduit trench in writing to the DPW, attn. Donna LaScaleia.
5. Work shall not proceed until the DPW Engineer has reviewed the test pits and any proposed modifications to conduit trench AND has determined the proposed work will provide adequate separation from and protection of existing utilities.

**National Grid must obtain an “Excavation/Trench Permit” issued by the City of Northampton prior to test pit excavation.**

***In the City Council, February 4, 2021***

**Upon the Recommendation of Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Councilor William H. Dwight and Councilor James Nash**

**21.193 A Resolution Opposing Internet Data Caps & Committing to Achieving Just Internet Access and Affordability**

WHEREAS, the internet has become a critical utility for individuals, families, businesses and government, and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic internet access has become even more essential to safely participate in education, earn a living, obtain healthcare, connect with family, friends, and community, and participate in local government, and

WHEREAS, Northampton residents are primarily served by Comcast/Xfinity for their internet service, and

WHEREAS, Comcast/Xfinity has announced for the first time the imposition of a “data-cap<sup>1</sup>” beginning in the spring of 2021, that will place a limit on the amount of data an internet consumer may utilize before facing additional charges for internet service, and

WHEREAS, data-caps have no purpose for the consumer. They do not address network traffic or peak time capacity, as they are based on a monthly total of usage. Their irrelevance was proven by Comcast when they suspended already existing data-caps in other parts of the country from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to July 2020 without detriment to the network, and

WHEREAS, the rising cost of internet access, unimpeded by lack of market competition and the increased service demand during the pandemic, is of concern to residents across Northampton, and

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2020 a group of seventy-one Massachusetts legislators sent a letter to Comcast/Xfinity urging them to reconsider their decision to impose this data-cap<sup>2</sup>, and

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<sup>1</sup> Butz, Greg. “Our Nationwide Data Plan,” *Comcast Corporate*. Nov 24, 2020. <https://corporate.comcast.com/stories/our-nationwide-data-plan>

<sup>2</sup> Bray, Hiawatha. “Mass. lawmakers oppose Comcast’s plan to charge home Internet users extra: fee for exceeding data cap is at odds with life during pandemic, they say.” *Boston Globe*. December 31, 2020. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/12/31/business/mass-lawmakers-warn-comcast-new-data-caps/>

WHEREAS, as is the case with all essential utilities, the City of Northampton has a responsibility to ensure affordable access to all residents,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northampton City Council urges Comcast/Xfinity to reverse their decision to impose a data-cap on customers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northampton City Council urges our state and federal legislative delegations to consider consumer protection legislation to regulate and end data-caps, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the Northampton City Council supports and endorses emergency House bill HD663 "An Act protecting internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northampton City Council commits to evaluating internet services moving forward with the goal of ensuring all residents have equitable and affordable options to necessary high quality internet, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Northampton shall continue to explore just and fair alternative internet service systems for the vital use of the entire community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to the Federal Communications Commission, Karen Charles Peterson, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Edward Markey, Congressman Jim McGovern, State Senator Jo Comerford and the State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa.



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CONDUCTED AS AN ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING  
Northampton, MA**

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**Roll Call**

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra. At 7:38 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra   | At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight |
| Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr. | Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett        |
| Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster            | Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge    |
| Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash           | Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore       |
| Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe             |                                      |

**Announcement of Audio/Video Recording**

Councilor Sciarra announced that the meeting was being held via remote participation and audio and video recorded.

**Public Hearings  
Announcement of Public Hearing on Package of National Grid/ Verizon Pole Petitions for jointly-owned poles (2) and National Grid Pole Petitions for single-owned poles (2) on Damon Road and Bridge Road**

**Public Hearings  
Announcement of Public Hearing on Package of National Grid/Verizon Pole Petitions for jointly-owned poles (2) and National Grid Pole Petitions for single-owned poles (2) on Damon Road and Bridge Road**

Councilor Sciarra made the following announcement:  
Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, a public hearing will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 @ 7:05 p.m. on the following petitions of National Grid and Verizon New England, jointly, and of National Grid, severally, to erect poles and wires upon, along, under or across one or more public ways:  
20.174 National Grid Pole Petition for Bridge Road (Petition #23303524)  
20.175 National Grid Pole Petition for Damon Road (Petition #23303524)  
20.176 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for Damon Road (Petition #23303524)  
20.177 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for Bridge Road (Petition #23303524)

**Updates from Council President/ Committee Chairs**

**Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs**  
Next Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 5 p.m., the City Services and Community Resources Committees will hold a joint meeting on the topic of housing security, Councilor Nash announced. The four featured speakers are: Jay Levy of Eliot CHS Homeless Services, Jay Sachetti of Servicenet, who will be speaking about the community shelter at First Churches, Danna Boughton of Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV), who will be speaking about support for people around renting and eviction and Pamela Schwartz representing the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness. They are expecting some informed discussion, and he invited people interested in the issue to attend.  
  
Councilor Dwight announced that there will be a continuation of a joint meeting of the Planning Board and Legislative Matters to discuss the proposed two-family home zoning to be allowed by right across the city on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors**

**Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors**  
Councilor Quinlan made a brief announcement to commemorate the passing of Norm Roy. Mr. Roy moved to Northampton with his wife Kay and daughters Debbie and Becky over 50 years ago, settling on Blackberry Lane in the heart of Ward 1. Kay passed away a few years ago and Mr. Roy passed away this morning. He was a long-time member of the board of directors of the Three County Fair and a member of Northampton Country Club, where he played golf almost daily until 2020. Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Church will remember his voice from the choir and the local Irish community will miss his singing of 'Oh, Danny Boy.' He was a great friend to the Quinlan family and a father figure to his wife during her formative years. He expressed condolences to his two daughters, his son-in-law and his four grandchildren.

Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor

Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor

Mayor Narkewicz announced to the council and public that Finance Director Susan Wright has announced that she will be retiring in June after a 36-year municipal career, 17 of those years with the City of Northampton. Ms. Wright has dedicated her life to public service and local government. She began her professional career working as a development specialist with Rural Housing Incorporated in Winchendon, MA, initiating Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded projects in Worcester County. Soon after, in 1985, she simultaneously worked with the towns of Buckland, Colrain, Heath and Shelburne as part of an elite corps of circuit riders who provided municipal administrative services to rural communities in the late 1970's and 1980's. From there she worked as town administrator exclusively for Colrain for several years and then from 1981 to 2004 served as town administrator in Whately and Longmeadow, 10 years in Whately and three in Longmeadow. Susan joined the City of Northampton in 2004 as the business manager for Northampton Public Schools where she oversaw the finances of the city's largest department. In April of 2011, then outgoing Mayor Mary Clare Higgins appointed Ms. Wright as the city's finance director following the retirement of Chris Pile. As finance director, she manages the day-to-day financial operations of the city, including overseeing the three main financial departments – the assessor's office, auditor's office and Treasurer/Collector office. Her responsibilities include working with him on an annual basis to create the operating budget and capital improvement process. Most recently, she has taken on the enormous task of organizing the city's access to state and federal COVID-19 programs which have been so critical to the city's response to the deadly pandemic. These are very complex and at times confounding programs and, as usual, she has managed to navigate them expertly on behalf of the city. He extended his heartfelt thanks and gratitude for her incredible service to the city. The unparalleled financial stability Northampton has achieved over the last few years simply would not have been possible without her steady and trusted financial stewardship. She has been active in numerous professional organizations, including the Massachusetts Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association (MMMA), the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and Franklin County Planning Board.

In addition to her skill and experience in municipal government, she is also an accomplished weaver and long-time member of the Weaver's Guild of Springfield. She attained certification from the Hill Institute in 2010 as a master weaver, and her family, friends and colleagues have been the beneficiaries of her beautiful hand-crafted gifts.

It is an incredible loss to the city and to him personally. She has been one of his closest advisors in his time as Mayor, but, obviously, he congratulates her on an incredible career and her retirement. He will be advertising the finance director position immediately and plans to convene a small screening committee. Her retirement date is June 29, 2021. He hopes to be able to recommend an appointment to council later this spring and to hopefully have her successor in place at the beginning of June so there can be some overlap.

Fortunately, she is leaving after the FY2022 budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will have been completed. He wanted to acknowledge her incredible contributions to the city over these 17 years.

Councilor Sciarra said she couldn't possibly begin to express the depth of her sadness or her gratitude to her for her service. "You are truly one of the most brilliant and capable people I have ever known and it will be an immeasurable loss to Northampton."

Finance Director Wright said she has enjoyed all her time in Northampton. Just working with their incredible department heads and with the Mayor and City Council has been an honor. 36 years is enough, and she is ready to do new things and have time at home with her family, including her elderly parents and children.

Councilor Dwight, Councilor LaBarge, Councilor Nash and Councilor Jarrett in turn offered elaborate thanks and praise and personal reflections on Ms. Wright's enormous contribution to their understanding of financial operations and to the fiscal stability of the community.

Resolutions  
20.113 Resolution in Support of

Resolutions  
20.113 A Resolution in Support of Plastic Reduction and Sustainability Ordinance - 1st reading

<p><u>Plastic Reduction and Sustainability Ordinance - 1st reading</u></p>	<p>Councilor Sciarra announced that, at the sponsors' request, this would be taken up after <u>20.114 Plastic Reduction and Sustainability Ordinance</u>.</p> <p>Additionally, since staff are present to answer questions on the charter orders and some members of the public are present for the plastic reduction ordinance, she will take these items out of order, she indicated.</p>
<p><u>Orders</u> <u>20.183 Order Amending the Charter to Mail Ballots for Municipal Elections to All Registered Voters - 2nd reading</u></p>	<p><u>Orders - Charter Review Committee Recommendations</u> <u>20.183 An Order Amending the Charter to Mail Ballots for Municipal Elections to All Registered Voters - 2nd reading</u></p> <p>This order does not have any revised language, Councilor Sciarra advised. This is the second reading and there have been no changes from the first reading.</p> <p>Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p> <p><u>The following order passed two readings:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Northampton</b> <b>MASSACHUSETTS</b></p> <p><i>In City Council, January 7, 2021</i></p> <p><i>Upon the recommendation of the Charter Review Committee</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>20.183 An Order Amending the Charter to Mail Ballots for Municipal Elections to All Registered Voters</u></p> <p><i>Ordered, that</i></p> <p>WHEREAS, In accordance with Section 10-6 of the City Charter and Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances, in January 2019, the City appointed a Charter Review Committee; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, On December 12, 2019, the Charter Review Committee filed its Final Report with the City Clerk; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee made recommendations for certain changes to the City Charter; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, The City Council wishes to authorize the Mayor to seek special legislation to effectuate the recommended changes.</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED</p> <p><i>Voted, to petition the General Court to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows.</i></p> <p><i>The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the mayor approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The mayor is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.</i></p> <p><b>AN ACT AMENDING THE SPECIAL ACT CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON TO ALLOW FOR EARLY MAIL-IN BALLOTS</b></p> <p>Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which is to improve the governance of the city of Northampton, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.</p> <p>Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:</p> <p>Chapter 277 of the Acts of 2012, shall be amended as follows:</p>

SECTION 1. Amend article 8 by inserting after section 8-6 a new section 8-7 as follows: "EARLY MAIL-IN BALLOTS. (a) Each active registered voter in the city shall be issued automatically an early mail-in ballot for each preliminary election, regular city election, special city election, or local ballot question. Each active registered voter shall continue to receive an early mail-in ballot by mail until the death or disqualification of the voter, cancellation of the voter's registration, or placing the voter on inactive status, (b) Such ballots shall be mailed to each such registered voter not less than 14 days prior to the election at the address at which such voter registered to vote, and shall include a ballot, a security envelope in which to conceal the ballot after voting, a larger envelope in which to return the security envelope, and a declaration that the voter must sign under penalty of perjury that they meet the qualifications to vote, and has not voted in any other ward at this election. (c) A registered voter may obtain a replacement ballot if the ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the voter. (d) Such ballots may be returned by mail, in person at the office of the city clerk, or in such ballot drop box as the Mayor may designate. (e) Such ballots shall be counted if postmarked by election day and received not later than the third day after election day. (f) The city may supplement the provisions of this section by ordinance not inconsistent herewith. (g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or otherwise limit the right of a voter to vote in person during early voting period, if any, or on election day.", and by renumbering section 8-7 to section 8-8.

If the foregoing is not passed:

SECTION 1. Amend article 8 by inserting after section 8-6 a new section 8-7 as follows: "REQUEST FOR EARLY MAIL-IN BALLOT. (a) Not more than 21 days prior to any preliminary election, regular city election, special election, or local ballot question, the city clerk shall mail an application for early mail-in voting to each active registered voter in the city. The applications required pursuant to this subsection shall be in a form prescribed by the city clerk in accordance with state and federal law; provided, however, that said applications shall: (i) include clear instructions for completing and returning the application; (ii) allow a voter to designate the mailing address to which the ballot shall be sent; and (iii) be pre-addressed to the local election official with postage guaranteed. (b) Any voter applying for an early mail-in ballot shall, without specifying a reason therefor, be issued a ballot for such election. (c) The early mail-in ballot packet shall include a ballot, a security envelope in which to conceal the ballot after voting, a larger envelope in which to return the security envelope, and a declaration that the voter must sign under penalty of perjury that they meet the qualifications to vote, and has not voted in any other ward at this election. (d) A registered voter may obtain a replacement ballot if the ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the voter. (e) Such ballots may be returned by mail, in person at the office of the city clerk, or in such ballot drop box as the Mayor may designate. (f) Such ballots shall be counted if postmarked by election day and received not later than the third day after election day. (g) The city may supplement the provisions of this section by ordinance not inconsistent herewith. (h) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or otherwise limit the right of a voter to vote in person during early voting period, if any, or on election day.", and by renumbering section 8-7 to section 8-8.

**Passed two readings and enrolled.**

**20.184 Order Amending the Charter to Allow Resident Non-Citizens to Vote in Municipal Elections - 2nd reading**

**20.184 An Order Amending the Charter to Allow Resident Non-Citizens to Vote in Municipal Elections - 2nd reading**

Councilor Dwight moved to put the order on the floor for discussion. Councilor Thorpe seconded.

In reviewing the orders, the council president properly pointed out that while the section on preliminary elections had some language with regard to ward residents it was not carried forward to special elections and regular elections, Attorney Seewald explained. To address this, he drafted language that incorporated noncitizen voting in all types of elections (regular, special and preliminary) into one section and added it as Article 8-6.

Councilor Foster asked about the clause "who is not otherwise disqualified from voting under state law." Given that state law does not make a provision for noncitizens to vote, she asked if this had the effect of disqualifying noncitizens.

There are other bases for not being qualified to vote, and the word 'otherwise' excludes non-citizenship from the basis for disqualification, Attorney Seewald clarified.

Councilor Dwight expressed his understanding that the amendment is basically a catchall to correct an oversight in this and the other order (20.186). His greatest concern is that he doesn't want to run the risk of confusing legislators.

If they approve one but not the other it would not matter, Attorney Seewald confirmed. House counsel knows that if the legislature passes both, the two sentences in 20.184 and 20.186 would be combined. He originally had them combined but separated the two at the request of house counsel.

Councilor Dwight moved to accept the order as amended. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, January 7, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of the Charter Review Committee*

**20.184 An Order Amending the Charter to Allow Resident Non-Citizens to Vote in Municipal Elections**

*Ordered, that*

WHEREAS, In accordance with Section 10-6 of the City Charter and Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances, in January 2019, the City appointed a Charter Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, On December 12, 2019, the Charter Review Committee filed its Final Report with the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee made recommendations for certain changes to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, The City Council wishes to authorize the Mayor to seek special legislation to effectuate the recommended changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED

*Voted, to petition the General Court to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows.*

*The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the mayor approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The mayor is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.*

**AN ACT AMENDING THE SPECIAL ACT CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON TO ALLOW RESIDENT NON-CITIZENS TO VOTE IN PRELIMINARY AND CITY ELECTIONS**

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which is to improve the governance of the city of Northampton, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 277 of the Acts of 2012, shall be amended as follows:

SECTION 1. Amend article 8 by inserting as article 8-6 the following: "QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING. Every resident of the city or, in the case of an election for ward councilor or ward school committee member, every resident of the ward, whether a citizen or noncitizen, who is not otherwise disqualified from voting under state law, shall be qualified to vote in all preliminary elections, special elections and regular city elections.", and by renumbering article 8-6 to 8-7 and article 8-7 to 8-8.

**Passed two readings and enrolled.**

20.185 Order Amending the Charter to Make Clarifications and Correct Deficiencies in the Prior Language - 2nd reading

**20.185 An Order Amending the Charter to Make Clarifications and Correct Deficiencies in the Prior Language - 2nd reading**

The city clerk brought to his attention that he had left in a reference to the city clerk so he has amended Section 14 to delete that reference, Attorney Seewald explained.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order with the revised language in second reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

**The following order passed two readings:**

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, January 7, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of the Charter Review Committee*

**20.185 An Order Amending the Charter to Make Clarifications and Correct Deficiencies in the Prior Language**

***Ordered, that***

WHEREAS, In accordance with Section 10-6 of the City Charter and Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances, in January 2019, the City appointed a Charter Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, On December 12, 2019, the Charter Review Committee filed its Final Report with the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee made recommendations for certain changes to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, The City Council wishes to authorize the Mayor to seek special legislation to effectuate the recommended changes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED**

*Voted, to petition the General Court to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows. The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the mayor approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The mayor is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.*

**AN ACT AMENDING THE SPECIAL ACT CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON.**

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which is to improve the governance of the city of Northampton, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 277 of the Acts of 2012, shall be amended as follows:

SECTION 1. Amend section 2-2 (b) by deleting in the first sentence the words "in consultation with the mayor and the city clerk".

SECTION 2. Amend section 2-6 (c) (1) by deleting the word "ordinance" and insert in its place the word "order".

SECTION 3. Amend section 3-6 by deleting in the first sentence the word ", resolution"; by deleting in the first sentence the word "memorial" and inserting in its place the words "non-binding"; by deleting in the first sentence the word "selection" and inserting in its place the word "confirmation", by deleting in the fourth sentence the word "resolution".

SECTION 4. Amend section 3-7 by inserting in the title after the words "TEMPORARY ABSENCE" the words "OR INCAPACITATION", amend subsection (a) by deleting the subsection in its entirety and inserting in its place the following: "The mayor shall, by a letter filed with the city council and a copy filed with the city clerk, delegate authority pursuant to Section 3-8 to a qualified city officer or employee to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the office during the temporary absence of the mayor for periods of 10 business days or less and to serve only when the needs of the city require and only to the extent necessary under the then circumstances. If the temporary absence of the mayor exceeds 10 business days, the president of the city council shall be the acting mayor. If at any time the city council determines that the mayor is incapacitated and unable to perform the duties of the office, it may appoint its president to serve as acting mayor by the affirmative vote of 7 members. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the vote shall be taken in public session by a roll call vote."

SECTION 5. Amend section 3-9 by deleting in its entirety and inserting in its place the following: "a) If a vacancy in the office of mayor occurs, the city council president shall serve as mayor until a mayor is elected and qualified under this section. In the event that the city council president is unable to serve as mayor under this subsection, the city council shall elect, from among its membership, a person to serve as mayor. The city council president or other councilor elected by the city council hereunder shall take office immediately upon such vacancy. b) Upon a vacancy in the office of mayor, the city council shall, under section 2-6 (c)(ii), call a special meeting of the city council, and the city council shall, under section 8-1, order a special election to be held within 90 days following the date the vacancy is created to fill that vacancy until the next regular city election. The person elected at a special city election shall be sworn to office immediately. c) Upon the adoption of an order for a special election under subsection b), the city clerk shall set the special election calendar as follows: nomination papers shall be made available within 7 days of the vacancy; nomination papers shall be filed with the board of registrars of voters within 28 days of the vacancy; the board of registrars shall certify such nomination papers within 30 days of the vacancy and the candidate shall file such certified nomination papers with the city clerk within 35 days of the vacancy; a preliminary election shall be held within 65 days of the vacancy, if required; a special election shall be held within 90 days of the vacancy. d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b), no special election shall be ordered if the vacancy occurs in month sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, forty, forty-one, or forty-two of the term for which the mayor was elected. In such case, the city council president or other councilor elected by the city council shall serve as mayor until the next regular city election. The person elected at such regular city election shall be sworn to office immediately and shall serve a four-year term in accordance with section 3-1 (b). e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b), no special election shall be ordered if the vacancy occurs in month forty-seven or forty-eight of the term for which the mayor was elected and the mayor will not be serving

another term. In such case, the mayor-elect shall be sworn to office immediately and shall serve the remainder of the mayoral term and the four-year term for which such person was elected. f) Any person serving as mayor under this section shall receive the compensation then in effect for the office of mayor."

SECTION 6. Amend section 4-6, by deleting in the second sentence the word "choose" and inserting in its place the words "appoint, by majority vote of those present,"; by deleting in the third sentence the word "elected" and insert its place the word "appointed"; by deleting the final sentence in its entirety.

SECTION 7. Delete section 5-1 in its entirety.

SECTION 8. Amend section 5-2 by renumbering the section to 5-1 and by deleting the second sentence in its entirety and inserting in its place the following: "Whenever a vacancy occurs on the board of trustees under the will of Charles E. Forbes, the president of the board shall declare a vacancy and, within 30 days following the date of the vacancy, call a meeting of the trustees to fill the vacancy. The board of trustees shall choose a person to fill the vacancy from among the voters entitled to vote for the office. Persons appointed by the trustees to fill a vacancy shall serve only until the next regular city election, when the office shall be filled by the voters. The candidate elected to an office filled prior to the election shall be sworn to the office immediately and shall serve for the unexpired term of the seat to which such candidate was elected. If the seat to which the candidate was elected would have been on the ballot for the next regular city election notwithstanding the vacancy, such candidate shall be elected for a full four-year term. No vacancy shall be filled under this section if a regular city election is to be held within 120 days following the date the vacancy is declared to exist."

SECTION 9. Amend section 5-3 by renumbering the section to 5-2, by deleting the second sentence in its entirety and inserting in its place the following: "Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Elector under the Oliver Smith Will, the city council shall, within 30 days following the date of that vacancy, act to fill the vacancy. A person appointed to fill a vacancy by the city council shall serve only until the next regular city election, when the office shall be filled by the voters. The person elected at such regular city election shall take office immediately. No vacancy shall be filled under this section if a regular city election is to be held within 120 days following the date of the vacancy.", and by adding a final sentence as follows: "The process and procedure by which the City Council shall fill vacancies shall be established by ordinance."

SECTION 10. Amend section 5-4 by renumbering the section to 5-3, by deleting the title in its entirety and inserting in its place the words "TRUSTEES OF SMITH VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL", and by deleting the words "city clerk" and inserting in their place the words "school committee".

SECTION 11. Amend section 5-5 by renumbering the section to 5-4, by deleting the second sentence in its entirety and inserting in its place the following: "Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Community Preservation Committee, the city council shall, within 30 days following the date of that vacancy, act to fill the vacancy. A person appointed to fill a vacancy by the city council shall serve only until the next regular city election, when the office shall be filled by the voters. The person elected at such regular city election shall take office immediately. No vacancy shall be filled under this section if a regular city election is to be held within 120 days following the date of the vacancy.", and by adding a final sentence

as follows: "The process and procedure by which the City Council shall fill vacancies shall be established by ordinance."

SECTION 11. Amend section 7-2 by deleting the words ", including the superintendent of schools", and"; by inserting in their place the words "and trustees of the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School and the superintendents of both districts".

SECTION 12. Amend section 7-6 by inserting in the third sentence after the words "The award of a" the words "three-year".

SECTION 13. Amend section 8-1 by deleting the words "superintendents of Smith's Agricultural School" and inserting in their place the words "trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School".

SECTION 14. Amend section 8-2 (a) by inserting the word "or" between the phrases "councilor-at-large" and "school committee member-at-large", by deleting the phrase "or city clerk", by deleting the words "superintendents of Smith's Agricultural School" and by inserting in their place the words "trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School".

SECTION 15. Amend article 8 by renumbering section 8-7 to 8-8, and by adding prior thereto a new section 8-7 as follows: "No candidate shall have the words "candidate for re-election" printed next to that person's name on the election ballot".

SECTION 16. Amend section 10-7 (a) by deleting the word "chairman" and inserting in its place the word "chair".

Passed two readings and enrolled.

20.186 Order Amending the Charter to Allow Residents 16 Years of Age or Older to Vote in Municipal Elections - 2nd reading

20.186 An Order Amending the Charter to Allow Residents 16 Years of Age or Older to Vote in Municipal Elections - 2nd reading

Same as the non-citizen voting amendment, this is the companion order that would be merged into one article if passed, Attorney Seewald advised.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order with the applied amendment in second reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, January 7, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of the Charter Review Committee*

**20.186 An Order Amending the Charter to Allow Residents 16 Years of Age or Older to Vote in Municipal Elections**

*Ordered, that*

WHEREAS, In accordance with Section 10-6 of the City Charter and Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances, in January 2019, the City appointed a Charter Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, On December 12, 2019, the Charter Review Committee filed its Final Report with the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee made recommendations for certain changes to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, The City Council wishes to authorize the Mayor to seek special legislation to effectuate the recommended changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED

*Voted, to petition the General Court to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows.*

*The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the mayor approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The mayor is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.*

**AN ACT AMENDING THE SPECIAL ACT CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON TO ALLOW RESIDENTS SIXTEEN YEARS OR AGE OR OLDER TO VOTE IN PRELIMINARY AND CITY ELECTIONS**

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which is to improve the governance of the city of Northampton, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 277 of the Acts of 2012, shall be amended as follows:

SECTION 1. Amend article 8 by inserting as article 8-6 the following: "QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING. Every resident of the city or, in the case of an election for ward councilor or ward school committee member, every resident of the ward, sixteen years of age or older, who is not otherwise disqualified from voting under state law, shall be qualified to vote in all preliminary elections, special elections and regular city elections.", and by renumbering article 8-6 to 8-7 and article 8-7 to 8-8. ", and by renumbering article 8-6 to 8-7 and article 8-7 to 8-8.

Passed two readings and enrolled.

Councilor Sciarra thanked the city solicitor and the Charter Review Committee. They send it to the statehouse with Godspeed and great hopes.

Ordinances  
20.114 Plastic Reduction & Sustainability Ordinance - 2nd

Ordinances  
20.114 Plastic Reduction & Sustainability Ordinance - 2nd reading

Councilor Jarrett said the city solicitor has advised him to recuse himself from this and the associated resolution due to a possible conflict of interest with his business Pedal People.

reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the ordinance in second reading. Councilor Nash seconded.

Councilor Maire moved to remove the bag fee amendment that was adopted at the previous reading. She said she is very grateful to councilors for their votes at the last meeting. It is really not about the vote. On further reflection, they see this bag fee as a solid amendment and an important part of promoting reusability but if they take it out they can consider it separately and potentially as its own ordinance. It will afford them more time to hear from businesses as well as the community on this and to make sure they have considered all factors at stake. It will also allow them to have a more precise idea of what businesses would fall under the 5,000 square feet and therefore be effected and what impact it would have on them and their customers.

Councilor Dwight seconded.

Councilor Dwight said he hopes this demonstrates once again how responsive sponsors have been as they have crafted and worked on this. The idea was not to ram anything by anybody or hamstring people but to move forward as aggressively as possible with an ordinance that will actually have an impact on their contribution to the climate crisis they have heard described in the course of public comment and the inaugural. He would like to even expand the opportunity for discussion and find sponsors for an ordinance that more comprehensively addresses the waste stream and the city's contribution to it. This has been a critical issue facing this town since it closed the landfill with associated secondary and tertiary costs that have long gone unrecognized.

Councilor Nash thanked Councilor Maire for the discussions around this and said he really looked forward to working with her further. This is a good piece of legislation. He thinks with further outreach they could actually possibly expand the number of businesses that could be included under this. He thanked the youth commission, sponsors and advocates as well with a shout out to Noah for his keen negotiating skills earlier today. "Let's put this through a separate track," he agreed.

Councilor LaBarge thanked Councilor Maire for what she has brought forward. She thinks contacting businesses and working with them [on implementation] is extremely valuable. She thanked the youth commission and commission on disability. She is very happy about the extension of the time and is going to support this 100%.

Councilor LaBarge moved to recognize Noah Kassis or any of the sponsors. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

Noah said he is grateful to Councilor Nash for bringing it up. They worked so hard to do all the business outreach that it would be a bummer if this in any way undercut that. Although the youth commission and sponsors agree the bag fee is a good thing to do, there is no harm in talking about it a little more, thinking through the square footage number a little more carefully, etc.

**The motion to approve the amendment to remove the bag fee passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.**

Councilor Dwight recognized the graceful and selfless letter written in the Gazette by State Street Fruit Store owner Rich Cooper. He has been part of this discussion and process as he was with the bag ordinance. His form of advocacy is the type that usually goes unrecognized and unhonored and he wanted to, in some small way, express his gratitude for how he conducts his advocacy and how effective it is. While acknowledging and recognizing that this presents a hardship for him, Mr. Cooper stated that they've faced other hardships, and the mission - the objective -required it of them and they've stepped up each time. He was the first store locally to stop selling cigarettes. He realized it was a significant revenue loss but he couldn't square it with his own sense of devotion to the community.

Councilor Nash also gave a shout out to Rich. That was the kindest letter anybody's ever written for his work and the general work of the council. He appreciated the 'can do' approach to moving forward. Throughout this process, he has remembered when he was a kid and there was no plastic lying all over the place. Growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, he remembers the milk man coming down the street on really hot, hot days. He would take out huge cubes of ice and smash them on the sidewalk. Neighborhood kids would grab chunks of the ice. That's what was on the

sidewalk, some leaves, maybe some broken glass but, by and large, there wasn't cans and plastic stuff flying around everywhere.

Growing up in the 70's, stuff began appearing. He would be driving down the highway and see stuff stuck in the trees or walking in the woods and see a Fanta can just tossed there. Their whole way of disposing of stuff is just really atrocious; it ends up all over the environment. He hopes he will see them getting back to products that are either completely recyclable or that simply decay and go away. People will go on a picnic and people 30 years from now won't have to see the remains of their picnic. "We don't see the remains of many of our ancestors," he pointed out. Archeologists sift through the dirt to find things, and it's gone. The last few years, it's in the soil and all over the place and archeologists can't get it to go away fast enough. He is very appreciative of this series of changes and thinks it is definitely moving in the right direction. He buys into the mission and really appreciates all the due diligence everyone has done around this.

Noah did a quick round of thank you's, offering thanks to Councilor Dwight and Councilor Maiore for being really steadfast sponsors and working with the youth commission, to Councilor Nash for doing so much work with Community Resources and spending so much of his own time talking to businesses, to Clint Richmond, to Eli, Ben, Jon and others from the youth commission and to their steadfast partners Marty Nathan, Renna Pye and the whole 2Degrees climate group. He concluded by thanking the council.

It's a good step, he pronounced.

Councilor Maiore said not only is she proud of the ordinance and really grateful to have this experience so early in her council career, but she's really proud of the process. Northampton is well-positioned for positive change with the youth commission as their fuel. She thanked Eli Marlin and other youth commissioners, Marty Nathan and Renna Pye, and also Jesse Adams for jump-starting this. She thanked the businesses who put a lot of thought into this and were open-minded. She sees this as the beginning of a conversation of what other climate-healing steps they can take right here in their community.

Councilor Dwight tooted the horn of the youth commission. Two major items on their agenda tonight (the 16-year old vote and plastic reduction ordinance) are products of the diligence of two cycles of the youth commission. They were invested in the process with the awareness that it might not be realized in the time that they served. There are probably 50 youth commissioners spread throughout the world who never got to see this realized. There is deep and abiding value to empowering this cohort and other cohorts as well as they expand agency to all the people who feel disenfranchised. The youth commission is not just a feel-good established committee, it is an integral part of the functioning of the community. The storm water run-off ordinance as well had major contributions from the youth commission. Very few of these things probably would have come to pass were it not for the commitment of their youth. He won't give quarter to anyone who gives him the argument that they're not qualified to participate in their governance.

Councilor Sciarra joined in on the well-deserved thanks to everyone. This ordinance is a perfect example of what they can do when they work together with genuine engagement. She knows the process is long. When they work together in this way things can really be made stronger and that's really what collaboration is. She praised the level of engagement from the community, the youth commission, residents, businesses and the council. When they work together in earnest, it's amazing how much they can improve on initial ideas, and the final product is stronger and the better for it, she observed. It has been a remarkable thing to watch and participate in.

The motion passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

**The following ordinance passed two readings:**

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council* September 3, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor’s Youth Commission, Councilor William H. Dwight and Councilor Rachel Maiore

**20.114 Plastic Reduction & Sustainability Ordinance**

ORDINANCE

An ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts, be amended by amending Section 272-18, providing for Environmental protection and solid waste reduction.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

Remove: Existing **§272-18**

Add:

**§Section 272-18: Environmental protection and solid waste reduction.**

A. General definitions. As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**ASTM STANDARD**

Standards developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), including only International Standards D6400 or D6868 for biodegradable and compostable plastics. D6400 is the specification for plastics designed for compostability in municipal or industrial aerobic composting facilities and D6868 is the specification for aerobic compostability of plastics used as coatings on a compostable substrate.

**BIODEGRADABLE**

Entirely made of organic materials such as wood, paper, bagasse or cellulose; or bioplastics that meet the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D7081 standard for Biodegradable Plastics in the Marine Environment or any other standard that may be developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials specifically for an aquatic environment.

**BIODEGRADABLE BAGS**

Bags that:

- (1) contain no polymers derived from fossil fuels; and
- (2) are intended for single use and will decompose in a natural setting to an environmentally beneficial material at a rate comparable to other biodegradable materials such as leaves and food waste.

**BPI CERTIFIED**

Refers to compostable products and packaging certified as compostable according to the Biodegradable Products Institute.

**CHECKOUT BAG**

Carryout bags provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale. Checkout bags are distinct from product bags.

**COMPOSTABLE**

Disposable food service ware or packaging is compostable if it meets ASTM Standards for compostability and is BPI-certified.

**COMPOSTABLE BAGS**

Bags that:

- (1) conform to the current ASTM D6400 standard for compostability; and
- (2) are certified and labeled as meeting the ASTM D6400 standard specification by a recognized verification entity.

**DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE**

All containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, straws, stirrers, forks, spoons, knives, and other items designed for one-time or non-durable uses

- (1) in which any food vendor directly places or packages prepared foods; or
- (2) which are used to consume foods.

Such food service ware includes, but is not limited to, service ware for takeout foods and/or leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared at food establishments.

**DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE ACCESSORY**

All types of disposable food service ware provided alongside prepared food, including but not limited to utensils, chopsticks, napkins, cup lids, cup sleeves, food or beverage trays, condiment

cups or packets, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, and cocktail sticks. This does not include such items that are necessary for the containment of foods, such as plates, bowls and bags.

**FOOD ESTABLISHMENT**

An operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, as further defined in 105 CMR 590.001. Any establishment requiring a permit to operate in accordance with the State Food Code, 105 CMR 590.000, et. seq., shall be considered a "food establishment" for purposes of this ordinance.

**ONLINE FOOD ORDERING PLATFORM**

The digital technology provided on a website or mobile application through which a consumer can place an order for pick-up or delivery of prepared food. Such platforms include those operated directly by food establishments, by companies that provide delivery of prepared meals to consumers, and by online food ordering systems that connect consumers to prepared food vendors directly.

**POLYETHYLENE**

The term polyethylene refers to the synthetic plastic polymer used to make grocery bags, shampoo bottles, and other containers, among other products. It is commonly known and referred to as plastics #2 and #4. For the purposes of this legislation, both plastics #2 and #4 should be considered polyethylene.

**POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE**

The term polyethylene terephthalate, also known as PET, is a common plastic polymer widely used to make packaging for foods and beverages, such as soft drinks, juices and water, among other products. It is commonly known and referred to as plastic #1.

**POLYPROPYLENE**

The term polypropylene, also known as PP, refers to a synthetic plastic polymer used to make food containers, disposable diapers, disposable cutlery and plastic straws, among other products. It is commonly known and referred to as plastic #5.

**POLYSTYRENE**

The term polystyrene refers to a synthetic plastic polymer used to make food containers, cups, packaging materials, utensils, among other products. It is commonly known and referred to as plastic #6.

**POLYSTYRENE LOOSE FILL PACKAGING**

A void-filling packaging product made of expanded polystyrene that is used as a packaging fill, commonly known as "packing peanuts".

**POLYVINYL CHLORIDE**

The term polyvinyl chloride, also known as PVC, refers to a synthetic plastic polymer used to make plastic straws and utensils, among other products. It is commonly known and referred to as plastic #3.

**PREPARED FOOD**

Prepared food means any food or beverage prepared by the food establishment at any location owned or controlled by the food establishment using any cooking or food preparation technique. Prepared food does not include any raw uncooked meat, fish or eggs unless provided for consumption without further food preparation. Prepared food may be eaten either on or off the premises.

**PRODUCT BAG**

Bags without handles in which loose produce, bulk items, unwrapped baked goods or prepared food, or other products are usually placed by the consumer to deliver such items to the point of sale or checkout area of the store. These are also sometimes used by cashier or checkout personnel to contain items at point of sale.

**RECYCLABLE**

Material that can be sorted, cleansed, and reconstituted by Northampton's year-round municipal recycling collection programs for the purpose of using the altered form in the manufacture of a new product. "Recycling" does not include thermally destroying or converting solid waste.

**RECYCLABLE PAPER BAG**

Paper bags that:

- (1) are 100 percent recyclable including the handles; and
- (2) contain at least 40% post-consumer recycled paper content; and
- (3) display the words "recyclable" and "made from 40% post-consumer recycled content" (or other applicable amount) in a visible manner on the outside of the bag.

**RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT**

Any commercial facility that sells goods directly to the consumer, including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, liquor stores, convenience stores, restaurants, retail stores and vendors selling clothing, food, and personal items, and dry-cleaning services.

**REUSABLE**

Products that are designed to be used more than once in the same form by a food or retail establishment.

**REUSABLE BAGS**

Bags that are not made of plastic, are for multiple use and are made of cloth, fabric or other durable materials that do not decompose into harmful chemical components. A reusable bag is recyclable, biodegradable or compostable and is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse.

B. General prohibition and regulation.

- (1) Food establishments are prohibited from providing prepared food to customers using polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, or other nonrecyclable disposable food service ware.
- (2) Food establishments using any disposable food service ware shall use biodegradable, compostable, reusable or recyclable food service ware. All compostable food service ware used by food establishments must be clearly labeled with the applicable standard on the product or its packaging.
- (3) Retail establishments are prohibited from selling or distributing polystyrene food service ware to customers. This includes sale of polystyrene ware for home food use.
- (4) Retail establishments are prohibited from selling or distributing polystyrene loose fill packaging to customers.
- (5) Retail and food establishments may only sell or distribute product bags which are either (i) biodegradable, (ii) compostable, or (iii) reusable. All compostable product bags used by retail and food establishments must be clearly labeled with the applicable standard on the bag.
- (6) If any retail establishment provides a checkout bag to customers, the bag shall be either a recyclable paper bag, or a reusable bag.
- (7) No retail or food establishment shall sell or distribute straws made of polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene or polyethylene terephthalate. Retail and food establishments may sell or distribute compostable, biodegradable, and reusable straws upon request by the consumer. Upon request of a plastic straw, retail and food establishments may sell or distribute polypropylene straws. Retail and food establishments are encouraged to offer compostable or reusable straws.
- (8) Food establishments must provide disposable food service ware accessories only upon request by customers or at a self-serve station.
  - a) Online food ordering platforms that take orders of prepared food for pickup by or delivery to customers in the City of Northampton are required to provide options on their ordering platform that enable customers to choose which disposable food service ware accessories to include with each order. When no options are selected by the customer, the default practice shall be that no disposable food service ware accessories are provided. The platform must provide the food establishment an option/method for listing a customized list of accessories that are offered by each food establishment listed on their platform.
  - b) For delivery orders, food establishments may choose to include specific accessories, such as cup lids, spill plugs, and trays, in order to prevent spills and deliver food and beverages safely.

C. Exemptions.

- (1) The Mayor's designee may exempt a food or retail establishment from the requirements of this ordinance for a period of up to one (1) year, upon a finding by the Mayor's designee that the requirements of this ordinance would cause undue hardship to the establishment. The Mayor's designee may approve two (2) additional 6-month periods upon the showing of a continued undue hardship. An "undue hardship" shall only be found in:
  - (a) Circumstances or situations unique to the particular food or retail establishment such that there are no reasonable alternatives to plastic products or materials banned in this ordinance that are necessary to the establishment's operations; or

- (b) Circumstances or situations unique to the food or retail establishment such that compliance with the requirements of this ordinance would deprive a person of a legally protected right; or
- (c) Circumstances where a food or retail establishment requires additional time in order to draw down an existing inventory of plastic products or materials banned in this ordinance.
- (2) Any food or retail establishment receiving an exemption shall file with the Mayor's designee monthly reports on inventory and remaining stocks.
- (3) Any food or retail establishment seeking an exemption shall apply to the Mayor's designee using forms provided by the Health Department, and shall allow the Mayor's designee, or his or her designee, to access all information supporting its application.
- (4) The Mayor's designee may approve the exemption request, in whole or in part, with or without conditions.
- (5) The Mayor's designee, by regulation, may establish a fee for exemption requests.
- (6) Certain products are exempt from this ordinance's prohibitions; these include:
  - (a) Flexible transparent covering (commonly referred to as plastic wrap).
  - (b) Thin-film plastic bags used to contain dry cleaning or newspapers, typically without handles.
    - (i) Product bags are not exempt from this ordinance's prohibitions.
  - (c) Packaging utilized for prescription drugs.

D. Penalties and enforcement.

- (1) The Mayor's designee shall provide to food and retail establishments succinct materials explaining the requirements of this ordinance and recommendations for proper waste stream procedure.
- (2) If it is determined that a violation of this ordinance has occurred, the Mayor's designee shall issue a warning notice for the initial violation.
- (3) If an additional violation of this ordinance has occurred within one year after a warning notice has been issued for an initial violation, the Mayor's designee shall issue a notice of violation and shall impose a penalty against the food or retail establishment.
- (4) Each penalty of this ordinance's clauses shall be no less than: 1) \$50 for the first offense; 2) \$100 for the second offense and all subsequent offenses. Payment shall be made within twenty-one (21) days to the City Clerk. Non-payment of such fines may be enforced through civil action in the Northampton District Court. No more than one (1) penalty shall be imposed upon a food or retail establishment within a seven (7) calendar day period.

E. Severability.

If any provision or section of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, then such provision or section shall be considered separately and apart from the remaining provisions or sections of this ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

F. Effective date.

This ordinance will take effect on 01/01/2022.

**Passed two readings, ordained and enrolled.**

**20.113 Resolution in Support of Plastic Reduction and Sustainability Ordinance - 1st reading**

**20.113 A Resolution in Support of Plastic Reduction and Sustainability Ordinance - 1st reading**

Councilor Sciarra read the ordinance, noting that the date of introduction should be changed from 2020 to 2021.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the resolution. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Dwight proposed an amendment to the last 'Whereas' clause to include the City of Easthampton, which recently passed a ban on polystyrene food service ware. He so moved. Councilor Maire seconded.

Councilor Dwight spoke to the resolution. This was originally part of the ordinance but it was essentially a preamble, emphasizing the urgency and basis for action, he explained. He's going to presume approval is a foregone conclusion given the action just taken [passage of the ordinance].

Councilor Sciarra noted that the last paragraph is unusually worded for a resolution since it does not end with a 'Now Therefore Be it Resolved' clause and ends by stating a fact. Generally, a resolution is more of an expression as opposed to a statement.

Councilor Dwight said he took her point and thought it would be appropriate to modify the

language to emphasize support of the ordinance just passed.

After brief discussion, members agreed to the statement: "Now therefore the City of Northampton ***affirms its support*** for an ordinance to prohibit the use and distribution of polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, and polyvinyl chloride in food service ware and packaging material, and require instead the use and distribution of certified biodegradable, compostable, reusable, or recyclable products or materials."

Councilor Dwight so moved. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Quinlan said he appreciated the explanation of the resolution since he was confused as to why they would vote to support something they just enacted. One of the great community criticisms he's heard over the years is the amount of time the city council spends on resolutions, but he's really enjoyed explaining the value of resolutions.

As he knows, resolutions provide something that ordinances don't, which is the expressed will of the council, Councilor Dwight responded. It is perhaps gilding the lily in some respects, but, right now, their support for the spirit and sentiment embedded in the ordinance is not expressed; it is just a law. It does not express their earnest concerns about the impacts of continued use of these products.

Councilor Sciarra proposed bundling the two amendments for voting purposes. The combined motion to amend passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

The motion to approve the resolution in first reading as amended passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

Councilor Dwight moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the resolution in second reading. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

The following resolution passed two readings:



**City of Northampton**  
 MASSACHUSETTS

***In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One***

Upon the Recommendation of the Mayor’s Youth Commission, Councilor William H. Dwight and Councilor Rachel Maiore

**R-20.113 A RESOLUTION  
IN SUPPORT OF PLASTIC REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY ORDINANCE**

*Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:*

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton has a duty to protect the natural environment, the economy and the health of its citizens, and

WHEREAS, polystyrene, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, and polyvinyl chloride are typically made from fossil fuels, a non-renewable resource, and

WHEREAS, further that production of such plastics is driving fossil fuel extraction, and

WHEREAS, the manufacture, use, and disposal of these plastics requires substantial energy consumption, and contributes to the greenhouse gases that further climate change and result in adverse local and global environmental effects, and

WHEREAS, plastics 1 - 6 are common environmental pollutants that fragment into smaller non-biodegradable pieces that harm or kill marine life and wildlife when ingested, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency states "that such materials can also have serious impacts on human health, wildlife, the aquatic environment and the economy", and

WHEREAS, styrene, a component of polystyrene, is a known hazardous substance, classified by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen" and as a potential food and beverage contaminant that may "leach from polystyrene containers used for food products", and

WHEREAS, polyethylene terephthalate and polystyrene, are based on benzene, which is a known carcinogen and hazardous substance, and

WHEREAS, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride are generally not recyclable, and

WHEREAS, polystyrene is used as food service ware by food establishments and packing material by retail establishments operating in the City of Northampton, and

WHEREAS, disposable food service ware constitutes a portion of the litter in Northampton's streets, parks and public places, which increases municipal expenses, and

WHEREAS, biodegradable and/or compostable materials are available as affordable and effective alternatives to most plastic products, and

WHEREAS, New York, California, Oregon, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, American Samoa Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands, and Guam have enacted plastic bag bans; with Connecticut, Delaware, and Maine having passed plastic bag ban legislation not yet in effect; and with Vermont having passed a comprehensive single-use plastic ban, and

WHEREAS, over 100 municipalities throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia have banned polystyrene food service ware, including Amherst, Easthampton, Brookline, Great Barrington, Somerville, Cambridge, and South Hadley in addition to 41 other municipalities in Massachusetts, as well as: Oakland, CA; Chicago, IL; Miami Beach, FL; Albany, NY; New York, NY; Portland, OR; and Seattle, WA

NOW, therefore, the City of Northampton affirms its support for an ordinance to prohibit the use and distribution of polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, and polyvinyl chloride in food service ware and packaging material, and require instead the use and distribution of certified biodegradable, compostable, reusable, or recyclable products or materials.

**Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.**

<p><u>Consent Agenda</u></p>	<p><u>Consent Agenda</u>            Councilor Sciarra reviewed the items on the consent agenda, offering to remove any item for separate discussion upon request. Councilor Jarrett asked that the appointment of Sara Howard be removed for separate discussion. <b>Councilor Dwight moved to approve the consent agenda with the removal. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</b>  <b>The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:</b>            A. <u>Minutes of December 17, 2020 City Council Meeting</u>            B. <u>20.162 Appointments to Various Committees, all positive recommendations, City Services Committee – 1/14/2021</u>  <u>Arts Council</u>  <b>Jesse Hassinger</b>, 184 Main Street, Apt. 4, Northampton            Term: January 2021-June 2024  <i>To fill a vacancy</i>   <u>Human Rights Commission</u>  <b>Kathy Wicks</b>, 102 Black Birch Trail, Florence            Term: January 2021-June 2024  <i>To fill a vacancy</i>   <u>Northampton Housing Authority- Board of Commissioners</u>  <b>Jo Ella Tarbutton</b>, 81 Conz Street, Apt. 626, Northampton            Term: January 2021-June 2022  <i>To fill a newly-created position on the NHA Board of Commissioners through the Special Act</i>            C. <u>21.187 Appointments to Various Committees - for referral to City Services Committee</u>  <u>Arts Council</u>  <b>Dana Osterling</b>, 58 Paradise Road, Apt. 1, Northampton            Term: February 2021-June 2024  <i>To fill a vacancy</i>   <b>Thulani Davis</b>, 112 Franklin Street, Northampton            Term: February 2021-June 2024  <i>To fill a vacancy</i>   <u>Historical Commission</u>  <b>Dr. Jonathan Daube</b>, 15 Carolyn Street, Florence            Term: February 2021- June 2024  <i>To fill a vacancy</i>   <b>Rev. Harvey Hill</b>, 19 Ward Avenue, Northampton            Term: February 2021-June 2024  <i>To fill a vacancy</i>             Councilor Jarrett said he needed to recuse himself since Sara Howard is his life partner.             Councilor Dwight moved to approve the appointment of Sara Howard to the Northampton Housing Partnership. Councilor LaBarge seconded.             The motion passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused. The following appointment was approved:   <u>Housing Partnership</u>  <b>Sara Howard</b>, 8 High Street, Florence            Term: January 2021- June 2024  <i>To fill a vacancy</i></p>
<p><u>Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting</u></p>	<p>At 8:54 p.m., the City Council recessed for the Committee on Finance. The Committee on Finance adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The City Council reconvened at 8:55 p.m.</p>



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council,*

January 7, 2021

Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

**20.179 An Order to Authorize Borrowing \$1.5 Million for Paving Projects**

*Ordered, that*

the sum of \$1,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of roadway engineering, design and reconstruction, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet such appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow such amount under M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Passed two readings and enrolled.

20.180 Order to Appropriate Free Cash \$1.5 Million to Stabilization, Capital Stabilization and Fiscal Stability Stabilization Funds – 2nd reading

**20.180 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash \$1.5 Million to Stabilization, Capital Stabilization and Fiscal Stability Stabilization Funds – 2nd reading**

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council*

January 7, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Upon recommendation of the Mayor

**20.180 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash \$1.5 Million to Stabilization, Capital Stabilization and Fiscal Stability Stabilization Funds**

*Ordered, that*

\$ 1,500,000 be appropriated from the FY21 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to the following accounts:

\$500,000	Capital Stabilization Fund
\$500,000	Stabilization Fund
\$500,000	Fiscal Stability Stabilization Fund

Passed two readings and enrolled.

<p><u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Ordinances</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances</u> None.</p>
<p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p><u>New Business</u> None</p>
<p><u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) &amp; Study Requests</u></p>	<p><u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) and Information Study Requests</u> None</p>
<p><u>Motion to Adjourn</u></p>	<p>Upon motion made by Councilor Quinlan and seconded by Councilor Dwight, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p> <p>Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council</p>

# NORTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

## PUBLIC COMMENT RECORD SHEET

January 21, 2021

The Northampton City Council opened the floor to public comment at 7 p.m.

NAME ADDRESS SUBJECT

Aimee Francaes, here to talk about defunding police and creating safer community. Need to defund police and move into community services. We don't need people who are armed responding to domestic violence or crime scenes of any kind.

Eli Marlin, 33 Ward Ave. have all heard speak on polystyrene reduction ordinance. Youth commission has done extensive outreach to business and tried to compromise. People have forgotten that the climate crisis is a crisis and time-sensitive.

Shanna Fishel, Ward 7, Leeds, re: food insecurity. Mentioned support for defunding the police. Looking for community support for community fridge. Learned today MA has the highest rate of food insecurity in the last year of any other state.

Marty Nathan, thanked youth commission for leadership on plastics reduction ordinance and council for unanimous passage in 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Thanked all for new administration which will be finally acting on climate change. Urged approval.

Lilly P., Ward 6A, earlier this year during mental health crisis and domestic dispute with her mom, cops called. People's only experience with cops and authority have been negative. Asked to go beyond unaccountable social service agencies.

Bix Von Goeler, youth commission – as younger person, thinks climate crisis super important. Ban would reduce amount of plastic created, leading to less carbon emissions and plastic trash that harms the environment in other ways.

Kit Sang Boos, Northampton, grateful to Councilors Dwight and Maiore, youth commission and Renna Pye for ordinance. Is opportunity for all to use products and alternatives that don't increase carbon emissions and exacerbate climate crisis.

Jose Adastra, Ward1A, noted how violating and insulting it is that priorities all over the place instead of on providing help to people on the streets. Noticed more homeless in need of mental health services. Appalling to be talking about plastics.

Hildegarde Freedman, 35 Fruit Street, apologized for complaining that NHA doing nothing about Dr.'s letter stating that due to peripheral neuropathy she needed to get out of apartment building. NHA has now begun to assist her with move.

Ben Breslow, Northampton, in support of plastic reduction ordinance. Thinks important step to take and something Northampton can actually do.

Ashwin Ravikumar, energy and climate action committee and professor, in support of plastics ban. Climate justice is fundamentally and must be about racial justice. While wait for federal gov't, is also important for municipalities to take action.

Rye Buckley, Ward 3, expressed support for peer-led alternative policing. Re: accountability, not talking about citizen oversight boards. COB's are entirely ineffectual and don't change fact that police take away lives and liberty of residents.

Emily Coffin, Ward 1, frustrated by mayor's comment that cut to police not freeing up recurring revenue. Original budget went down \$900,000 so thinks playing a little bit of a shell game with \$. CSO only provides crisis evaluations in ER at night.

Ezekiel Baskin, Northampton, hears really strongly that people need help right now and sees that there is \$, even if it is in the stabilization fund. Asked council to try to get more \$ and resources to people in need, even if it is not their strict purview.

Robert Eastman, Ward 3, asked what public can do to help council respond to people in need. Reading plan for resiliency hub learned that 67 homeless people in Northampton, 21 of them living without shelter. Puts things in perspective.

Ya-ping, Turners Falls, recommended reading summary and findings of Brattleboro policing report. Interviewed over 200 community members and orgs. Residents who experienced police response to mental health reported negative impacts

City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council*

February 18, 2021

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Upon recommendation of the Mayor

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21.194 An Order to Rescind Borrowing Authority - 3 Votes

*Ordered, that*

the City Council rescind the following orders because such borrowing authority is no longer necessary:

Order 20.075: \$150,000 of borrowing authority authorized under the loan order approved on July 9, 2021 to acquire land on Boggy Meadow Road to add to the Broad Brook –Fitzgerald Lake Greenway as the borrowing authority is no longer needed.

Order 17.272: \$1,630,000 of borrowing authority authorized under the loan order approved on April 20, 2017 for engineering and construction of repairs at the Ryan Reservoir as the project schedule and overall cost estimate is being reevaluated.

Order 17.272: \$250,000 of borrowing authority authorized under the loan order approved on April 20, 2017 for engineering and construction work related to rehabilitation and replacement of the city's primary water main transmission line as the project schedule and overall cost is being reevaluated.

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council*

February 18, 2021

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Upon recommendation of the Mayor

21.195 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash for COVID Expenses Potentially Ineligible for CARES Act  
Reimbursement

*Ordered, that*

the sum of \$197,669 be appropriated from the FY2021 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to cover costs related to the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic should they ultimately be deemed ineligible for reimbursement under the CARES Act program.

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council*

February 18, 2021

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Upon recommendation of the Mayor

21.196 An Order to Surplus 56 Vernon Street and Lease for Continued Use as Head Start Daycare and Early Education Facility

*Ordered, that*

*Whereas*, the City of Northampton owns a property located at 56 Vernon Street known as the former Vernon Street School, and shown on Assessors Map 31A, Parcel 112, Lot 1; and;

*Whereas*, In 1977, Northampton Mayor Harry Chapman executed the first lease on the former Vernon Street School property at 56 Vernon Street to Hampshire Community Action Corporation (HCAC), converting the former neighborhood elementary school into a Head Start daycare facility; and;

*Whereas*, Mayors Musante, Ford, Higgins, and Narkewicz, with the approval of the then-sitting City Councils, have continued that use, recognizing the value to our community and region of providing high-quality Head Start and early care and education services for low and moderate-income children; and;

*Whereas*, the current lease with Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV) is set to expire on November 20, 2023, the building is in need of additional capital improvements, and long term control of the property is a condition of eligibility for federal Head Start capital grant funding; and;

*Whereas*, the City of Northampton does not have a municipal use for the property and M.G.L. c. 30B, §16 requires a vote of City Council to surplus any interest in public property; and so

*Now therefore be it ordered that,*

The property at 56 Vernon Street is declared surplus to City of Northampton needs and is hereby transferred to the care, custody, and control of the Mayor for the purpose of leasing said property for thirty (30) years at a nominal amount with the restriction that the property can only be used for Head Start and early care and education and other related services by a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization on such terms and conditions as the Mayor deems appropriate, provided that and the lessee shall be responsible for all utilities, maintenance, repair, and replacement of all mechanical systems. The lessee shall be required to maintain the structure in a safe condition for its continued use as a Head Start facility.

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, February 4, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and the Department of Public Works*

**21.191 An Order to Acquire Land on Nash Hill Road in Williamsburg for Water Supply Protection**

*Ordered, that*

WHEREAS, The City of Northampton owns a surface drinking water supply in the town of Whately which is surrounded by watershed land owned by both the City and private property owners, and;

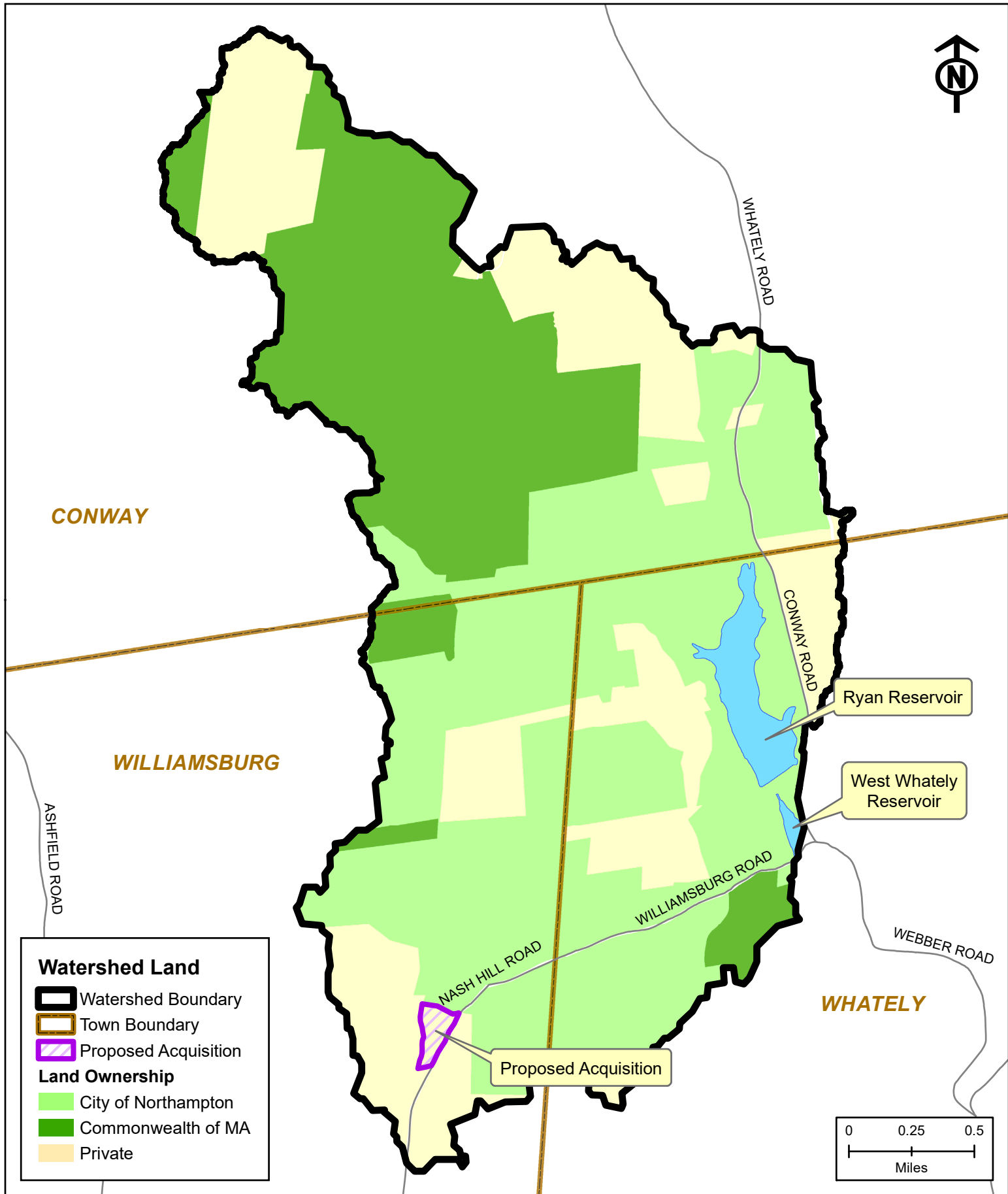
WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the City to acquire privately held parcels within this watershed as they become available for sale to protect its drinking water supply, and;

WHEREAS, Certain parcels of land within the watershed are available for acquisition, and it is in the interest of the City to acquire the parcels for watershed protection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED,

That the City Council authorizes the acquisition by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee interest in one parcel of land containing 14.79 acres, more or less, located on Nash Hill Road in Williamsburg and shown on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Williamsburg, Massachusetts Prepared for Northampton Dept of Public Works,” dated December 16, 2020, by Holmberg & Howe Land Surveyors. This acquisition is for the purpose of the sanitary protection of the West Whately Reservoir, part of the City of Northampton’s Water Supply. The parcels shall be held in the custody and control of the Department of Public Works.

Further, that no appropriation is necessary for the acquisition of the easement authorized hereunder inasmuch as sufficient funds for this acquisition have been appropriated in Water Enterprise 61523-581000-11 – Land.

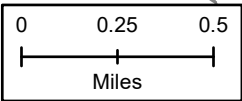


**Watershed Land**

- Watershed Boundary
- Town Boundary
- Proposed Acquisition

**Land Ownership**

- City of Northampton
- Commonwealth of MA
- Private



**Ryan Reservoir & West Whately Reservoir Watersheds**

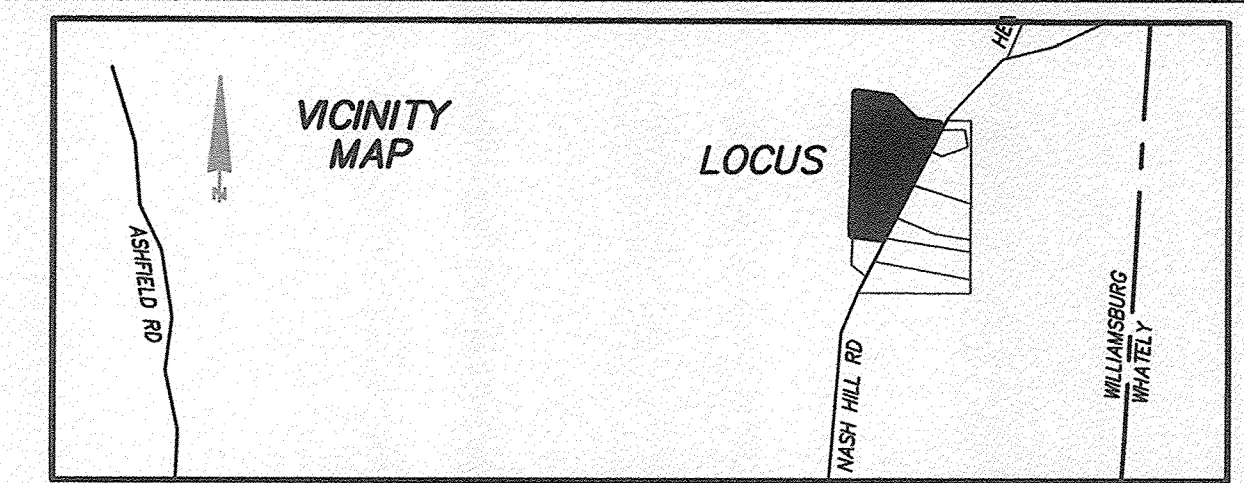
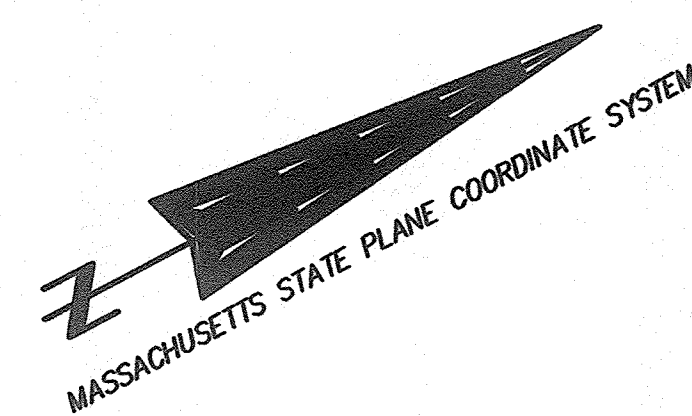
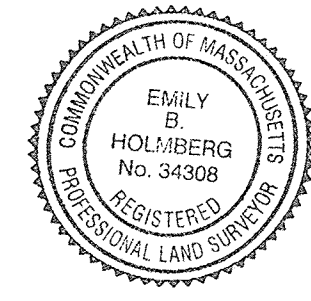
**Proposed Land Acquisition**  
Przasnyski Parcel  
February 2021

Prepared by:  
City of Northampton  
Department of Public Works  
Engineering Division



I REPORT THAT THIS PLAN SHOWS THE PROPERTY LINES OF EXISTING OWNERSHIPS AND THE LINES OF STREETS AND WAYS SHOWN ARE THOSE OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE STREETS OR WAYS ALREADY ESTABLISHED AND THAT NO NEW LINES FOR DIVISION OF EXISTING OWNERSHIP OR FOR NEW WAYS ARE SHOWN. ALSO, I REPORT THAT THIS PLAN AND SURVEY CONFORM TO THE TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAND SURVEYING IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. FURTHERMORE, I REPORT THAT THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTERS OF DEEDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

SIGNED: Emily B. Holmberg  
 DATE: December 16, 2020



1. THIS PROPERTY IS ACQUIRED FOR WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 40, SECTIONS 38, 39B, AND 41, AND ARTICLE 97 OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUTION AND IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MA.
  2. MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION APPROVAL IS REQUIRED, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. CHAPTER 40 SECTION 15B, BEFORE ANY PORTION OF THIS PROPERTY CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO A DIFFERENT OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL, OR BEFORE THE PROPERTY CAN BE CHANGED TO A DIFFERENT USE.
- BARB WIRE FENCE REMAINS ARE EMBEDDED IN ALL TREES SHOWN HEREON.

DAVID W. BUSSLER & ANNE M. BUSSLER BOOK 1843 PAGE 343 PID: B-30A

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON BOOK 667 PAGE 15 PLAN RECORDED IN BOOK 667 PAGES 70-71 PID: B-29

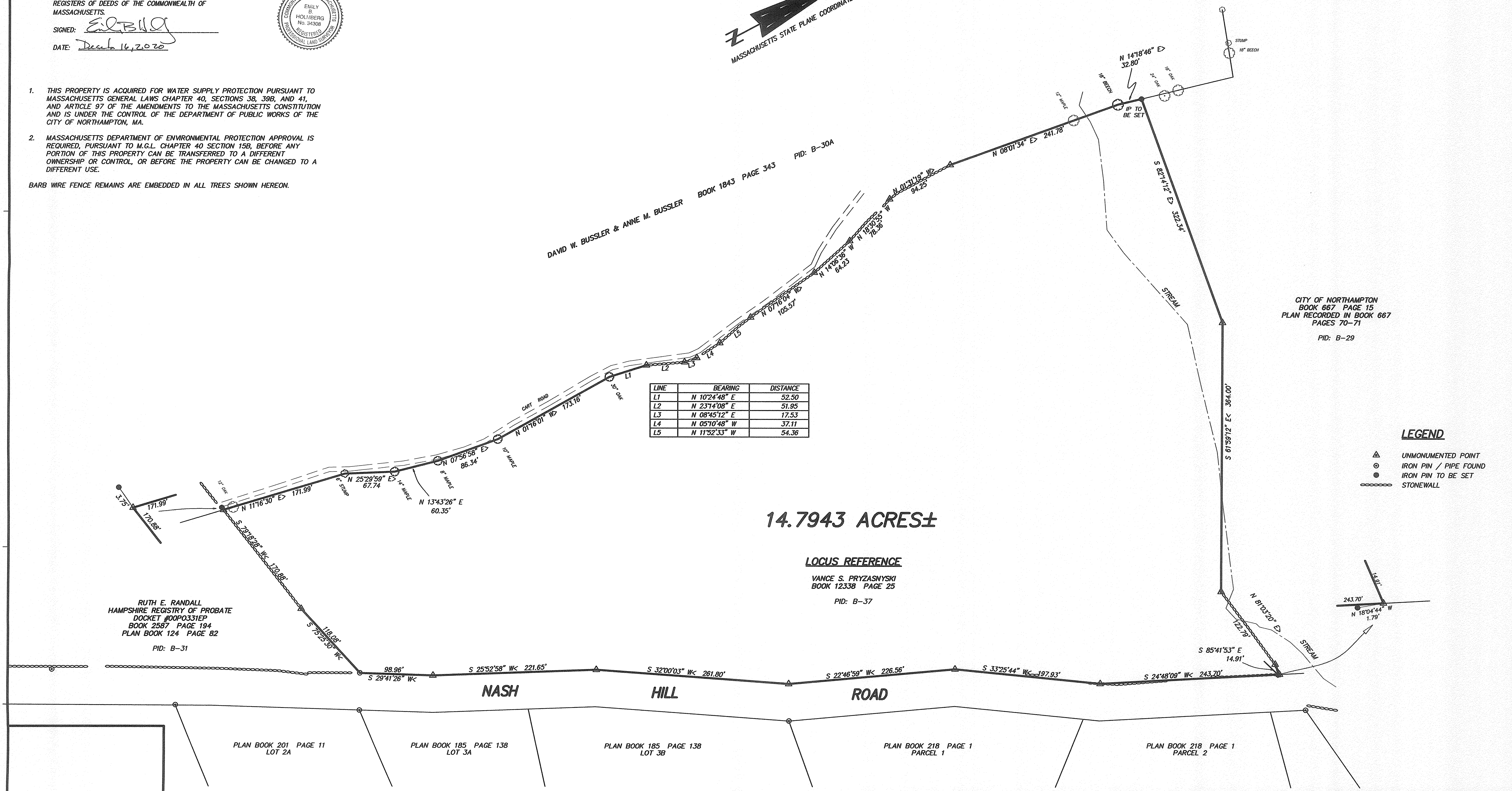
LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
L1	N 10°24'48" E	52.50
L2	N 23°14'08" E	51.95
L3	N 08°45'12" E	17.53
L4	N 05°10'48" W	37.11
L5	N 11°52'33" W	54.36

14.7943 ACRES±

LOCUS REFERENCE  
 VANCE S. PRYZASNSKI  
 BOOK 12338 PAGE 25  
 PID: B-37

RUTH E. RANDALL  
 HAMPSHIRE REGISTRY OF PROBATE  
 DOCKET #0000331EP  
 BOOK 2587 PAGE 194  
 PLAN BOOK 124 PAGE 82  
 PID: B-31

- LEGEND**
- ▲ UNMONUMENTED POINT
  - IRON PIN / PIPE FOUND
  - IRON PIN TO BE SET
  - STONEMALL



PLAN BOOK 201 PAGE 11 LOT 2A

PLAN BOOK 185 PAGE 138 LOT 3A

PLAN BOOK 185 PAGE 138 LOT 3B

PLAN BOOK 218 PAGE 1 PARCEL 1

PLAN BOOK 218 PAGE 1 PARCEL 2

FEET 0 60 SCALE 120 180		
METERS 0 18.3 36.6 54.9		
SURVEY: SO	FLD. BK:	
CALC: LWH	DESIGN:	
DRAFT: LWH	CHECK: EBH	
DATE	REVISION	BY

**Holmberg & Howe**  
 LAND SURVEYORS

87 UNION STREET  
 P.O. BOX 945  
 EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027  
 TELEPHONE (413) 529-1700  
 FAX (413) 529-2237

37 DAMON POND ROAD  
 CHESTERFIELD, MA 01012  
 TELEPHONE (413) 298-4525  
 FAX (413) 529-2237

PLAN OF LAND IN  
 WILLIAMSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS  
 PREPARED FOR  
 NORTHAMPTON DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

SHEET: 1 OF 1 SCALE: 1" = 60' DECEMBER 16, 2020 JOB NO.: 2020-034

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council*

February 4, 2021

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Upon recommendation of the Mayor

**21.192 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to City Clerk for Elections and DPW for Asphalt**

*Ordered, that*

\$ 288,725 be appropriated from the FY21 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to the following accounts:

\$ 34,512	City Clerk PS Election Workers (11611 512010)
\$ 4,213	City Clerk PS Overtime (11611 513000)
\$250,000	DPW Streets – Asphalt for Road Improvements (14223 584010)

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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In City Council, May 21, 2020

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, Planning and Sustainability, Planning Board, and Energy and Sustainability Commission

## **21.190 AN ORDER ENDORSING THE *CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND REGENERATION PLAN***

WHEREAS, the Northampton Planning Board unanimously adopted the ***Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan*** as an element of and an amendment to the ***Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan***, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chap. 41, Section 81D (1/28/21)

WHEREAS, the Energy and Sustainability Commission unanimously endorsed the ***Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan*** (12/22/20)

WHEREAS, the plan creates a comprehensive climate action plan framework for Northampton with a commitment and roadmap to action

WHEREAS, City Council endorsement does not imply agreement with every recommendation but does imply acceptance of the overall plan and its call to action

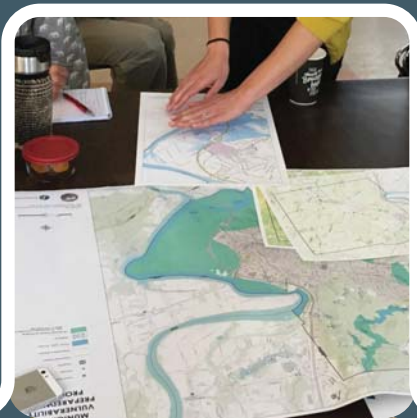
### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

The City Council hereby endorses the ***Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan: An element of the Sustainable Northampton Plan, Addressing the climate emergency by regenerating a healthy community, adapting to and mitigating climate change.***

# Northampton Climate Resilience & Regeneration Plan

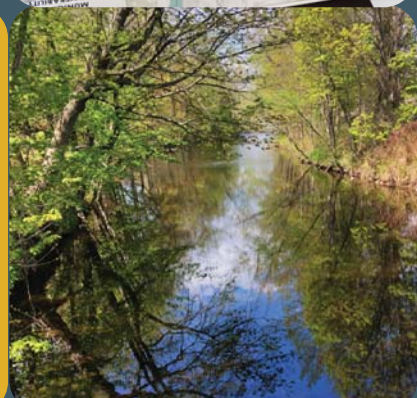
An element of the Sustainable Northampton Plan

Addressing the climate emergency by  
Regenerating a healthy community,  
ADAPTING to and MITIGATING climate change



Northampton  
Climate Action  
Plan (CAP)

Adopted 2021



# Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan (Jan. 2008 amended through Jan. 2021)

*Sustainable Northampton Plan* adopted (MGL C.41, s.81D) January 2008

Amended under MGL Section 81D to add

*Pedestrian & Bicycle Comprehensive Plan* January 2017

*Open Space, Recreation, and Multiuse Plan* June 2018

*Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan*, January 2021

Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan history:

Northampton Planning Board adopted January 28, 2021

Energy & Sustainability Commission endorsed December 22, 2020

City Council endorsed \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

## Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the Northampton is build upon and benefited from the traditional land stewardship and contributions of Indigenous and First Peoples, including the Nipmuc and Pocumtuc Nations.

We also want to acknowledge and thank you to all who contributed to this plan:

### City Staff

Planning & Sustainability: Wayne Feiden FAICP (project manager), Carolyn Misch AICP, Sarah LaValley AICP, and James Thompson

Central Services: Chris Mason and David Pomerantz

Mayor David Narkewicz

Public Works: David Veleta and Doug McDonald

Health Department: Merridith O'Leary and Jenny Meyer

Police Department: Jody Kasper

Senior Services: Marie Westburg

### Community Stakeholder Workshop Participants

Adele Franks, Grow Food Northampton; Andrew Linkenhoker, Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School; Ben Weil, UMass Clean Energy Extension; Bob Zimmermann, Broad Brook Coalition; Caitlin Marquis, Healthy Hampshire; Catherine Ratte, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Clem Clay, Grow Food Northampton; Dana Roscoe, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Dano Weisbord, Smith College; Darci Maresca, UMass School of Earth & Sustainability; Denise Lello, Mothers Out Front and Climate Action Now; Emily Slotnick, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Gaby Immerman, Mill River Greenway Initiative; Geo Kohout, Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways; Hatim El Otmani, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (Fellow); Irvine Sobelman, Climate Action Now; Jacob Fine, Congregation B'nai Israel Abundance Farm; Janet Bush, Unitarian Society; Jason Johnson, Leeds Civic Association; Jeff Harness, Cooley Dickinson Hospital; Joanne DeRose, National Grid; John Lombardi, Cooley Dickinson Hospital; Jonathan Wright, Wright Builders, Inc.; Keith Zaltzberg, Regenerative Design Group; Mark Sullivan, Planning Board; Nili Simhai, Congregation B'nai Israel Abundance Farm; Pamela Schwartz, Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness; Price Armstrong, Pioneer Valley Transportation Authority; Ron VandenDolder, Coca-Cola; Scott Johnson, Cooley Dickinson Hospital; Scott Silver, Northampton resident; Sharon Moulton, Climate Action Now and First Churches; Somira Bouina, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (Fellow); Stephanie Ciccarello, Town of Amherst

Community Partners (Partner Training, interviews, and conversations Forbes Library, Northampton Neighbors, Way Finders, ServiceNet, Edgardo Cancel (community leader), Lilly Library, Northampton Senior Center, Northampton Survival Center, Highland Valley Elder Services, Community Legal Aid, Community Development Corporation, The Literacy Project, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, Marianne LaBarge, Alisa Klein, Northampton Housing Authority, Mass Fair Housing, Northampton Community Arts Trust, Center for Human Development, Northampton Youth Commission, Northampton High School Environmental Club, Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce.

**Additionally, thank you to the hundreds of community members who also provided input at public workshops and through on-line platforms, contributing to the vision, framework, and strategies capture in this plan.**

### Project Funding

Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Program (Planning Grant)

Massachusetts Planning Assistance Grant

City of Northampton

### Consultant Team

Linnean Solutions, Kim Lundgren Associates, and Fuss & O'Neill.

### Project Management and Coordination

Northampton Office of Planning & Sustainability



# Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary and Introduction
2. Climate Change in Northampton
3. Pathways for Action
4. Action Plan: Resilience and Regeneration Strategies
5. A Plan Crafted by Northampton

Links

**5-STAR community and National Leader in Sustainability**



**USGBC LEED for Cities Certified 9 (final rating is pending)**



# 1

**Bikers on the MassCentral Rail Trail. Alternative modes of transportation, like biking, serve both resilience and regeneration.**

*Image credit: John Phelan*

## SECTION ONE

# Executive Summary & Introduction

### The Plan: A Commitment

In 2018, Mayor Narkewicz committed the City of Northampton to becoming a net carbon neutral city by 2050. City Council endorsed this goal in 2018.

We commit to a City that will thrive, even with climate change. We will:

- Be a net carbon neutral City by 2050.
- Ensure that City government building and operations are net carbon neutral by 2030.
- Ensure that community carbon emissions, building on Smith College's commitment to be net carbon neutral by 2030, will be 50% lower by 2030 and 75% lower by 2040.
- Incorporate climate resilience and regeneration into all future city plans and capital improvement planning.
- Incorporate equity, is a cross cutting need, into every climate action.
- Address energy sources, building energy, transportation, land use, food systems, waste systems, trees and forests, carbon sequestration, and waste; recognizing that the first step in carbon neutralization is conservation and reducing demands (e.g., energy, transport, materials).
- Commit that our top priority needs to be the high impact practices that are most effective at achieving these commitments.
- Become a more resilient city to address the climate change that is coming. This will range from physical features (e.g., stormwater and storms), to social investments to support our communities on the frontline of climate change.
- Develop a biennial resilience & regeneration action plan that includes an annual and long term carbon budget.
- Ensure coordinated response across all of city government.

### What do we mean by resilience and regeneration?

**Resilience:** Increasing the capacity of our city to better anticipate, adapt, and thrive in a changing climate no matter what kinds of acute shocks and chronic stresses we experience. *Climate adaptation* is part of the city's resilience efforts.

**Regeneration:** Reducing our city's contribution to climate change, while renewing the health of natural and human systems damaged by climate change, and growing the vitality of people, the economy, and ecosystems for the future. *Climate mitigation* is part of the city's regeneration efforts.

The City's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint will come from changes in city operations inside the City and outside the City (e.g., its purchasing power and management of city watershed lands), our community's energy footprint, and community-wide direct carbon emissions (scopes 1 and 2). In addition, we will reduce community consumption that results in carbon emissions elsewhere in the world (scope 3).

# In 2018, Mayor Narkewicz committed the City of Northampton to being carbon neutral by 2050. This plan is the next step.

## The Plan: A Road-map

This plan is both a commitment and a road-map. It signifies our dedication to mitigating climate change and the actions we need to build an increasingly **resilient** and **regenerative** future. It is a plan for simultaneously reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, building our capacity to adapt to stresses, and improving our healthy ecosystems, inclusive communities, and ensuring all Northampton residents can thrive.

Our goals and actions are ambitious, necessary, and achievable. This plan outlines the path to that goal—transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, increasing energy efficiency, and creating systems for consuming fewer resources while enhancing our quality of life.

We as a city commit to:

- Creating and updating specific action plans needed to move this plan forward.
- Bringing climate resilience and regeneration into the conversation on every significant city action (regulatory, investment, legislative, budgetary).

We are already feeling the effects of climate change, globally and locally. More frequent higher temperatures, storm intensity, drought risk, and flooding, will increasingly take a toll on our infrastructure, ecosystems, agriculture, and health.

Those impacts are not equally felt. The greatest effects are on communities at the frontline of climate change (e.g., the homeless, populations of color, low income residents, farmers, those in low lying areas). All of the systems we rely on—whether those are wastewater systems, food systems, or social service systems—must effectively adapt to these new stresses.

## How does this fit into other plans?

The *Resilience and Regeneration Plan* builds on a legacy of City sustainability and resilience planning and will contribute to future planning. The next Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan update will incorporate this Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan and its framework.

All city plans must advance resilience and regeneration around a wide variety of stresses and shocks (e.g., economic and housing), not only the climate change, which is the focus of this plan.

**The plan defines a recommended approach. Except for its role as one of the Zoning Special Permit criteria, the plan has no legal teeth. Its power comes from building a consensus vision.**

Our vision is to reduce our impact of climate change on the environment and on our communities. We need to *renew* the health of ecosystems and communities that have been and will be compromised by climate change. In all our work, we must create stronger, healthier, and more equitable systems.

Every action we take has the capacity to achieve multiple community benefits. Consequently, we've worked to identify research- and experience-based strategies, and ways to expand the impact of strategies, that will not only help meet Northampton's resilience and regeneration goals, but also encourage regional collaboration, greater economic and cultural vitality, and greater equity through opportunities and resources here in Northampton.

We acknowledge our limits as a small city and that our regeneration and mitigation efforts amount to nothing absent concerted and stepped up state, federal, and international actions. Northampton needs to move forward as aggressively as we can, as we collectively work towards limiting global climate warming to 1.5 degrees Celcius above pre-industrial levels (the accepted target used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2018, and others). If the state and federal government provide more tools, we should be working towards 2030 climate neutrality.

With our limited tools and financial resources, we must:

- Focus on high impact practices, the most impactful resilience and regeneration actions.
- Focus on the practices that provide us with the highest resilience and regeneration Return on Investment (ROI).

## Northampton Resilience and Regeneration Framework

**Figure 1.** Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Framework In developing strategies that will help us reach our regeneration and resilience goals, we also look for opportunities to increase economic and cultural vitality, equity, and regional collaboration.



## Building on Past Success

Northampton is committed to being one of the most sustainable communities in the nation. We are proud to have been the first city to receive a 5-STAR rating under the former STAR Communities Rating System for sustainable communities and the highest Commonwealth Capital score under the former Massachusetts Smart Growth scoring. We are now a LEED for Cities and Communities certified community and use that system to track and improve upon our progress.

We created a vision for a sustainable community in our 2008 Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan. Since then we have up-zoned our core commercial, residential, and industrial/office districts to encourage walkable and bikable development patterns; adopted the energy stretch code; invested in solar PV capacity; hired an energy coordinator; ramped up energy efficiency in municipal buildings; doubled the amount of our protected conservation land; restored natural systems and revitalized new open spaces; designed resilient stormwater systems with natural systems; invested in public art; implemented the ValleyBike regional bike share program; improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and complete streets; planted over 1,000 shade trees; and invested millions in social equity, to name but a few of the many efforts.

Our dedication to track and reduce city-wide greenhouse gas emissions supports our commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy—and now our pledge to be carbon neutral by 2050. This commitment can be seen throughout Northampton’s governing

bodies including the City Council and Planning Department (see Appendix for a list of City Council resolutions on environmental issues). These investments in the past, present, and earmarked for the future demonstrate how we’ve been both forward-looking and *forward-moving* in reaching those goals. Nevertheless, there is much more to do. The Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan intends to build on that momentum, integrating actions already underway, and laying out next steps for legislation, decision-making, implementation, and tracking progress over both the short- and long-term.

## Summary of Resilience and Regeneration Strategies

Reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 is a challenge and an opportunity for Northampton that will require action at individual, city, and regional scales. We have identified a set of strategies, ranging from policies, regulatory changes, and capital improvement projects, to new programs and advocacy that will move us towards a more resilient and regenerative Northampton.

**■ Reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 is a challenge and an opportunity for Northampton that will require action at individual, city, and regional scales.**

# Northampton Resilience and Regeneration Strategies

Figure 3. Strategy organization in Action Plan section of this plan

### How are the strategies organized?

Northampton is tracking its progress using the new US Green Building Council (USGBC) rating system LEED for Cities and Communities. This replaced the former STAR Communities program. The Resilience and Regeneration strategies are broken down by the categories defined in the rating system to help us track how our actions help us make progress.

### Time-frame Notations

**Short-term** = less than one year  
**Mid-term** = one to three years  
**Long-term** = over three years

### Cost Notations

Cost ranges include costs for the implementer and roughly represent:

- \$** = Capital cost (<\$1M)  
= Planning/policy/program implementation (<\$25k)
- \$\$** = Capital cost (\$1-5M)  
= Planning/policy/program implementation (\$25-250k)
- \$\$\$** = Capital cost (>\$5M)  
= Planning/policy/program implementation (>\$250k)

# 2

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**The Mill River at West Street. Maintaining healthy natural water systems, and reducing flood risk are captured by strategies in this plan.**

*Image credit: Holly Jacobson*

## SECTION TWO

# Climate Change in Northampton

### Why is the Climate Changing?

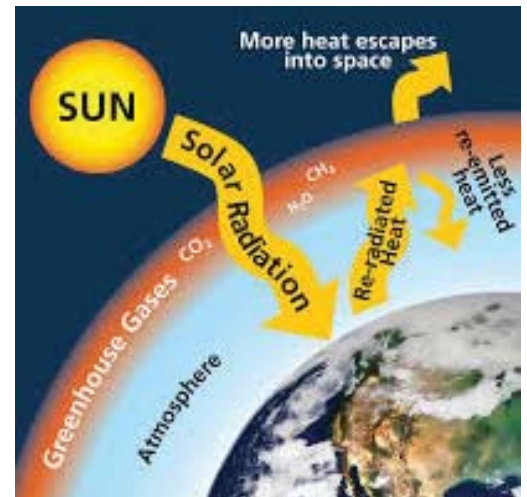
The fossil fuels we use for generating electricity, heating our homes and workplaces, growing the food we eat, and fueling our cars, as well as trash breaking down in landfills release greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere. Naturally occurring greenhouse gases are important for regulating the Earth's temperature and keeping it warm enough for life on this planet.

Since the industrial revolution, however, human activity such as burning fossil fuels, converting our forests to farms and human development, and producing waste has caused much larger quantities of greenhouse gases (particularly carbon dioxide and methane) to be released into the atmosphere than is sustainable. The amount of carbon dioxide has increased 100 times faster in the last 60 years than previous natural increases! This large increase in greenhouse gases is causing global temperatures to rise and is disrupting our climate patterns, causing more extreme weather events.

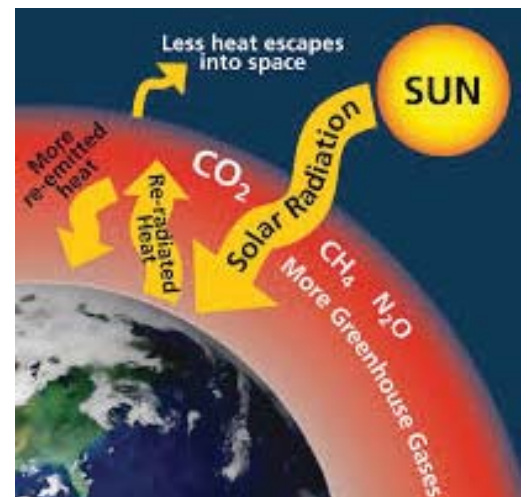
**Figure 3.** This image depicts the greenhouse gas effect that is at the root of climate change. While greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are important for trapping heat from the sun (image [A]), too many greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is changing the climate on Earth (image [B]).

*Image credit: Will Elder, National Park Service.*

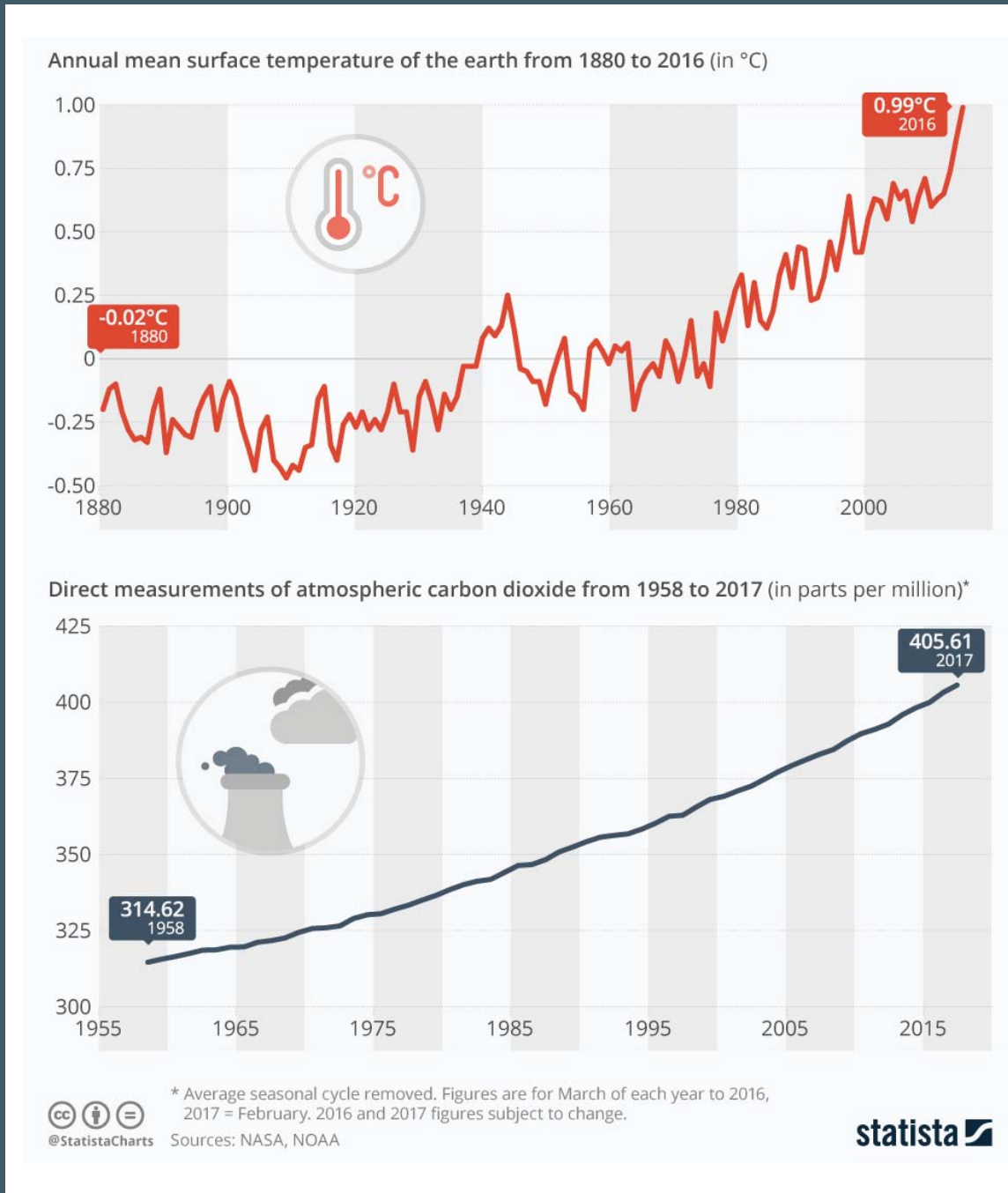
[A]



[B]



# Changes in Global Surface Temperatures and CO<sub>2</sub> in the Atmosphere



**Figure 4.** Change in the annual mean surface temperature of the earth from 1880 to 2016 (top) and change in the carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere from 1958 to 2017 (bottom).

Image credit: Martin Armstrong, Statista.  
 See: [www.statista.com/chart/8471/co2-levels-and-global-warming](http://www.statista.com/chart/8471/co2-levels-and-global-warming)



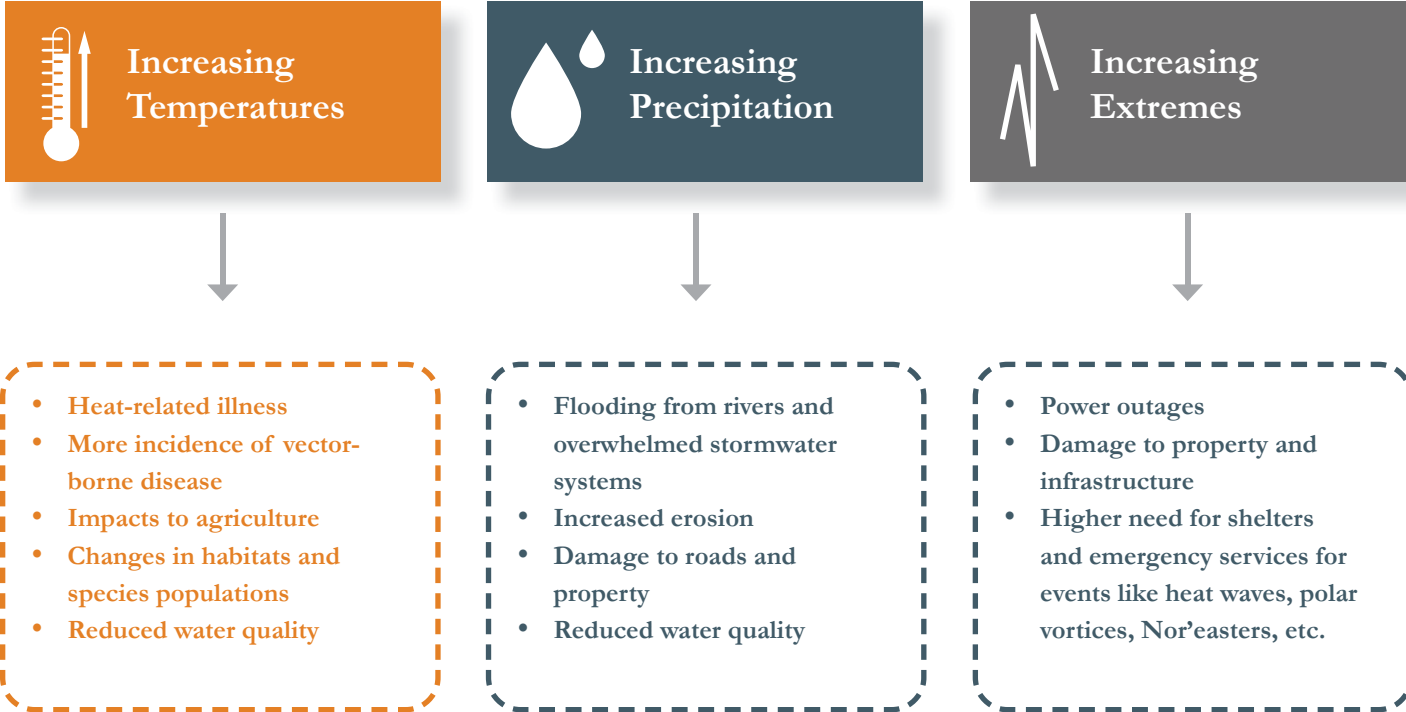
# Signs of a Changing Climate and Future Projections

## Climate Change in Northampton

As a result of climate change, Northampton is experiencing increasing mean temperatures and more intense storms. These changes are taking a toll on our infrastructure, ecosystems, and health, including more frequent flood events, wear and tear on our roads, spread of new invasive species, disruptions to farming, and increasing vector-borne disease. Even if we can achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions globally, even if we can become net carbon neutral, feedback

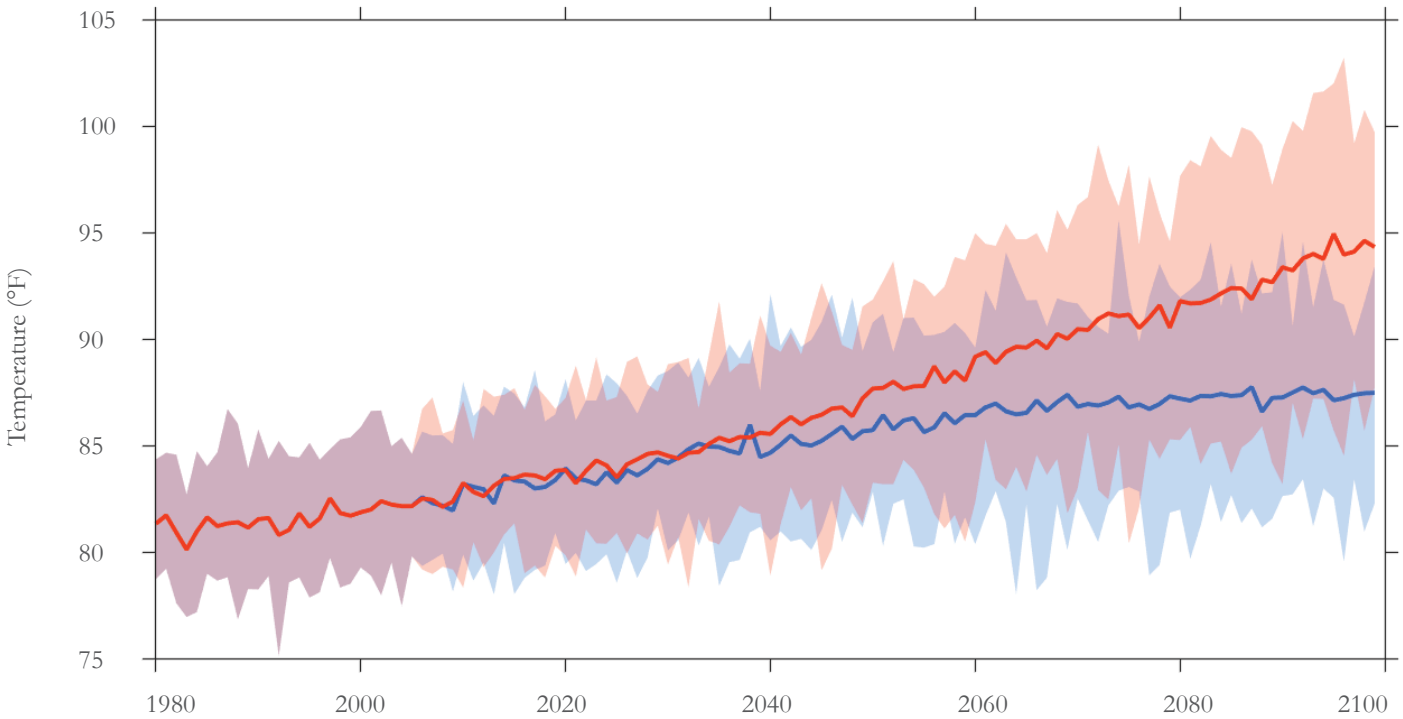
loops will continue and we will see and experience the intensifying impact of these changes within the next thirty years and even more so by the end of the century.

## Changes in Temperature



**Figure 5.** Key indicators of climate change in Northampton (solid boxes) and some of the potential impacts we are likely to see from those changes (dashed boxes). *Icon credit: André Luiz and Baboon designs from the Noun Project.*

# Maximum Summer Temperatures for Northampton, MA



**Figure 6.** Summer temperatures (average maximum daily temperatures for June – August) have been increasing over the past several decades, and are expected to continue to increase through the end of the century. Whereas the average maximum temperature in the summer is currently around 83°F, it may increase to nearly 95°F by 2100. The red line shows a “business-as-usual” case if we continue to emit greenhouse gases globally at the same rate. The blue line shows temperature change projections with significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

*Historical simulations (1980-2005) and projections (2006-2099) in seasonal averages of maximum daily temperature from a 29-member, high resolution (4 km) statistically downscaled Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) ensemble mean lower (RCP 4.5 W - thick blue line) and higher (RCP 8.5 - thick red line) representative concentration pathway (RCP) emission scenarios. Red and blue lines for the period 1980-2005 are identical. The light blue (light red) shading represent the highest and lowest values from the 29 different model RCP 4.5 (RCP 8.5) simulations for each year. Graph from Elizabeth Burakowski and Cameron Wake, Earth System Research Center/EOS, U. of New Hampshire.*

Annual temperatures in the Northeast have been warming 0.5°F per decade on average since 1970, with winter temperatures increasing even faster at 1.3°F per decade (Massachusetts EOEEA/Department of Energy Resources (EEA). (2017). *Resilient MA: Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth*. Retrieved from <http://resilientma.org/>.) In Western Massachusetts, specifically, average annual temperatures have increased 1.9°F since 1970 (Climate Central. (2019). “US Warming by State.” Retrieved from [www.climatecentral.org/gallery/maps/us-warming-by-state](http://www.climatecentral.org/gallery/maps/us-warming-by-state), using Springfield, MA data).

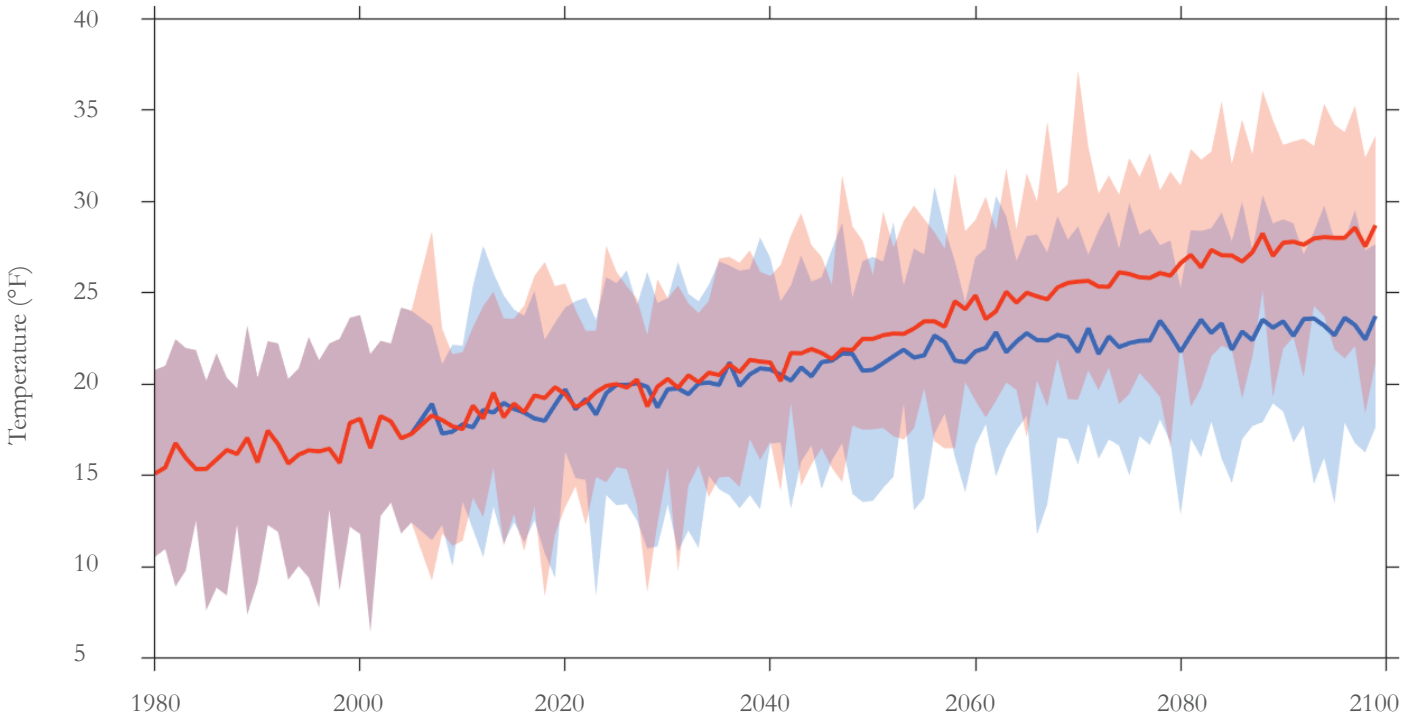
Based on downscaled climate projections, average temperatures for the Connecticut River Basin are expected to increase 3–6°F by 2050 and 4–11°F by the end of the century (Downscaled climate projections by the Northeast Climate Science Center at UMass-Amherst. Accessed from Massachusetts Climate Change Projections, Massachusetts EOEEA/Department of Energy Resources, 2017.

With these changes in temperature we will see more days with extreme heat and fewer days below freezing. From 1970–2000, the Connecticut River Basin had an average of roughly 6 days with maximum temperatures of 90°F each year, a number which is expected to increase to 16–42 days by 2050. Likewise, by 2050 the Connecticut River Basin is likely to have 19–37 fewer days where temperatures dip below 32°F each year.

Along with potential impacts to the city’s agriculture, air quality, and the health of our water supplies, these temperature increases are already showing effects on our ecosystems by degrading the health and longevity of tree species that are accustomed to colder climates, contributing to pest outbreaks, and facilitating the spread of invasive species. Insects,



# Minimum Winter Temperatures for Northampton, MA



**Figure 7.** Winter temperatures (average minimum daily temperatures for December - February) have been increasing over the past several decades, and are expected to continue to increase through the end of the century. The average winter minimum temperature (approximately 18°F) may increase to nearly 28°F by 2100. The red line shows a “business-as-usual” case if we continue to emit greenhouse gases globally at the same rate. The blue line shows temperature change projections with significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

*Historical simulations (1980-2005) and future projections (2006-2099) in seasonal averages of minimum daily temperature from a 29-member, high resolution (4 km) statistically downscaled Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) ensemble mean lower (RCP 4.5 W - thick blue line) and higher (RCP 8.5 - thick red line) representative concentration pathway (RCP) emission scenarios. Red and blue lines for the period 1980-2005 are identical. The light blue (light red) shading represent the highest and lowest values from the 29 different model RCP 4.5 (RCP 8.5) simulations for each year. Graph from Elizabeth Burakowski and Cameron Wake, Earth System Research Center/EOS, U. of New Hampshire.*

including tick species that carry Lyme disease, are less likely to die off in the winter with higher winter temperatures, leading to higher breeding rates. Northampton has seen increasing rates of Lyme disease cases and increases in mosquito and other vector-borne disease.

With increasing average temperatures, Northampton will see more extended heat waves, which produce more challenges than the occasional hotter day. Extreme heat, humidity, and sustained heat waves cause heat-related illness, particularly for people with compromised immune systems, asthma, or without access to air conditioning. We recognize and need to address how climate change disproportionately affects some community members (frontline communities) more than others (climate justice).

## Changes in Precipitation

Average annual rainfall has increased by nearly ten percent in the Northeast since 1970 (*Massachusetts Climate Change Clearinghouse. (2017). "Changes in Precipitation," from [http://resilientma.org/changes/changes-in-precipitation#fn\\_1](http://resilientma.org/changes/changes-in-precipitation#fn_1)*). The intensity of downpours has also increased significantly. Between 1958 and 2010, the Northeast experienced a 70% increase in the precipitation that fell in “very heavy events,” the heaviest 1% of all daily events (*Horton, R., Yobe, G., Easterling, W., Kates, R., Ruth, M., Sussman, E., Welbel, A., Wolfe, D., & Lipschultz, F. (2014) Ch. 16: Northeast. "Climate Change Impacts in the United States." The Third National Climate Assessment. J. M. Melillo, Terese Richmond, and G. W. Yobe, Eds. U.S. Global Change Research Program, 16-1-11*).

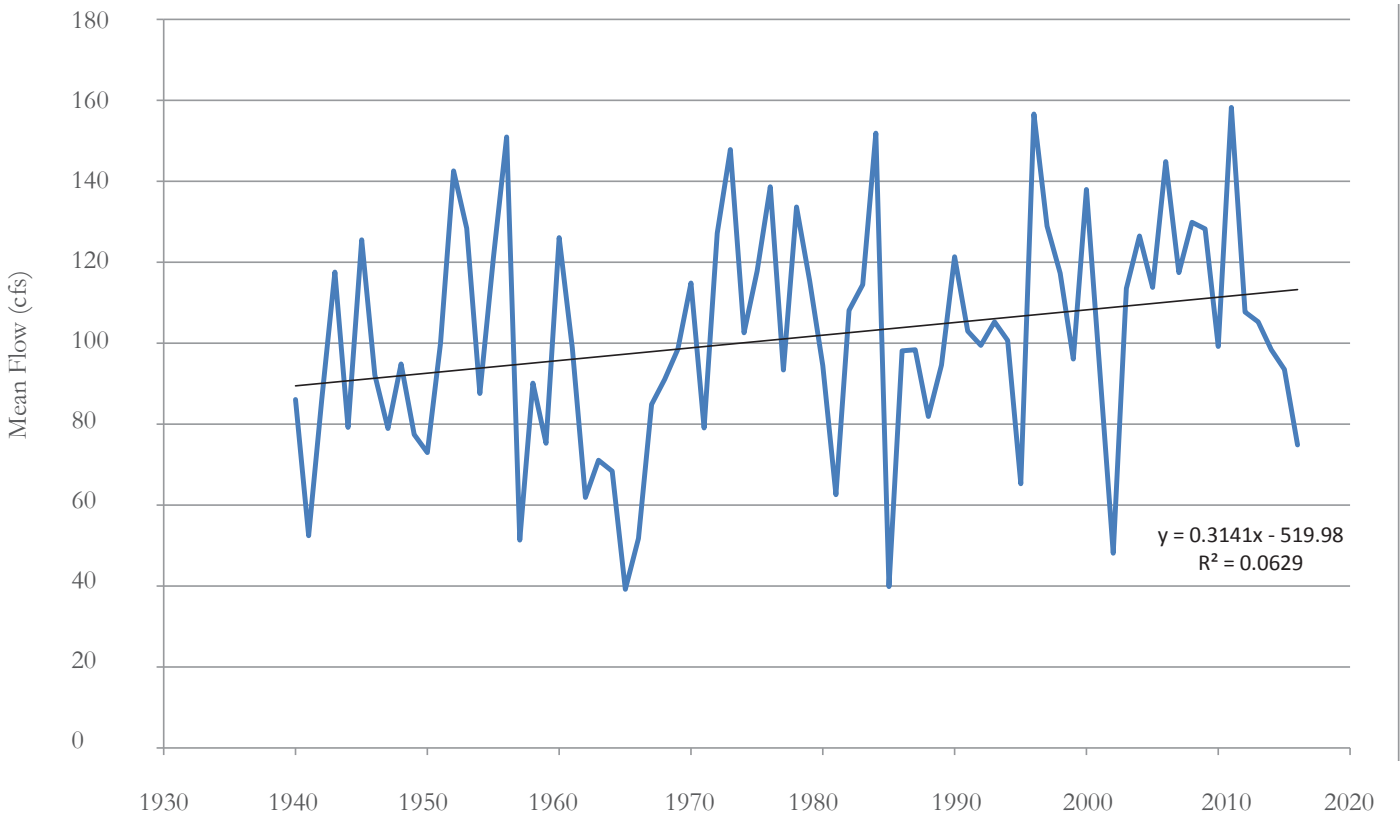
Mill River stream flow data (US Geological Survey) show annual mean flow and annual peak flow have trended upward over the past 80 years, showing the impact of these precipitation changes (**Figures 8 and 9**).

Total Western Massachusetts annual precipitation is expected to increase

over the course of the century. Currently the Connecticut River Basin sees an average of roughly 46 inches of annual precipitation. This is projected to increase to 48–53 inches by 2050 and to 55 inches by the end of the century. The majority of that increase is projected to occur in the winter months; the summer and fall may in fact see a decrease in precipitation.

Likewise, the intensity of storms is projected to increase, which is measured by more precipitation over a shorter period of time. The Connecticut River Basin currently sees roughly 6.5 days in a year on average where precipitation exceeds one inch. The number of days is expected to increase to between 7 and 10 days by 2050 and up to 11 days by 2100. (*Climate projections in this section are all downscaled climate projections by the Northeast Climate Science Center at UMass-Amherst, from Massachusetts Climate Change Projections by Massachusetts EOEEA/Department of Energy Resources, 2017*).

## Annual Mean Flow for the Mill River (USGS Site 1171500)



**Figure 8.** Historic annual mean flow for the Mill River (USGS Site 1171500)



With these major storms, Northampton faces three types of flood risk: 1) Riverine flooding from the Connecticut River, Mill River, Manhan River, Parsons Brook, and unnamed streams; 2) Localized flooding when infiltration and the stormwater system reaches maximum capacity; and 3) Downtown flooding if floodwaters over-top the levee or if the levee or Hockanum Road pump station fail. Much easterly portion of the city sits within the floodplain of the Connecticut River. The flood control system, which was built in the 1940s after two major floods in the 1930s damaged much of the city, affords the downtown protection from major floods. The system was designed, however, to protect against a maximum predicted flood level in the 1940s, with additional freeboard of two to five feet along the earthen levees and concrete walls. Although this is a conservative design, it may not be sufficient for the higher intensity storms expected with climate change.

of the city’s aging culvert and stormwater systems, causing more localized flooding. Without updated infrastructure design standards and new strategies for infiltrating and storing water, flooding is likely to increasingly impact roads, buildings, and communities.

The flood control systems for the Connecticut and Mill Rivers were designed and constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers to protect the city from flooding. Areas within the City that would flood without the levee structures are considered to be a levee-protected zone according to FEMA. FEMA is currently updating their floodplain mapping, a process that currently includes the City’s obtaining engineering certification of the levee system. This FEMA map modernization and City certification is anticipated to be complete in 2025.

More frequent high-intensity rain events will surpass the capacity

## Annual Peak Flows for the Mill River (USGS Site 1171500)

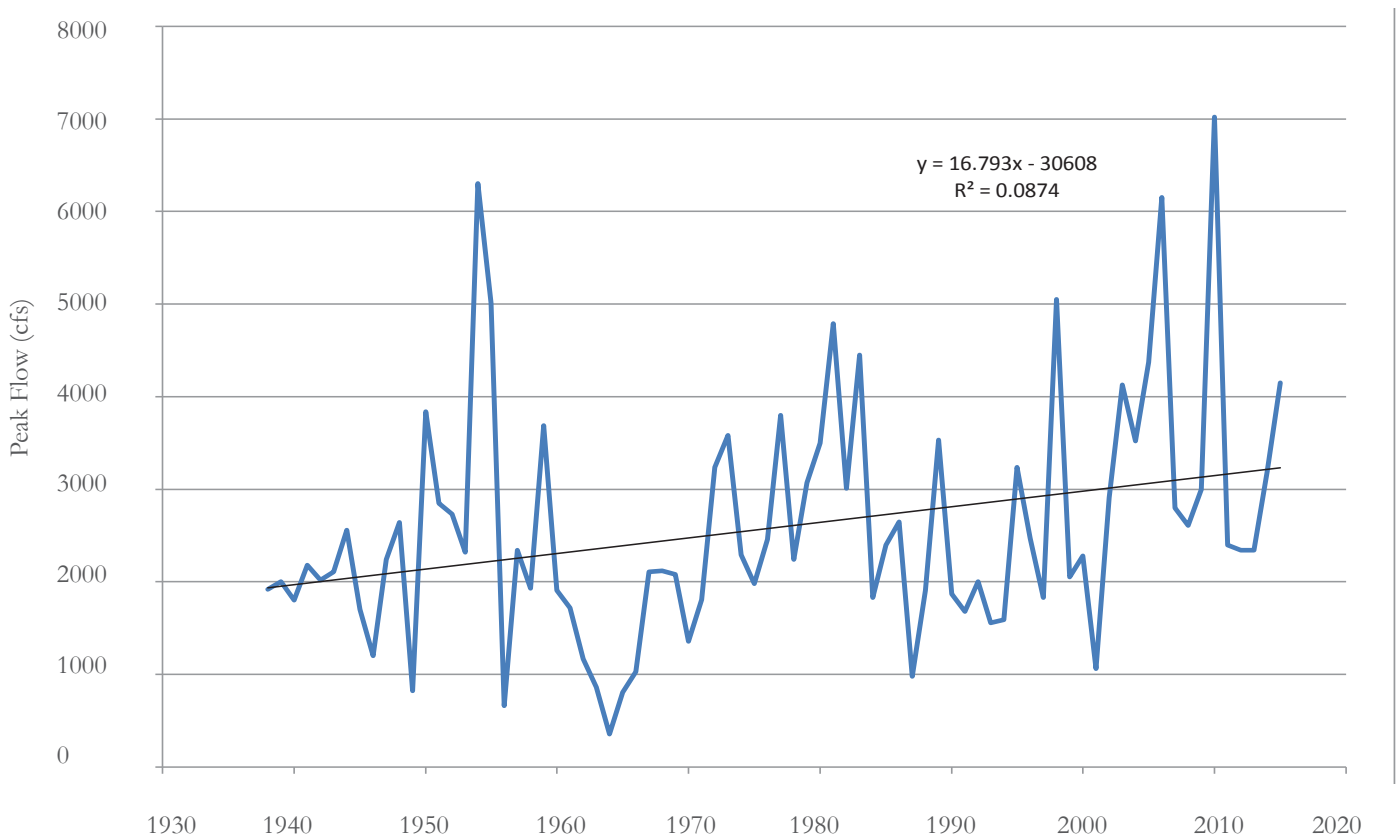


Figure 9. Historic annual peak flow for the Mill River (USGS Site 1171500)

## Variability and Extremes

Climate change will bring average higher temperatures and more precipitation. That shift, however, will not result in steady weather patterns. In the Northeast we expect greater variability and more extreme weather. This may include longer periods of drought, more severe hurricanes, heavier snowstorms, or polar vortices.

Despite our city's robust water supply, longer periods of dry weather may impact the quantity and quality of that supply. In 2016, Massachusetts issued a drought declaration in which the Connecticut River Region reached "warning" status. Although Northampton had implemented water restrictions in years past, this level of drought demonstrated the need for further water use conservations as we continue to see the effects of climate change.

In particular, the vast majority of Northampton's farmland is not irrigated, making the city's agriculture especially vulnerable to drought.

The City must increase the resiliency of the city's systems to address extreme storm events that can bring power outages, interruptions in transportation, heavier reliance on homeless and emergency shelters, and business and service closures.

Community members and staff discussed the potential impacts from climate hazards (e.g., rising temperatures, increased precipitation, floods, droughts, and more intense storms) at several workshops. See the Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings (2018, amended 2020)

## Annual Average Precipitation for Northampton, MA



**Figure 10.** Average annual precipitation has been increasing over the past several decades, and is expected to continue to increase through the end of the century. The red line shows a "business-as-usual" case if we continue to emit greenhouse gases globally at the same rate. The blue line shows projections for the change in annual precipitation with significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

*Historical simulations (1980-2005) and future projections (2006-2099) in annual averages of total precipitation from a 29-member, high resolution (4 km) statistically downscaled Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) ensemble mean lower (RCP 4.5 W - thick blue line) and higher (RCP 8.5 - thick red line) representative concentration pathway (RCP) emission scenarios. Red and blue lines for the period 1980-2005 are identical. The light blue (light red) shading represent the highest and lowest values from the 29 different model RCP 4.5 (RCP 8.5) simulations for each year. Graph from Elizabeth Burakowski and Cameron Wake, Earth System Research Center/EOS, University of New Hampshire.*

# Equity Disparities and Frontline Communities

Some of our residents, generally those with the least resources, will be disproportionately hit by climate change (frontline communities).

Some individuals can drive away and stay in a hotel when a major storm is threatened. Some can afford to purchase air conditioning or swim in a pool when it is hot. Some can afford higher water rates. Some can purchase more robust housing.

Some cannot. The frontline communities for climate change tend to be the communities who are already facing chronic stress, low income, populations of color, homeless, under employed, those with disabilities, and many other existing situations that add to the day to day challenge.

These frontline communities include those who are under chronic stress.

For example:

- The 1% of the population that is experiencing homelessness and others under the most severe chronic stress
- The 15% of the population below the poverty line
- The 40% of the population that is housing-burdened and under chronic stress
- Populations of color who may be suffering from structural racism
- Elderly and health compromised residents
- Persons with disabilities.

During periods of acute stress (extreme storm events, natural and human-made disasters, and pandemics) 100% of the population is at much greater risk from climate change.

# 3

Northampton coordinates ValleyBike share for the Pioneer Valley, part of its strategy for low carbon transportation.

*Image credit: Planning & Sustainability*



## SECTION THREE

# Pathways for Action

### Northampton's Carbon Neutrality Goals

The City of Northampton is committed to net carbon neutrality by 2050, City buildings and operations to net carbon neutrality by 2030, and community carbon emissions to a 50% reduction by 2030 and a 75% reduction by 2040. This commitment is aided by Smith College's commitment to be net carbon neutral by 2030.

The city and its commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential partners need to ensure greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to as close to zero as possible and any remaining emissions are covered by offsets or sequestration, while incorporating climate resilience and regeneration into all future city plans and capital improvement planning. Addressing energy sources, building energy, transportation, land use, food systems, waste systems, trees and forests, carbon sequestration, and waste, while acknowledging that the most effective carbon neutralization strategy is always conservation and reducing demands (e.g., energy, transport, materials).

### Northampton's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

To understand Northampton's contribution to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, we conducted an inventory of the GHG emissions produced within the city. This Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory identifies the major sources of emissions and the quantity emitted from those sources. To allow for comparison with our peer cities, the GHG inventory followed the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GPC), which is an international accounting protocol. The inventory is based on 2016 data, the most recent set of data in hand.

**Figure 11.** shows the results of the inventory, broken down by sector.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions- Scopes

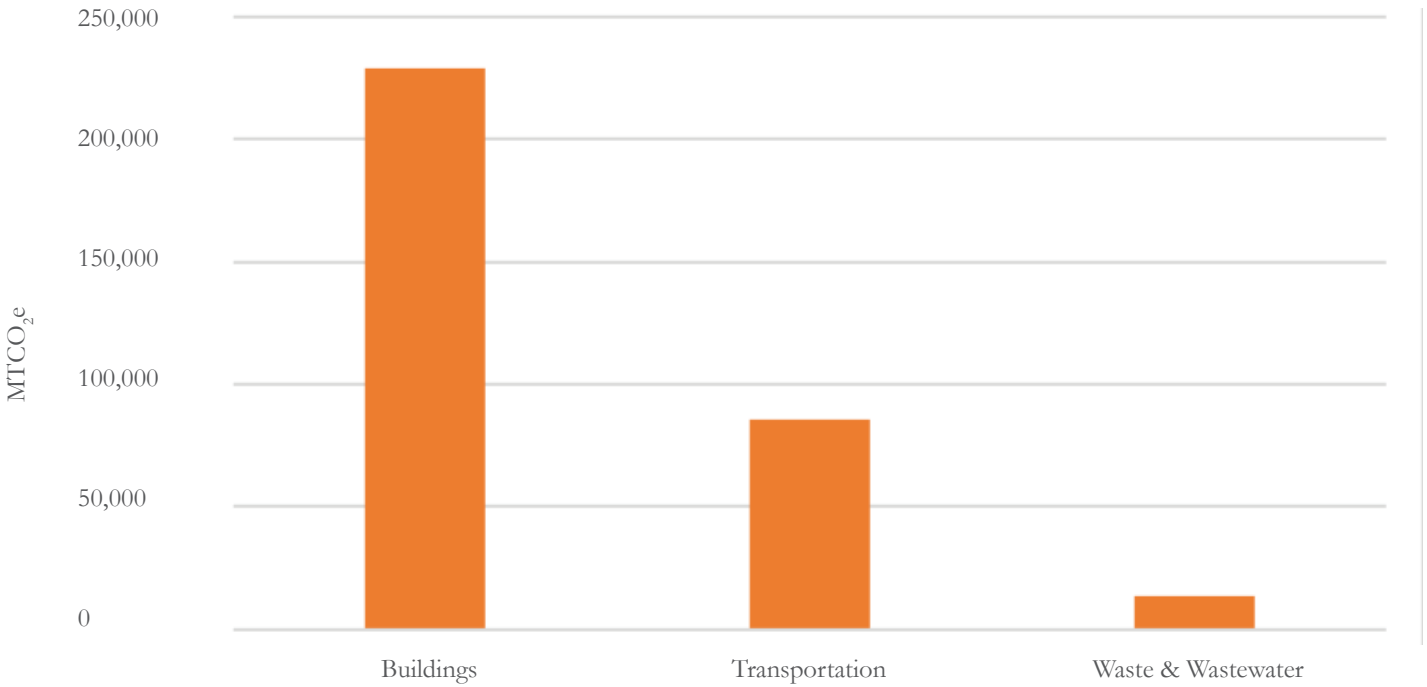
We focus on Scope 1 and 2 emissions, but work on some actions to address Scope 3.

Scope 1 – Direct Emissions (e.g., fuel combustion on-site, vehicle emissions, gas line leaks, within the city), with related offsets.

Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions from off-site production of city electricity use.

Scope 3 – Other Indirect Emissions beyond control, such as the global footprint of products consumed in the city.

# Northampton 2016 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector



**Figure 11.** Northampton’s 2016 community GHG emissions by sector. Commercial and residential buildings account for 70% of the GHG emissions in Northampton.

Emissions totaled approximately 329,140 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2016. That is the same amount of emissions that roughly 70,000 gasoline-powered cars release in one year. Commercial and residential buildings together account for 70% of community GHG emissions. Transportation accounts for 26%, while waste and wastewater treatment account for 4%.

**Figure 12.** Shows more detailed information about where our community greenhouse gas emissions are coming from. The 52% of emissions labeled “commercial and multi-family buildings” includes emissions from all commercial and institutional properties in Northampton, including municipal facilities, multi-family housing and Smith College and Cooley Dickinson Hospital. The energy we use in private homes makes up 18% of our community emissions. Data related to energy use and emissions from industrial buildings and processes and from agriculture, specifically, was unavailable and therefore is not included in this analysis. The assessment

indicates, however, that building energy use presents a significant opportunity for targeting emissions reductions.

Another area of opportunity for targeting emissions reductions is in “on-road transport,” which makes up 26% of our community’s emissions. These emissions include both gas- and diesel-powered vehicles used for commercial and personal use. Meanwhile, “water and wastewater treatment and discharge” accounts for 3% of our total emissions, and includes emissions from electricity use and other emissions at the water and wastewater treatment plants and throughout the entire system. While “solid waste disposal” emissions are low at 1% this is an important and common area to address as the actions we take to reduce the amount of material sent to the a sanitary landfill or incinerator can have other benefits, e.g., reducing our material consumption and the energy use associated with the production, packaging, and transportation of products.

Burning fossil fuels is the main source of greenhouse gas emissions globally. In Northampton, emissions from fossil fuels account for 87% of Northampton’s total inventory.

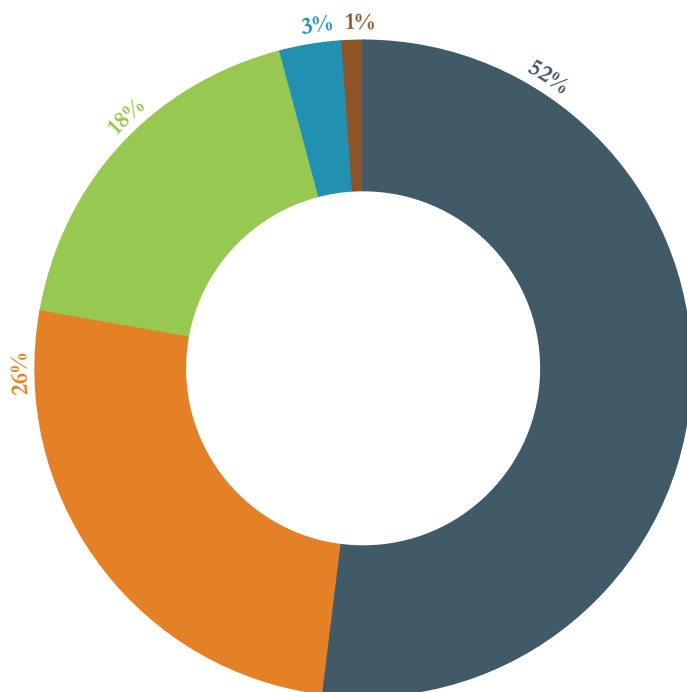
**Figure 17.** Provides total emissions by fuel source and use. Natural gas used in building heating and hot water is the primary source of emissions from stationary sources, and emissions from gasoline are nearly double that of diesel fuel as it relates to mobile sources.

Though it is often reported to have a lower carbon footprint than oil and coal, when gas leakage is included natural gas is an extremely high emitter of GHG emissions relative to renewable energy sources. Investments in natural gas supplies and distribution are not compatible with the City’s net zero carbon goal. New investments in natural gas create additional stranded assets in the long-term. Northampton will continue to use existing natural gas pipelines within a larger transition away from a dependency on oil and coal while transitioning to renewable energy sources.

### What is MTCO<sub>2</sub>e?

MTCO<sub>2</sub>e is an abbreviation for “metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.” GHG inventories look at several types of greenhouse gases, which each have a different capacity for trapping heat. Because humans produce more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) than any other GHG, emissions of GHGs are counted based on how each GHGs heat trapping capacity compares to that of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is called the CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). At a community scale, GHGs are measured in metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e).

## Northampton 2016 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sub-Sector



- Commercial and multifamily buildings (52%)
- On-road transport (26%)
- Residential buildings (18%)
- Water and wastewater treatment (3%)
- Solid waste disposal (1%)

\* Greenhouse gases from livestock, incineration and open burning are negligible

**Figure 12.** Northampton’s community greenhouse gas emissions by sub-sector. Commercial buildings, which include all commercial and institutional facilities, account for 52% of the community’s emissions.

# Northampton 2016 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Fuel Type

Sector	Greenhouse Gases Emissions (MTCO <sub>2</sub> e)					Total
	Stationary Energy			Mobile Energy		
	#2 Fuel Oil	Natural Gas	Electricity	Gasoline	Diesel	
Buildings	13,620	128,770	58,070	-	-	200,460
On-road transportation	-	-	-	56,740	29,060	85,800
Water	-	-	500	-	-	500
Wastewater	-	-	680	-	-	680
<i>Total</i>	<i>13,620</i>	<i>128,770</i>	<i>59,250</i>	<i>56,740</i>	<i>29,060</i>	<i>287,440</i>

**Figure 13.** Northampton’s greenhouse gas emissions (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) by fuel source and sector.

Though solid waste appears to only account for 1% of all GHG emissions in these figures, in reality, the carbon footprint from this sector is much larger. This disparity is due to the GHG emissions produced through the production, packaging, and shipping of products that eventually become solid waste within the Northampton community. Though Northampton does not include these emissions within its inventory as they are accounted for by the communities generating and transporting these products, it is important to understand how our communities’ consumption and waste practices ultimately contribute to a global network of large-scale emitters.

## Moving Forward

Greenhouse gas emissions are a primary indicator for a more sustainable and resilient future. To ensure we are constantly moving toward our goal of carbon neutrality, it will be essential for the city to develop a streamlined process to collect energy use and emissions data for ongoing tracking and reporting purposes. There is also a strong need to improve the quality and availability of the data based on shifts in priorities and market transformations. For example, through Community Choice Aggregation, Northampton will gain access to some electric utility data that previously was challenging to come by. It will be critical to have a system in place for identifying what our current and future data needs might be and ensuring that we are equipped to store, manage, and utilize that data to tell the story of our path to carbon neutrality.

### What is mobile versus stationary energy?

Mobile energy refers to the energy used for transport activities like driving a car.

Stationary energy refers to the electricity and natural gas used in our buildings, including homes, schools, and offices.



# Our Path to a Carbon-Neutral and Regenerative City

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## Pathways

The Carbon Neutral Pathway Analysis quantifies the impact of a the pathways that have the potential to yield the greatest reductions and for which data was readily available. The city needs a comprehensive approach to reducing emissions that prioritizes conservation and efficiency, as well as includes as additional pathways with impacts that have yet to be quantified, including targeting mode shift and changes in land use. We recognize that many of the strategies within these pathways may result in higher short-term costs and that many members of our community would be disproportionately burdened by these cost increases. Equity is a primary lens for this plan and needs to be part of all relevant implementation efforts.

The Carbon Neutral Pathway Analysis assessed the reduction potential of the first six of the following pathways, although the vehicle emissions standards pathways is totally at the federal and state levels. These pathways, and the others not analyzed, should be pursued simultaneously and presented in no particular order. They tackle the sectors that make up the majority of Northampton’s GHG emissions- buildings, transportation, and electricity generation.

All of the pathways are reflected in the strategies in Section Four.

### PATHWAY 1

## Reduce Energy Demand- Efficiency and Conservation

Reducing energy use, from buildings, from transportation, from consumption, and all other energy users is always the most effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Within the City’s footprint, increasing building energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, at the same time, retain more money within the city. This requires a wide variety of actions, including a much stronger energy stretch code, zoning incentives, public investment in city buildings, energy benchmarking and disclosure, planting of street trees to reduce heat island effects, and right-sizing new construction to avoid over-building.

Regulations can range from incentives, technical assistance, energy performance standards (for new buildings) to a benchmarking and disclosure requirements (for existing buildings meeting certain thresholds) to assess and disclose their energy use and other performance indicators against some benchmark. The latter action creates market incentives to improve building performance (typically achieving between 2-11% energy reductions annually). (*US Environmental Protection Agency (2012) “Benchmarking and Energy Savings.”*)

The City is leading by example, with the Mayor issuing an executive order (2020) to examine HVAC systems in city buildings with a plan towards the City being able to achieve its city operations carbon neutral target by 2030.

Reducing consumption and moving to a zero waste framework, where waste generation is dramatically reduced and what is generated becomes a resource instead of a waste (e.g., composting of materials) has a relatively small effect on local greenhouse gas emissions (scope 1 and 2 emissions). Those steps, however, have a dramatic effect on the long footprint that Northampton has on the entire world (scope 3 emissions) because GHG emissions to make and ship products to Northampton can be reduced. These actions will take place both within the City and, through its management of public land and purchasing power, outside of the City.

### PATHWAY 2

## Electricity from Renewable / Low-Carbon Sources

This pathway calls for transforming Northampton’s electricity supply as a climate change mitigation mechanism. To achieve zero carbon electricity, all fossil fuel generation sources must be replaced by renewables, with any remaining generation “neutralized” with carbon offsets or carbon credits. Northampton has advanced this pathway by encouraging private and municipal solar (including relevant zoning, three commercial scale and many smaller scale solar PV installations, and past participation in MassCEC’s Solarize Mass Program). Per capita solar

capacity through this program grew eight times faster in Northampton than the statewide average. Because conservation and energy demand reduction are usually more cost-effective than switching to renewables, Northampton is actively pursued both strategies. Efficient distributed energy and distributed energy storage (batteries or other storage mechanisms), on both City and private facilities and land, are critical to this effort.

### PATHWAY 3

## Electric Vehicle Deployment

Encouraging the shift toward electric vehicles (EVs) can significantly reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality in Northampton, even with today's electricity mix. Increasing the adoption of electric vehicles requires:

- Converting more of the city fleet to electric vehicles.
- Continuously expanding EV charging infrastructure.
- Informing the public on state and federal EV incentives.

Northampton is already making progress in this area with 60 EV charging station ports within 9 miles of the city, with many more private ones installed by local businesses and residents.

### PATHWAY 4

## Net Zero Energy Buildings

A Net Zero Energy (NZE) building produces enough renewable energy to meet its own annual energy consumption requirements. Typically, they are highly energy efficient and leverage passive solar to minimize the renewable energy requirements. This requires a combination of state building code reforms, local zoning and other incentives, and the City leading by example by ensuring that all new and existing municipal and school buildings are built and rehabilitated to Net Zero Energy. Requiring all new and major redevelopment to meet these aggressive requirements can go a long way toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our new and existing buildings sector.

### PATHWAY 5

## Electrification of Thermal Loads

Switching from traditional heating systems to newer air source and ground-source heat pumps can reduce energy demand and eliminate

or dramatically reduce on-site fossil fuel consumption, and switch the energy source to electricity, which will eventually be served by 100% renewable sources. The increased performance and energy efficiency of air-source heat pumps (ASHPs) and ground-source heat pumps manufactured for cold weather climates today is a result of technical, manufacturing, and installation advances. The first run of the HeatSmart Northampton ASHP program helped 54 homeowners around Northampton make the switch to ASHPs. The city has already joined others in the community in using more efficient, but capital-intensive, ground-source heat pumps at its Senior Center. Smith College is exploring switching its entire thermal load to ground-source heat pumps as part of its own efforts to be carbon neutral by 2030. The city is beginning the necessary energy studies to ensure that it electrifies its thermal (heating and cooling) systems in its public buildings as boilers and heating systems fail and/or require major upgrades.

### PATHWAY 6

## CAFE and Other Vehicle Standards

The federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, first enacted in 1975, set the minimum average fuel performance of the cars and light trucks sold in the United States. CAFE standards have resulted in more efficient (higher miles per gallon) passenger vehicles on the road. Separately, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greenhouse gas tailpipe emissions regulations also apply to all vehicles, working in coordination with CAFE and truck standards toward more efficient, less polluting vehicles. Even with the 2020 federal attempts to rollback some of these standards, fuel efficiency and per vehicle emissions will continue to improve, especially with the increase in electric vehicles.

### PATHWAY 7

## Transportation Mode Shift

Mode shift is moving trips from single occupancy motor vehicles (SOV) to alternative transportation options. The most cost effective ways are to provide more sustainable options, walking, bicycling, and public transit, and providing land use options to reduce the number and length of necessary trips. These sustainable forms of transportation reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and bring social equity, community cohesion, and health benefits by providing more affordable transportation methods, better access to goods and services for residents without cars or who cannot drive, and avenues for healthy outdoor activity.

Northampton has made the use of sustainable transportation modes increasingly feasible for residents by investing in shared use paths; complete streets with shade trees that are welcoming to walkers, cyclists, and transit users; and launching ValleyBike, the regional electric-assist bike share program. Northampton must further expand walking, bicycling, bike share, car share, and public transportation improvements to reduce GHG emissions and increase equitable access. Because a trip avoided is even better than a mode shift, the Land Use Patterns pathway below is critical.

#### PATHWAY 8

### Land Use Patterns

Northampton's land use patterns play a key role in our pathway towards a carbon neutral and regenerative city. Compact development connected to multi-modal transit (e.g., bus routes and ValleyBike), trail networks, and in close proximity to amenities, encourages walking, biking, and bus use; reduces vehicle miles traveled; and encourages more efficient land and resource use through green infrastructure. Development review, zoning, planning, and infrastructure investments can all encourage an increase in the percentage of residents living within walking distance of downtown and commercial and village centers. Along with focusing on people over vehicles, encouraging a diversity of housing types; and installing community amenities (e.g., bike lanes, sidewalks, and parks), siting solar power systems, often with battery storage, on City and private land to offset energy needs, this pathway reduces GHG emission reductions.

#### PATHWAY 9

### Carbon Sequestration and Offsets

Planting and retaining trees, especially street trees, and maximizing carbon storage in trees and soils is critical to reducing atmospheric carbon. Soils represent the Earth's largest reservoir of terrestrial carbon, storing more carbon than vegetation and the atmosphere combined. Rural and urban forests provide carbon sequestration and offset benefits through forest management activities including the re-establishment of forests, retaining existing forests, increased street trees, and sustainable forest management practices. While enhancing carbon sequestration has a relatively minimal impact on offsetting the city's current level of greenhouse gas emissions, these practices become critical as the city's emissions approach zero. Furthermore, understanding that the current healthy soils and forests in the city store an immense amount of carbon

further justifies land preservation efforts. Offsets are a critical part of the City being able to offset its own operations by 2030.

#### PATHWAY 10

### Carbon Budgeting and City Operations

The City's effort to achieve carbon neutrality for City buildings and operations cuts across all of the above pathways. In addition, because City department heads and operation managers have more intimate knowledge of possibilities, highlighting the carbon footprint and offsets of all city operations and creating capital and operating budgets of allowable carbon emissions may be the most effective way to incentivize future reductions.

#### *Cost of Carbon-budgets and offsets*

*Carbon offsets and mitigation need to be valued for aligning carbon budgets with fiscal budgets. For planning purposes, some literature assumes that carbon pricing at around \$100/ton, reflecting the value of efficiency measures in New England. See, for example: [www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/AESC-2018-17-080.pdf](http://www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/AESC-2018-17-080.pdf).*

### Pathways Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Northampton's goal of carbon neutrality means that our emissions in 2050 will equal zero metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e). Our consultants analyzed Pathways 1 through 6, above, for their GHG emissions reduction potential in low-case, mid-case, and high-case scenarios.

The low-case emissions reduction scenario is the status quo scenario. The mid-case scenario is more aggressive actions, achievable with continued effort, support, and focus on reducing emissions. Neither scenario is sufficient to achieve the City's goals.

The high-case scenario is market transformation, exemplary achievement, and remarkable progress by the year 2030 in each pathway area. The model, while only an estimate, provide guidance as we move towards carbon neutrality.

**Northampton's committed goals are more aggressive than even the high case scenario.** This requires:

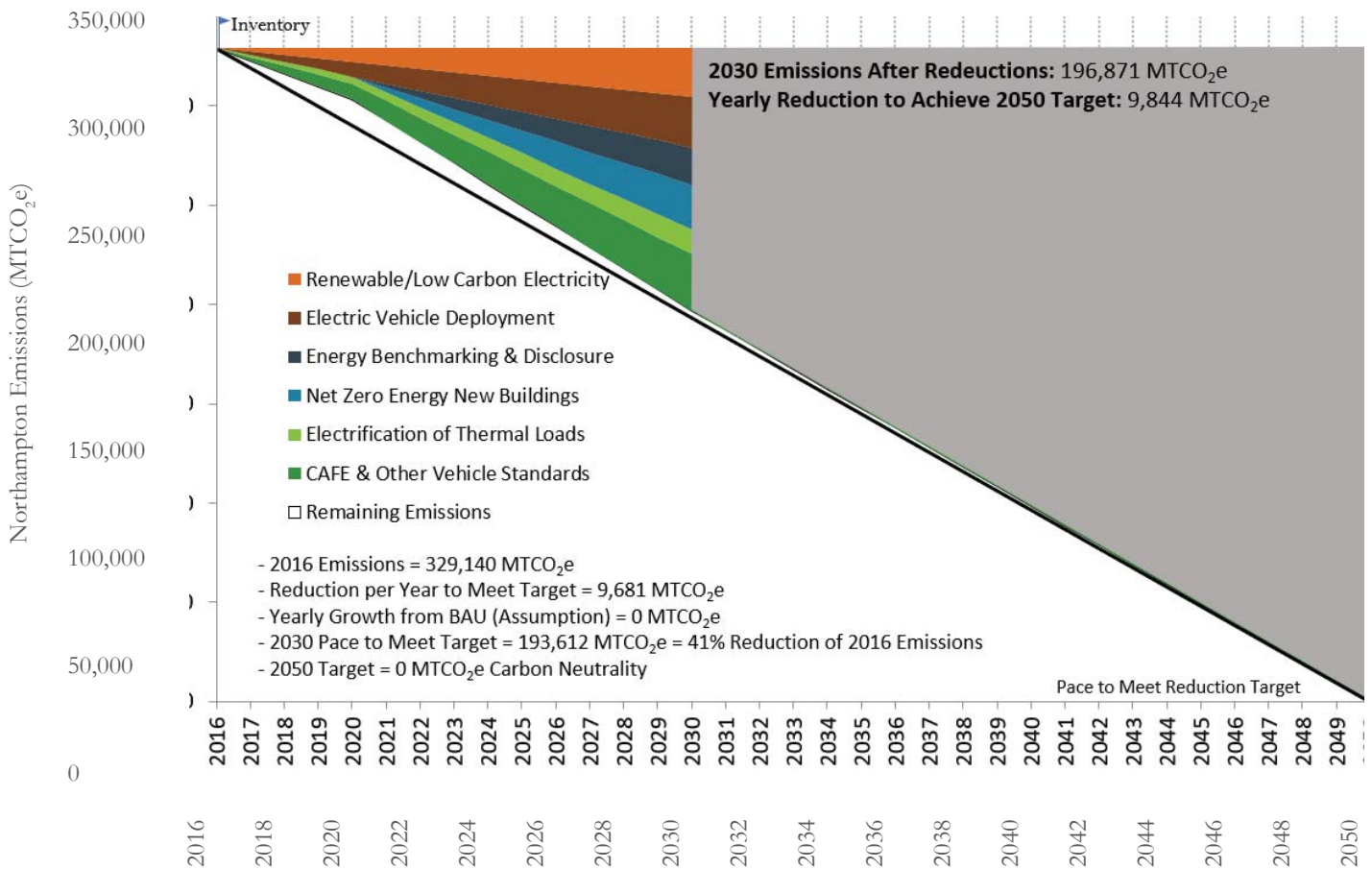
1. Additional pathways to be modeled as more information and resources becomes available.
2. Significant financial and political investments.
3. Acceptance of the trade-offs with other public policy goals

## Emissions Reduction Potential of Analyzed Pathways (#1 - 6)

Pathway	Low	%	Mid	%	High	%
1. Renewable / Low-Carbon Electricity	13,564	4.1%	19,086	5.8%	24,609	7.5%
2. Electric Vehicle Deployment	5,927	1.8%	12,281	3.7%	25,418	7.7%
3. Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure	9,061	2.8%	13,710	4.2%	18,861	5.7%
4. Net Zero Energy New Buildings	5,656	1.7%	11,313	3.4%	22,625	6.9%
5. Electrification of Thermal Loads	3,831	1.2%	7,931	2.4%	12,301	3.7%
6. CAFE & Other Vehicle Standards	12,320	3.7%	19,069	5.8%	28,455	8.6%
Total	50,359	15.3%	83,390	25.3%	132,269	40.1%

**Figure 14.** Reduction potential in MTCO<sub>2</sub>e of each analyzed pathway under three scenarios (low-case, mid-case, and high-case scenarios) in 2030. Percentages indicate the percent reduction in emissions by 2030, aiming for 100% reduction by 2050.

## Northampton High-Case Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projection



**Figure 15.** Greenhouse gas reduction potential of SIX selected pathways under a high-case scenario. The thick black represents a straight line to the 2050 carbon neutrality. Each wedge represents a reduction pathways emission reduction potential. The other three pathways and other actions are needed to achieve the City's more aggressive carbon neutrality commitments.

# Our Path to Climate Adaptation and a Resilient City

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## Pathways

In addition to our pathways for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Northampton is pursuing pathways to adapt to climate change and increase our resilience. These strategies cross our built, natural, and social systems, and overlap with our efforts to create a carbon neutral and regenerative city.

### PATHWAY 1

#### Northampton Designs with Nature for Stormwater

With climate change increasing annual precipitation and the frequency of intense storms, Northampton needs to improve how we direct, infiltrate, and store stormwater. This includes updating design standards for stormwater infrastructure and stormwater management—particularly ones that use natural systems (e.g., existing mature trees, new plantings, healthy soil systems, water storage, wetlands preservation and enhancement, collectively part of green infrastructure) to absorb and store water. In 2018 the city launched *Northampton Designs with Nature*, to assess ten potential sites for green infrastructure projects to improve stormwater infiltration and to reduce the risk of localized flooding in the city, and advance this approach more broadly. The green infrastructure site projects bring co-benefits, such as reduced heat island effect, healthier wildlife habitat, enhanced carbon sequestration, and new recreational opportunities. Northampton will use the design principles developed in the *Northampton Designs with Nature* project to implement blue-green infrastructure (natural systems with rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and vegetation) to infiltrate stormwater, reduce runoff volumes and peak flows, and provide additional storage capacity within public rights-of-way and open space. Specific projects include, for example, the Rocky Hill Greenway- Pine Grove Golf Course restoration, the Route 66 Ice Pond restoration, and the Elm Street Brook watershed Low Impact Development Best Management Practices.

### PATHWAY 2

#### Resilient Building and Energy Systems

This pathway calls for retrofits, upgrades, and new construction of buildings and energy systems that can better withstand floods, heat waves, or extreme storms. The development of micro-grids and distributed energy systems with battery storage, particularly to power emergency services, will provide backup power alternatives if the grid fails. In the case that portions of the city do lose power, buildings with greater “passive survivability” will help keep occupants safe. “Passive survivability” refers to the ability of a building to maintain critical conditions—such as staying warm enough in the winter to keep occupants well—even during extended loss of power, heating fuel, or water. Encouraging resilient building retrofits and design standards, ranging from increased freeboard heights, continuous insulation, renewable and redundant energy sources and battery storage, and minimum R-values or air-tightness levels, can all contribute to the resilience of buildings and their occupants, and in many cases, increase energy efficiency as well.

### PATHWAY 3

#### Healthy and Resilient Natural Ecosystems

Healthy natural ecosystems play a significant role in infiltrating stormwater, improving air quality, keeping temperatures cooler on hot days, sustaining healthy food systems, and contributing to the overall resilience of Northampton. Consequently, this pathway calls for preserving and planting street shade trees, restoring natural ecosystems whenever feasible, monitoring ecosystems to ensure their health, as well as developing adaptive management methods to support ecosystems in adapting to changing climate conditions. This scope includes monitoring natural water systems to address changes in water quality due to climate change as well as implementing new park, forestland, and farmland soil management practices to enhance soil health. It will also include developing city strategies for expanding an urban tree canopy

and ensuring resilient tree and forest populations, such as ongoing monitoring protocols, selective harvesting, adaptive species planting, and invasive species removal in tandem with a public campaign to help raise awareness around addressing vulnerabilities in tree stocks and ecosystems to invasive species, pests, and local climate changes.

#### PATHWAY 4

### Resilient and Connected Landscapes

This pathway calls for the continuation of open space preservation efforts, acquisition of land that will experience more frequent flooding with climate change, and the prioritization of protecting land for the long-term migration of wildlife and plants that is critical for healthy ecosystems to thrive with climate change. Priorities for land protection include areas denoted in the Nature Conservancy’s map of Resilient and Connected Landscapes that are in the “Resilient with Confirmed Diversity, Climate Flow Zones, or Climate Corridor mapped areas.” The City should discourage development (e.g., residential and solar PV) in this relatively narrow band along the western edge of the City, except in existing developed areas. Open space preservation efforts should also prioritize these areas, as the city has done for a number of years. Future development should not occur within any mapped areas that are defined by the city, state, or federal government as areas of resilient and connected landscapes with confirmed diversity or determined to be important climate corridors for climate resiliency.

#### PATHWAY 4

### Healthy and Equitable Communities

This pathway calls for both strengthening resources and services that support health and wellbeing, as well as creating spaces and processes for building stronger relationships between neighbors, organizations, businesses, and the city. Resilience research shows that stronger social bonds with one’s community and neighbors leads to a more resilient community. Likewise, inequity—whether seen through income, education, access to resources, access to decision-making, among other avenues—continues to prohibit collective community resilience. This pathway includes safeguarding and improving the health of food systems and food security for all residents; creating accessible recreational areas with an expanded urban canopy where all residents can cool off in high heat; encouraging community conversations and neighborhood-driven initiatives around climate adaptation; and ensuring that diverse voices

play a role in shaping Northampton’s future.

#### PATHWAY 5

### Knowledge and Skills for Addressing Climate Change

This pathway focuses on enhancing education, skills development, and job training in areas that will build awareness and knowledge around climate change and support climate mitigation and adaptation action. One avenue includes developing a climate curriculum, co-produced with youth and students, in Northampton public schools that address resilience and regeneration. Smith Vocational and Agricultural School is both suited to hands-on education in this area and to development of demonstration installations. The curriculum would systematically build on new topics over the course of a K-12 education, preparing youth for understanding the impacts of climate change as well as equipping them to be leaders in climate action. This pathway also includes supporting job training or career development programs in fields that will support the local economy and simultaneously support Northampton in reaching its resilience and regeneration goals.

In partnership with new and existing community partners the city would expand resilience and regeneration skills development programs in tandem with demonstration projects or other municipal efforts. These could include job training or career development (e.g., as green infrastructure installation and maintenance; permaculture, regenerative, and resilient agricultural practices; urban forestry; clean energy and energy efficiency technologies).

#### PATHWAY 6

### Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness

A number of strategies can support Northampton in preparedness, response, and recovery from a climate shock, particularly over the time-frame immediately preceding, during, and after a hazard. For flood events, these strategies include ongoing evaluations and upgrades to the city’s flood control infrastructure; encouraging residents to invest in flood insurance; as well as delineating floodplain boundaries, evacuation routes, and/or flood-safe buildings with signs or other markers. For floods as well as other types of emergencies including severe storms, power outages, and periods of high heat, Northampton can add to its



already robust multi-pronged strategy for various levels of resilience-based communication, including emergency alerts, regular notifications (e.g., parking bans), and ongoing public education and outreach on a variety of climate change topics.

# NORTHAMPTON'S Framework for Resilience & Regeneration

## RESILIENCE

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### Adaptive Capacity

Increasing the capacity of systems to better withstand climate hazards, systematically learning and adapting standards and practices to better respond.

### Strong & Healthy Communities

Building a sense of community through social networks or social cohesion, reducing the vulnerability of Frontline Communities (e.g., homeless, low income, populations of color, new Americans), and increasing community health and safety in culturally sensitive ways.

### Climate-Smart Action

Developing the city's and community's ability to make decisions that better prepare us for climate change through education, use of climate projections, and collaboration across city departments.

## REGENERATION

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### Nature as Model

Employing natural systems to use water wisely, enhance soil health, draw carbon out of the atmosphere, maintain comfortable air temperatures, and improve air quality.

### Respect Resource Limits

Using resources responsibly by reducing our consumption, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and material reuse, re-purposing, and up-cycling.

### Stewardship

Taking care of our planet through preserving healthy habitats, managing non-native species and disease vectors, and improving environmental education.

## ECONOMIC & CULTURAL VITALITY

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### Conscious Economic Exchange

Creating stronger local economies by increasing the number of jobs that pay a living wage, sourcing materials and labor locally, and supporting an inclusive economy.

**Forward-Looking Economy** Preparing our economy for the future by strengthening job-related skills training, diversifying the economy and supporting entrepreneurial activity, and encouraging diverse workforces.

**Creative and Cultural Value** Supporting the creative economy, local agriculture, and other industries with local cultural significance in Northampton.

# EQUITY

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## Distributional Equity

Reducing disparities in access to resources as well as educational and economic opportunity, and mitigating exposure to hazards for those who face disproportionate harm.

## Procedural Equity

Including diverse and non-traditional stakeholders in decision-making and in the measurement of project success, and ensuring transparency in the development of programs or projects.

## Structural Equity

Actively recognizing and working to change structural forces of inequity, including developing pathways for more diverse and representative leadership and addressing institutional racism.

## Inter-generational Equity

Addressing the needs of those not yet involved in or empowered to participate in the decision making process, or even alive today.

## Cultural Equity

Our decision making values all cultures equally.

# REGIONAL COLLABORATION

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## Collaborative Learning

Creating platforms for sharing insight or information between communities, and developing tools, processes, or frameworks that allow communities to replicate success.

## Interdependence

Working with neighboring communities to share resources and take advantage of economies of scale, or creating complimentary or aligned approaches.

## Nested Systems

Considering the way local systems affect regional systems and vice versa by working at a watershed or ecosystem scale and by making local changes that impact regional systems.

# Evaluating the Actions, Achieving Co-Benefits

This plan provides guiding principles that shape all of our planning. A resilient and regenerative community requires investments in projects and programs and adjusting the way we plan, develop policies, and implement those policies. We must consider the potential for achieving resilience and regeneration outcomes in every investment we make.

We cannot be a resilient and regenerative city without being an equitable city. **Equity, along with resilience and regeneration, is** our third guiding principle for planning and implementation. We must recognize and reconcile injustice, create more equitable access to resources and opportunities, and have an inclusive processes for planning and decision-making.

Likewise, fostering **Economic and Cultural Vitality** is integral to making Northampton strong, healthy, and vibrant. We must support local businesses and job and skill-training opportunities, and nurture a creative economy.

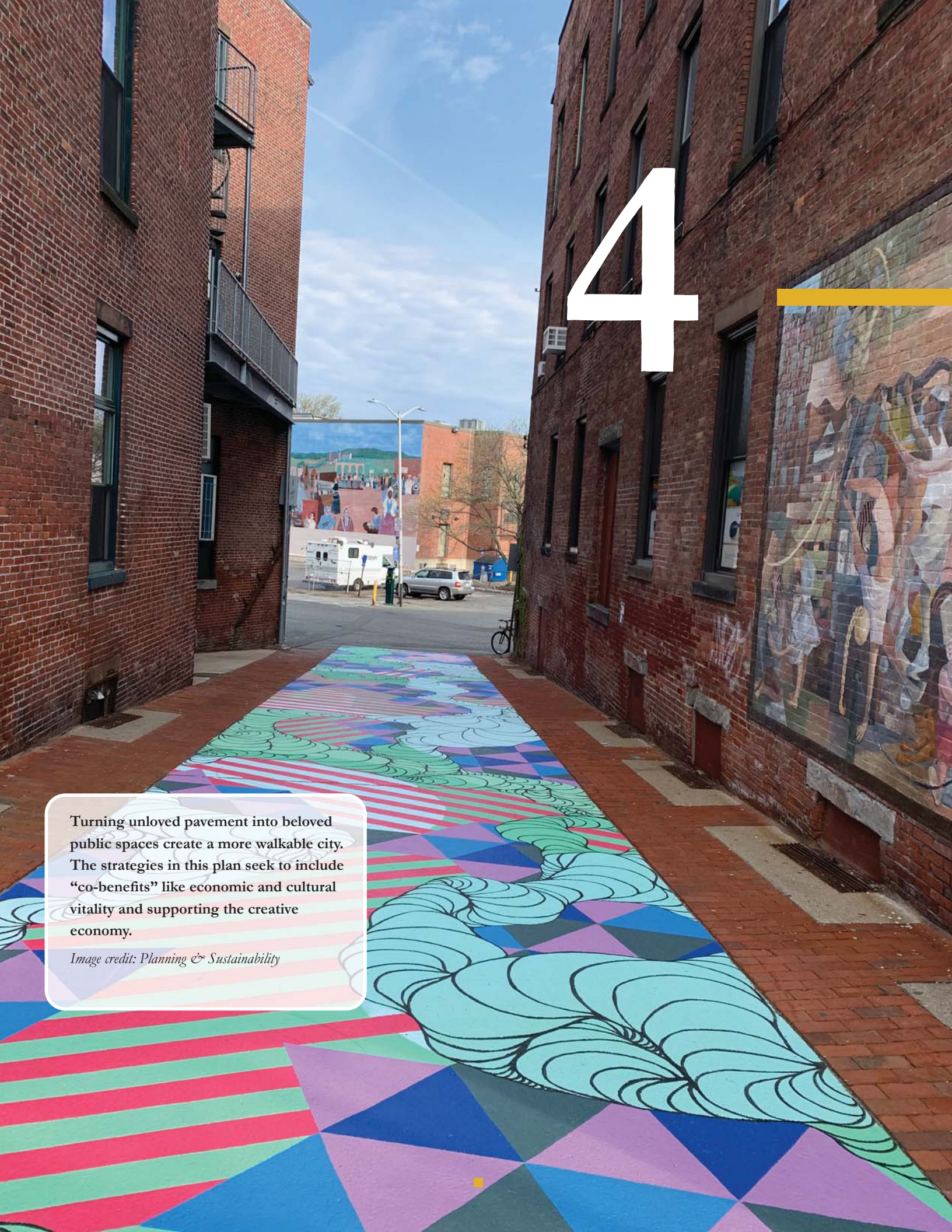
Northampton is one city nested within our region and state. We must grasp the opportunities to share learning and accelerate adoption of practices by working collectively across the Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts, and even broader scales. Thus, we look for opportunities for **Regional Collaboration** as a guiding principle to exchange insight and plan collectively with other communities, particularly in addressing global climate change.

These guiding principles guide the Resilience and Regeneration Plan.

# 4

Turning unloved pavement into beloved public spaces create a more walkable city. The strategies in this plan seek to include “co-benefits” like economic and cultural vitality and supporting the creative economy.

*Image credit: Planning & Sustainability*



## SECTION FOUR

# Action Plan: Resilience & Regeneration Strategies

Northampton started to track its progress using the US Green Building Council (USGBC) rating system LEED for Cities and Communities, which replaced the former STAR Communities program. LEED for Cities is a third party rating system designed to help communities compare themselves to a norm and to peer communities and promote honest reporting and minimize green-washing. The Resilience and Regeneration strategies are broken down by the categories defined in the rating system to help us track how our actions help us make progress towards the LEED for Cities and Communities goals.

# ALL CATEGORIES 1

## ALL CATEGORIES 1

### Integrate resilience and regeneration principles into the development of all city and public school outreach, projects, plans, budgets, and processes

Systematically apply the Resilience and Regeneration Framework to the development of city projects, programs, and plans. The framework helps to integrate resilience and regeneration thinking into work across departments, ensures investments and planning supports Northampton’s resilience and regeneration goals, and amplifies the potential of the city’s work in creating co-benefits. Most specifically, develop specific internal policies to:

- Set a long term and annual City of Northampton carbon budget. Such a budget would establish allowed carbon emissions allocated to each city department to integrate carbon reduction as part of each city department’s core mission.
- Evaluate the impact of all proposed city capital improvement projects on greenhouse gas emissions to understand how projects may hinder or advance progress towards the city’s goal of being net-zero by 2050 and city operations being net-zero by 2030.
- Integrate climate change projections into all future capital projects, ensuring new infrastructure can withstand current and projected impacts.
- Using socio-economic data, integrate an equity-based prioritization factor in the process for capital improvements project selection that adds priority to projects that will benefit neighborhoods with higher proportions of people with low incomes, people of color, or people living with physical or mental disabilities.
- Ensure that the next revision to the Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan incorporates the Resilience and Regeneration Plan as a key unifying theme.
- Include resilience and regeneration principles as a cross cutting strategy (in addition to specific strategies that follow) in all city education and outreach efforts.

- Provide adequate City staff, resources, and commitment to achieve these targets.
- Creating a biennial action plan with specific actions, metrics, and political consensus to move forward.
- Integrate education and curriculum on climate resilience and regeneration in public schools, with students co-producing such curriculum. Foster a culture of ecological stewardship, resource conservation, and climate preparedness.
- Focus on high impact practices that provide the greatest resilience and regeneration Return on Investment (ROI), that is the least cost (financial and other burdens) to achieve success.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Mayor’s Office; Planning & Sustainability, Central Services, Public Works; School Department; Smith Voc; Youth Commission

**Time-frame:** Short-term launch- Ongoing process

**Cost:** \$\$\$

## ENERGY 1. RENEWABLE & RESILIENT ENERGY SUPPLY

Electricity is 20% of our energy load. It will grow as we electrify our energy sources.

### ENERGY 1A

Launch a regional entity to coordinate regional strategies, including a Community Choice Aggregation 3.0 (CCA 3.0) Program for electricity aggregation

Northampton, with Mayoral and City Council (2020) approval, is working with Amherst and Pelham (with the hope that more communities will join in the future) to create a regional Joint Powers Entity for regional renewable and resilient energy supplies.

A key first step is forming a Community Choice Aggregation program to become the default electricity provider and aggregate demand with GHG reducing electricity supply systems.

Northampton received a \$75,000 grant from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) in 2019 to explore a new model for Community Choice Aggregation, CCA 3.0 optimized around greenhouse gas reductions. The resulting bulk purchasing power can allow a contract with an electricity supplier with the goal of greening the energy supply and, eventually, providing the energy storage needed for load shifting to reduce peak energy periods. This program would automatically enroll residents, unless they opt out, and would include a commitment to purchasing power from locally-produced distributed energy sources and gaining access to affordable renewable energy sources for low-income residents. This work would also have a strong focus on reducing GHG emissions.

Program goals also include incorporating energy storage and other tactics to reshape the load profile to reduce peak energy periods. Implementing CCA 3.0 as a region will reduce our collective reliance on

fossil fuels, encourage the expansion of local renewable energy sources, and amplify our ability to transition to a cleaner, more efficient energy supply.

- Formalize a Joint Powers Entity dedicated to GHG reductions.
- Apply for state approval of its CCA.
- Arrange for a broker (in the near term) and potentially a staff or consultant model in the long term for its CCA.
- Develop an aggregation business plan optimizing GHG reductions.
- Secure a competitive supplier.
- Engage and educate community members.
- Partner with community groups (e.g., Community Action and their home weatherization program).

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Central Services - Energy, Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

Research and planning underway

**Cost:** \$\$

## ENERGY 1B

### Procure more renewable energy projects on city property and through city partnerships

The City's goal is to enable an annual electricity output from renewable electricity projects that matches or exceeds municipal and

public-school electric usage and to maximize use of renewable-thermal technologies in municipal and school buildings.

Northampton has a regulatory structure and open space and pilot agreements to encourage in renewable energy systems on both public and private land (e.g., 3.3 MW solar array atop the closed Glendale Road landfill and a total of 10 MW of private sector solar arrays at Ryan Road and Park Hill Road). The City has installed smaller solar-electric, solar hot water, solar air pre-heat, geothermal and air-source heat pump systems on city and school properties. Two municipal buildings, the James House and the Senior Center, are completely heated and cooled by renewable-thermal systems: air-source heat pumps and a geothermal system respectively.

- Continue to install renewable energy projects and lead by example on city and school properties (e.g., photovoltaic canopies over parking lots, energy storage to shave peak demand). Ground-mounted installations are most cost effective, but building and parking lot canopies installations are an important part of the mix.
- Establish capital improvement plans to reduce the thermal load and replace fossil fuel heating with renewable thermal systems in public buildings.
- Expand public-private partnerships for renewables on private property.
- When feasible, use local contractors to install these projects and create educational opportunities (e.g., the 106 kW city-owned solar-electric array on Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School is used for their renewable energy coursework).
- Maintain the current zoning prohibition on commercial photovoltaic where intact forests are most critical for climate resilience and addresses the trade-off between the installation of PV systems and the ecological and carbon impacts.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Central Services - Energy; Planning for regulatory

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

(Typical implementation takes 1-3 years)

**Cost:** \$\$

## ENERGY 1C

### Continue building out distributed energy resources for critical services

Northampton received two grants through the MA Department of

Energy Resources, Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative, for critical services distributed: 1) Installation of a 20-kilowatt, canopy-style array with battery storage on the Fire Department parking lot on Carlon Drive, and 2) A micro-grid to service Cooley Dickinson Hospital, the Department of Public Works headquarters, and the Hampshire County emergency shelter at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School to improve their ability to maintain operations during power failures. These investments follow an internal study begun in 2012 that assessed the resilience of the city's electrical grid.

Continue to identify opportunities and move forward with the development of distributed energy resources in Northampton, focusing on redundant systems and hybrid energy storage systems, to ensure that critical services (and potentially business centers) can continue to operate during a climate hazard and serve vulnerable populations. Perform public outreach and awareness of such distributed energy services to build support.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Central Services - Energy; New CCA 3.0

**Time-frame:** Mid-term for the development of the current micro-grid project; Ongoing for continued opportunities

**Cost:** \$\$\$

# ENERGY 2. ENERGY EFFICIENCY & HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

**Buildings generate 70% of our GHG emissions**

## ENERGY 2A

Encourage the real estate market to place greater value on building energy features, including deep energy retrofits and zero energy new buildings.

Require, by ordinance, that building owners of large buildings report energy use through utility bill disclosure. For smaller buildings, establish an incentive program for voluntary utility cost disclosure targeted to home owners and tenants. Phase in mandatory disclosure for all building types.

Work with local lenders, appraisers, realtors, and the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) to encourage greater valuation and transparency of building energy features by mandating listing of attained energy performance credentials including verified Home Energy Rating System (HERS rating). Tools and initiatives to further promote energy performance consideration in building valuation:

- Mandate building energy assessments at time of sale
- Popularize Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for existing buildings
- Develop local Green Financing and streamline EEM/EIMs (FHA's Energy Efficiency/Improvement Mortgages) to enable and encourage home buyers to invest in energy upgrades at time of purchase or major renovation.
- Lead by example by disclosing municipal school building energy consumption and targets for reduction

**Type:** Policy & Program  
**Lead:** Central Services - Energy  
**Time-frame:** Mid-term (1-3 years)  
**Cost:** \$\$

## ENERGY 2B

Expand program for building electrification to convert from oil and natural gas heat to heat pumps or other electric sources

Expand efforts to encourage building energy retrofits and building electrification, including replacing on-site fossil-fuel powered heat with far more efficient electrically powered heat pumps (mini-splits and centralized heat pumps) for residential, commercial, and institutional buildings

- Establish strong partnerships with rate-payer supported programs (Mass Clean Energy Center and MassSave) and financing programs (PACE, future CCA 3.0, potentially CDBG Housing Rehab).
- Focus on ease of participation and incentives.
- Subsidize the cost of heat pumps in affordable housing and low-income households.
- Consider ground source heat pumps for large commercial and institutional installations' thermal loads, although they are generally not cost-effective for small scale installations. The city uses ground source heat pumps for Senior Center and Smith College is assessing ground source heat pumps.
- Prepare to end fossil fuel combustion in all City buildings. The first step, currently underway, is to examine every building and create capital improvement plans to improve building envelopes and ventilation systems and decarbonize all thermal loads (heating, cooling, and hot water)

**Type:** Program  
**Lead:** Central Services - Energy  
**Time-frame:** Short-term  
**Cost:** \$ without financial incentives;  
 \$\$-\$\$\$ With financial incentives

## ENERGY 2C

### Apply Resilience and Regeneration point system in site plan review process

Apply a Resilience and Regeneration point system in site plan approvals to encourage lower transportation needs, higher passive survivability, no on-site fossil-fuel combustion, net-zero energy buildings, and walkable zoning densities in urban core areas.

Developers earn points for adopting specific resilience and regeneration measures, with a minimum point requirement. Points can be awarded for prescriptive (a list of approaches) and performance-based approaches to reduce carbon emissions and/or improve site and building resilience. For example, minimum HER ratings, net-energy zero, passive house, passive survivability, increased free-board heights, continuous insulation, renewable and redundant energy sources and battery storage, minimum R-values or air-tightness levels, among other measures. Certification systems such as PHIUS's Passive House Standard and USGBC's Resilience Pilot Credits and/or Reli Rating System could be drawn from in the development of the point system. All included measures should enhance the resilience of the city's building stock and/or contribute to lowering the city's GHG emissions.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term to develop and implement the policy

**Cost:** \$

## ENERGY 2D

### Require that all new buildings be built to Net Zero Energy standards and advocate for higher Building Code standards

Work with other Massachusetts communities to advocate for higher resilience and regeneration standards in the Massachusetts Building Code and in the International Building Code (IBC) on which the Massachusetts Building Code is based. To the extent allowed under the state building code and local zoning authority, require all new buildings to meet high performance standards and be verified as Zero Energy ready. Consider DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH), Passive House Institute United States (PHIUS+) standards. A Zero Energy building has comparatively very low energy loads and is highly energy efficient. With a robust building enclosure and right sized mechanical systems prioritized, renewable energy is produced or procured to offset what the building uses on an annual basis. Zero Energy building standards should be required and market transformation incentivized through:

- Advocate for an updated Massachusetts Building Code Stretch Energy Code, if not a base building code, that requires Zero Energy performance.
- Ensure the city leads by example by ensuring all new municipal buildings and feasible major renovations meet Zero Energy building standards.
- Consider retrofit and renovation regulation and incentives to achieve high performance building certifications for existing buildings.
- Advocate for expansion of zero energy and passive house utility incentives through the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council.
- Advocate for legislative updates to revise utility cost-effectiveness metrics to value carbon reductions with expanded Mass Save programs.
- Plant shade trees to reduce heat gains in buildings.

**Type:** Policy and Advocacy

**Lead:** Central Services - Energy; Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Medium-term

**Cost:** \$

## Encourage resilience and regeneration building and site improvements

Promote resilient and regenerative building and site improvements that property owners can make to protect properties and people against flooding, extreme weather, and heat wave. Work with existing federal, state, and local programs to expand access to and encourage use of educational and financial tools and resources, including working with utilities and existing community organizations to make these tools and resources financially and culturally accessible to all residents:

- Promote clean technology education and adoption programs that increase buildings' ability to support occupants during times of stress such as long-term power outages or heat waves, including energy efficient and high-performance building improvements.
- Promote on-site battery power backup systems, as the technology becomes cost-effective, ideally coupled with on-site renewable electricity.
- Advocate to the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council that the Mass Save utility incentive programs expand current Passive House incentive programs to include all residential building types, new and existing.
- Plant shade trees to reduce energy demand and heat islands.
- Implement a "One Cool Room" program to support residents whose health is vulnerable to heat waves to establish access to at least one room at their residence that is cooled by a high efficiency cooling technology such as an air-source heat pump.
- Encourage lighting plans so, to the extent reasonably achievable, all lights have a clear purpose, are directed only to where needed, are no brighter than necessary, are used only when it is useful, and use warmer color lights available.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability; Central Services -Energy

**Time-frame:** Short-term for campaign development; Ongoing for continued promotion

**Cost:** \$

## Accelerate community adoption of energy efficient & high-performance building improvements with a focus on more equitable access.

Advance increased energy efficiency and installation of solar-electric (PV), solar-hot water, heat pumps, energy recovery ventilation and other high-performance building technologies. Because the city has no direct control over building improvements in the private sector, partnering with organizations that offer assistance such as free building assessments, weatherizations of 1-4 unit homes, guidance for small businesses, and bulk purchasing of renewable energy and high performance building technologies. Support residents of all income-levels and backgrounds and businesses of all sizes.

Build on the success of past City outreach programs (e.g., Solarize Northampton led to installation of 0.5+ megawatt of solar electric, HeatSmart Northampton raised awareness of minisplit air source heat pumps for high-performance heating and cooling, and the City's utility-funded partnership with the Center for EcoTechnology helps small businesses access utility energy efficiency assistance programs). Future efforts could include:

- Establish staff within the planned regional Joint Powers Entity (JPE) to run marketing campaigns and collaborate with a JPE-run intermunicipal CCA 3.0 program.
- Coordinate and partner for energy investments through Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), CDBG Housing Rehabilitation, a CCA 3.0 program, rate-payer supported programs (e.g., Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the MassSave program), and other partners (e.g., Community Action Pioneer Valley and the Center for EcoTechnology).
- Identify barriers to entry for energy efficiency efforts and identify gaps in who participates; Create programs that will create more equitable access to renewable energy and high-performance building technologies for low-income residents, communities of color, and historically underserved and underrepresented populations. Co-develop program with underserved stakeholders that are culturally competent, effective, and address structural barriers. Develop more effective ways to provide resources to low and moderate income residents, businesses, and nonprofits, preferably in partnership with existing local programs (e.g., partner with Community Action Pioneer Valley home weatherization program and the City's housing rehabilitation program could bundle new renewable energy systems).

## Carbon offsets are critical to our carbon neutrality goals

# ENERGY 3. CARBON SEQUESTRATION OFFSETS

- Focus on ease of participation (reduce time and effort) and bundling of incentives.
- Identify subsidies for the cost of high-performance technologies in affordable housing and low-income households.
- Promote potential use of ground source heat pumps for large commercial and institutional installations, which are generally only cost-effective for large scale installations (e.g., the City uses ground source heat pumps for Senior Center heating and cooling, and Smith College is assessing ground source heat pumps for the campus's thermal load).
- Develop municipal programs to encourage landlords to improve energy efficiency and incorporate clean energy technologies into their housing units.
- Encourage rental listing agencies to highlight sustainable and resilient features of housing units in advertisements.
- Explore introducing a building energy assessment and/or supplying educational materials to building owners and developers at key decision points such as at the home point-of-sale or during building permitting.  
Identify potential residential technologies or measures that can enable renters to participate in energy efficiency, such as Wi-Fi-enabled "smart" thermostats.
- Survey local landlords to identify unanticipated barriers to landlord investments in high performance building improvements, such as a lack of access to long-term tenant's apartments, and pilot new outreach and assistance programs aimed at overcoming identified barriers.

**Type:** Program and Policy  
**Lead:** Central Services-Energy  
**Time-frame:** Long Term  
**Cost:** \$\$\$

## ENERGY 3A

### Adopt city open space management practices for soil carbon storage

Adjust or adopt new municipal landscaping, and parkland management practices to enhance the city's soil carbon storage. (The City has already eliminated its use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers on city recreation areas.) Organic amendments, in particular, can amplify the carbon storage capacity of soils. Best Management Practices for post-development soil amendments recommend the application of 7.5cm of compost for landscape beds, and 4.5cm for turf grass, with compost containing 22% carbon and 2% nitrogen. One-time applications of such amendments have shown to increase average carbon sequestration by 0.22 metric tons per hectare per year.

Additional landscaping and parkland management strategies to enhance soil carbon storage could include: emphasizing native perennials in plantings and using annuals to fill gaps; minimizing the use of pavement and unproductive mulch; eliminating synthetic nitrogen fertilizers on public and private school athletic fields; incorporating nitrogen-fixing trees and perennials into the landscape; mowing, cutting back, and/or heavily mulching over weeds instead of pulling; and using biological and mechanical controls when possible, while limiting herbicides to areas where so far there are not effective alternatives for curbing the growth of invasive plants (e.g., Japanese Knotweed). These strategies for enhancing soil health also support stormwater infiltration.

**Type:** Program  
**Lead:** School Dept, Central Services, city land managers.  
**Time-frame:** Short-term for new management practices  
**Cost:** \$\$

## Protect, grow, and enhance the city's forestland and public lands and their capacity to store carbon

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Continue the City's efforts to conserve forestland in the City and in the City's drinking watersheds and aquifers outside the City, particularly large blocks of mature and contiguous forestland and urban tree cover. Continue open space acquisition, per the city's Open Space, Recreation, and Multi-Use Trail Plan and drinking watershed management strategies. Identify opportunities to replant cleared areas with diverse native species in the city's conservation and watershed areas. Add public and equitably distributed urban tree canopy to serve historically underrepresented populations and those more at risk to heat waves.

Tree cover, from shade trees and larger tracts:

- Adds shade, cooler summers, and reduced heat island effect, alleviating air conditioning loads
- Increases stormwater infiltration, conserves water supplies, and reduces erosion
- Sequesters carbon
- Improves air quality, reduces noise pollution, decreases wind speed, and reduces glare
- Makes Northampton more walkable, a more sustainable and resilient transportation practice
- Enhances ecosystem and habitat creation

This work is needed in tandem with the City's existing anti-gentrification measures to ensure that, as green spaces are built up in low income communities, the City continue its emphasis on creating entry level lots and expanding affordable housing.

Consider adopting practices of public land management that prioritize carbon sequestration and storage such as long-term carbon sequestration and storage planning in forest stewardship plans, and education programs for the adoption of similar practices on private land. Further protecting and enhancing the diversity of tree species within the city's forests, will also increase forest stability, resilience, and long-term benefits for carbon storage.

Identify sites that should be kept out of permanently protected open space to reserve the ability to install solar photo-voltaic (as the City did at the two newest solar PV installation at the Ryan Road former Bill Willard, Inc and the Park Hill Road extension).

Explore recommendations of the Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan (Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs), including improving farming, forestry and lawn care practices to reduce erosion, improve production, increase carbon sequestration and storage, and better withstand intensive weather events and droughts. Strategies include the application of organic matter or bio-solids (e.g., sludge, compost, wood chip mulches, or biochar) on the forest floor and strategic organic matter to build soil organic matter, maximize forest biomass, prevent erosion, and increase carbon sequestration and storage capacity.

Calculate carbon credits, using accepted guidelines, for carbon sequestration, but retire the credits so they can be used to count for the City's carbon offsets.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability; Public Works

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$

## ENERGY 3C

### Support education and training in regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, silvopasture, and urban forestry.

Identify opportunities to support education and training in regenerative agriculture, agroforestry (the integration of trees in agricultural), silvopasture (the integration of trees and livestock grazing), urban forestry, and biochar application for interested farmers. These approaches aim to minimize soil disturbance, enhance site biodiversity, maintain microbial communities to support soil health, and add to crop diversification. Trees planted along riverbanks (riparian buffers) and as windbreaks stabilize soils, prevent erosion, improve water quality, and retain carbon in the ground. Benefits can include increased landscape drought resilience.

All three practices—regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, and silvopasture— increase carbon sequestration potential of agricultural lands by 0.6 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, 1.3 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, and 4.8 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e per hectare per year, respectively. Likewise, biochar application to agricultural lands has shown to amplify crop productivity while simultaneously amplifying the long-term storage of carbon. Consider peer-to-peer learning models through collaboration with local and regional farming initiatives with the explicit goal of developing contextually-specific practices for enhancing carbon sequestration and storage. Use such collaborations as a platform for identifying adjustments to municipal policies or systems, such as aligning lease lengths with harvest rotations for longer-term perennial plantings, which can further facilitate adoption of regenerative agriculture practices.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$ - \$\$\$

## ENERGY 3D

### Establish Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offset Community Fund

Establish a voluntary local fund for those who want to offset their greenhouse gas emissions. Residents and businesses could track their emissions through a community-endorsed tool and pay into the fund depending on their footprint. This fund would build on the city's pilot gasoline carbon offset receipts, which currently add support to ValleyBike. It would provide funding for community mitigation/sequestration projects.

Equity can be enhanced by working with and prioritizing investments to neighborhoods historically under-served and underrepresented populations.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$



# WATER 1. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

**Stormwater and heat are our biggest climate adaption needs**

## WATER 1A

### Establish new design storm intensities and rainfall distributions

Examine the new design storm intensities and rainfall distributions when the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook is updated (circa 2021-2022) to address climate change. The new standards will likely be based on the upper confidence interval of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Atlas 14 to represent current precipitation conditions, plus or minus some factor to address climate change. This approach will produce higher design storms than the current standard (SCS- Technical Paper-40 with RCS Type III regional rainfall distribution).

- The City may want to go beyond the state standards.
- For example a 20% increase in design rainfall intensity is consistent with climate change projections for extreme precipitation in a 50- to 100-year planning horizon, based on a 50-year design life for storm drainage infrastructure, and the 50-100 year useful life.
- Alternatively, rainfall distributions can based upon updated, site-specific rainfall data.

Figure 16. 24-hour duration design storm (at City Hall)

Return Period	NOAA Atlas 141	IF increased by 20%
1 year	2.46" (2.53" NRCC value)	3.04" (NRCC)
2 years	3.08"	3.70"
10 years	4.93"	5.92"
25 years	6.09"	7.31"
50 years	6.99"	8.39"
100 years	7.88"	9.46"
500 years	11.3"	13.56"

**Type:** Policy  
**Lead:** Public Works, Planning for zoning and subdivision regs.  
**Time-frame:** Short-term  
**Cost:** \$

## WATER 1B

### Raise requirements for closed drainage systems

Consider requiring new and replacement closed drainage systems (city and private) to be designed for 10-year storm events, 25-year storm events at critical facilities. DPW could waive the requirement in specific situations (e.g., when localized pipe upgrades may affect downstream undersized pipes). In addition, the impacts of overland flow during flood conditions should be studied in the design of closed drainage systems, as surface flow is a significant component of overall flow during flood events within the city.

Update the city’s stormwater management standards for new development and redevelopment sites consistent with the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook when it is revised (circa 2021-2022).

Consider implementing changes to the city’s Stormwater Ordinances (Chapter 281) proposed by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), including to strengthen stormwater regulations and meet the post-construction stormwater management provisions of the MS4 General Permit.

**Type:** Policy  
**Lead:** Public Works for stormwater; Planning & Sustainability for zoning and subdivision regulations  
**Time-frame:** Mid-term  
**Cost:** \$

## WATER 1C

### Produce green infrastructure plans and implementation projects

Build on the Northampton Designs with Nature concept of nature based solutions to identify a range of nature based green infrastructure solutions to improve stormwater retention, detention, and infiltration, expand urban shade tree canopies, and a wide range of co-benefits (e.g., reduced heat island effect, healthier wildlife habitat, enhanced carbon sequestration, and new recreational opportunities).

The kind of projects that are relevant include:

- The restoration of the Pine Grove Golf Course, now part of the Rocky Hill Greenway, to restore its natural hydrology (Phase I completed in 2020).
- Green infrastructure in the Elm Street Brook watershed (building on the work of a Smith College Picker Engineering evaluation)
- Flood control improvements at the Route 66 Ice Pond (currently under consideration by FEMA for funding)
- Various urban tree and other shade tree canopy planting plans.

**Type:** Capital Planning

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability and Public Works

**Time-frame:** Short-term

**Cost:** \$\$\$

## WATER 1D

### Increase stormwater system conveyance capacity and storage through blue-green-gray infrastructure

Upgrade aging storm drainage infrastructure with larger-capacity pipes as pipes are replaced to provide additional in-line conveyance

capacity and storage. Simultaneously look for complementary opportunities to implement blue-green infrastructure to infiltrate stormwater, reduce runoff volumes and peak flows, and provide additional storage capacity within public rights-of-way and open space. Support the development of green infrastructure systems by defining appropriate native plant species to be used in all projects.

Apply *Northampton Designs with Nature* design principles to the design and implementation of green infrastructure projects, including identifying and prioritizing projects that can have the greatest impact on reducing stress on the stormwater infrastructure system, mitigating flood risk and damage, improving healthy ecosystems and water quality, reducing the heat island effect, and enhancing the community's accessibility to green space. Integrate environmental justice in identifying locations for green infrastructure installation or resilient infrastructure upgrades that will benefit neighborhoods with higher proportions of people with low incomes, people of color, or people living with disabilities. Include those communities in the design and evaluation.

Expand planned projects to have a larger focus on blue-green infrastructure, including an education component on the importance of these design features. If the city continues to consider daylighting portions of the downtown Historic Mill River, consider the potential to provide additional flood storage within the daylighted area to better protect other areas behind the levee from flooding. Given the significant capital cost of these upgrades, the city should take a system-wide approach to planning and implementation, including comprehensive storm drainage system modeling.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Public Works and Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$\$\$

## WATER 2. WATER SUPPLY

## WASTE 1. WASTE REDUCTION

Water supply is a long term risk, but one that requires a very long planning period

Solid waste is 1% of our GHG emissions. Our supply chain (scope 3) dwarfs our scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions.

### WATER 2A

Research long term water supply needs in light of climate change

Establish a framework for researching and long term planning of city's public potable water systems, including water quality and quantity monitoring and modeling. Proactive City and regional long term planning may identify whether new or alternative water supplies are required beyond the city's existing three active reservoirs and two wells. DPW's Drought Management Plan (2021) will help advance this planning and mitigation.

Continue Public Works existing water supply watershed land preservation and management efforts for source protection. Continue to ensure that the amount of water withdrawn equals, on a medium term average, the amount of water entering the system through precipitation and water flow (i.e., no "mining" of groundwater).

Work with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to advance data collection, and strategy development related to the impacts of climate change on water quality to a regional scale.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Public Works

**Time-frame:** Mid-term to long-term

**Cost:** \$\$\$

### WASTE 1A

Increase community waste diversion by creating and implementing a zero-waste strategy

Adopt a zero-waste framework to reduce the generation of waste and maximize material reuse. Depending on resources and consensus, actions might include, for example:

- Build on DPW's waste reduction efforts to raise awareness and foster a culture of repair and reuse by supporting community initiatives (e.g., repair cafes, the ReCenter Swap Shop, durable material exchanges, textile swap events and recycling, and other similar initiatives).
- Build on the City's existing buy recycled content to lead by example and ensure municipal entities use sustainable product purchasing practices (e.g., minimum recycled content criteria; preference for locally grown and manufactured materials, including food and compost; incentives for purchasing up-cycled and used goods and furniture).
- Educate the community and business owners about wasted food prevention strategies, encouraging food rescue, and the practice and benefits of co-composting leaf and yard waste with food scraps. Encourage all public events (e.g. fairs, festivals, concerts) to provide receptacles for source separation of trash, recyclables, and organics.
- Consider mandating commercial and residential participation in composting and require private haulers to provide organics collection and generators will have the option to utilize the curbside service or to arrange their own composting.
- Explore options for establishing a local commercial compost facility to reduce organics transportation impacts, and to keep the benefits of compost in the community.
- Eliminating petroleum-based, single-use products through phasing

out single-use plastics. The city will work toward strict use of reusable service-ware for eat-in dining, and toward requiring biodegradable, compostable or recyclable packaging and service-ware for takeout. Food service entities will be encouraged to provide accessories, such as flatware, straws, and condiments only upon request, and the city shall support third-party efforts to launch or provide a reusable takeout container service for food businesses.

- Reducing construction and demolition waste by ensuring that strong recycling and reuse requirements are met for all building-related permits. Exploring policies or incentives that would mandate or encourage property owners and contractors to choose deconstruction instead of demolition (e.g., requiring deconstruction for projects over a designated square footage, setting recycling and reuse thresholds, accelerating permitting for deconstruction projects, providing subsidies for the difference in cost between demolition and deconstruction). The city shall work

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** DPW recycling coordinator, City Council for regulations

**Time-frame:** Medium term

**Cost:** \$\$

## WASTE 1B

### Establish comprehensive food waste prevention, donation, and composting programs in schools and large institutions

A comprehensive wasted food management program in public schools will reduce the solid waste stream, address local food insecurity, value the cafeteria as a classroom, and leverage the power of school children to serve as ambassadors of best practices. A campaign could include, for example:

- Training cafeteria staff
- Using share tables and establishing partnerships with food rescue organizations.
- Maximize use of durable trays and service-ware, basic source-separation equipment (e.g., additional receptacles), and organics hauling services.
- Encouraging on-site composting and gardening programs in schools for demonstration and educational purposes.
- Developing educational programming and signage templates.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** School Department with community support

**Time-frame:** Medium term

**Cost:** \$

# TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 1.

## LOW CARBON & EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION

### TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 1A

#### Advance equitable transportation access

Ensure that transportation opportunities are available, safe, and desirable for all. This includes sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, street trees, bike share (micro-mobility) and other investments.

- Transportation options with the lowest carbon footprint and the highest equity should have the lowest cost to end users.
- Expand equitable access transportation to address gaps for people with low incomes, communities of color, and individuals with disabilities. Access can refer to physical proximity of stations/stops/bike racks, frequency and location of network routes, level of safety, languages offered in announcements or posted information, affordability, and other barriers to use.
- Consider the balance between transit-dependent services for users who do not have other options and choice-ridership which generate the highest ridership and benefits all users. Create strategies to reduce cultural barriers to users of all income levels in public transportation.
- Promote access to short-term car rental and car sharing, especially electric vehicle fleets.
- Encourage shared parking initiatives, parking cash-outs and decoupling parking costs from the cost of housing.

**Transportation is 26% of our GHG emissions. Land use is a portion of the 70% of building GHG emissions.**

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability and Public Works

**Time-frame:** Long term

**Cost:** \$\$\$

## Expand bicycling options, including the ValleyBike share program

Promote bicycling as a safe, efficient, inexpensive low-carbon travel option. Expand our multi-use path network and its connections to the roads and sidewalks. Ensure that the trail is available for year-round use. Advance bicycle education at safety village and schools.

Celebrate our shared use path network through a marketing campaign focused on green tourism, in collaboration with local business associations.

Expand ValleyBike, the regional electric-assist bike share program in collaboration with Amherst, Chicopee, Holyoke, South Hadley, Springfield, West Springfield, UMass, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Northampton currently coordinates the program in the eight communities, but is exploring structures to move management to a regional level. Expand the winter use of the program during fair winter weather.

Continue to add new locations in urban and denser residential areas throughout the region. Continue ValleyBike outreach and the equitable access membership program.

**Type:** Capital Improvement & Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability and Friends of Northampton Trails for bicycle education

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$

## Foster transition to electric vehicles (EV)

Encourage residents and commuters to switch from fossil fuel powered vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are more efficient than traditional cars and will become even cleaner as Northampton's electricity is greened. Equity is a key consideration in as EVs currently require higher up-front costs for consumers. To make a city-wide transition to EVs, the city would:

- Help message efforts to increase awareness of EV, on line and at in-person events, to increase awareness of the benefits.
- Incentivize EV charging infrastructure for major new construction projects.
- Adopt an EV purchasing policy for the city fleet that requires the city to purchase or lease EVs, building on the current fuel-efficient vehicle procurement policy.
- Work to install more public charging stations in all city parking lots and encourage public or private stations in commercial areas and dense residential and mixed use neighborhoods. Charge for electricity at public charging stations to create market incentive for private charging stations.
- Explore state, federal or other subsidies to support up-front cost for shared use electric vehicles for low-income residents.
- Explore electric bus fleet to replace current public transportation buses and school buses as electric buses become affordable and/or as department's carbon budgets require offsets.
- Track the market for when the technology eventually allows heavy vehicles (DPW and fire equipment) alternatives.
- Address the equipment and training needs to maintain a City EV fleet.

**Type:** Policy & Program

**Lead:** Central Services- Energy

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$ to \$\$\$

# TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 2.

## EFFICIENT LAND USE

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### TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 2A

Encourage dense, mixed-use, and transit-oriented development. The lowest carbon form of transportation is to avoid trips.

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Incentivize development and redevelopment that cluster multi-modal transit, mixed-use amenities, and a variety of housing types to ensure healthy, vibrant neighborhoods:

- Focus community planning and regulations on people over vehicles (e.g., allow new development to contribute to active transportation infrastructure rather than parking).
- Work with regional partners to advocate for improvements in the regional public transit system.
- Increase the percentage of the population living within walking distance of downtown, Florence Center, Bay State, Leeds, Village Hill, and King Street.
- Encourage housing diversity, smaller residential units that are efficient with resources, expanded units on developed lots, and new housing development that with affordable units.
- Install community amenities (e.g., bike lanes, sidewalks, and public space) in areas that will optimize walking.
- Consider an urban growth boundary (Farms Forests and Recreation zoning) that limits development outside of areas that are appropriate for development.
- Provide park, recreation, streetscape, and other amenities to make walking desirable.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$

### TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 2B

Protect land critical for the long-term migration of wildlife and plants due to climate change

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These areas that are critical for healthy ecosystems to thrive even with climate change include areas denoted in the Nature Conservancy's map of Resilient and Connected Landscapes that are in the "Resilient with Confirmed Diversity, Climate Flow Zones, or Climate Corridor mapped areas."

Continue existing strategies in these sensitive areas:

- Discourage or prohibit land use development and solar photovoltaic development in forested areas.
- Prioritize open space preservation efforts.
- Prohibit or severely limit future development within any mapped areas that are defined by the city, state or federal government as areas of resilient and connected landscapes with confirmed diversity or determined to be important climate corridors for climate resiliency.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$



# EQUITY. INCLUSIVE, PROSPEROUS AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

## EQUITY 1A

### Support Climate Champions and Strong and Healthy Neighborhoods Programs

Support Climate Champions and strong and healthy neighborhood program to raise awareness and understanding about climate risk, adaptation, mitigation strategies, and build social resilience. Train local leaders and residents on climate change risks, adaptation and mitigation strategies, communications strategies, and identifying their own personal and professional circles to engage. Seek residents who can collectively engage a broad range of Northampton community members. Reach out to youth groups and student associations to help prepare youth for future careers in climate risk response and to empower a younger generation.

Support efforts by civic and neighborhood groups and others to connect with residents, businesses, and others to assess and strengthen social resilience and social connectivity, and to strengthen the community health and resilience (e.g., check on neighbors in climate hazards; hosting neighborhood barbecues to encourage a sense of community; holding community service events; launching a community preparedness campaign; creating an art show to highlight stories about climate change). Ensure conversations are held in culturally sensitive ways.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Senior Services (Aging Friendly Community); Health; Central Services-Energy; Youth Commission

**Time-frame:** Medium term and ongoing

**Cost:** \$

## EQUITY 1B

### Partner with community organizations for inclusive planning

Equity cross cuts every recommendation in this plan. Visibility for this effort includes partnering with community partner organizations (e.g., those supporting this plan, community and resilience hub partners, and other community organizations that serve diverse communities in Northampton).

Conduct outreach sessions by attending community meetings or functions hosted by the partner organizations to reach community groups at familiar and accessible venues. Build the capacity of the partners to share information about climate risk and adaptation strategies with community members, and to relay the concerns, experiences, and insight of community members to city staff.

Use this outreach process to ensure that communities that may disproportionately experience the impacts from climate change directly shape the strategies intended to enhance the city's resilience.

The Massachusetts Department of Health grant to the Collaborative for Education Services to foster inclusion and empowerment can advance this work.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Central Services-Energy; Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$

# HEALTH & SAFETY

## 1. LAND USE

### EQUITY 1C

#### Support workforce development in resilience and regeneration solutions

Support job training to support the economy and simultaneously help reach its resilience and regeneration goals. In partnership with new and existing community partners (e.g., Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, Valley Community Development Corporation, Center for EcoTechnology) expand resilience and regeneration skills development programs in tandem with demonstration projects or other municipal efforts. This could include:

- Job training/career development in nature-based resilience and regeneration solutions (e.g., green infrastructure installation and maintenance; permaculture, regenerative, and resilient agricultural practices; and climate-resilient street tree care). Perennial plantings in the floodplain, for example, could be coordinated by the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School horticulture program, simultaneously fostering career development, generating a new harvest crop for farmers, reducing erosion, and creating pathways to increase local food production and food security.
- Job training/career development in clean energy or energy efficiency technologies. Such a program could include, for example, training HVAC and building technicians on energy efficient building systems, distributed energy systems, and passive house standards, in conjunction with the roll out of municipal campaigns to encourage residents to pursue building retrofits.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Mayor's Economic Development Coordinator

**Time-frame:** Long-term

**Cost:** \$\$ - \$\$\$

### HEALTH & SAFETY 1A

#### Mitigate heat by expanding cooling opportunities at open space and streetscapes

Increase free recreation opportunities that can be used to cool off during high heat days or heat waves. This may include increasing public access to swimming areas, splash pads, or pocket parks with quality shade and vegetation. Ensure some affordable or free access to water.

Prioritize the installation of street trees, tree planting, and pocket parks in under-served neighborhoods (environmental justice areas), high traffic corridors, retail districts, parking lots, walking and biking corridors, bus stops and at community centers such as schools and health facilities.

Expanding the urban shade tree canopy reduces the heat island effect and provides shade to Northampton communities.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Parks and Recreation; Public Works

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$

## HEALTH & SAFETY 1B

### Amend zoning and subdivision regulations for stringent flood and fluvial erosion control

Consider zoning and subdivision amendments to:

1. Amend Zoning to incorporate increase free-board requirements for new construction or substantial improvement within the flood zone, to the extent it can be done consistently with the state building code, with a minimum 1-foot free-board for residential, commercial, industrial and public buildings and a 2-foot free-board requirement is recommended for critical facilities. Continue to ban new residential housing (except replacement of existing units) in the 500-year (0.02% annual chance) flood zone.
2. Require new critical facilities be outside the 500-year floodplain with continuous non-inundated access during a 500-year flood.
3. Prohibit enlarging or extending a nonconforming use when located in a special flood hazard area and ensure property owners to redevelop and/or reconstruct nonconforming structures using more flood-resilient techniques.
4. Ensure street and parking lot design standards reduce impervious surfaces and remove barriers to the use of Low Impact Development (LID), consistent with the City's MS4 permit.
5. Update open space residential development (cluster) standards to focus on conservation development and change the review from special permit to site plan approval.
6. Adopt fluvial erosion hazard zoning along rivers and streams to limit or prohibit development in fluvial erosion hazard areas.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$

## HEALTH & SAFETY 1C

### Continue land acquisition for flood management

The city has been acquiring land in the floodplain in order to reserve land with high flood risk, as well as land near the floodplain to serve as stormwater storage before the water reaches the floodplain. Continue land acquisition for ongoing flood management in accordance with the city's open space priorities. Consider home buyouts in locations with high vulnerability to flooding.

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**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$ - \$\$

## HEALTH & SAFETY 1D

### Assess tree, forest ecosystem, agriculture, and food systems for resilience

Seek opportunities to build on Public Works assessment of the City's water supply watershed forests and the Urban Forestry Commission/Tree Warden street tree inventories to conduct citywide assessments of trees, forest ecosystems agriculture, and food systems resilience when remote sensing technology supports such assessment at low cost.

- Develop selective harvesting, adaptive species planting, invasive species removal, and improvements to soil health to address vulnerabilities.
- Emphasize strategies that will simultaneously support carbon accumulation in forest biomass and soils, such as organic amendments and enhancing species diversity in tree stands.
- Partner in a Northampton or regional food systems and farming resilience plan (e.g., with Communities Involved in Sustainable Agriculture, Grow Food Northampton, Pioneer Valley Food Security Plan, Healthy Hampshire, Food Security Council, Agriculture Commission, and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission).
- Identify the climate vulnerabilities that Northampton farms and forests will face from increased heat, flooding, and extreme weather.
- Identify strategies to enhance the resilience of local small-scale food production and distribution.
- Identify regional food security solutions.

**Type:** Assessment/Plan

**Lead:** Public Works (for watershed land), Planning & Sustainability (for agriculture, greenways and remote sensing), Urban Forestry Commission (for tree assessments)

**Time-frame:** Medium-term

**Cost:** \$\$

## HEALTH & SAFETY 1E

### Prepare for vector and water-borne diseases

Build on the City's health assessment of climate change (Human Impact Partners, contracted by Planning & Sustainability) and vector-borne disease monitoring led by the Northampton Health Department and Massachusetts Department of Health to identify future climate change related vector and water-borne disease risks.

Strategies might include:

- More aggressive removal of tires and other debris that hosts mosquitoes
- Mosquito larvicide treatments
- Municipal land management practices
- Hunting regulations
- Permaculture practices
- Potentially enhanced water quality monitoring, (fecal coliform and/or benthic organisms) at Musante Beach, the Mill River, and the Connecticut River Greenway

**Type:** Assessment & Program

**Lead:** Health; Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Medium-term and ongoing

**Cost:** \$\$

# HEALTH & SAFETY 2.

## HAZARD MITIGATION

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### HEALTH & SAFETY 2A

Assess and upgrade the city’s flood control infrastructure and earn FEMA accreditation of the flood control levees

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Maintain existing inspections and oversight programs for repair, maintenance, and upgrades of flood control infrastructure, and strengthen drills and inspections as needed.

FEMA has commenced a process to modernize the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which is the first update since 1978, which might potentially result in an increase in the elevation and area of the mapped floodplain. The City is assessing its flood control levees, potentially making needed improvements, to earn FEMA accreditation.

In 2019, the City completed an evaluation the flood control pump station needs and selected upgrades are underway.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Public Works

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$\$ - \$\$\$

### HEALTH & SAFETY 2B

Enhance accessibility to hazard and climate change risk information

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Implement a multi-pronged hazard and resilience-based communication

- Dispatch emergency alerts, evacuation routes, warning systems, emergency responses.
- Energy and Sustainability Commission public education and outreach on a variety of climate change topics.
- Develop a messaging strategy that uses the city’s web page and social media in a more coordinated and engaging way, and that enhances accessibility for the public to climate risk
- Support communities who may not be regularly connected to city activities.
- Promote the purchase of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), even for those located outside of the regulatory floodplain.
- Continue existing involvement in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program which provides discounts for flood insurance and makes it slightly more affordable.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability; Dispatch; Energy and Sustainability; Central Services-Energy

**Time-frame:** Short-term for strategy development; Ongoing for its implementation

**Cost:** \$



## Develop a Northampton Community Resilience Hub

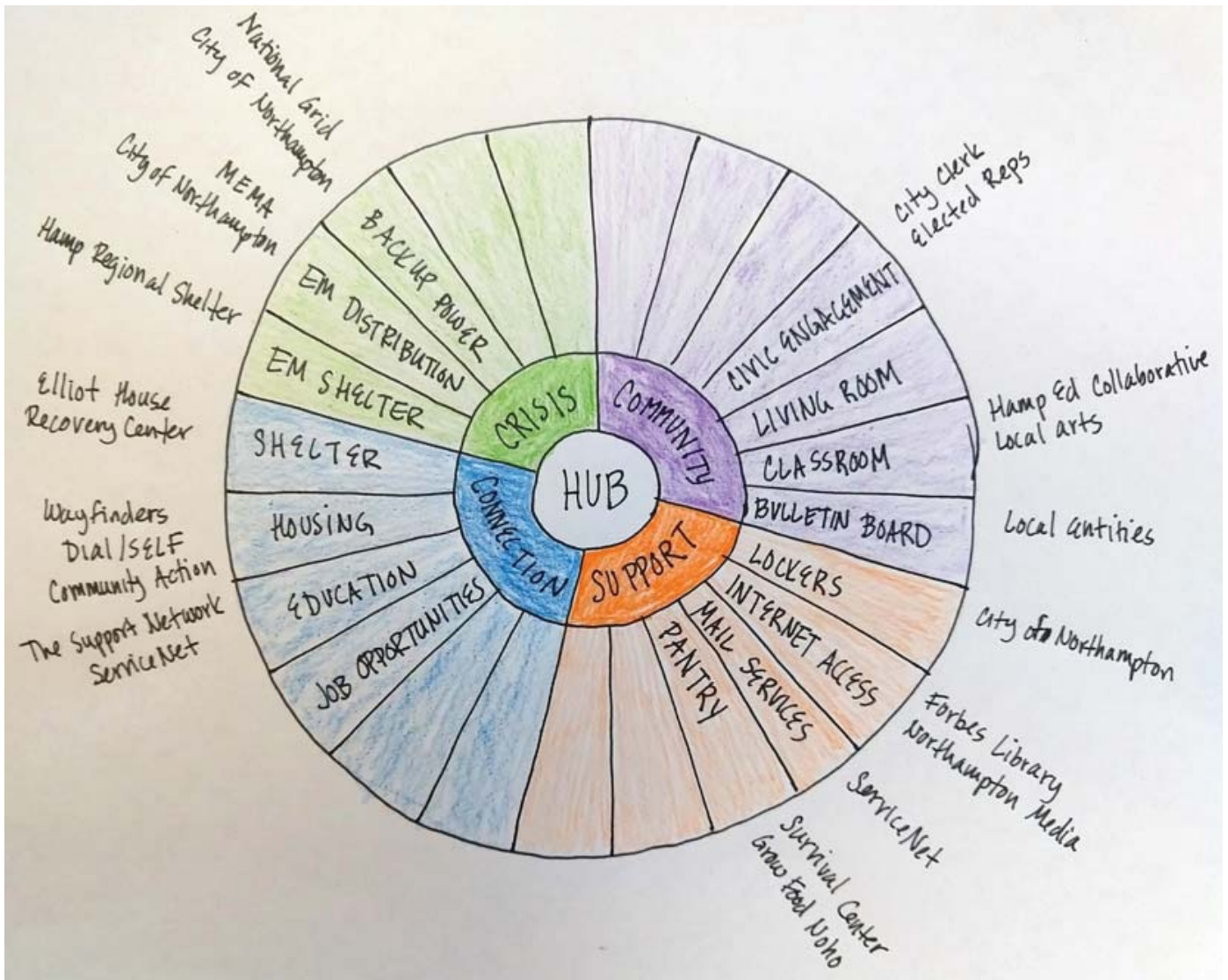
Develop a Community Resilience Hub, a downtown physical facility with a coordinated program for frontline communities and all residents who face chronic and acute stress due to disasters, pandemics, climate change, and other social and economic challenges. It will serve the 1% (people experiencing homelessness and those under severe chronic stress), the 15% (below the poverty line), the 40% (housing-burdened and under chronic stress) and the 100% (those at risk of acute stress, e.g., major storm), by providing access to resource, strong networks, and building social resilience.

Coordinate the Hub and its offerings with the needs and opportunities of shelters and schools to safely house people during extended periods of extreme heat, extreme weather, flooding events, and pandemics to

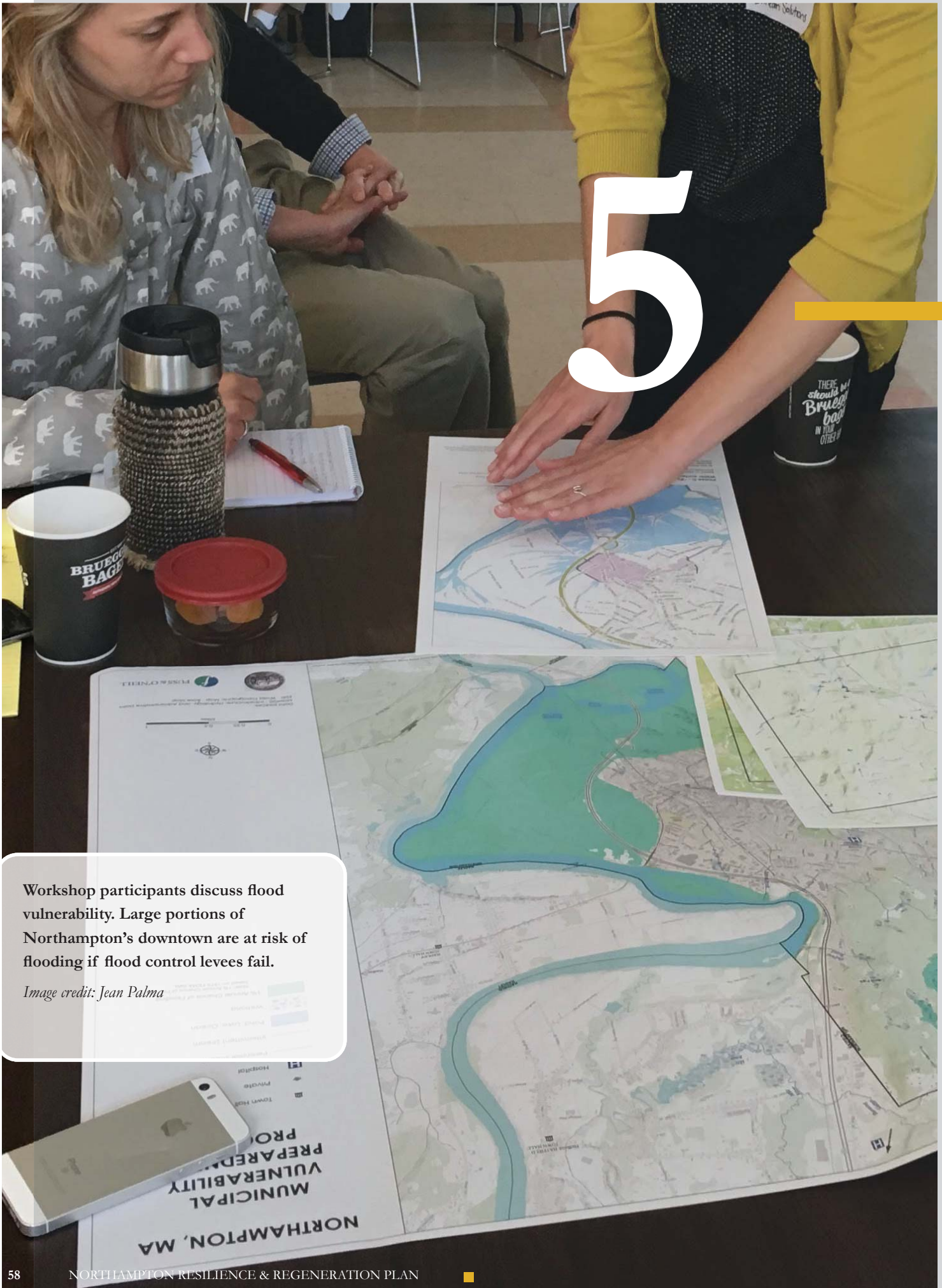
create a coordinated response to such event, in conjunction with the Hampshire County Emergency Sheltering Plan.

The Community Resilience Hub should be the dependable place for people to go for resources in emergencies, with continuous power, heating and cooling supported by power storage and energy islanding, information, phone charging, mental and physical health care, food and water, and/or other services.

**Type:** Capital Improvement  
**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability; Mayor; Community Action Pioneer Valley; Central Services (if retained as a City Building)  
**Time-frame:** Mid-term  
**Cost:** \$\$\$



# 5



Workshop participants discuss flood vulnerability. Large portions of Northampton's downtown are at risk of flooding if flood control levees fail.

*Image credit: Jean Palma*

## SECTION FIVE

# A Plan Crafted By Northampton

Northampton's Climate Resilience and Regeneration planning process extended from Spring 2018 to early 2021, with a pause during COVID. City staff, the project team, residents, businesses, and organizations worked together to:

- Assess vulnerabilities and strengths to climate change hazards;
- Update the inventory of the city's greenhouse gas emissions;
- Generate a framework for resilience and regeneration actions;
- Develop a strategies to move Northampton forward in reaching our resilience and regeneration goals.

### Goals for Inclusive Planning

We aim to create a resilient, regenerative, and carbon neutral community through collaboration and collective action. Climate change will affect some members of our community disproportionately, and taking action will be easier for some people more than others. A robust and implementable plan required a planning process that's inclusive of everyone in the community—especially those that have been traditionally underrepresented in city planning processes.

The city's goal was to connect with diverse community members and stakeholders throughout the development of this plan, including voices that have traditionally been under-represented in community conversations (e.g., low income individuals, people experiencing homelessness, youth, seniors, businesses, and Hispanic/Latinx communities). To connect with these groups, the project team collaborated with partner organizations and community leaders that work within these communities—such as Northampton Neighbors, Northampton Survival Center, ServiceNet, among many others. Twenty-two such organizations and community leaders participated process.

### Workshops, Trainings, In-Person Activities, and On-Line Surveys

#### A. Stakeholder workshops (2018)

The city convened a group of stakeholders—city staff across many departments, representatives from partner organizations, and community members who play key roles in mitigation and adaptation efforts in the city—to participate in a series of stakeholder workshops.

The first set of workshops focused on identifying infrastructural, social, and environmental vulnerabilities to climate change hazards, strengths within the city that can help Northampton adapt, and actions the city can take to increase its resilience. The second workshop focused on generating ideas for the plan around how to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions. The third workshop on the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Framework and a list of potential actions for the plan. The stakeholder group analyzed the actions and identified ways to refine them and improve their impact using the Framework.

#### B. Public workshops (2018)

Over 170 community members over the course of three public workshops joined the city and project team to discuss ideas for the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan. The first workshop included community-led conversations around the following questions: 1) What effects of climate change make you most concerned? 2) What makes Northampton communities strong and what could make them stronger? And 3) What guiding principles do we want to follow when developing strategies for climate resilience and regeneration? These guiding principles helped to create Northampton's Resilience and Regeneration Framework.

# ■ Thanks for your time, contributions, and feedback!

## Over 650 people engaged in the Climate Resilience and Regeneration planning!

The second public workshop included round robin table discussions on ways the city and community members could work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across various sectors. The third workshop included round robin table discussions about how a set of draft actions could be improved to achieve greater “co-benefits”—that is, to meet community goals such as equity, economic and cultural vitality, and regional collaboration.

### C. Partner organizations training (2018)

The project consultants hosted a training for the plan’s Partner Organizations. Participants discussed the chronic and daily stresses felt by many Northampton community members, and how these stresses may be exacerbated by climate change. Participants developed work plans for engaging their constituents in conversations around climate change, adaptation, and preparedness, and were provided with a survey and other materials to support those conversations.

### D. Other in-person activities (2018-2019)

Residents also provided their input through:

- Interviews with individuals experiencing homelessness to understand their experiences and thoughts;
- A presentation to the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce to engage the business community;
- A preparedness workshop at the Literacy Project, an organization that provides classes for adults completing their high school education and preparing for the workforce;
- A pop-up table at the Northampton Survival Center, an organization that provides food to low-income individuals;
- A focus group with the Northampton Youth Commission and another with the Northampton High School Environmental Club to gather youth input and perspectives.

### E. Online platforms (2018-2019)

The project team distributed two surveys through the city’s electronic mailing lists, social media, and through Partner Organizations to

gather additional input. The first survey asked residents about the climate change related hazards they had already experienced and their understandings of resilience and sustainability. The team also launched an on-line interactive survey. This tool allowed participants to select areas they were most interested in (e.g., climate and energy or health and safety), answer a series of questions about their thoughts and behaviors related to these areas, and prioritize potential actions to include in the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan.

### F. Energy and Sustainability Commission (2020)

The Commission, with deeply engaged climate change activists, critiqued the plan, read multiple revisions, and eventually endorsed the penultimate draft going to the Planning Board for a formal public hearing and, with whatever amendments the Planning Board makes, ultimate adoption.

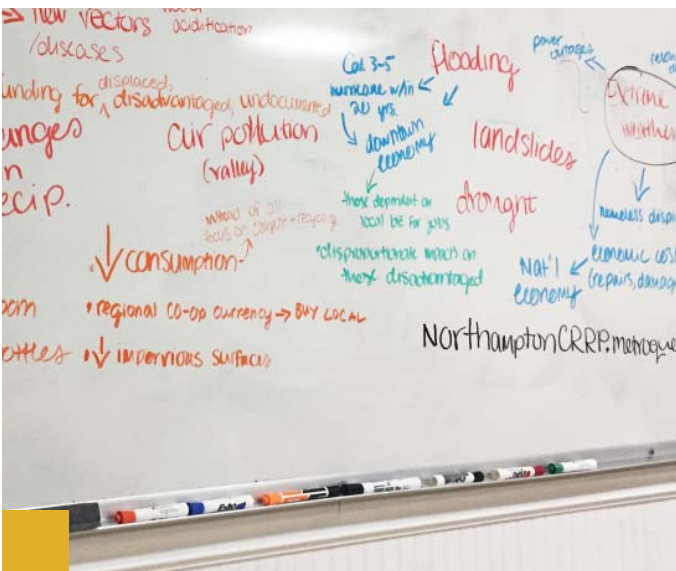
## Moving Forward

Through all of these in-person and on-line opportunities, roughly 650 community members provided ideas and input for the development of this Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan. In addition, numerous public and stakeholder comments and numerous committee conversations informed the plan.

The strategies in this plan outline ways to continue the conversation and avenues for community action and collaboration. The city continues to seek ways to include more diverse voices in shaping Northampton’s future, and looks forward to working together in implementing this plan for a more resilient and regenerative Northampton.

After the initial public process, the forum moved to the Energy and Sustainability Commission (for plan endorsement), the Planning Board and a public board public hearing (for plan adoption), and to City Council (for plan endorsement). Each step included public input.

The graphs (below) show the demographic information from our surveys (89% of survey respondents reported their age, race/ethnicity, and housing status).



- A** Stakeholder workshop discussing climate vulnerability
- B** Public workshop discussing ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- C** Preparedness workshop at the Literacy Project
- D** Public workshop discussing how strategies can achieve wide community benefits
- E** Focus group with the Northampton Youth Commission



### Stories from our community

Jason has been in Northampton since 2013. At the time of our interview, he was living in a tent. To prepare for extreme events he makes sure to tie everything down. During cold weather, he wears as much warm clothing as possible. Since he does not have family to stay with, he relies on shelters that are often full, especially the “dry” shelter that he prefers. He notes the need for more shelters and outreach.

Liz had been in Northampton for 37 years at the time of our interview. She has three sons and a daughter and is very artistic, preferring to spend her time singing and drawing. In terms of climate change, she has seen the weather change over the years, including an increase in the intensity of rain events. She mentioned how much she enjoyed an arts festival that occurred recently where the city blocked part of downtown to traffic. She said without cars the air was cleaner and safety was improved. She sees real value in pedestrian-only zones.

### Race / Ethnicity

- White / Caucasian = 92.5%
- Multiple / Other = 4%
- Hispanic / Latinx = 2%
- Asian / Pacific Islander = 1%
- American Indian / Alaska Native = 0.5%



Survey respondents by race and/or ethnicity. Minority representation was strong, given the community demographics, but not as strong as the city would like. Increasing minority representation remains a strong city goal.

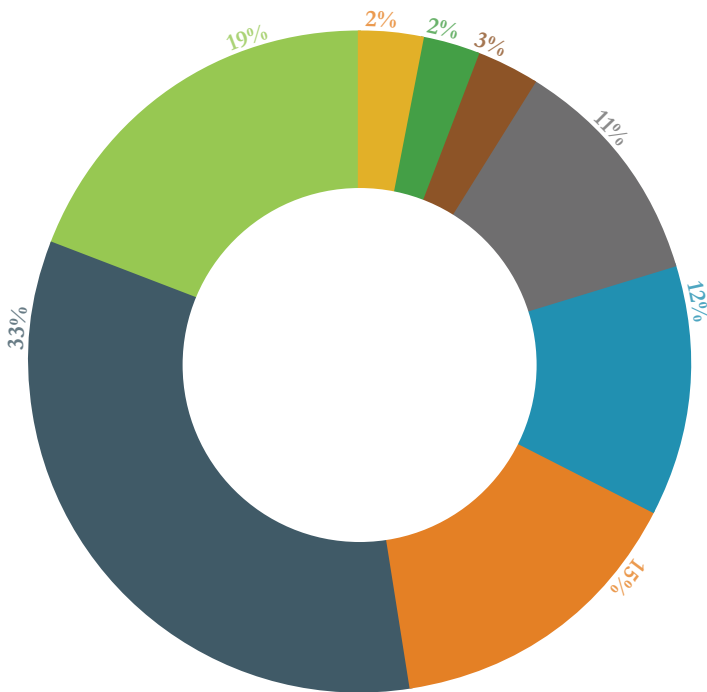
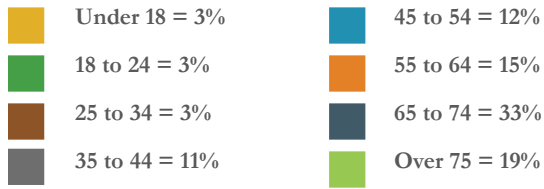
### Total survey participants

**160** participants in survey 1

**116** participants in survey 2

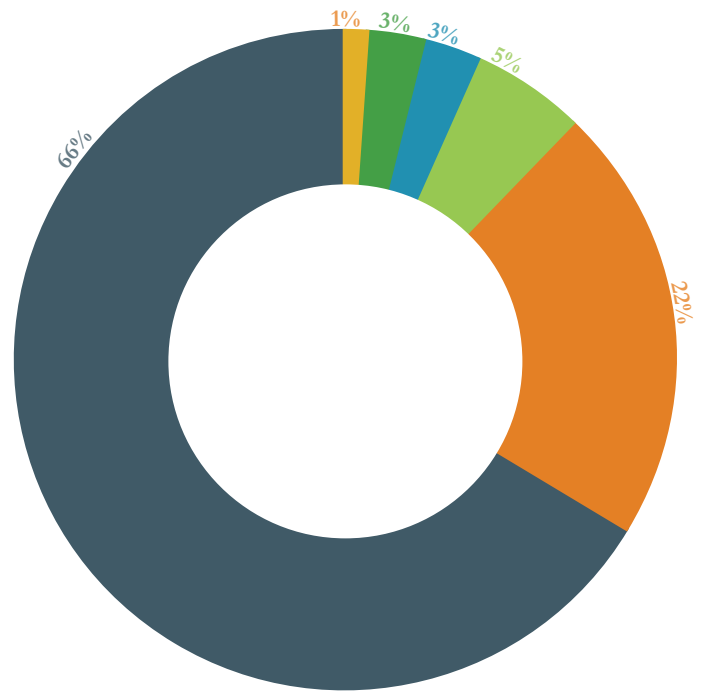
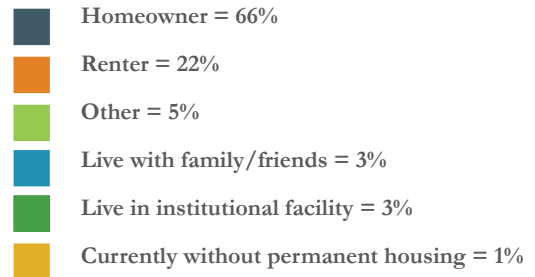
The surveys reached people from a range of demographics, The majority of respondents, however, were white, over the age of 65, and own a home. Many of the in-person activities were designed to expand the city’s reach to different demographics. Increasing minority representation in city planning processes remains a strong city goal.

## Age



Survey respondents by age. While all age groups were represented, the majority of respondents were over age 65.

## Housing Status



Survey respondents by housing status. While a variety of housing statuses were represented, the majority of respondents were homeowners.



Northampton City Hall (above)  
Main and Pleasant Streets (below)  
1936 flood.

*Image: Forbes Library*



# LINKS

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all of the documents or links to the documents below are available at [www.ResilienceRegeneration.com](http://www.ResilienceRegeneration.com)

- A. Mayor’s Executive Order for Carbon Neutrality by 2050
- B. Mayor’s Executive Order: Greenhouse Gas Impacts of HVAC Improvement Projects
- C. City Council Resolution Opposing the Expansion of Gas Infrastructure and Calling for Increased Development and Implementation of Renewable and Clean Energy Sources (Resolution R-18.170)
- D. City Council Resolution in Support of 100 Percent Renewable Energy (Resolution R-18.003)
- E. City Council Resolution Calling on the Massachusetts Legislature to Establish Carbon Pollution Pricing to Curb Climate Change
- F. City Council Resolution Opposing Provisions of H.3854 that “would not raise the net metering cap sufficiently to allow Northampton’s solar plans to proceed” and “would decrease the net metering compensation to the wholesale rate and would allow the utilities to impose a mandatory minimum monthly charge...”
- G. City Council Resolution for Transparency and Public Representation Regarding Natural Gas Infrastructure (Resolution 15.451)
- H. Full Climate Resilience and Regeneration Framework
- I. Full Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- J. Full Carbon Neutral Pathway Analysis
- K. Full Infrastructure Resilience Memo
- L. Full Carbon Sequestration Memo
- M. Northampton’s Community Resilience Building Summary Report (2018 updated 2020)
- N. The Nature Conservancy’s Resilient and Connected Landscapes Map






# S U S T A I N A B L E N O R T H A M P T O N

Comprehensive Plan, January 2008

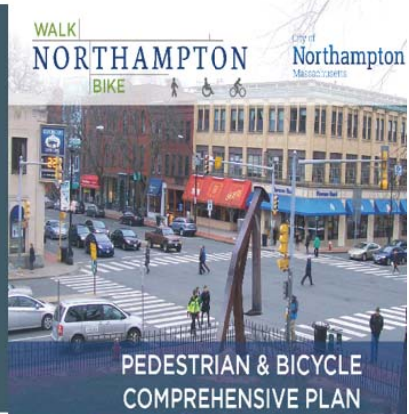
Northampton Climate  
Resilience & Regeneration Plan  
A element of the Sustainable Northampton Plan

Addressing the climate emergency by  
Regenerating a healthy community.  
ADAPTING to and MITIGATING climate change

WALK  
NORTHAMPTON  
BIKE

City of Northampton  
Massachusetts



PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

JANUARY 2017

PREPARED FOR THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON BY  
ALTA PLANNING + DESIGN WITH WATSON ACTIVE

