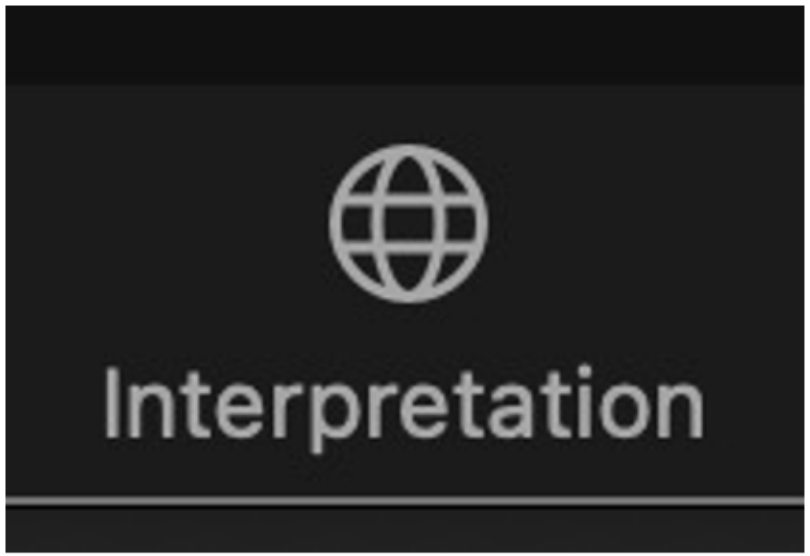
# Utilities ESMP Stakeholder Workshops & Technical Sessions

# Workshop #2
# November 28, 2023
# 1 pm – 5 pm

# Online Interpretation

1. **We will turn on Interpretation in just a moment.**
2. Once you see the Globe logo, click it to select a language.
3. Even if you don't need interpretation, click the logo and select ENGLISH
4. The choices today are
    1. English
    2. Spanish
    3. European Portuguese
    4. Brazilian Portuguese
    5. Chinese



# Welcome & Goals of Two Workshops

- Level set everyone's understanding of draft ESMPs (including demand forecasts; grid infrastructure needs; stakeholder/community engagement plans, etc.)
- Provide initial feedback to utilities
- Better equipped to participate in ESMP finalization and implementation processes

# ESMP Topics Today

- Ensuring an Equitable and Just Transition to a Clean Energy Future
- Stakeholder & Community Engagement
- Demand Forecasts and Grid Infrastructure: Additional feedback

# November 28 Agenda

| Time | Topic & Description | Lead/ Presenter |
|---|---|---|
| 1:00 | **Welcome, Overview, and Introductions**<br>• Agenda; Approach & Ground Rules | • Facilitators |
| 1:10 | **Ensuring an Equitable Transformation** (including electrification/DER benefits, jobs & affordability)<br>• Utility Equitable Transformation Visions (20 min)<br>• Initial Questions for Utilities & Responses (15 min)<br>• Break-Out Groups: Discuss Opportunities & Priorities (30 min)<br>• Break-Out Report Back & Discussion (25 min) | • Eversource (Lavelle Freeman), National Grid (Meghan McGuinness), Unitil (Kevin Sprague)<br>• Individual Participants<br>• Mixed Stakeholder Groups |
| 2:40 | **Break** | |
| 2:55 | **Stakeholder/Community Engagement Plans**<br>• Joint Utility Presentation (20 min)<br>• Questions for Utilities & Responses (30 min)<br>• Discussion and Feedback (30 min) | • Eversource (Erin Engstrom)<br>• Individual Participants<br>• Individual Participants |
| 4:15 | • **Demand Forecasts & Grid Infrastructure Needs**<br>• Demand Forecasts: Additional Feedback (15 min)<br>• Grid Infrastructure Needs: Additional Feedback (20 min) | • Individual Participants<br>• Individual Participants |
| 4:50 | **Next Steps**<br>• Recap of the day/Feedback<br>• Plans/Schedule ESMP Finalization & Filing & Review Process | • Facilitators<br>• Unitil (Kevin Sprague) |
| 5:00 | **Adjourn** | |

# ESMP Invited Participants - updated

| Organization | Representative(s) | Organi zation | Representative(s) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A Better City** | Yve Torrie | **MA Municipal Association** | Josie Ahlberg (Nov 28) |
| **ACE** | Sofia Owen | **Making Opportunity Count (MOC)** | Melissa Gonzalez / Shakira Collazo |
| **Advanced Energy United** | Kat Burnham | **Mass Development** | Dan Rivera |
| **BXP** | Neetu Siddarth (Nov 15)<br>Ben Myers (Nov 28) | **Mass DOT** | Christopher Aiello (Nov 15)<br>Hayes Morrison |
| **Browning the Green Space** | Kerry Bowie | **Mass General Hospital** | Dennis Villanueva / Jason Dantona |
| **C Power** | Nancy Chafetz | **Mass Housing** | Elizabeth Torres |
| **Calstart** | Jordan Stutt | **Mass Life Sciences** | Ken Turner |
| **EJ Table** | Cindy Luppi | **Mass Solar** | Mark Sandeen |
| **EDF** | Jolette Westbrook | **NAIOP** | Anastasia Daou |
| **Fitchburg Housing Authority** | Doug Bushman | **NCLC** | John Howat |
| **Fitchburg State** | JD Head | **NECEC** | Tim Snyder |
| **Franklin Cummings Tech** | Dr. Marvin Loiseau | **Nexamp** | Brandon Bowles |
| **Gillette Stadium** | Dena Ciampa | **North Central MA Chamber of Commerce** | Roy Nascimento |
| **IBEW** | Mike Monahan | **Tesla** | Bill Ehrlich |
| **Lowell General Hospital** | Kevin Foley | **UMass Lowell** | Rauiri O'Mahony |
| **MA Business Roundtable** | Tonja Mettlach (Nov 15)<br>JD Chesloff (Nov 28) | **United Way of North Central Mass** | Kory Eng |
| **MA Economic Development** | Helena Fruscio Altsman (Nov 15)<br>Sarah Kalish (Nov 28) | **WMA Economic Develop Council** | Rick Sullivan |
| **MA Municipal Association** | Adrienne Núñez (Nov 15) | **Mass Bio** | Ben Bradford |

# ESMP Workshops Team

| Utilities (leads/presenters) | | Facilitators | | IT Support & Translators |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Erin Engstrom – lead & presenter | Eversource | Janet Gail Besser | Independent | Jeff Carpenter |
| Lavelle Freeman – presenter | Eversource | Dr. Jonathan Raab | Raab Associates | Susan Rivo |
| Matt Motley – | National Grid | | | |
| Meghan McGuinness - presenter | National Grid | | | |
| Kevin Sprague – lead & presenter | Unitil | | | |

# Workshop/Zoom Protocols

- Participants
  - Should have their videos on, and their audio muted unless speaking.
  - When want to ask a question or make a comment, use the raise hand function to get in queue.
  - All questions and comments should be made verbally--the Q&A function is being disabled; and Chat should only be used to contact the host (Jeff) or co-host (Susan) in regard to technical problems
- Utilities .
  - Lead utility representatives have their videos on, and their audio muted unless speaking.
  - Utility presenters (who aren't leads) should only unmute their video audio when presenting or answering questions.
- Observers (in the audience)
  - Should be able to see and hear the workshop  but will have your audio/video muted and will not be able to chat or use the Q&A function.
- The Workshops will be recorded and made available (in English as well as several other languages).

# Submitting Questions and Feedback

- Submission of utilities' draft plans to the Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC) is an important first step in increasing the transparency and inclusiveness of their infrastructure investment planning process.
- The utilities consider our customers, communities, and stakeholders integral partners in developing and implementing our clean energy transition plans, as they continue to build relationships and trust by listening, learning, and incorporating your feedback into our planning process.
- You are invited to submit any feedback, questions, or comments based on what you heard today or around our plans **by December 10** at:
  - **Eversource**: MAGridMod@eversource.com
  - **National Grid**: Future.Grid@nationalgrid.com
  - **Unitil**: ESMP-Feedback@unitil.com
- The utilities will reply to questions as soon as possible.

# Workshop Conduct

Come prepared to discuss agenda items (by reviewing all background documents disseminated prior to the meeting and conferring with your organization and other colleagues as needed.)

Be forthright and communicative about your interests and preferences

Be clear, so that everyone understands your interests and recommendations

Be concise, so that everyone who wants to provide input has an opportunity to do so (e.g., less than a minute)

EVERSOURCE

ELECTRIC SECTOR MODERNIZATION PLAN:

# A Comprehensive Roadmap to Achieve Massachusetts' Clean Energy Goals

NOVEMBER 2023

# EVERSOURCE ENERGY

EVERSOURCE

## We serve approximately:

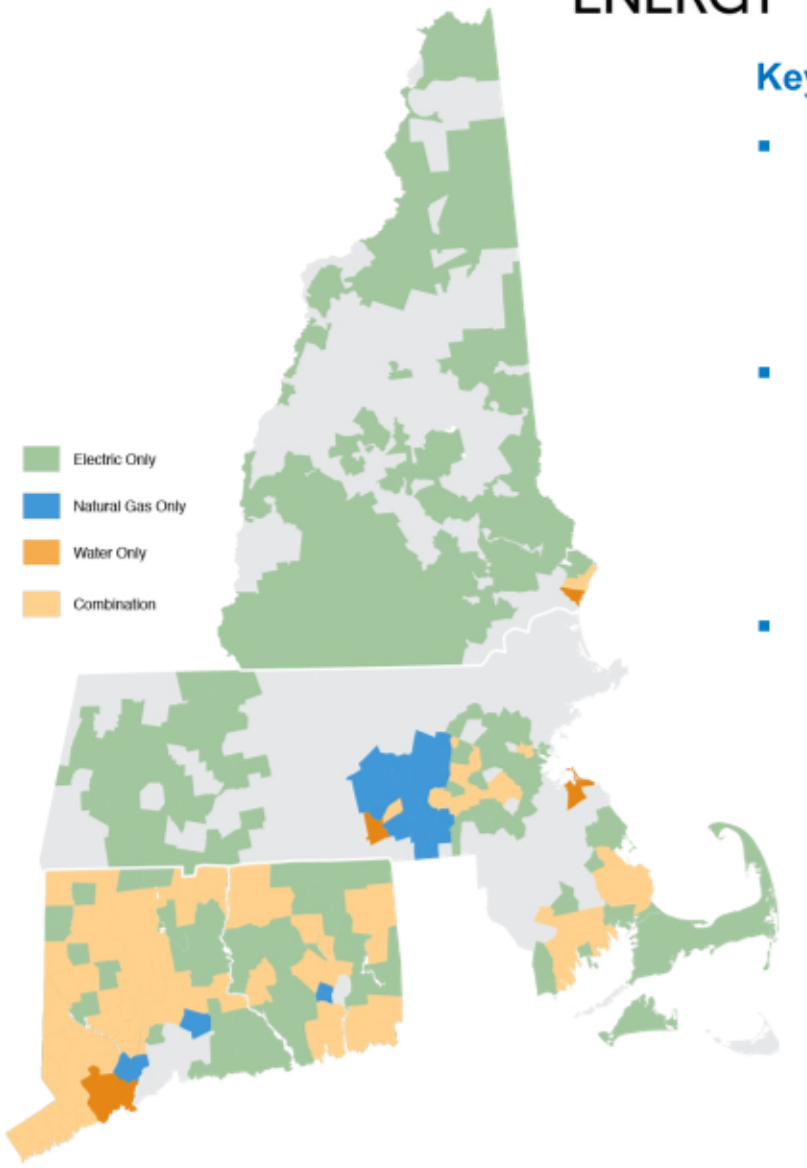
- **227,000** water customers in 59 New England Communities
- **525,000** gas customers in 123 New England Communities
- **3.2 M** Electricity customers in 499 New England Communities

## We operate more than:

- **4,250** circuit miles of transmission lines
- **72,000** pole miles of distribution lines
- **575** substations
- **6,450** miles of natural gas pipelines
- **3,600** miles of water mains

## Clean energy:

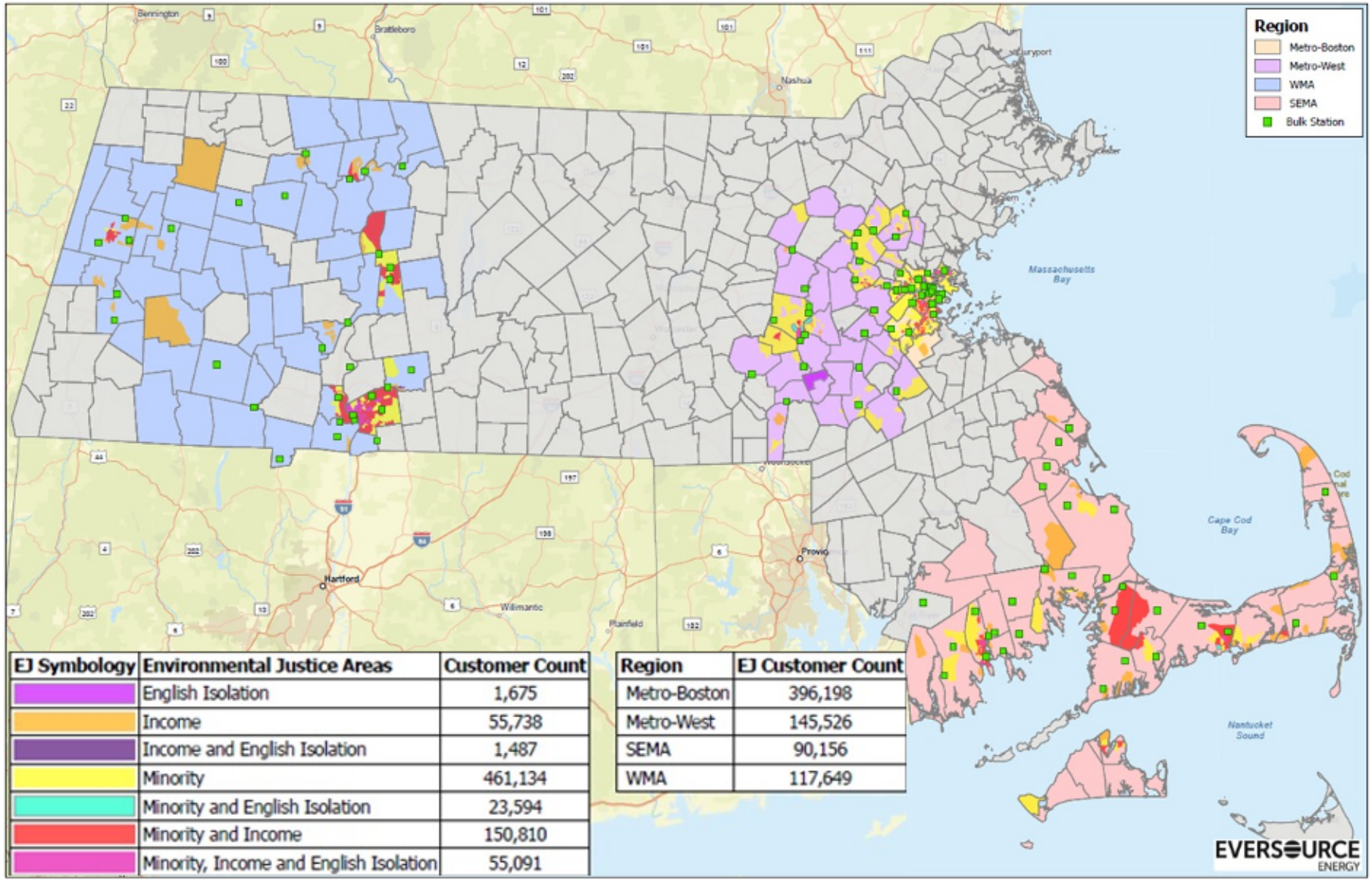
- Solar (70 MW) and growing
- Offshore wind (Oersted partnership)




## Key Electric Distribution Planning Priorities

- New Hampshire
  - Least Cost Integrated Planning – challenge to harmonize planning criteria with economic and operational drivers
- Connecticut
  - Reliability and Resiliency Planning
  - Integration of NWA Solutions into Distribution Planning
- Massachusetts
  - DER growth and long-term system assessment
  - Support for projected electrification demand
  - System expansion in urban/suburban areas

# Eversource Service Territory Mapping to Environmental Justice Communities

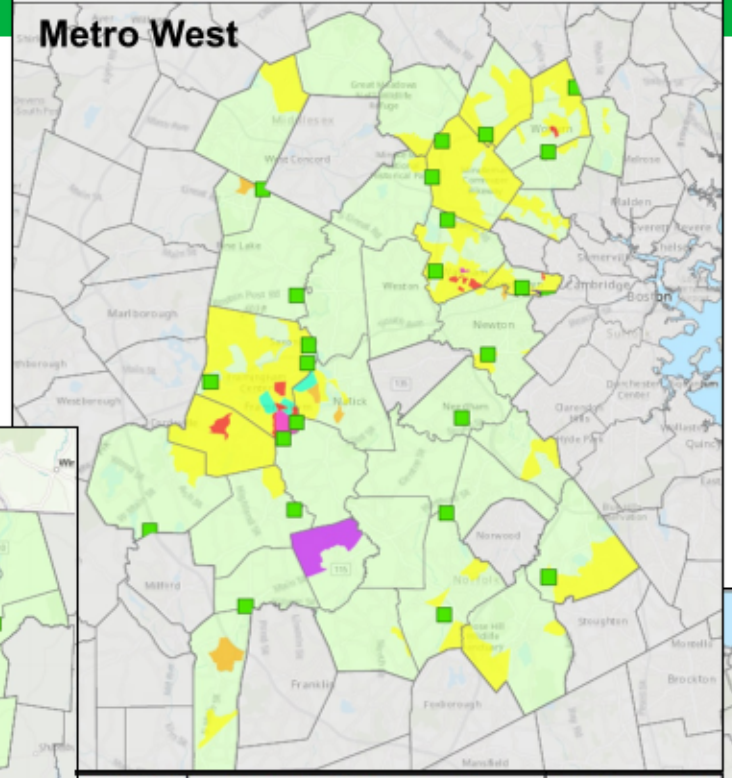



| EJ Symbology | Environmental Justice Areas | Customer Count |
|---|---|---|
| | English Isolation | 1,675 |
| | Income | 55,738 |
| | Income and English Isolation | 1,487 |
| | Minority | 461,134 |
| | Minority and English Isolation | 23,594 |
| | Minority and Income | 150,810 |
| | Minority, Income and English Isolation | 55,091 |

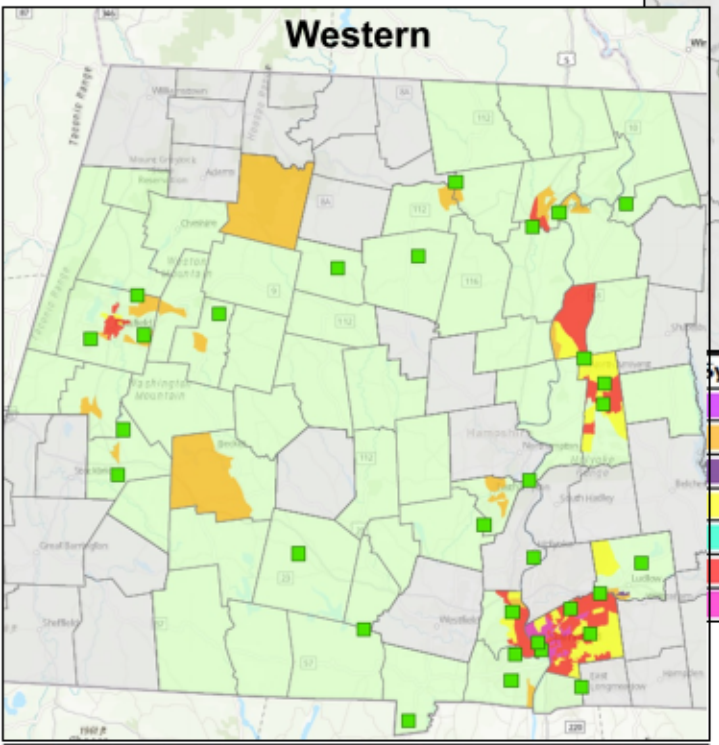
| Region | EJ Customer Count |
|---|---|
| Metro-Boston | 396,198 |
| Metro-West | 145,526 |
| SEMA | 90,156 |
| WMA | 117,649 |

Understanding the customer demographics by region is essential to understanding how each regions is expected to develop in the future as the system electrifies and the associated impacts on customers

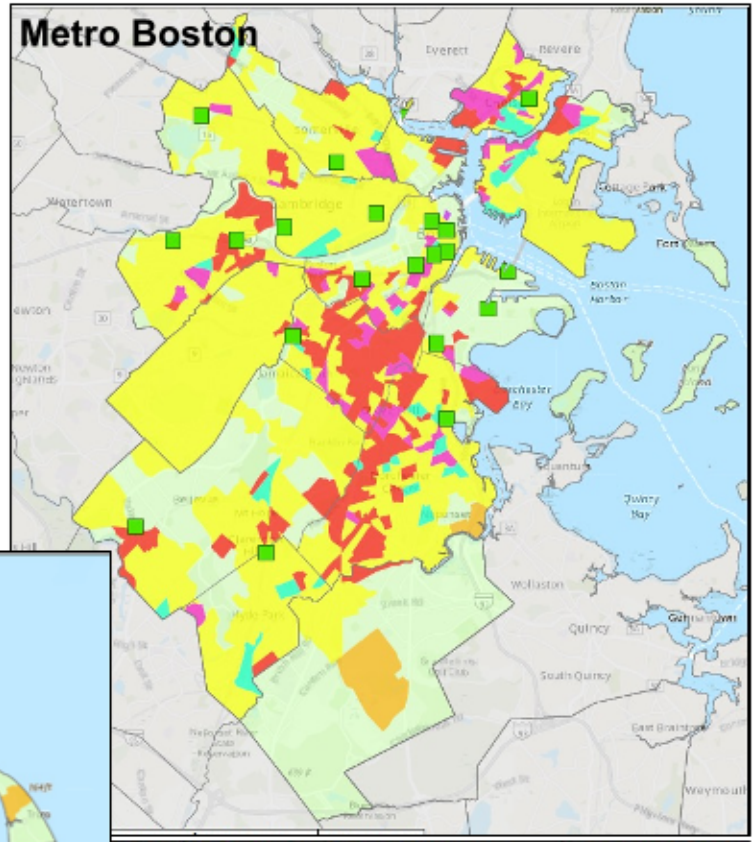
# EJ Communities by Region



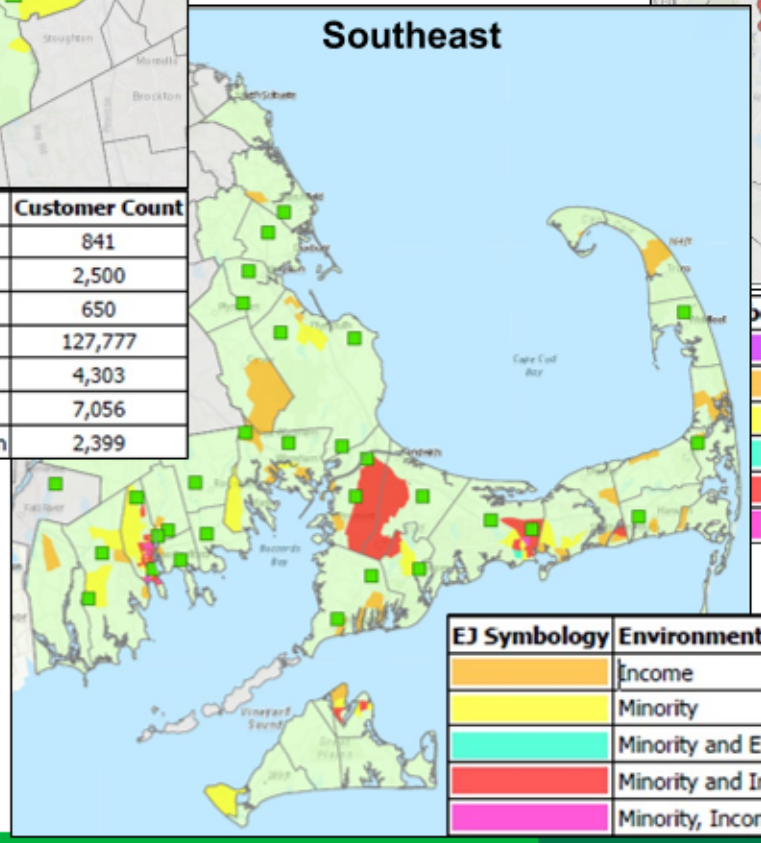

| Symbology | Environmental Justice Areas | Customer Count |
|---|---|---|
| | English Isolation | 841 |
| | Income | 2,500 |
| | Income and English Isolation | 650 |
| | Minority | 127,777 |
| | Minority and English Isolation | 4,303 |
| | Minority and Income | 7,056 |
| | Minority, Income and English Isolation | 2,399 |




| EJ Symbology | Environmental Justice Areas | Customer Count |
|---|---|---|
| | Income | 20,835 |
| | Income and English Isolation | 837 |
| | Minority | 30,029 |
| | Minority and Income | 51,635 |
| | Minority, Income and English Isolation | 14,313 |

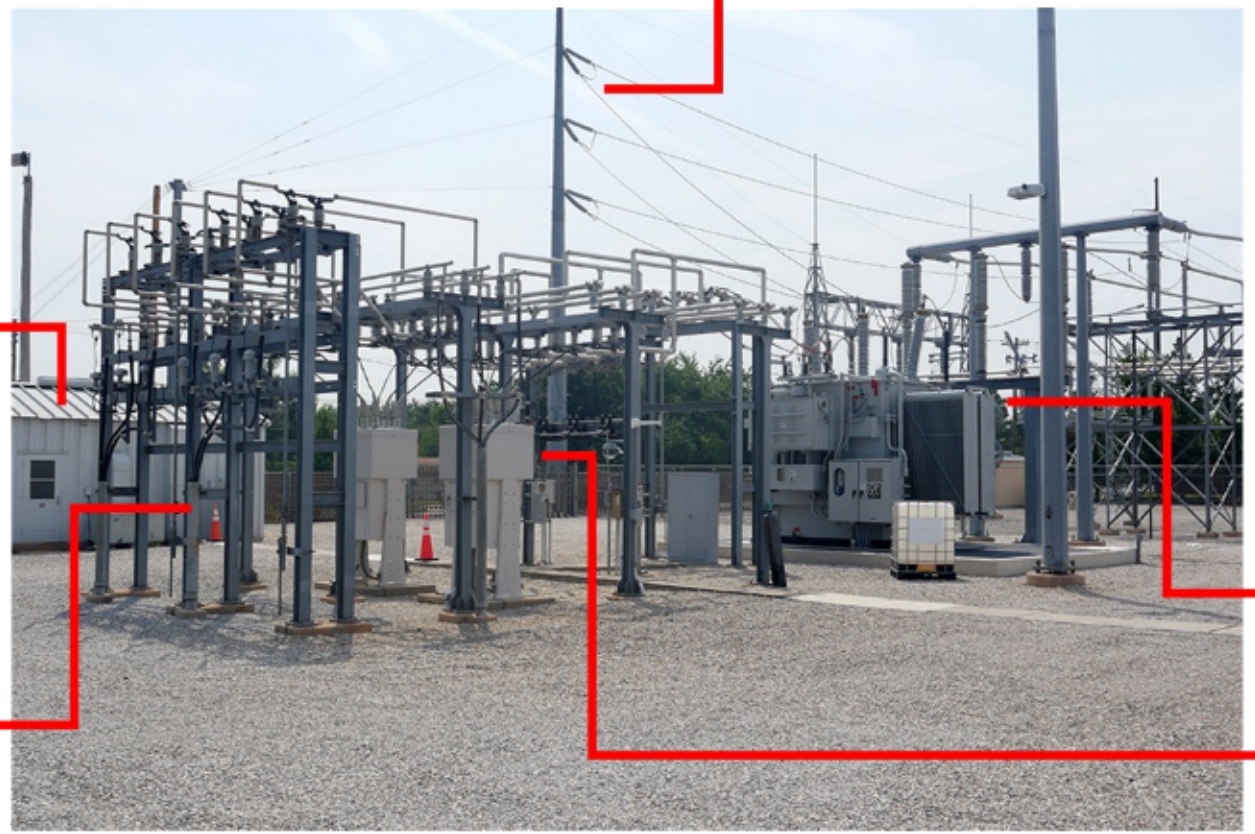



| Symbology | Environmental Justice Areas | Customer Count |
|---|---|---|
| | English Isolation | 834 |
| | Income | 1,276 |
| | Minority | 280,635 |
| | Minority and English Isolation | 18,605 |
| | Minority and Income | 63,603 |
| | Minority, Income and English Isolation | 31,245 |




| EJ Symbology | Environmental Justice Areas | Customer Count |
|---|---|---|
| | Income | 31,127 |
| | Minority | 22,693 |
| | Minority and English Isolation | 686 |
| | Minority and Income | 28,516 |
| | Minority, Income and English Isolation | 7,134 |

# Bulk Distribution Substations – Clean Energy Hubs for Equitable Service




- 172 bulk substations supply …
  - 11,500 circuit miles of OH lines
  - 9,200 circuit miles of UG lines
  - 172,900 service transformers
- Due to service/performance requirements, bulk stations are located in proximity to loads, including near and within EJ communities

Bulk substations are key components for providing equitable service to all customers within a defined service area in proximity to the substations

# Clean Energy Objectives

## Based on Robust Data Analysis and Community Input

**UPGRADE AND EXPAND**
to handle demand growth and enable large amounts of new clean energy

**STRENGTHEN AND HARDEN**
to withstand more frequent and more intense storms

**MODERNIZE**
with smart technologies that empower customers to have more control over their energy use and costs

## SYSTEM PLANNING PROCESS

10-year planning process incorporates customer needs, **clean energy & equity policy objectives**

**Incorporate MA's anticipated demand growth assumptions** for EV adoption and electric heating

**Analyze demand growth** by region, community, station service area and distribution circuit

**Identify grid needs and upgrades,** focusing first on lowest-cost options and NWA solutions

**Leverage stakeholder engagement process** to seek communities' perspectives before projects proceed to siting

# Key Benefits of Eversource's ESMP

- Enables the **environmental, health and economic benefits of reduced carbon emissions** and protection from the effects of climate change
  - Over next 10 years, expect 20,000 new jobs created and $2.9 billion generated in incremental economic benefit
- **Minimizes infrastructure costs** through proactive planning and using technology platforms to make the grid smarter, which empowers customers to lower their energy use and costs
- **Improves resiliency of the grid** for all customers by 14%
- **Proposes a robust stakeholder process and formal community engagement framework** to ensure diverse communities have a strong voice in infrastructure siting decisions
- **Advocates for regulatory and policy changes** to address major siting reform, affordability of transition, and ensuring environmental justice communities have access to clean energy benefits

# Thank You!

EVERSOURCE

# Building a Smarter, Stronger, Cleaner and More Equitable Energy Future

## Empowering Customers and Communities

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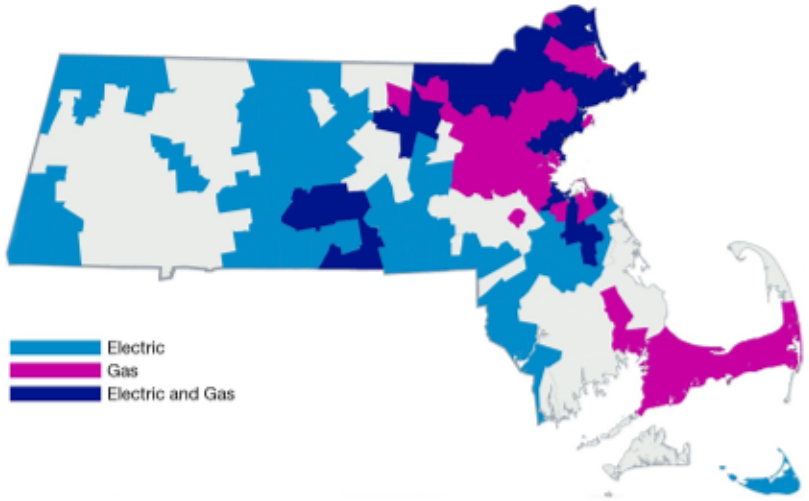
**National Grid** is taking action to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and deliver a fair, affordable and clean energy future to **2.3 million customers** in more than **240 towns and cities** ….




## … via our networks…

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **3K** Miles of Electric Transmission & Sub-Transmission | **18K** Miles of Electric Distribution | **~1.3M** Electric Customers |
| **11.2K** Miles of Gas Distribution Main | **~3k** Miles of Leak Prone Pipe | **~950K** Gas Customers |

## … by our teams….

**~6,500**
Employees

**~3,300**
Union Employees represented by 15 unions

## … making connections...

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **200MW** Total Distributed Energy Resources connected 2022 | **~1,800** EV Chargers enabled to date | **18K+** Heat pumps installed via Mass Save programs in 2022 -- ~30% above goal |
| **2GW** DER connected to our network | **~32,000** Additional EV Chargers to be enabled via Phase 3 programs | **45K+** Additional heat pumps targeted to installed via Mass Save by 2024 |

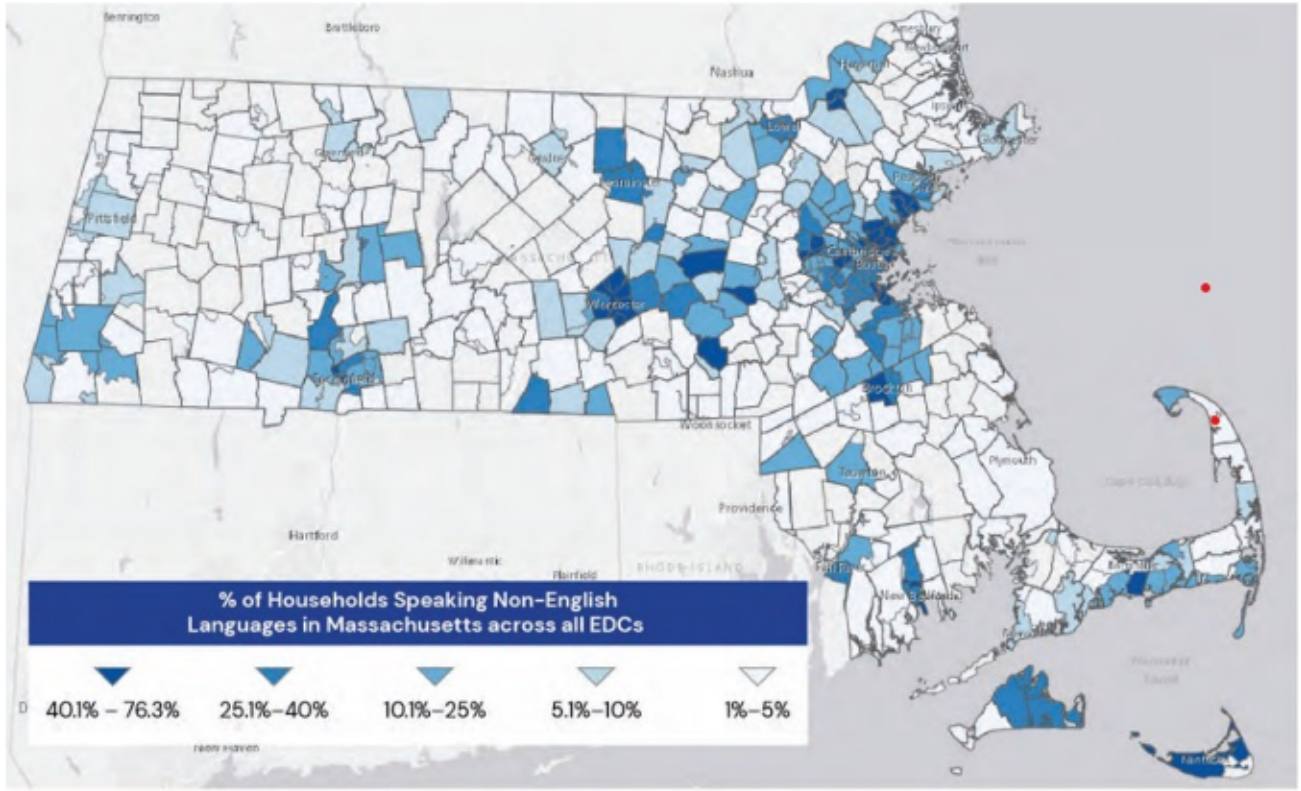
## … and supporting our communities.

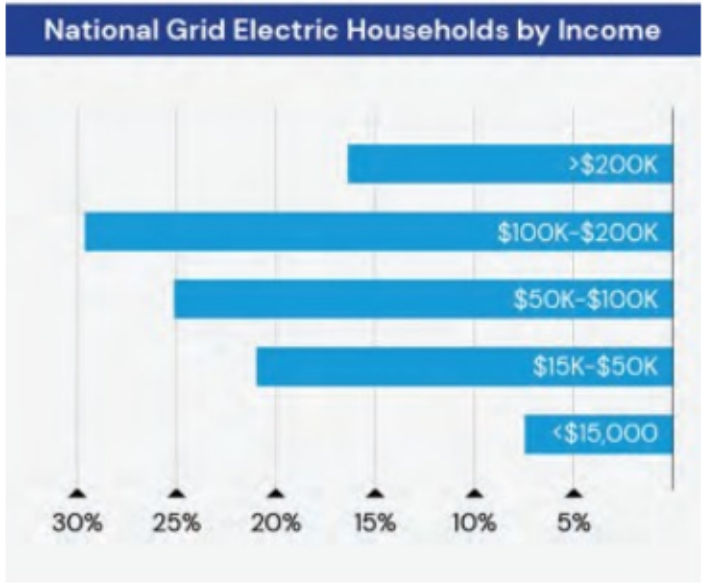
**14,500+ Hours**
of employee volunteerism

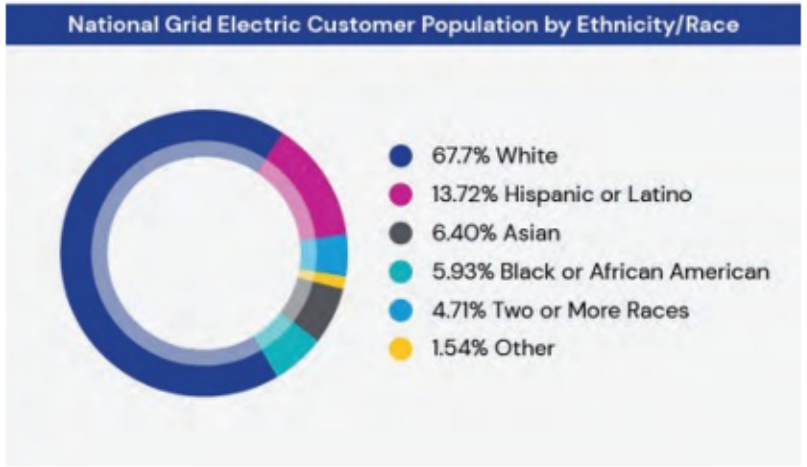
**$4+ Million**
in charitable contributions

# Understanding Our Communities

## Our communities are diverse and do not meet a singular definition

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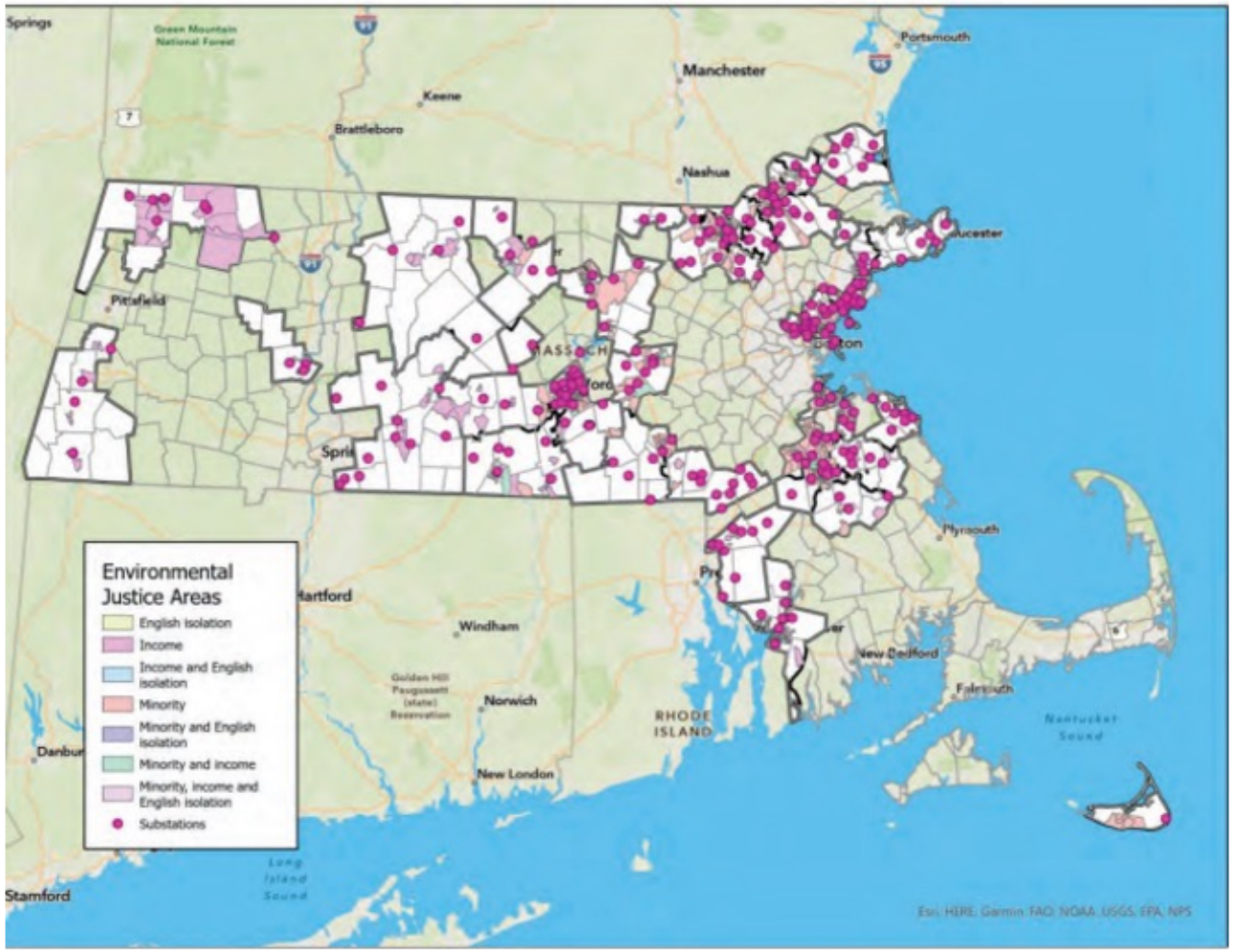
# Environmental Justice Communities (EJCs)

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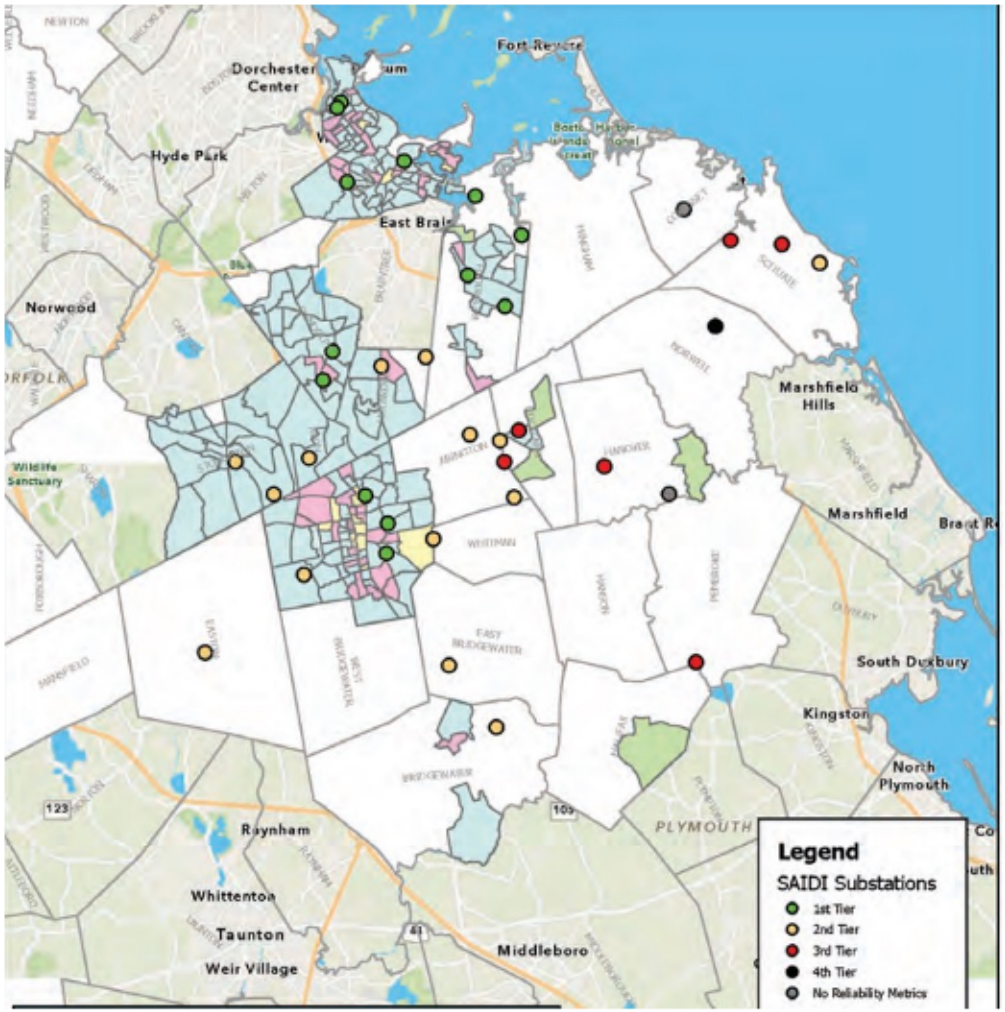
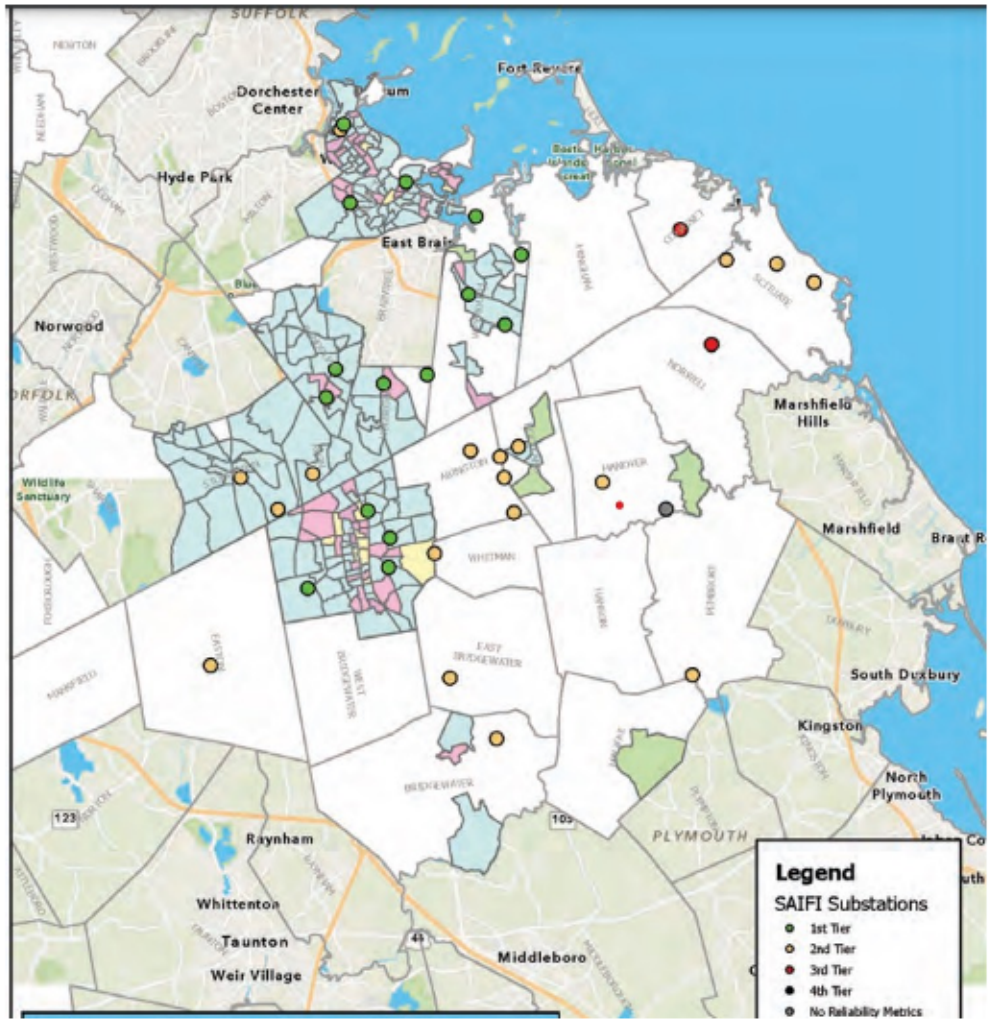
The Company serves many gateway cities and communities throughout the Commonwealth, including Brockton, Quincy, Worcester, Lynn, Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill, and North Adams. These towns and cities have large EJCs, as defined by the Commonwealth and identified in census data. The Company recognizes that a significant portion of Company customers live in EJCs.

# Location and Performance of Existing Substations

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Maps by each subregion identify existing substations, including proximity to EJCs and reliability performance. Reliability performance and capacity availability both factor into investment considerations.

# Equity Focus

As we work to advance an equity-focused clean energy transition, the Company is focused on two key tenets when engaging with stakeholders and advancing investments and initiatives:*

- **Procedural Equity**. To provide stakeholders and communities impacted by energy projects and programs the necessary information and opportunity to participate in and inform project and program development and implementation.
- **Distributional Equity**. To enable the clean energy transition in a way that drives equitable outcomes, including the equitable realization of benefits and burdens.

National Grid is developing an Equity and Environmental Justice Policy and Framework to guide our work and ensure, for example, members of impacted communities are given a voice and agency with respect to siting and other construction details of major infrastructure projects necessary to facilitate an equitable clean energy transition that is proposed in the Future Grid Plan.

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* Based on feedback, we are exploring the addition of **"Structural Equity"** to ensure that processes and decisions are informed by the historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics and structures that have led to inequities.

# Future Grid Development Process

Through the ESMP and MECO Rate Case development process, National Grid has engaged with stakeholders, agencies, governmental entities, and groups on a variety of topics, including reliability, energy burden, customer interconnections, programs and engagement, and rate-design issues. Outreach includes webinars, workshops and dedicated informational events as well as targeted customer outreach and focus groups. The Company also previously supported an Energy in Equity dialogue to gain a deeper understanding of equity issues and concerns related to the energy transition.

**500+**

**Individual Stakeholders**

**172+**

**Unique Organizations**

## 88+ Municipalities

Including communities within each of National Grid's six service sub-regions and **more than 50 Environmental Justice Communities.**

## 8+ State Agencies

Including agencies under four different Secretariats, in addition to the Office of the Attorney General.

## 4+ Labor Organizations

Including representatives from the Utility Workers Union, United Steelworkers Union and IBEW

## 19+ Community & Nonprofit Organizations

Including a variety of **Environmental Justice,** Environmental and Consumer Groups with diverse representation.

## 10+ Business Organizations

Ranging from Chambers of Commerce within different areas of the state to business associations from specific industries, such as hospitals and restaurants.

## 5+ Energy & Technology Organizations and Convenors

# Equity Considerations

## Economic Opportunity/Justice

- Strategic Workforce Program (middle school through Work Ready adults), focus on historically underrepresented populations
- STEM education support (K-12), focus on historically underrepresented populations
- Building capacity of and increasing spend with local diverse businesses
- Capacity-ready communities
- Positive health benefits, including improvements in local air quality
- Incremental economic activity of $1.4b, supporting more than 11,000 full and part time jobs with National Grid's proposal

## Affordability

- Focus on energy burden
- Reflective and equitable rate designs -- electrification rates, time variable rates, tiered discount rates etc
- Seek alternative funding for investments (e.g., federal grants)
- Pursue non-wires alternatives/build what is needed to support equitable energy transition

## Accessibility and Empowerment

- Engagement in project development, decision-making and community benefits – don't assume
- Targeted and relevant program and product offerings to provide greater control and options
- System capacity at local level to enable DER deployment and electrification
- Reliability and resiliency performance
- Greater access to relevant and in-language information to enable better decision making

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Distributional and procedural equity considerations were incorporated into investment planning and approach – network infrastructure technology and platforms and customer programs – and ESMP elements based on feedback

# Examples of Future Grid Benefits by Investment Category – Chapter 12

| | | Reduced GHG Emissions & Climate Change Mitigation | Health from Reducing Air Pollutants | Economic Development and Workforce Impacts | Grid Reliability and Resilience | Safety | Integration of DERs | Transportation & Building Electrification | Avoided Renewable Energy Curtailment | Mitigation of Land Use Impacts | Mitigation of Customer Bill Impacts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Network Infrastructure | Substation & Feeder Upgrades | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Technology Platforms & Initiatives | Network Management Comms | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Security | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Asset Planning, Management, & Workforce Execution | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Data | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Metering & Billing Systems | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| | Customer Portals | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |

# Examples of Future Grid Benefits by Investment Category – Chapter 12

| | | Reduced GHG Emissions & Climate Change Mitigation | Health from Reducing Air Pollutants | Economic Development and Workforce Impacts | Grid Reliability and Resilience | Safety | Integration of DERs | Transportation & Building Electrification | Avoided Renewable Energy Curtailment | Mitigation of Land Use Impacts | Mitigation of Customer Bill Impacts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Customer Programs | Energy Efficiency, Demand Response, & Heating Electrification | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Clean Transportation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | Non-Wires Alternatives | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | Resilient Neighborhoods | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | Time-Varying Rates | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |

# Thank You

https://www.nationalgridus.com/Our-Company/MA-Grid-Modernization

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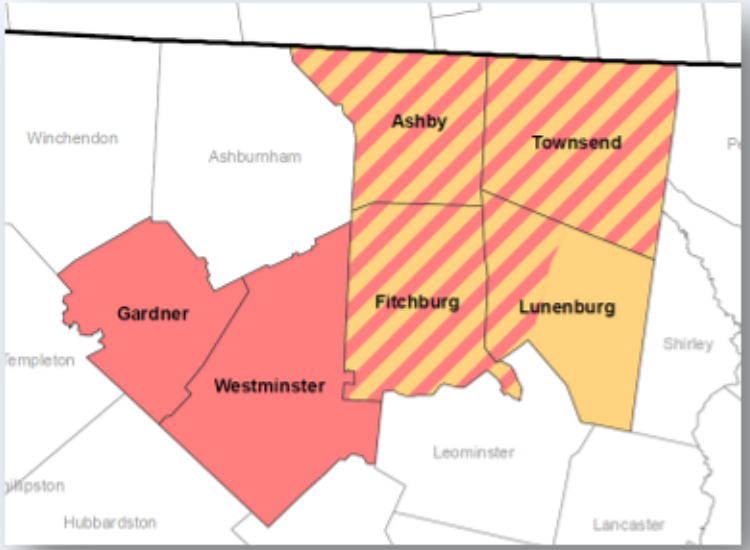
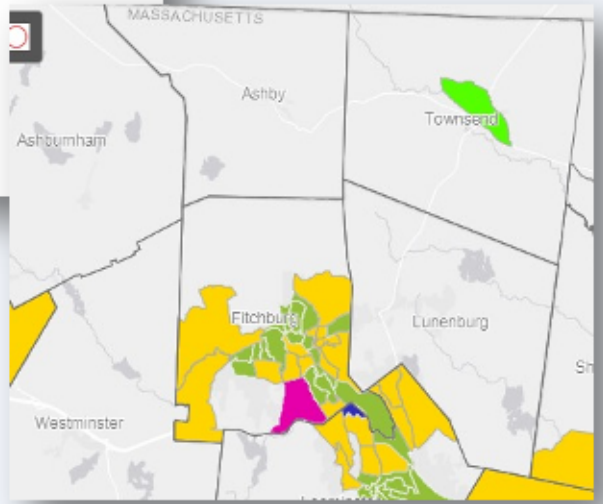
# Who is Unitil

**Local electric and gas company working to make our community better**




- Minority: the block group minority population is >= 40%, or the block group minority population is >= 25% and the median household income of the municipality the block group is in is < 150% of the Massachusetts median household income
- Income: at least 25% of households have a median household income 65% or less than the state median household income
- Language isolation: 25% or more of households do not include anyone older than 14 who speaks English very well
- Minority and Income
- Minority and English isolation
- Income and English isolation
- Minority, Income and English isolation




## Providing electric service to ~ 30,500 customers

- Fitchburg, Townsend, Ashby and Lunenburg

## Providing gas service to ~ 16,200 customers

- Fitchburg, Townsend, Ashby and Lunenburg, Gardner and Ashby

# Environmental Justice Community Outreach

**Understanding and mitigating the impacts on historically disadvantages communities is essential.**

- ~65% of Unitil customers reside in Fitchburg
- ~91% of block groups in Fitchburg identified as EJC
- ~86 of the population of Fitchburg live in identified EJC
- Critical for customers to understand and receive benefits available through the ESMP
- Opportunity to provide feedback on significant distribution infrastructure projects
- Effective communication includes: notice, location and accessibility, scheduling, and language and translation needs
- Encourage participation and feedback

**To Learn More About the ESMP:**

https://unitil.com/ma-esmp/en - English
https://unitil.com/ma-esmp/es - Spanish
https://unitil.com/ma-esmp/pt - Portuguese

**To Provide Feedback to the Plan:**

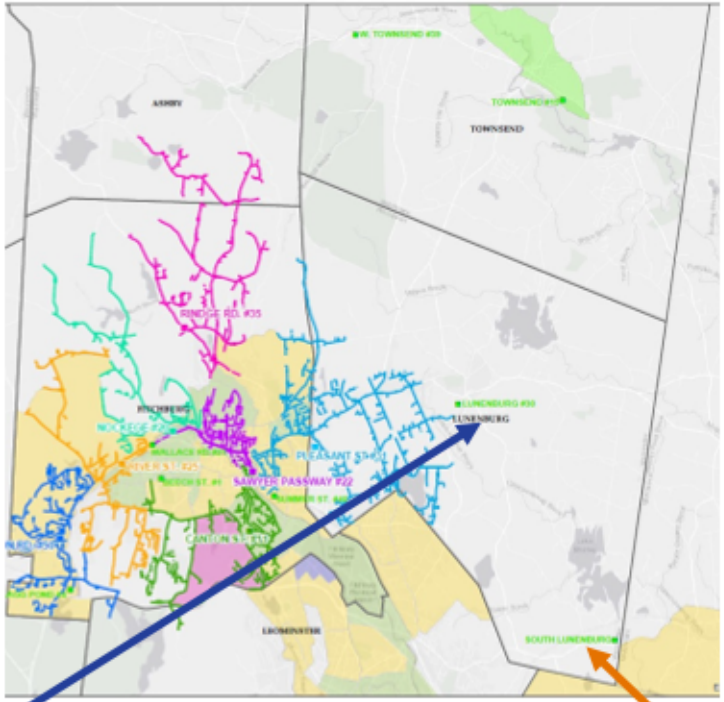
**ESMP-Feedback@unitil.com**

# Minimizing Impact on EJ Communities

**No major infrastructure projects identified in EJ communities in first 10 years**

## Minimizing The Impact

The location and placement of infrastructure may have unintended impacts on communities where the infrastructure is located and even greater impact on EJ communities. The ESMP has been designed to minimize infrastructure projects where possible within EJ communities over the first 10 years while prioritizing projects that will provide direct savings to customers within EJ communities.




## Volt-Var Optimization (VVO)

**Assumptions:**

- Designed to optimize voltage and reduce system losses
- Overall load reduction when VVO is fully deployed of approximately ~1.75%
- Deployment plan focused on EJ communities
- Savings accrue directly to customers without customer interaction or inconvenience
- Minimal impact on existing infrastructure

**Lunenburg Substation Expansion - 2026**

**New South Lunenburg Substation - 2030**

# Workforce Benefits

**The modernized grid requires a skilled workforce**

- Awareness
  - Job openings, career fairs, community events, interesting stories and other community events, internships
  - Social Media
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
  - Equal Opportunity Employer
  - Focus on identifying diverse candidates: people of color, women, and people who speak English as a second language.
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council
- Language Barrier
  - Offers training and assistance where required to ensure success within the Company
- Training Barriers
  - Encourage individuals of all backgrounds to apply
  - We can teach you the skills you need to be successful

https://www.unitil.com/our-company/careers

The RIMS II (Regional Input-Output Modeling System) multiplier for “electric power generation, transmission and distribution” projects is 1.920 resulting in the addition of 250 jobs by companies within the service territory over 5 years.

# Training Benefits

**The modernized grid requires more jobs**

- New jobs in transmission and distribution
  - Massachusetts Clean Energy Center - 3,794 jobs,  MA Clean Energy and Climate Plan 2050 - 16,000 jobs
  - Statewide addition of utility workers, craft workers, clean energy workers, etc.
- Unitil supports developing the skills of the new workforce
  - Computer based equipment, communications networks, programming, testing, troubleshooting
  - Union and non-union workforce
- Unitil controls costs through knowledge transfer
  - Internal sharing of skills and knowledge produces savings for customers
- Union Workforce
  - Excellent relationship with our union workforce
  - Line workers, meter workers, substation workers, technicians, etc.
- Non-Union Workforce
  - Accounting, finance, regulatory, administration, human resources, engineering, information technology

Awareness is important. If potential employees are not aware of good paying jobs, they will not apply.  Eliminating barriers to the workforce will be required: DEI, Language, and Training Barriers.

# Economic Benefits

**This plan helps to keep investments local**

- Job Creation
  - Benefits the communities within our service territory.
  - Good paying labor, vocational and technical positions which will drive income growth for the communities.
  - Expect these jobs will be filled by applicants within our service territory
- Increased Tax Base
  - Investment in the electric system increases the value of the taxable assets within a certain town.
  - Increased tax revenues are reinvested within the town in job creation, town improvements and reducing the tax burden on residents
- Location of Investments
  - Substation locations are evaluated for any burdens that may be placed on the surrounding neighborhoods
  - Consideration given to reduce the impacts to historically disadvantaged neighborhoods

The RIMS II methodology uses the Company's base capital spending, in-progress capital programs and ESMP proposed investments. The RIMS II multiplier for "electric power generation, transmission and distribution" projects is 1.244. Incremental benefits calculate to $32 million.

# Health and Other Benefits

**The modernized grid supports clean energy**

- Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - Direct impact on improving air quality, results in less respiratory illness
  - Prevent other health related conditions due to increased temperatures
- Integration of Renewable Resources
  - Enabling platform - minimize GHG emissions by integrating greater renewable energy DER
- System Optimization
  - Improved energy efficiency leading to decreases in demand and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
  - AMI allows data and tools necessary for customers to control their own energy usage
  - Demand response opportunities continue to increase: LED lights, smart thermostats, EV, heat pumps,
- Cost Savings
  - Reductions in energy usage and peak demands translate to reduced GHG emissions and costs savings to customers.

Enabling interconnection of renewable DERs reduces GHG emissions and has a direct impact on reducing harmful pollution, improved air quality resulting in less respiratory illnesses.

# Equitable Transformation: Questions & Answers

- Direct question to:
  - An individual utility
  - All the utilities
- Utility responses should be responsive (and succinct)
- Additional questions not covered, can be submitted to the utility websites (see slide on Submitting Questions) for response following the meeting

# Mixed Break Out Group Discussion

- **Main Discussion Question**: *How can the **utilities plan and implement the grid infrastructure** needed to support the transition to clean energy in a manner that **addresses historic inequities and ensures an equitable transformation**?*
  - During your discussion, consider exploring questions about access to electrification/distributed energy resource (DER) benefits; jobs; and affordability; as well as anything else you would like to see and how we can monitor progress and measure success.
- At the beginning select a volunteer to keep track of the conversation using a word document with a shared screen. (Or you can use the whiteboard function in the breakout room if you are familiar with it.)
- The first 20 minutes should be more of a brainstorm and discussion, and the last 10 minutes should focus on the main points you want to convey to the full group.
- Select one or two members of your group to do an initial presentation to the full group
- Note: The break-outs this time are mixed groups (developer, EJ organization, agencies, etc.); the utilities will be present in break-outs mainly to listen to answer any questions that arise; and we have asked those from EJ and CBO organizations to kick off the conversation by sharing some of their thoughts.

# Mixed Break-Out Groups

| #1 Organization | #1 Name | #2 Organization | #2 Name | #3 Organization | #3 Name |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BXP** | Ben Myers | **EJ Table** | Cindy Luppi | **A Better City** | Yve Torrie |
| **Calstart** | Jordan Stutt | **Mass Business Roundtable** | JD Chesloff | **Browning the Green Space** | Kerry Bowie |
| **EDF** | Jolette Westbrook | **MA Econ Development** | Sarah Kalish | **Fitchburg State** | JD Head |
| **Fitchburg Housing Authority** | Doug Bushman | **Mass Life Sciences** | Ken Turner | **IBEW** | Mike Monahan |
| **Franklin Cummings Tech** | Dr. Marvin Loiseau | **NAIOP** | Anastasia Daou | **Making Opportunity Count (MOC)** | Melissa Gonzalez |
| **Gillette Stadium** | Dena Ciampa | **NCLC** | John Howat | **Mass Bio** | Ben Bradford |
| **Lowell General Hospital** | Kevin Foley | **Nexamp** | Brandon Bowles | **Mass DOT** | Christopher Aiello |
| **Mass Housing** | Elizabeth Torres | **Tesla** | Bill Ehrlich | **Mass General Brigham** | Dennis Villanueva |
| **Mass Development** | Dan Rivera | **Umass Lowell** | Rauiri O'Mahoney | **Mass Municipal Association** | Josie Ahlberg |
| **Eversource** | Thomas Lefebvre | **Eversource** | Meredith Boericke | **NECEC** | Tim Snyder |
| **National Grid** | Matt Motley | **National Grid** | Meghan McGuinness | **Eversource** | Erin Engstrom |
| **Unitil** | Kevin Sprague | **Unitil** | Kat Bourque | **Unitil** | Alec O'Meara |

# Equitable Transformation: Report Out & Discussion

- *How can the **utilities plan and implement the grid infrastructure** needed to support the transition to clean energy in a manner that **addresses historic inequities and ensures an equitable transformation**?*

- Report back from each group (including main report back, additional comments from other group members, and questions of each group from others)
- Cross-cutting discussion on themes that emerged across the groups, and where they may have converged (or diverged)

# BREAK (2:40 TO 2:55 PM)

ESMP Stakeholder Workshop
& Technical Session 11-28-23

# Electric Sector Modernization Plan Stakeholder Engagement

November 28, 2023

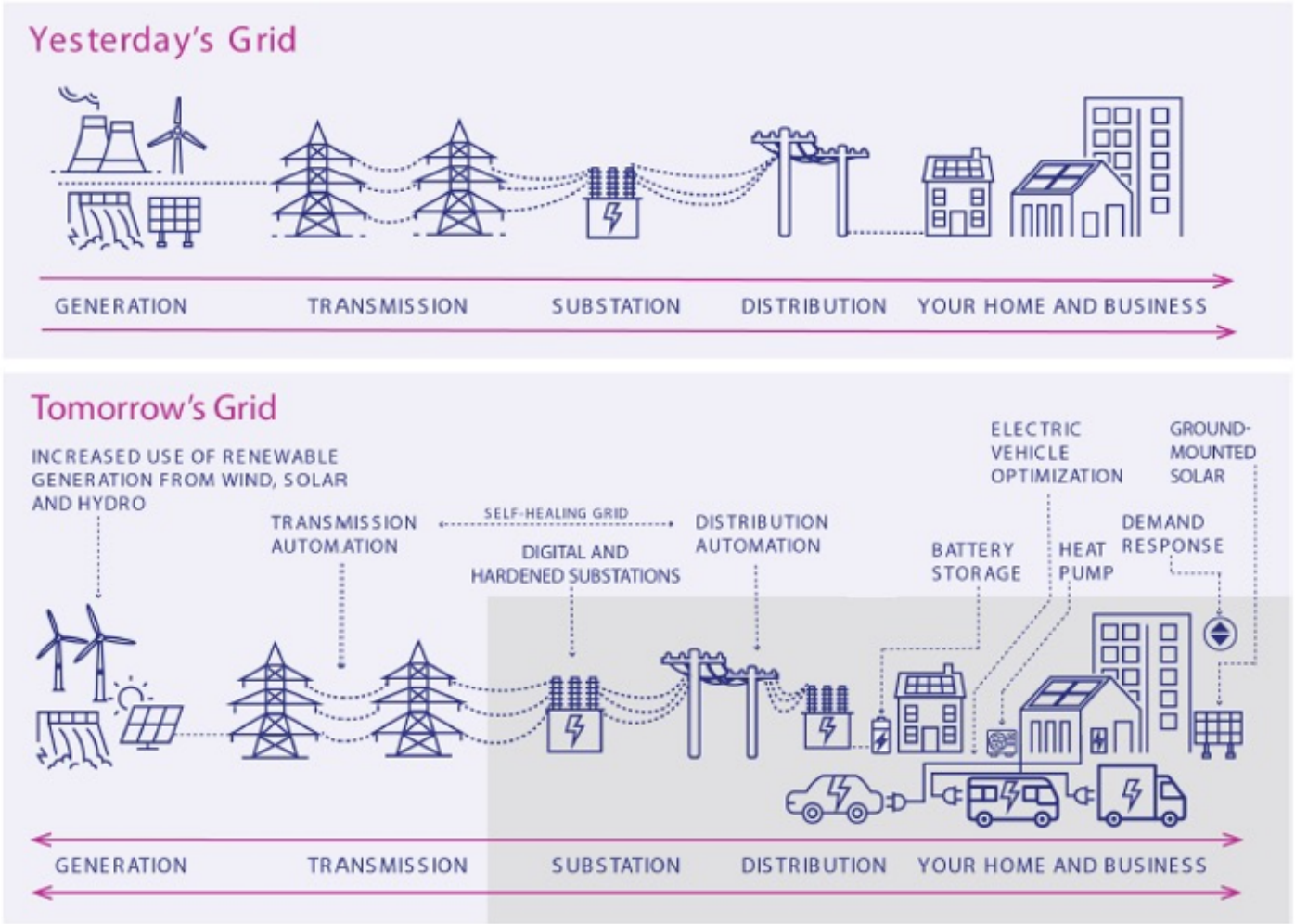
EVERSOURCE nationalgrid Unitil

# Where we are, Where we are headed

- **We're On Our Way**. Achieving the Commonwealth's climate and clean energy goals is an ongoing success story that's already under way

- **Upgrades Ahead**. It will require an electric network buildout and upgrades at a unprecedented pace and scale, in collaboration with customers, communities, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

- **Meaningful Engagement.** Those potentially impacted by this transition deserve to play a role in energy discussions that affect their lives



# Stakeholder Engagement Overview

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*As we move towards a cleaner future, proposed **clean energy infrastructure projects must achieve both equity and clean energy objectives.** We must ensure all stakeholders are afforded effective and equitable opportunities to access, participate, and benefit from this clean energy transition.*

## Build Shared Understanding

- Establish a foundation of understanding regarding the electric grid, the Commonwealth's net zero goals, and the overall need for clean energy infrastructure and upgrades to our grid.

## Develop Collaboration and Trust

- Enable conversations with stakeholder to discuss the insights and initiatives required to deliver the next generation grid and clean energy transition in ways that are relevant to and benefit them.

## Continuous Outreach and Engagement

- Tailor stakeholder engagement plans to specific clean energy infrastructure projects and elicit feedback and identify community needs. Continue to engage about necessary upgrades to the grid and discuss the outcomes and benefits they will deliver.

# Customer Outreach

- Our **customers across the Commonwealth are extremely diverse** and have varying levels of interest in and understanding of the clean energy transition, how they can participate in it, and what the benefits will be.
- We recognize that as we go about our outreach, solicit feedback, and seek to build trust, we must **pursue engagement in a way that keeps communications simple, relevant**, as well as **inclusive, accessible**, open, and collaborative.
- Committed to engaging our customers with an **intentional focus on underserved and environmental justice communities**
  - Our EJ/LI populations must receive **fair and equitable access to the benefits** of this clean energy transition
  - Ensure **those that host clean energy infrastructure directly benefit**
  - Engagement requires an **understanding of and respect for the historical inequities and ongoing disparities** facing many, particularly those communities that are home to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who often are environmentally burdened and economically challenged.


# Municipal and Developer Outreach

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*The infrastructure needed to reach our **common clean energy goals will occur at the local level**, which requires close coordination with local **municipalities and developers .***

- **Engagement and understanding** around utility clean energy specific projects, local permits and permissions, as well as understanding municipal priorities is vital.
- Many municipalities have their own **local climate and clean energy goals**, economic development goals and housing needs.
- To better engage with and understand the interests of each of our municipalities, we **must engage early on with our municipal leaders**, including individual mayors and local energy managers.
- **Utilizing existing forums** such as the Energy Storage Interconnection Review Group (ESIRG) or Technical Standards Review Group (TSRG) to further conversations around how we can **work together to enable this clean energy transition**.

# Empowering our Communities

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## Community Engagement Stakeholder Advisory Group

- **Co-Develop a Community Engagement Framework** with communities to guide-the EDCs for large clean energy projects that will include best ways to inform communities about proposed projects and solicit their feedback
  - enable increased transparency and stakeholder through establishment of a repeatable community engagement platform
  - ensure communities that host clean energy infrastructure directly benefit.
- Help to **facilitate an evolving feedback loop** with communities and **prioritize the voices of disadvantaged communities** in clean energy project decisions
- **Enable continuous constructive engagement** geared towards making the process of implementing the ESMP more transparent and increasing EDC accountability to impacted stakeholders
- **Ensure historical obstacles to stakeholder engagement** such as language barriers or the location/time of engagement sessions **are addressed** to ensure the widest possible level of community participation

# Empowering our Communities

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## Community Engagement Stakeholder Advisory Group

**Members and Meeting Frequency:**

- Composition of the CESAG members would be agreed upon by members of the GMAC, would include a set number of GMAC members, and set number of Community Based Organizations.
- Co-led by the EDCs and one Community Based Organization.
- CESAG by-laws will be developed by the EDCs with input from the GMAC and voted on by all members.
- CESAG would begin meeting after the filing of the ESMPs to the DPU and ideally meet two times per month for 3 months to co-develop the Community Engagement Framework
- Once the framework is established, periodic review of these frameworks would be conducted.
- Frequency of future meetings would be determined by the CESAG as applicable

# Additional Community Engagement

*Engaging with all communities we serve in ways accommodating to them based on their needs, not our assumptions. This includes acknowledging and emphasizing those communities historically burdened by decisions out of their control and are likely the greatest impacted by climate change*

- Outreach should include notices and flyers **publicized in commonly used forums and venues**
- Community meetings should be **held in the neighborhoods where the project will be located** or impacted.
- Meetings should **take place in community-oriented locations**, ones that are commonly used for community events.
- Schedule community meetings **during different times of day and different days** of week for maximum participation.
- Communication and **outreach materials should be in the spoken and written languages of the community**
- **Translate technical language into plain language** in a way so that residents can easily understand.

# Continued Engagement

- As we **incorporate feedback from our ongoing stakeholder outreach** and technical sessions into our final proposed plans, we will continue to engage our customers and stakeholders throughout this process.
- If you or your organization would like to schedule a meeting for us to connect, or you'd like to **send us additional feedback for consideration**, please reach out to us at:

EVERSOURCE MAGridMod@eversource.com

nationalgrid Future.Grid@nationalgrid.com

Unitil ESMP-Feedback@unitil.com

# Questions?

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# Stakeholder & Community Engagement: Questions & Answers

- Direct question at:
  - An individual utility
  - All the utilities
- Utility responses should be responsive (and succinct)
- Additional questions not covered, can be submitted to the utility websites (see slide on Submitting Questions) for response following the meeting

# Stakeholder & Community Engagement: Feedback & Discussion

- Feedback on the utilities' ESMP-related stakeholder and community engagement plans
- Raise hands to get in queue
- Be clear about whether providing feedback to an individual utility or all the utilities
- Be succinct so that everyone can provide their initial feedback
- Facilitators may ask follow up questions and guide discussion as time allows

# Stakeholder Discussion and Feedback on Demand Forecasts and Grid Infrastructure Needs

- Additional feedback on the utilities ESMP-related demand forecast (15 minutes) and grid infrastructure needs (20 minutes)
- Raise hands to get in queue
- Be clear about whether providing feedback to an individual utility or all the utilities
- Be succinct so that everyone can provide their feedback
- Facilitators may ask follow up questions and guide discussion as time allows

# Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Recap & Feedback
- ESMP finalization and implementation schedule and milestones

# ESMP Development and Review Process

**Steps to ensure stakeholder engagement and feedback on the ESMP**

## Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC)

- The GMAC is charged with reviewing and providing recommendations to EDCs including those from its Equity Working Group
- Actively engaged in providing feedback and recommendations to the EDCs
- Public listening session feedback: 10/30/23 and 11/1/2023
- Formal recommendations submitted to EDCs on 11/20/2023

## EDC Requirements

- Required to hold 2 workshops to receive input on draft plans - (11/15/2023 and 11/28/2023)
- EDCs will respond to comments received
- Final ESMP submitted to DPU on 1/29/2029
  - Final ESMPs will include recommended cost recovery mechanisms and bill impacts

## MA DPU Requirements

- Shall approve, approve with modifications, or reject the plan within 7 months of submittal (8/29/2023)
- In order to be approved, a plan shall provide net benefits for customers

Massachusetts General Law Ch. 164 Sections 92B and 92C