

Solar Rooftop Bylaw

Anticipated Motion as Printed in the Warrant
Select Board Hearing
Dean Banfield
March 2, 2026

Studies and Goals for Solar

- 2010 CMLP targeted 25MW of solar by 2030
- 2011 Solar Siting Report goal 22MW
- 2021 Climate Action Plan – 2030 goal 20MW
- 2024 Solar Task Force Report
 - 14MW max potential (4MW of which unlikely)

Efforts to Date

- 2010 48kW array, Willard School
- 2014 1.7MW former landfill
- 2017 5.6MW former WR Grace property
- 2026 Landfill expansion and upgrade
 - 1.7 -> 4.2MW (adds 2.5MW)
- 2026 CMS array designed @1.2MW

Solar Task Force Findings -2024

- Limit CMLP solar to cost neutral projects
 - No more unused ground mount sites identified
 - Canopies and CMLP-managed rooftops, not cost effective and/or overly complex to manage
- ‘Behind the meter’ systems are cost effective
- **Report identifies solar on new public buildings as the remaining opportunity**

Benefits from Rooftop Solar

- Equity – in our backyard
- Local renewable energy eases NE grid stress
- Reduced operating cost (lower electric bills)
- Aligned with Town goals for minimal carbon footprint public infrastructure

Implications

- Clear guidance for future building committees
 - Integrated design
 - Unified bid/construction responsibility
- Single entity responsible for maintenance
 - Town or School as designated responsible party
- Payback period likely 6-8yrs without subsidy
- Capital upcharge @ 1-1.5% for typical school

Bylaw Language

- Codifies as a bylaw recommendation to include solar on all new Town buildings
- Provides lower limit and exemption for unelectrified storage structures
- Provides appeal/waiver process via Select Board action

Questions / Discussion