



## Climate and Energy Committee

December 1, 2025

### Metrics Report Presentation.

On December 1, 2025, the Climate and Energy committee met in the City Council Chambers at 5:30PM. The purpose of the meeting was to hear a presentation on updated Metrics regarding the Climate Action Plan. Present were Councilor Palomba; chair, Councilor Bays; vice chair and Councilor Airasian; secretary. Also attending in Person were Sylas Fyler; Assistant Director for Energy Management, Katie Swan; Environmental Planner, Mia Kania; Sustainability Planner, Ernesta Krackiewicz, Carol, Jean Trubek, Debra Peterson, Councilor Gardner. Present on Zoom were Brian Heibeison, Eamon Dawes, Pat Rathbone, Susan Ladue, Nancy Hammett

Tony opened meeting stating that Laurel and her team have come up with new metrics for some of the action items. Since there has been several years since this was implemented, her team has looked at the metrics and with this new data, some goals could be adjusted accordingly.

These meetings have been happening every 6 months to provide consistent updates to the committee. And the presentation with all information is attached, however, some highlights are listed here.

- Watertown has secured a grant for \$900k rooftop solar on the DPW building.
- There are no more oil burners in city buildings and electrification at library is complete.
- 30 small businesses signed up for an energy assessment as well as 191 households.
- Berdo will be in front of Council sometime in January.
- City fleet is 12% electrified, on street charging study expected to wrap up early 2026.
- There have been 2 community meetings regarding Walker Pond. A third will be held in January for final conceptual review.
- A meeting held on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> by DCR to get input on the current GSA site along Greenough Blvd.
- As a result of the trash strike, 100 additional residents signed up for the compost program.

Tony brought up the health and climate report and was hopeful that the proper department would implement some of the recommendations in that report.

As the presentation continued, discussion turned to the metrics of the 2022 plan and if they are still relevant. The Climate Action Plan is made up of 5 key metrics; each metric has overarching goals and actions to achieve that goal. Metrics are helpful to quantify how much progress has been made. A question the team asked was “Are the metrics in 2022 still appropriate for where we are today?”. They found that several tracking sources or data has changed on the metrics they were following. Because of this, a new metric would need to be created. Some of the original data was missing certain aspects they wanted to incorporate. The data they have now is more insightful, detailed and focused than what was previously published.

The question was raised, how are we going to integrate the information into the existing 5 years because we have new data?

Councilor Gardner suggested to keep the data source consistent. Especially if we change the source. If we do change the data source, we should go back 5 years to that specific source and plug it into the metric from the beginning. And could, in turn change the goal.

These comments were received favorably between committee members to allow the CAP to adjust and form more realistic goals dependent on more detailed data that has been found. A higher lever report was discussed once we get the 5-year plan. The thought was to have each goal highlighted (for example using colors green, yellow, red or a grading system A, B, F...) to show where we are in relation to each goal. Green meaning we are on or ahead of target, yellow meaning we are close but need to continue, red meaning we must do more. This will illustrate where our shortfalls are and where people can do more or where more resources can be allocated.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm

Anthony Palomba Chair	Caroline Bays Vice Chair	John M. Airasian Secretary
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# *Resilient Watertown* Climate & Energy Plan: Metrics Report Presentation

Watertown City Council Subcommittee on Climate and Energy  
December 1, 2025

## **Silas Fyler**

Asst. Director for Energy Management

## **Mia Kania**

Sustainability Planner

## **Katie Swan**

Environmental Planner & Conservation Agent





# Agenda

Climate Plan Action Updates

Metrics Report

Purpose of Review

Report Overview

Section Overviews

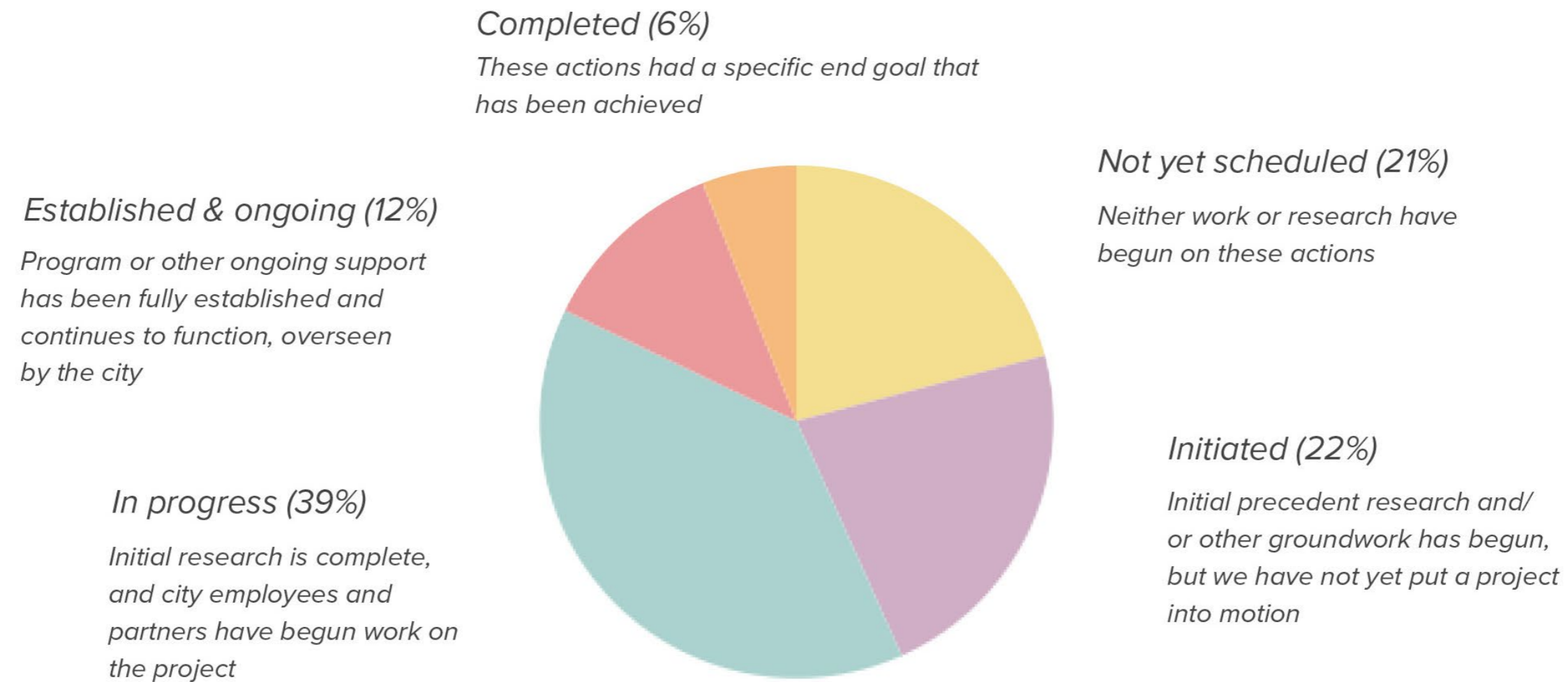


# Climate Plan Action Updates



# Overall Plan Progress

*Implementation progress of 67 actions in the Climate and Energy Plan*





# Buildings & Energy Updates

## Municipal Buildings & Operations:

- \$900K+ grant secured for rooftop solar on DPW building
- Last remaining oil burner removed from City building (cemetery)
- Electrification upgrades to Library (complete) and DPW (forthcoming)

## Mass Save & Policy Work:

- 30 small businesses signed up for Small Business Energy Assessments (SBEA) upgrades this fall
- In 2025: 191 home energy assessments completed, 103 weatherization projects completed
- BERDO ordinance: staff received input from large building/development community and expert consultants; new draft submission to Council by end of year



**mass save**  
Save through energy efficiency

### Watertown Small Business Owners **MAIN STREETS** is Coming to You September 15 - 19

**What to Expect:**

- Energy experts from AECOM will assess your business' energy use and provide a list of recommended solutions
- They will talk to you about available incentives to implement the solutions

**Benefits:**

- Reduce energy usage
- Boost the safety and comfort of your customers and employees
- Help you reach your sustainability goals

For a limited time Eversource and National Grid will cover

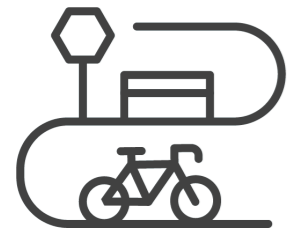
**UP TO 90%**  
on select efficiency solutions

The City of Watertown is a Mass Save® Community First Partner, increasing participation in energy efficiency programs.

In Partnership with **AECOM**

WE ARE MASS SAVE®:  
**EVERSOURCE** nationalgrid

*Postcards were sent to all qualifying Watertown small businesses to advertise the Main Streets program, summer/fall 2025*



# Transportation & Mobility Updates

## Electric Vehicles:

- City fleet now 12% electrified. Most recent additions include school, library, DPW, and police vehicles.
- On-street charging study and multifamily charging study expected to wrap up late 2025/early 2026 (provided by Leidos Consulting and MAPC, respectively; both were at no cost to the City)

## Multi Modal Transit & Mobility:

- *Study to Improve City-Supported Mobility* completed October 2025-[final report here](#)
- Safe Streets for All grant awarded and work initiated



*Local and state officials tour new bicycle infrastructure in Watertown and Cambridge, July 2025*



# Natural Resources Updates

## Walker Pond:

- Community Meeting # 1 (August) was held to discuss existing conditions, gather feedback from residents, and ideation.
- Community Meeting # 2 (November) was held to discuss two conceptual designs, gather feedback from residents, and online surveys.
- Community Meeting 3 will be held in January (date TBD) for final conceptual design review.

## GSA site updates:

- A public meeting led by the Department of Conservation and Recreation was held online on November 19, 2025, to discuss the proposed conceptual design for use of the former GSA site (located along the intersection of Greenough Blvd and Arsenal St).

## WCG greenway maintenance/ invasive species grant received:

- The Watertown Community Gardens was awarded a MassTrail Grant from the State for a total of \$35,000 to bring in professionals for poison ivy removal and the creation of a comprehensive invasive species management plan (ISMP) for the years ahead.



*One option presented to meeting participants for a renovated and reimagined future Walker Pond park*





# Infrastructure & Waste Updates

## Waste Management:

- During the trash strike, an additional 100 residents signed up for the City's compost program
- The Swap Shop pilot program had three successful openings where we accepted donations and allowed folks to "shop", helping get good condition items out of the trash

## Infrastructure:

- MA Department of Conservation & Recreation held a third public meeting to discuss dam removal alternatives for the Watertown Dam (including potential remodeling or removal) on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



## Swap Shop Open

Saturday, October 4, 2025  
10AM to 2PM

at the Watertown Recycle Center, 76 Stanley Ave.



*Swap Shop as advertised on City of Watertown social media*



# Public Health & Community Preparedness Updates

## Preparedness:

The *Climate and Health Vulnerability Assessment* completed October 2025 in collaboration with MAPC. Sustainability Team and Live Well Watertown will begin coordinating implementation in the coming months.

## Food Access:

The Farmers' Market SNAP-HIP CSA program, in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, continues to grow and is now being offered year-round. The program is helping to address some of the identified barriers to accessing HIP including transportation (primarily an issue with seniors).



*Fresh produce available at the farmers' market*



# Climate and Energy Plan Metrics Report



# CEP Plan Metrics

*How the metrics relate to the Plan*



**5 sections**

Each with a set of designated Climate Goals

## Action items

Steps to take to achieve plan goals

	Action ID	Action
<b>GOAL 1: By 2050, Watertown has achieved a net zero waste community status</b>		
Strategy 1: Transition community attitudes and actions around consumption and disposal practices	IW 1.1	Create a bulk purchasing network for compostable and environmentally friendly goods among the commercial and industrial sectors
	IW 1.2	Design and implement an education and outreach campaign focused on reducing waste sent to the incinerator and the climate impacts of our current consumption patterns, including topics such as single use plastics and meat consumption
	IW 1.3	Create a convenient and free or affordable organics recycling program, setting annual goals for enrollment and engaging residents in education and outreach on the topic
	IW 1.4	Establish an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy (EPP) that focuses on reducing consumption, particularly of single use items within municipal government
	IW 1.5	Investigate opportunities to pursue a circular economy in Watertown or within the Metro Boston region (e.g., plastic item bans, grey water recycling, pay-per-bag program, additions to recyclable items)
<b>GOAL 2: By 2050, Watertown's infrastructure is well maintained and resilient to the impacts of climate change</b>		
Strategy 2: Systematically integrate climate change projections into the design of all new and upgraded infrastructure projects	IW 2.1	Require that all major new infrastructure and upgrades incorporate resilient design guidelines, such as Envision™, that take climate impacts into account over the lifespan of the infrastructure
	IW 2.2	Review and enhance current infrastructure maintenance systems and protocols to align with the needs of a changing climate
	IW 2.3	Advocate with partners for the safe removal of the Watertown Dam
	IW 2.4	Investigate local back-up power, microgrid, and battery options in coordination with utilities

## Metrics

The best quantitative approximation of tracking how we are making progress in a given section

Metric (unit)	Baseline Data	Baseline Year	2030 Target	2050 Target	Source
Tons of trash sent to incineration (tons)	2019	9,836	7,500	0	Mass DEP 2019 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey + Estimates
Household Waste Generation Rate (lbs / household / year)	2019	1,552	1,226	900	Mass DEP 2019 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey
Diversion rate (tons recycled/total tons waste generated)	2019	23.3% diversion	50%	100%	Mass DEP 2019 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey
Number of households signed up for food waste pick-up	2021	400 households (Black Earth compost)	2,500	10,000	Conversation with Greg St. Louis
Critical infrastructure in hazardous areas (e.g., flood plains)	2019	3 critical facilities in flood area			Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 Update



# CEP Plan Metrics

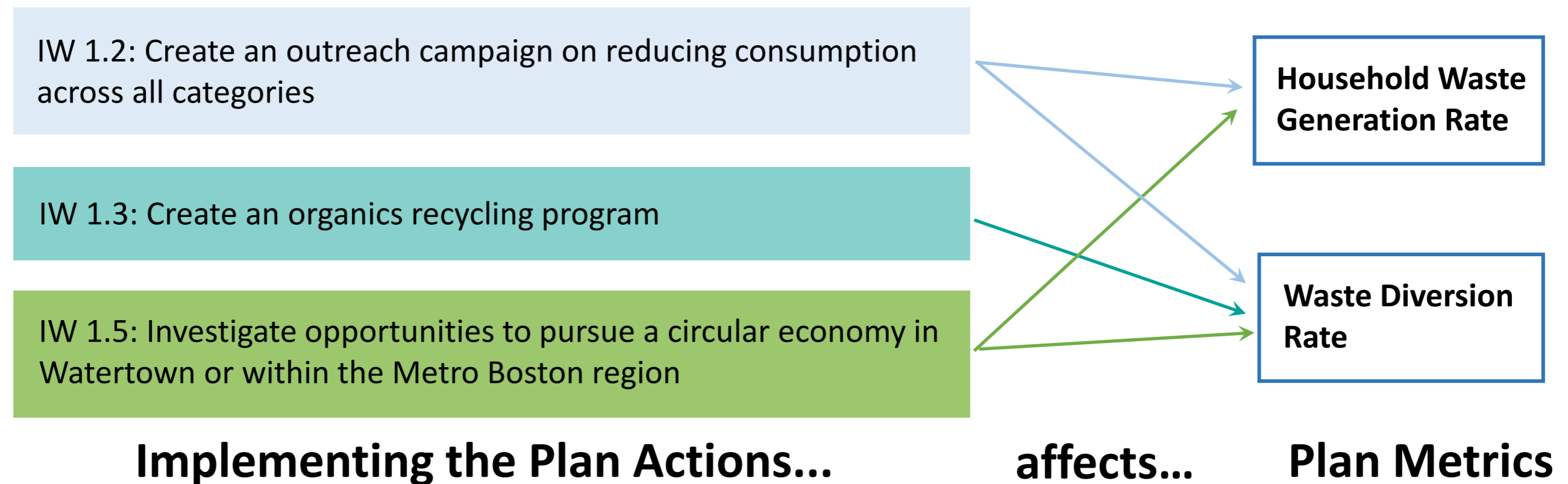
*How the metrics relate to the Plan*

To measure our progress, the 2022 Climate and Energy plan includes a set of metrics for each section (Buildings & Energy; Transportation & Mobility; Natural Resources; Infrastructure & Waste Management; and Public Health & Preparedness.)

**These metrics are meant to help quantitatively measure progress toward our goals, strategies, and actions.**

Multiple actions may be related to a single metric target and vice versa.

Example:





# Purpose of the Review

**Driving question:** Are the metrics proposed in the 2022 plan still appropriate?

- Is each metric still useful for tracking long term progress and goals?
- Are the proposed data source is still viable and/or active?
  - If the original source is not viable, are we able to revise or find a different source?

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# Report Overview

## *Key Takeaways*

*Some of the initially-proposed metrics were incorrect and/or outdated*

*While some metrics were trackable, they did not relate directly to the proposed actions in the Plan Element*

*Some metrics we were unable to report, because...*

- The source changed/data is **no longer available** or not being gathered;
- The plan established a **new metric** that needs to be tracked;
- The data came from one of the City's plans (e.g., the Bike and Pedestrian Plan) and **has not been updated** in the intervening years since plan adoption.



# Report Overview

## *Key Takeaways*

### *We are making progress:*

- Meeting goals for increasing open space and community garden plots
- Increased enrollment under the Black Earth composting program
- Adding more public EV charging stations across the City
- Increased enrollment for residents for emergency alert services

These are just a few examples!



# Report Overview

*What you will find in the report*

Metrics Tables	Data	Analysis & Takeaways
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*One for each plan section*

## How to read the tables in each section:

*Original chart pulled from the 2022 Climate & Energy Report*

*Additional columns generated for this report*

Metric (unit)	Baseline Data	Baseline Year	2030 Target	2050 Target	Original Proposed Source	Most Recent Data	Updated Source	Proposed Update Frequency
Potential solar capacity (# of rooftops)	3,209 rooftops	2019	4,256	6,700	Google Project Sunroof	7,400 (2024)	Google Solar Roof Project and Massachusetts Technical Potential of Solar	1 year
Installed solar capacity (kW)	4,521	2021	33,600	112,000*	MassCEC Production Tracking System Reports	811,902 (2024)	Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program	1 year
Estimated total solar electricity produced (MWh)	5,360	2021	38,400	128,000*	MassCEC Production Tracking System Reports		n/a	5 year
Number of gas/oil heated residential properties	9,625	2019	5,775	0	Watertown Assessor Database	9701 (2023)	Unchanged	1 year

*Grayed-out rows in this section indicate metrics we have determined to review on a 5-year basis and are thus not discussed in this report.*

**N/A** in these tables means "not applicable"

*\*Excerpted metrics table for Buildings & Energy*

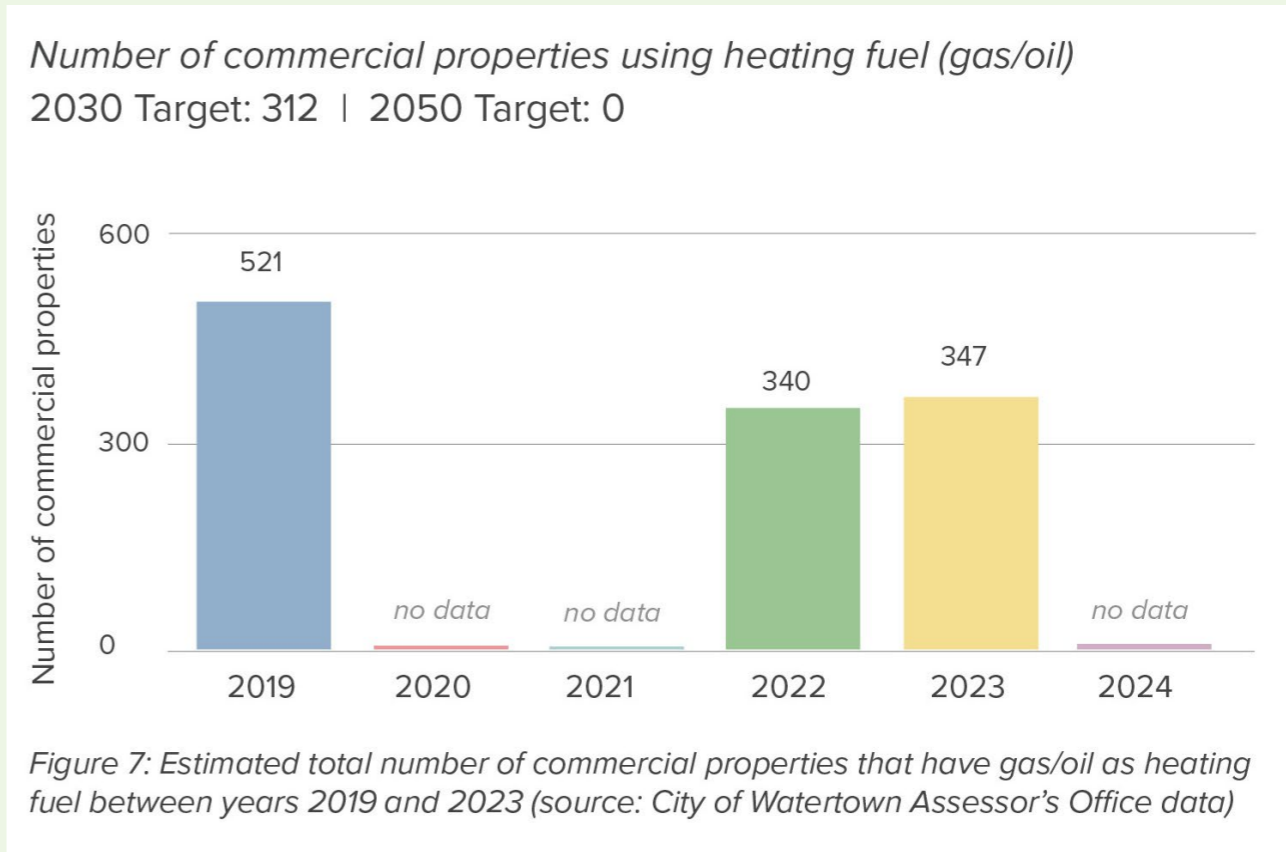
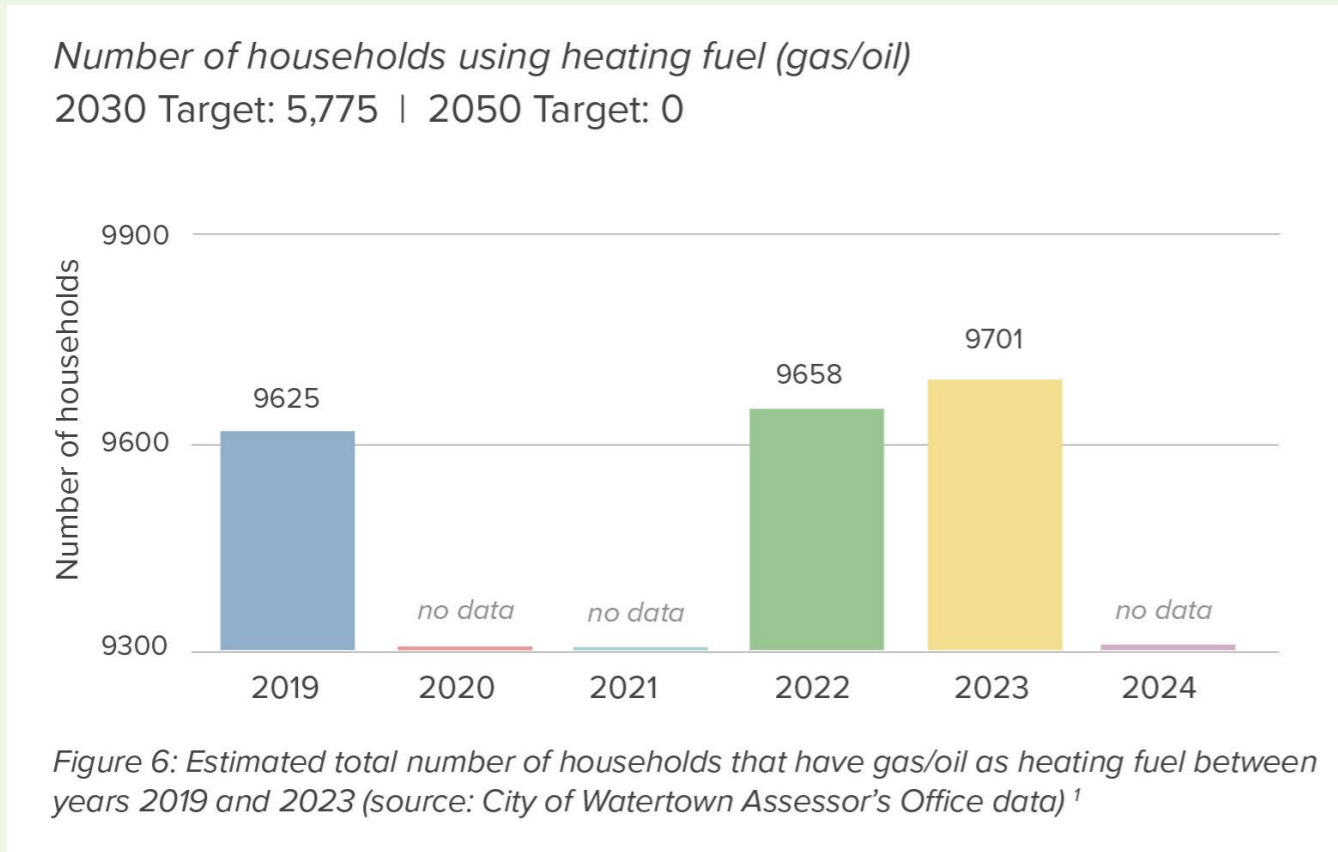


# Report Overview

*What you will find in the report*

Metrics Tables	<b>Data</b>	Analysis & Takeaways
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One graph generated for each individual metric (excluding those that have been designated as 5-year metrics)





# Report Overview

*What you will find in the report*

Metrics Tables

Data

Analysis & Takeaways

*As appropriate; usually a group of key takeaways has been generated from a group of 1-3 related graphs:*

## **Solar Capacity**

- The data for both estimated solar capacity and installed solar capacity show a strong trend in year-to-year increases that surpass our 2030 and 2050 goals in both categories.

*Note: For the purposes of this presentation, we will focus on key takeaways from the data analysis performed and presented in this report*



# Buildings & Energy

## Metrics At-A-Glance

Metric (unit)	Baseline Data	Baseline Year	2030 Target	2050 Target	Original Proposed Source	Most Recent Data	Updated Source	Proposed Update Frequency
Percent of income spent on energy for households within 0% to 30% of AMI	16% of income on energy (2% for those earning higher than AMI)	2018	8%	2%	US DOE Low Income Energy Affordability Database		n/a	5 year
Enrollment in Watertown Electricity Choice (%), enrollment in 100% renewable option (%)	>82% enrollment, 3% of users with 100% renewable option	2019	Increasing 100% Opt Up Participation		Watertown Electricity Choice	75% (total enrollment), 2% (100% renewable) 2024	MassPowerChoice	1 year
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Commercial energy use intensity (EUI) For buildings >5,000 square feet (MMBtu/sq. ft.)	New Metric		To develop from disclosure reporting, with considerations for building use type.				n/a	n/a
Number of gas/oil heated residential properties	9,625	2019	5,775	0	Watertown Assessor Database	9701 (2023 data)	Same	1 year
Number of gas/oil heated commercial properties	521	2019	312	0	Watertown Assessor Database	347 (2023 data)	Same	1 year

\*Maximum potential if all roof space utilized.

☐☐☐ New columns added for this report



# Buildings & Energy

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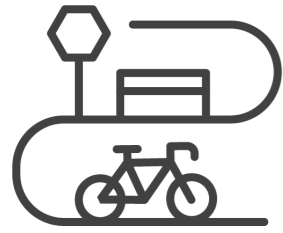
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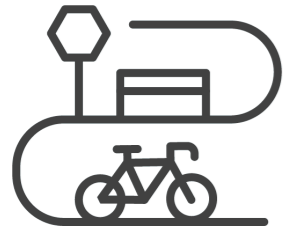


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Residents who use sustainable mode (bike, walk, transit) to travel to work (%)	1 in 4 residents / 25%	2013-2017 ACS	50%	60%	US Census American Community Survey	See next page (2024)	<i>Unchanged</i>	1 year
Roads rated at a 4 or 5 stress level (# of miles)	6.9 Miles	2018	3.5 Miles	0	Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan		N/A	5 year
Total electric vehicles (%)	0.7%	2020	54%	100%	Watertown Excise Tax Records	4.7% (2024)	MassDOT Geo Vehicle Census data	1 year
Population within a ½ mile radius of a public EV charging station (%)	23%	2021	100%	100%	DOE Alternative Fuel Data Center	33% (2023)	US Census American Community Survey (US ACS) and US Department of Energy (DOE) Alternative Fuels Data Center	1 year
Number of publicly accessible EV charging stations	17	2021	575	1,050	DOE Alternative Fuel Data Center	39 (2024)	<i>Unchanged</i>	1 year

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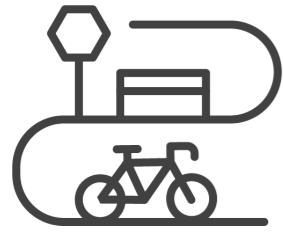


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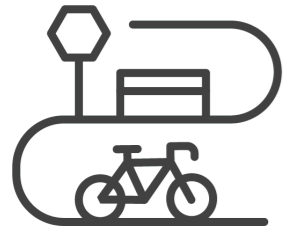


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Total electric vehicles (%)	0.7%	2020	54%	100%	Watertown Excise Tax Records	4.7% (2024)	MassDOT Geo Vehicle Census data	1 year
Population within a ½ mile radius of a public EV charging station (%)	23%	2021	100%	100%	DOE Alternative Fuel Data Center	33% (2023)	US Census American Community Survey (US ACS) and US Department of Energy (DOE) Alternative Fuels Data Center	1 year
Number of publicly accessible EV charging stations	17	2021	575	1,050	DOE Alternative Fuel Data Center	39 (2024)	<i>Unchanged</i>	1 year

☐☐☐ New columns added for this report



# Natural Resources

## Metrics At-A-Glance

Metric (unit)	Baseline Data	Baseline Year	2030 Target	2050 Target	Original Proposed Source	Most Recent Data	Updated Source	Proposed Update Frequency
Open space per person (acres/1,000 people)	3.25 acres per 1,000 people	2020	5	10	Community Preservation Act Plan	15.3 acres (2023)	ACS data and Watertown Open Space and Recreation Plan	1 year
Tree Canopy Coverage (%)	20.89%	2016	23%	27%	MassGIS Land Use Land Cover data layer		n/a	5 year
Impervious Surfaces (%)	57%	2016	55%	50%	MassGIS Land Use Land Cover data layer		n/a	5 year
Public Trees in Good Health (%)	84%	2018	90%	100%	Trees for Watertown		n/a	5 year
Public Tree Sites Occupied (%)	49%	2018	75%	100%	Trees for Watertown		n/a	5 year
Area (sf) of school gardens and community gardens	20,350	2021	24,000	30,000	Field calculations	22,925 square feet (2024)	ACS data and Watertown Open Space and Recreation Plan	1 year

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# Infrastructure & Waste

## Metrics At-A-Glance

Metric (unit)	Baseline Data	Baseline Year	2030 Target	2050 Target	Originally Proposed Source	Most Recent Data	Updated Source	Proposed Update Frequency
Tons of trash sent to incineration (tons)	2019	9,836	7,500	0	Mass DEP 2019 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey + Estimates	8,403 (2024)	Watertown Recycling Coordinator	1 year
Household Waste Generation Rate (lbs / household / year)	2019	1,552	1,226	900	Mass DEP 2019 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey	1600.7 (2024)	Watertown Recycling Coordinator	1 year
Diversion rate (tons recycled/total tons waste generated)	2019	23.3% diversion	50%	100%	Mass DEP 2019 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey	30% (2024)	Watertown Recycling Coordinator	1 year
Number of households signed up for food waste pick-up	2021	400 households (Black Earth compost)	2,500	10,000	Conversation with Greg St. Louis	3,016 (2024)	Watertown Recycling Coordinator	1 year
Critical infrastructure in hazardous areas (e.g., flood plains)	2019	3 critical facilities in flood area			Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 Update		n/a	5 year

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# Infrastructure & Waste

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# Public Health & Community Preparedness

## Metrics At-A-Glance

Metric (unit)	Baseline Data	Baseline Year	2030 Target	2050 Target	Originally-Proposed Source	Most Recent Data	Updated Source	Proposed Update Frequency
Number of census tracts with moderate or higher heat vulnerability score	2 of 6	2019	0	0	MAPC		n/a	5 year
Community members signed up for emergency alerts and communications (%)	34% (12,068)	2021	80%	100%	Watertown Police	48.3%	<i>Unchanged</i>	1 year
Businesses signed up for emergency alerts and communications (# of businesses)	2,749 (need to ID total # of businesses)	2021	80%	100%	Watertown Police		n/a	5 year
Customer-hours of weather-related power outages	28,965	Average 2018-2020	14,000	0	Eversource Outage Accident Reports to DPU	5,199	<i>Unchanged</i>	1 year
Number of residents served by resilience hubs annually	New Metric						n/a	n/a

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# Public Health & Community Preparedness

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# Public Health & Community Preparedness

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**Questions?**