



# Watertown City Council

**Committee on Climate and Energy Meeting  
Monday, March 23, 2026 at 5:30 PM  
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber**

## Agenda

### **ACCESS INFORMATION:**

- A. This meeting will be held on March 23, 2026 at 5:30 P.M. Location: Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
- B. The in-person meeting will also be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television) on Comcast Channel 22 or RCN Channel 13 and can be streamed online at: <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/85182314586>
- D. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 851 8231 4586
- E. Public may comment through email: [toffej@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:toffej@watertown-ma.gov)
- F. Please Visit the Committee on Climate and Energy Webpage here: [https://watertownma.portal.civicclerk.com/?category\\_id=95](https://watertownma.portal.civicclerk.com/?category_id=95)

- 
1. Call to Order
  2. Discussion
    - A. Discuss the Climate and Energy Plan — Three Year Metrics Report from the Sustainability Group
  3. Adjournment

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Anthony Palomba,  
Chair

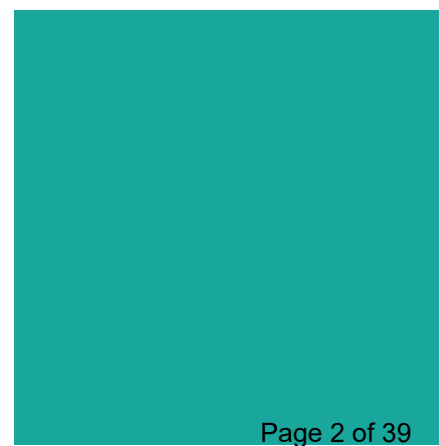
Caroline Bays,  
Vice Chair

Theophilus Offej,  
Secretary



# CLIMATE & ENERGY PLAN 3 YEAR METRICS REPORT

WATERTOWN, MA





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# INTRODUCTION

The City of Watertown adopted the Resilient Watertown Climate and Energy Plan in August 2022 after an extensive process with community and expert input. The plan’s overarching goals are to drastically reduce Watertown’s contribution to climate change via reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and to increase our resilience to climate impacts through adaptation measures. A link to the complete 2022 Plan can be found at [watertown-ma.gov/sustainability](https://watertown-ma.gov/sustainability).

In the past three years of implementation, we have made progress on most of the 67 Actions identified in the Plan, but there is still much work to be done. In order to measure our progress, the 2022 Plan includes a set of metrics for each section (Buildings & Energy;

Transportation & Mobility; Natural Resources; Infrastructure & Waste Management; and Public Health & Preparedness.) These metrics were meant to help quantitatively measure our goals, strategies, and actions. The metrics do not necessarily relate directly to a single Plan action, but rather help us track overall progress.

This report revisits the metrics of success contained in the 2022 Plan in order to assess their validity, data availability, and any discernible progress or change since the plan’s adoption. This report is not an evaluation of the Actions themselves; a much fuller analysis of the Plan and our progress will be conducted at the 5-year implementation milestone (2027).

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

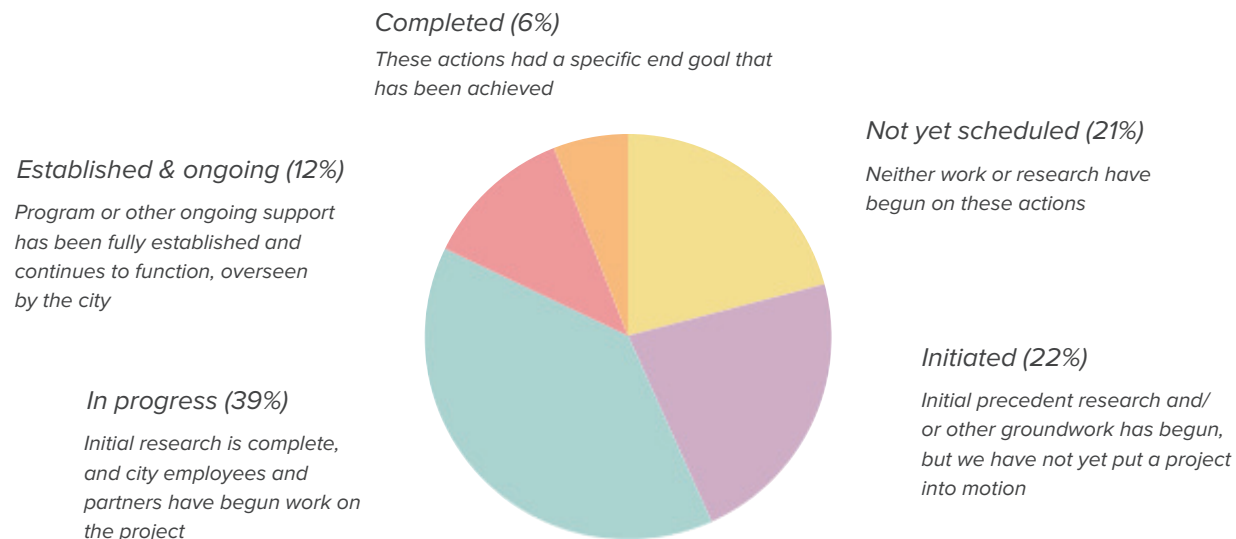


Figure 1: Classification of original 67 actions proposed in the 2022 Climate & Energy Plan

## Data collection & methodology

The metrics were developed from a wide variety of sources such as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Watertown departments, US Census American Community Survey, and GIS. A review of the data sources for the metrics showed that while many were still reliable and frequently updated, some data sources have challenges, such as:

- 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.

Based on this reality, metrics have been classified accordingly as:

- Data source remains consistent
- Updated to a more precise database
- Does not yet exist
- Original source has not been updated or is no longer available, in which case:
  - New source identified;
  - Proxy developed; or
  - A new source or proxy are not available at this time and therefore the data is not presented in this report.

The metric baselines provided in the plan were either from 2019, 2020, or 2021. The data provided in this report include the baseline year and years 2022, 2023 and 2024, if possible based on data availability.



*Volunteers help maintain Watertown's green spaces*

*Image description: A group of people planting large sprouts in an area next to a road.*

## HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

Each section of this report contains three elements:

- An **updated metrics table** adapted from the 2022 Climate & Energy Plan,
- **Year-to-year data (as available)** for each metric that the city has been able to track,
- Explanations for each metric regarding data source, displayed data, and key takeaways.

### How to read the tables in each section:

Metric	Data					Sources			Relevant Plan Actions
Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Most Recent Data	2030 Target	2050 Target	Original Proposed Source	Data availability as of this report	Updated Source (when)	Relevant Plan Actions
Percent of income spent on energy for households within 0% to 30% of AMI	2018	16% of income on energy (2% for those earning higher than AMI)	Data not available - See next page	8%	2%	US DOE Low Income Energy	Data not available	n/a	BE 1.1, BE 1.3 BE 2.2, BE 2.4 BE 3.2, BE 3.3 BE 4.2
Potential solar capacity (# of rooftops)	2019	3,209 rooftops	7,400 (2024)	4,256	6,700	Google Project Sunroof	Data available but	Google Solar Roof Project and	BE 1.1, BE 1.3 BE 2.1, BE 2.2, BE 2.3 BE 4.2, BE 4.3
Installed solar capacity (kW)	2021	4,521	811,902 (2024)	33,600	112,000*	MassCEC	Data available but	Solar	BE 1.1, BE 1.3 BE 2.1, BE 2.2, BE 2.3 BE 4.2, BE 4.3

\*Excerpted metrics table for Buildings & Energy

Darker colored column headers indicate original columns from 2022 Climate & Energy Plan

Lighter colored column headers indicate columns added for the 2025 Metrics Report

This column identifies any actions proposed in the 2022 plan that could impact or be impacted by changes in the given metric

Grayed-out rows indicate metrics with data not represented in this report.

N/A in these tables means "not applicable"



## BUILDINGS & ENERGY

The Buildings and Energy plan element is focused on investing in smart infrastructure and programs that reduce energy consumption and increase renewable energy supply, preserving valuable historic neighborhood character and providing diverse affordable housing.

### SECTION OVERVIEW

This section focuses on efforts to reduce Watertown's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. According to the GHG analysis conducted in 2022, 55.7% of our emissions come from the building sector. City staff and the community have been aggressive in tackling the issue of fossil fuels powering our buildings in the first three years of plan implementation.

For example, Watertown was the first municipality in Massachusetts to adopt the Specialized Stretch Energy Code in January of 2023, with the ordinance and regulations going into effect in July 2023.

Key requirements include all-electric buildings or providing pathways for future electrification, mandating rooftop solar installations, and achieving lower energy consumption through higher Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) scores.



*The new Watertown High School is currently under construction and is set to open in in mid-2026. This building will be the first on-site net zero high school campus in the United States.*

*Image description: Under construction building with red, brick-like first floor exterior and glass window second floor exterior.*



## Metrics Table

Metric	Data				
Unit of Measure	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Most Recent Data	2030 Target	2050 Target
Percent of income spent on energy for households within 0% to 30% of AMI	2018	16% of income on energy (2% for those earning higher than AMI)	Data not available - See next page	8%	2%
Enrollment in Watertown Electricity Choice (%), enrollment in 100% renewable option (%)	2019	>82% enrollment, 3% of users with 100% green option	75% (total enrollment), 2% (100% renewable) 2024	Increasing 100% Opt Up Participation	
Potential solar capacity (# of rooftops)	2019	3,209 rooftops	7,400 (2024)	4,256	6,700
Installed solar capacity (kW)	2021	4,521	811,902 (2024)	33,600	112,000*
Estimated total solar electricity produced (MWh)	2021	5,360	Data not available - See next page	38,400	128,000*
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.	
Number of gas/oil heated residential properties	2019	9,625	9701 (2023 data)	5,775	0
Number of gas/oil heated commercial properties	2019	521	347 (2023 data)	312	0



# Metrics Table

Sources			
Original Proposed Source	Data availability as of this report	Updated Source (when applicable)	Relevant Plan Actions
US DOE Low Income Energy Affordability Database	Data not available	n/a	BE 1.1, BE 1.3 BE 2.2, BE 2.4 BE 3.2, BE 3.3 BE 4.2
Watertown Electricity Choice	Data available from same source	<i>Unchanged</i>	BE 1.3
Google Project Sunroof	Data available but problematic	Google Solar Roof Project and Massachusetts Technical Potential of Solar	BE 1.1, BE 1.3 BE 2.1, BE 2.2, BE 2.3 BE 4.2, BE 4.3
MassCEC Production Tracking System Reports	Data available but problematic	Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program	BE 1.1, BE 1.3 BE 2.1, BE 2.2, BE 2.3 BE 4.2, BE 4.3
MassCEC Production Tracking System Reports	Data available but problematic	n/a	BE 1.1, BE 1.3 BE 2.1, BE 2.2, BE 2.3 BE 4.2, BE 4.3
New Metric			BE 2.1, BE 2.5
Watertown Assessor Database	Data available from same source	<i>Unchanged</i>	BE 2.1 BE 3.2, BE 3.3
Watertown Assessor Database	Data available from same source	<i>Unchanged</i>	BE 2.1    BE 4.1, BE 4.2, BE 4.4, BE 4.5 BE 3.3

■ Columns from 2022 Climate & Energy Plan  
■ Columns added for 2025 Metrics Report



## METRIC 1

*Percent of income spent on energy for households between 0% and 30% income*

**The original data source has not been updated and no updated data is provided in this report.** The data source that was used for this metric was no longer catagorizes data using the same criteria regarding energy types and is therefore not consistent year-to-year.

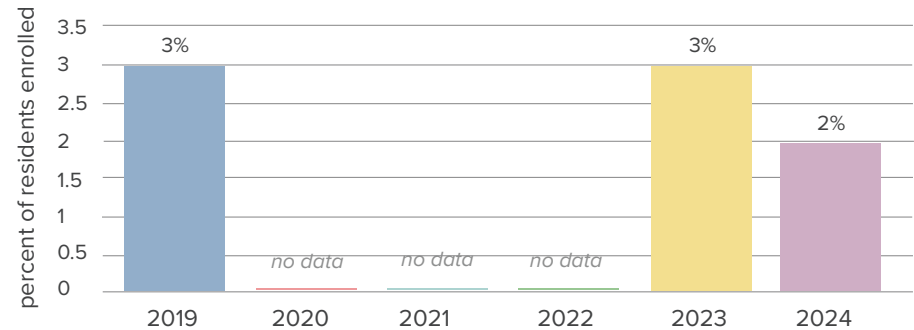
## METRIC 2

*Percent of people enrolled in Watertown Electricity Choice and 100% Green option*

**This data source remains consistent** and is displayed in *figures 2 and 3*. Residents are currently automatically enrolled in the standard option, and may choose to opt up, down, or out.

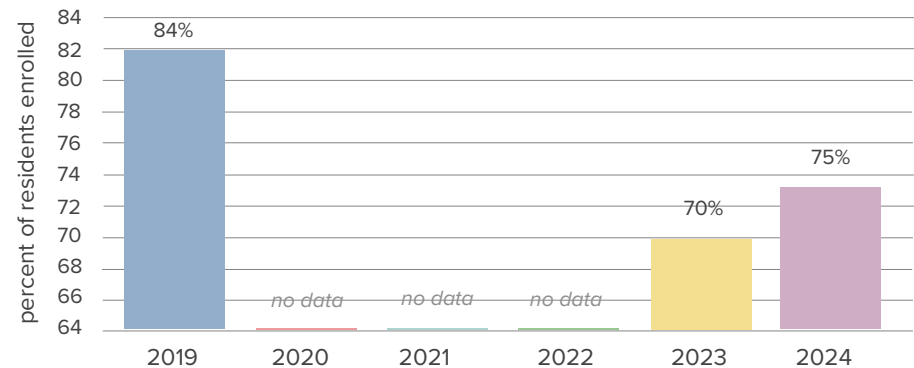
**Key Takeaways:** There has been a drop in enrollment in both the standard (100% renewable) and 100% green from regional sources options between 2019 (program’s first year) and present. Currently, approximately 25-30% of residents choose not to be enrolled. Only 2% of Watertown residents are currently enrolled in the 100% green energy purchasing option.

*Percent of people enrolled in Watertown Electricity Choice - 100% Green (New England-sourced renewable energy) option*  
2050 Target: Increasing 100% Opt Up Participation



*Figure 3: Total percentage (%) of residents who enrolled in the Watertown Electricity Choice 100% renewable option between years 2019 and 2024 (source: MassPowerChoice - Watertown).*

*Percent of people enrolled in Watertown Electricity Choice*  
2050 Target: Increasing 100% Opt Up Participation



*Figure 2: Total percentage (%) of residents who enrolled in Watertown Electricity Choice (not including the 100% renewable option) between 2019 and 2024 (source: MassPowerChoice - Watertown).*



### METRIC 3

#### Potential solar capacity

**This data source remains consistent.** This data is not exact, as the sources provide only an estimate of total viable roofspace based on satellite imagery. However, this tracking does give us at least a rough understanding of the City’s capacity for solar installation.

### METRIC 4

#### Installed solar capacity

**This data source was updated to a more precise database.** While the updated data sources (shown in *figure 4*) do provide more specificity in data, they still do not offer a complete picture. The SMART program, for example, uses state incentive programs to track solar installation. This means that any project that does not use incentives for installation (such as the Hosmer School and Watertown High School) are not included in these estimates.

### METRIC 5

#### Estimated Total Solar Electricity Produced

**This data source remains consistent.** However, the practice of tracking installed solar generation is imperfect because panels’ productivity reduces as the technology ages. Without the years of

#### Potential Capacity for Solar in Watertown (based on roof space)

2030 Target: 4,256 roofs | 2050 Target: 6,700 roofs

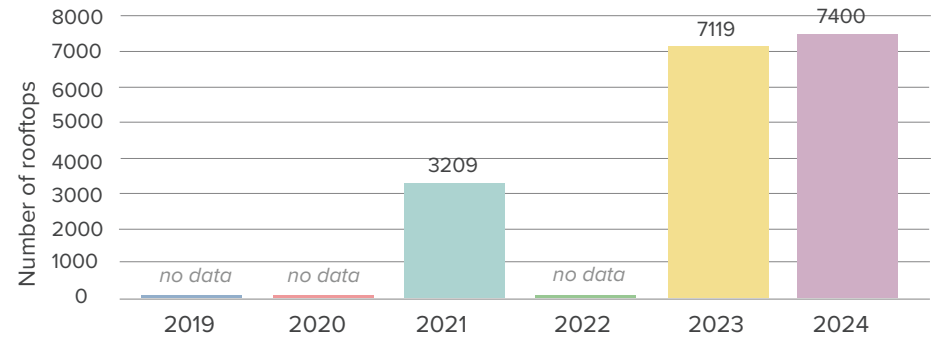


Figure 4: Total number of rooftops in Watertown that have potential solar capacity for roof mounted solar (source: Google Solar Roof Project and Massachusetts Technical Potential of Solar).

#### Installed Solar Capacity

2030 Goal: 33,600 kW | 2050 Goal: 112,000 kW

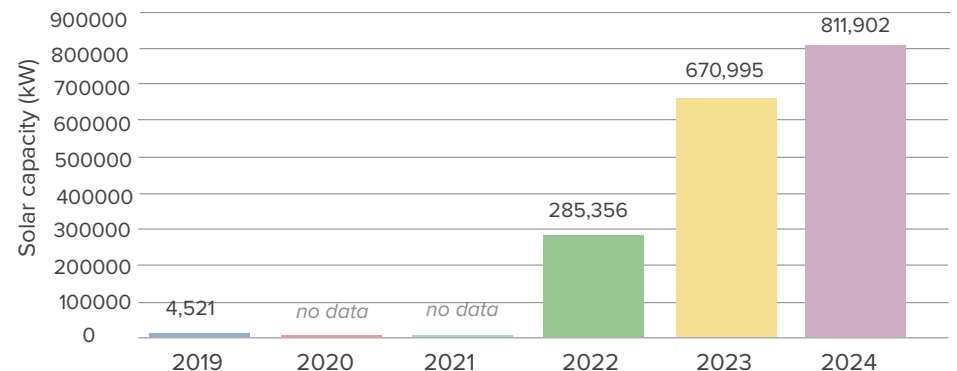


Figure 5: Total installed solar capacity (kW) for existing PV on commercial and residential buildings (source: Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program).



installation for each solar array, an accurate estimation cannot be made. Therefore, this data has not been updated for this report, and staff suggest this metric be more closely review upon the Plan update.

## METRIC 6

*Commercial energy use intensity for buildings >5,000 square feet*

**This data source does not yet exist.** Upon review, the Watertown Assistant Director of Energy Management has determined that this metric is not suitable for our purposes due to the variety of commercial uses within the city. When the Plan is updated, staff suggest either a more refined approach that separates out business types or development of an alternate metric.

## METRIC 7

*Number of gas/oil heated residential properties*

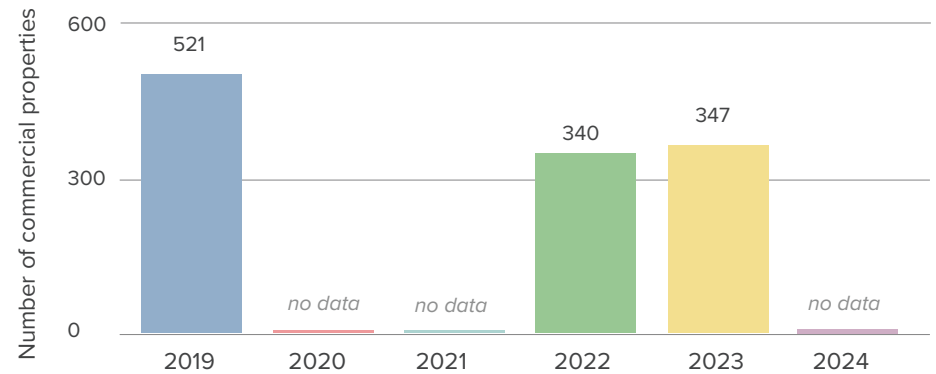
**This data source remains consistent** and is shown in *figure 7*.

## METRIC 8

*Number of gas/oil heated commercial properties*

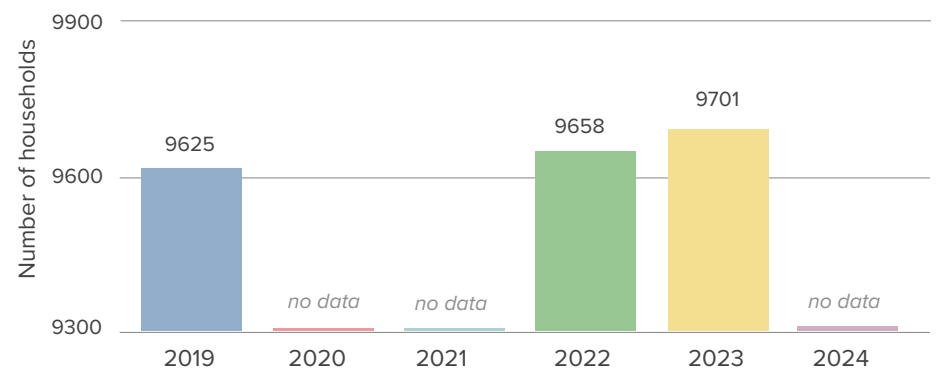
**This data source remains consistent** and is shown in *figure 6*.

*Number of commercial properties using heating fuel (gas/oil)*  
2030 Target: 312 | 2050 Target: 0



*Figure 7: Estimated total number of commercial properties that have gas/oil as heating fuel between years 2019 and 2023 (source: City of Watertown Assessor's Office data)*

*Number of households using heating fuel (gas/oil)*  
2030 Target: 5,775 | 2050 Target: 0



*Figure 6: Estimated total number of households that have gas/oil as heating fuel between years 2019 and 2023 (source: City of Watertown Assessor's Office data)<sup>1</sup>*

*1: Assuming that with the Specialized Stretch Code being adopted and implemented, that total number of properties with gas/oil has heating has gone down for new/redevelopment for residential and commercial properties.*



## TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

The Transportation and Mobility plan element is focused on promoting non-motorized, shared, and active transportation modes, ensuring a safe, accessible, and connected network for bicycles and pedestrians, and accelerating the transition to electric vehicles (EVs).

### SECTION OVERVIEW

This section also plays a major role in our GHG reduction efforts, as on-road transportation accounts for 40% of community-wide emissions. Major focuses include adding opportunities for residents to get around without the use of cars and the transition to electric vehicles for those trips that must occur in a vehicle.



*A 19-bike BlueBike station was gifted to the city by Blue Cross Blue Shield in 2024, bringing the total number of stations in the City to XX.*

*Image description: Blue bikes docked at station in front of greenery.*



## Metrics Table

Metric	Data				
Unit of Measurement	Baseline Year(s)	Baseline Data	Most Recent Data	2030 Target	2050 Target
Residents who use sustainable mode (bike, walk, transit) to travel to work (%)	2013-2017 ACS	1 in 4 residents / 20%	See next page (2024)	50%	60%
Roads rated at a 4 or 5 stress level (# of miles)	2018	6.9 Miles	Data not available	3.5 Miles	0
Total electric vehicles (%)	2020	0.7%	4.7% (2024)	54%	100%
Population within a ½ mile radius of a public EV charging station (%)	2021	23%	33% (2023)	100%	100%
Number of publicly accessible EV charging stations	2021	17	39 (2024)	575	1,050



# Metrics Table

Sources			
Original Proposed Source	Data availability as of this report	Updated Source	Relevant plan actions
US Census American Community Survey	Data available but problematic	<i>Unchanged</i>	TM 1.1, TM 1.2, TM 1.3, TM 1.4, TM 1.5, TM 1.6
Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	Data not available	Waiting on City of Watertown Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update	TM 1.1, TM 1.2, TM 1.3, TM 1.5, TM 1.6
Watertown Excise Tax Records	Data available and updated (including backlog) via new source	MassDOT Geo Vehicle Census data	TM 2.1, TM 2.2, TM 2.3, TM 2.4, TM 2.6
DOE Alternative Fuel Data Center	Data available and updated (including backlog) via new source	US Census American Community Survey (US ACS) and US Department of Energy (DOE) Alternative Fuels Data Center)	TM 2.1, TM 2.3, TM 2.5
DOE Alternative Fuel Data Center	Data available from same source	<i>Unchanged</i>	TM 2.1, TM 2.3, TM 2.5

Columns from 2022 Climate & Energy Plan  
 Columns added for 2025 Metrics Report



## METRIC 1

*Percent of residents who use sustainable mode share*

**This data source remains consistent.**

**Key Takeaways:** The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant shifts in workplace and commuting patterns. To reflect this, we have added the category of work from home to get a more complete picture of commuters who do not rely on single-person car trips. We acknowledge that it is an imperfect assumption that folks who work from home do not commute, as many still drive their children to and from school, etc., but it still represents a general shift away from reliance on car trips in Watertown. From 2021 to 2023, residents' commutes have begun to bounce back from the disruption of the pandemic, walking and biking numbers have shown small increases.

*Percent of residents who use sustainable modes to travel to work*  
2030 Target: 50% | 2050 Target: 60%

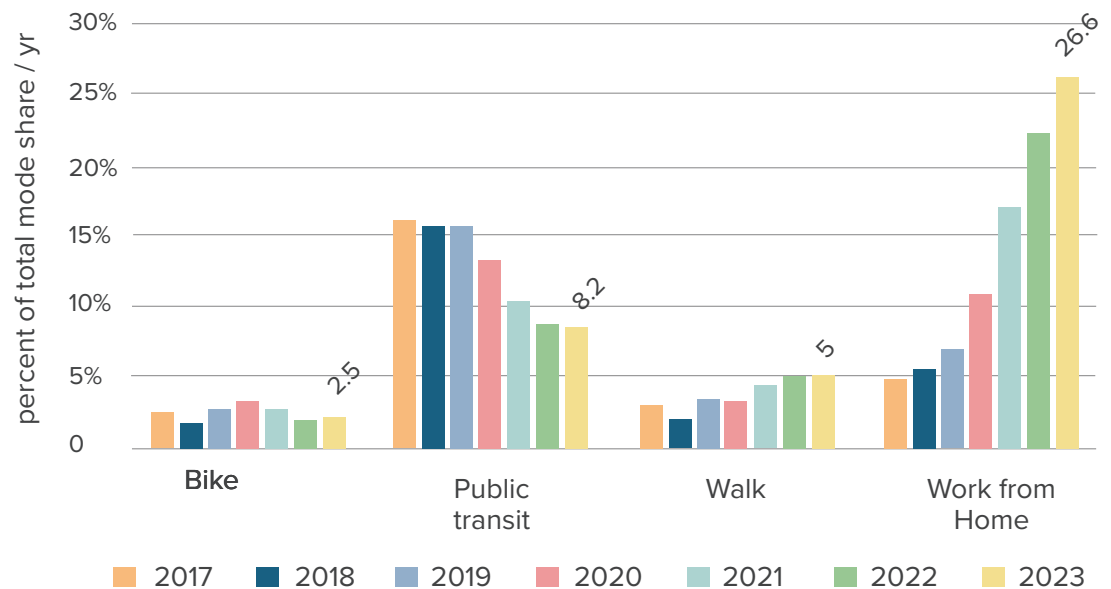


Figure 8: Total percentage (%) of residents who use sustainable modes of transportation to work from years 2017 to 2023. Data for 2024 not yet available. (source: US Census American Community Survey (US ACS)).



## METRIC 2

*Roads rated at a 4 or 5 stress level*

**This data has not been updated.** It will be updated as the Watertown Bike & Pedestrian Plan is updated.

## METRIC 3

*Total electric vehicles*

**This data source was updated to a more precise database.** The MassDOT data provides a more consistent year-to-year comparison for the data shown in *figure 9*.

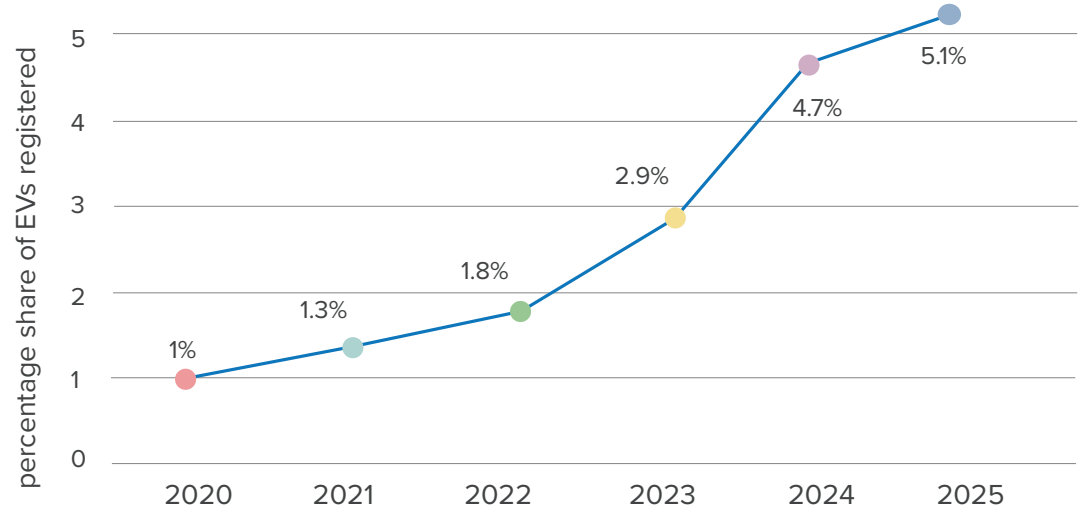
**Key Takeaway:** The data shows a small but steady trend of increasing EV ownership and leasing in Watertown.

## METRIC 4

*Population within a 1/2 mile of an EV charging station*

**This data source was updated to a more precise methodology.** Because the methodology of the original source (US DOE Alternative Fuel Data Center) was not clear, Watertown staff ran an internal analysis

*Percentage of vehicles paying excise tax in Watertown that are EVs*  
2030 Target: 54% | 2050 Target: 100%



*Figure 9: Percentage share (%) of registered electric vehicles (EVs) in total car ownership between years 2020 and 2025 (source: MassDOT Geo Vehicle Census data).*



# Metrics Updates & Analysis

to ensure year-to-year consistency. This methodology uses US DOE public charger location data and US Census Tract data to create the estimated total percentage of population that is within a half mile of an EV charging station.

## Percentage of population within a 1/2 mile radius of one or more public EV charging stations

2030 Goal: 100% | 2050 Goal: 100%

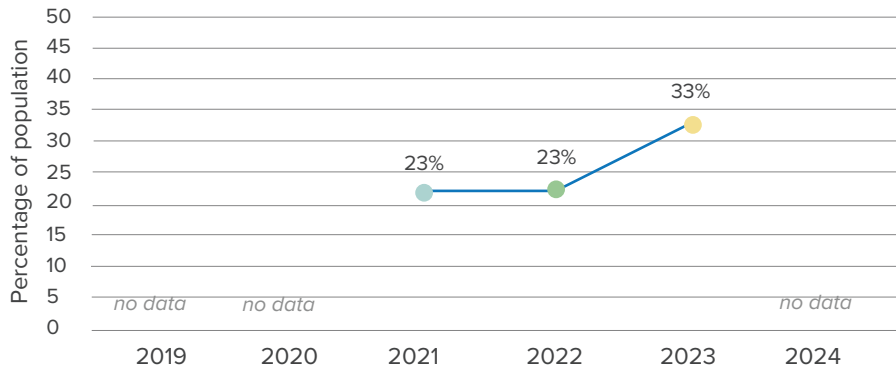


Figure 11: Estimated percentage (%) of population within the City of Watertown who lives within a 1/2 mile radius of at least one public electric vehicle (EV) charging station (source: US Census American Community Survey (US ACS) and US Department of Energy (DOE) Alternative Fuels Data Center).

## METRIC 5

### Number of publicly accessible charging stations

This data source remains consistent and is displayed in figure 10.

### Number of Publicly Accessible EV Charging Stations

2030 Goal: 575 stations | 2050 Goal: 1,050 stations

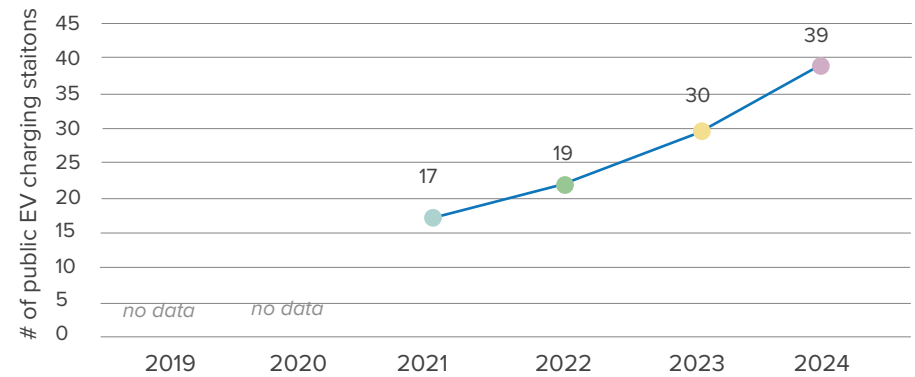


Figure 10: Total number of publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging stations installed in Watertown between years 2021 and 2024 (source: US Department of Energy (DOE) Alternative Fuels Data Center).



**Key Takeaways for Metrics 4 & 5:** The City has worked to add additional publicly-accessible charging stations on City property, and through encouraging developers to install chargers and offer public access as appropriate.

While the City's EV charger numbers are proportionate to those of surrounding cities, many of Watertown's publicly accessible chargers are located in commercial centers, which are not as densely populated with residential properties.





# NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources plan element is focused on preserving and enhancing our open spaces, tree cover, habitats, and water resources through smart management practices.

## SECTION OVERVIEW

The Natural Resources section of the Plan focuses on protecting and enhancing our tree canopy, vegetation, green infrastructure, and stormwater management practices to better protect residents from extreme circumstances like heat and flooding. Several of the metrics for this chapter rely on data that will be produced as part of the ongoing tree canopy survey being conducted by Watertown DPW.



*The new community garden at Arsenal Park opened in July 2024, bringing approximately 2,000 additional square feet of public garden space to Watertown.*

*Image description: Community garden plots with a red building behind them.*



## Metrics Table

Metric	Data				
Metric (unit)	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Most Recent Data	2030 Target	2050 Target
Open space per person (acres/1,000 people)	2020	3.25 acres per 1,000 people	15.3 acres (2023)	5	10
Tree Canopy Coverage (%)	2016	20.89%	Data not available	23%	27%
Impervious Surfaces (%)	2016	57%	Data not available	55%	50%
Public Trees in Good Health (%)	2018	84%	Data not available	90%	100%
Public Tree Sites Occupied (%)	2018	49%	Data not available	75%	100%
Area (sf) of school gardens and community gardens	2021	20,350	22,925 square feet (2024)	24,000	30,000



# Metrics Table

Sources			
Original Proposed Source	Data availability as of this report	Updated Source	Relevant plan actions
Community Preservation Act Plan	Data available and updated (including backlog) via new source	ACS data and Watertown Open Space and Recreation Plan	NR 1.1, NR 1.2, NR 1.3, NR 1.4 NR 3.3 NR 4.1, NR 4.2
MassGIS Land Use Land Cover data layer	Data not available	waiting on data from City of Watertown Tree Canopy Study	NR 1.2, NR 1.4 NR 2.1, NR 2.2, NR 2.3 NR 3.3 NR 4.1, NR 4.2
MassGIS Land Use Land Cover data layer	Data not available	waiting on data from City of Watertown Tree Canopy Study	NR 1.3 NR 3.3 NR 4.1, NR 4.2, NR 4.3
Trees for Watertown	Data not available	waiting on data from City of Watertown Tree Canopy Study	NR 2.1, NR 2.2, NR 2.3 NR 3.1
Trees for Watertown	Data not available	waiting on data from City of Watertown Tree Canopy Study	NR 2.3
Field calculations	Data available and updated (including backlog) via new source	ACS data and Watertown Open Space and Recreation Plan	NR 1.3 NR 3.2 NR 4.3

Columns from 2022 Climate & Energy Plan  
 Columns added for 2025 Metrics Report



## METRIC 1

### Open space per person

The original data source has not been updated, so we have developed a proxy. In order to calculate the data for this metric, city staff adopted the methodologies used in the City of Boston's Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2023-2029 and in NYC "City Environmental Quality Review Technical Manual". The methodology uses census tract-level population data from the American Community Survey (ACS) population data and open space calculations from the City of Watertown's Open Space Plan.

**Key Takeaway:** Small but steady increases in this metric year-to-year demonstrate the city's work improving and making more open space available within our dense city.

## METRICS 2-5

This data is not available. Watertown DPW is currently conducting a City-wide tree canopy survey, which will produce updated data for these metrics.

Square footage of space dedicated to school and community gardens  
2030 Target: 24,000 square feet | 2050 Target: 30,000 square feet

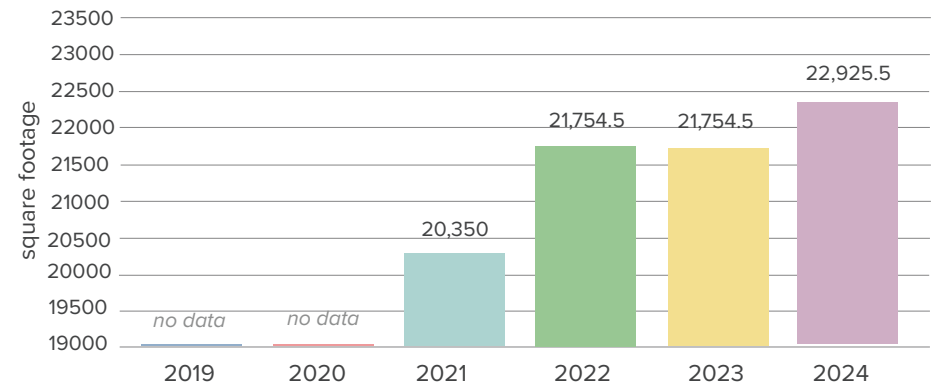


Figure 13: Estimated total area of school and community gardens that were installed between years 2021 and 2023 (source: ACS data and City of Watertown Climate and Energy Plan, 2022).



## METRIC 6

### Area of school gardens & community gardens

The original data source is no longer available, so we have developed a proxy, shown in figure 14. We used American Community Survey data and information from the Watertown Open Space and Recreation Plan to generate the data shown in figure 13 is developed from.

**Key Takeaway:** The City is working consistently towards the established goal of dedicating 24,000 square feet to public gardens 2030.

Amount of open space per 1,000 residents  
2030 Target: 5 acres | 2050 Target: 10 acres

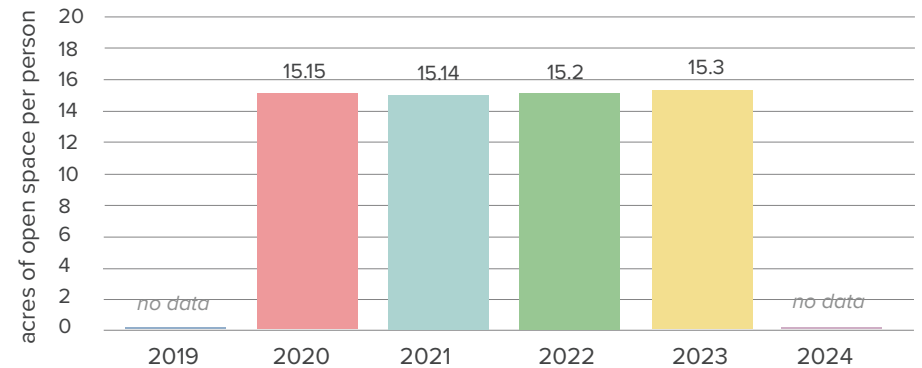


Figure 12: Estimated acres of open space per 1,000 people within the City of Watertown between years 2020 and 2023 (source: ACS data and Watertown Open Space and Recreation Plan).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>: The metrics baseline is different than what was calculated. The estimation of open space per 1,000 people is based on census tract population data and estimated open space within the census tracts each year.





## INFRASTRUCTURE & WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Infrastructure and Waste Management plan element is focused on reducing consumption and waste generation, as well as ensuring that the infrastructure that supports resource distribution is helping to mitigate and enhance resilience to climate change.

### SECTION OVERVIEW

This plan element is focused on reducing consumption and waste generation, as well as ensuring that the infrastructure that supports resource distribution is helping to mitigate and enhance resilience to climate change.



*The City holds consistent recycling events to help divert reusable products from landfills, and received a grant to operate a pilot Swap Shop program in the summer of 2025.*

*Image description: Large, overflowing cardboard boxes filled with electronics for recycling.*



## Metrics Table

Metric	Data				
Unit of Measurement	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Most Recent Data	2030 Target	2050 Target
Tons of trash sent to incineration (tons)	2019	9,836	8,403 (2024)	7,500	0
Household Waste Generation Rate (lbs / household / year)	2019	1,552	1600.7 (2024)	1,226	900
Diversion rate (tons recycled/total tons waste generated)	2019	23.3% diversion	30% (2024)	50%	100%
Number of households signed up for food waste pick-up	2021	400 households (Black Earth compost)	3,016 (2024)	2,500	10,000
Critical infrastructure in hazardous areas (e.g., flood plains)	2019	3 critical facilities in flood area	Data not available	Not defined in 2022 plan	



# Metrics Table

Sources			
Originally Proposed Source	Data availability as of this report	Updated Source	Relevant plan actions
Mass DEP 2019 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey + Estimates	Data available and updated (including backlog) via new source	Watertown Recycling Coordinator	IW 1.1, IW 1.2 IW 1.3, IW 1.4, IW 1.5
Mass DEP 2019 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey	Data available and updated (including backlog) via new source	Watertown Recycling Coordinator	IW 1.2 IW 1.3, W 1.5
Mass DEP 2019 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey	Data available and updated (including backlog) via new source	Watertown Recycling Coordinator	IW 1.1, IW 1.2 IW 1.3, IW 1.4, IW 1.5
Conversation with Greg St. Louis	Data available and updated (including backlog) via new source	Watertown Recycling Coordinator	IW 1.3
Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 Update	Data not available	Waiting on updated Hazard Mitigation Plan	IW 2.1, IW 2.2, IW 2.3, IW 2.4

Columns from 2022 Climate & Energy Plan  
 Columns added for 2025 Metrics Report



## METRICS 1-4

**This data source remains consistent.** Infrastructure and Waste metrics 1 through four are tracked directly by the city’s contractor and reported to DPW<sup>3</sup>. They are shown in *figures 14, 15, 16, and 17, respectively.*

**Key Takeaways:** Overall, the city’s waste data is trending in the direction we would like to see based on plan goals. 2022 particularly saw a significant reduction in total amount of trash sent to incineration and household waste generation in the City. This is in spite of a growing population, as well, indicating that the city is doing very well on overall waste reduction. While the amount of waste generated has reduced over the years, diversion rates have declined by approximately two percent every year from 2022 to 2024. Despite this trend, the City’s composting program is also increasing in enrollment every year, showing that more residents are committing to reducing their food waste on a daily basis.

<sup>3</sup>: Applies to figs 14, 15, and 16: About 70% of the waste in Watertown is hauled under the municipal waste system, which has been decreasing. The metrics do not account for remaining 30%, which is made up of privately owned properties that contract separately.

### Trash Sent for Incineration

2030 Target: 7,500 lbs | 2050 Target: 0 lbs

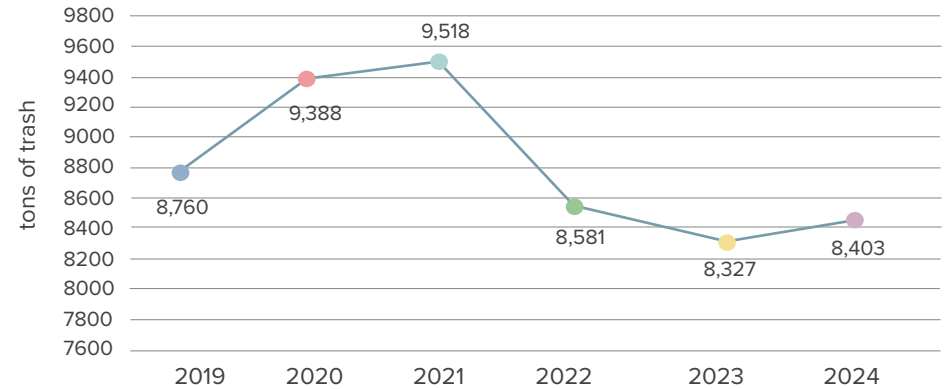


Figure 14: Total amount of trash (tons) that was sent to incineration between years 2019 and 2024 (source: City of Watertown Department of Public Works Recycling Program).<sup>3</sup>

### Household Waste Generation (measured in pounds per household)

2030 Target: 1,226lbs | 2050 Target: 900 lbs

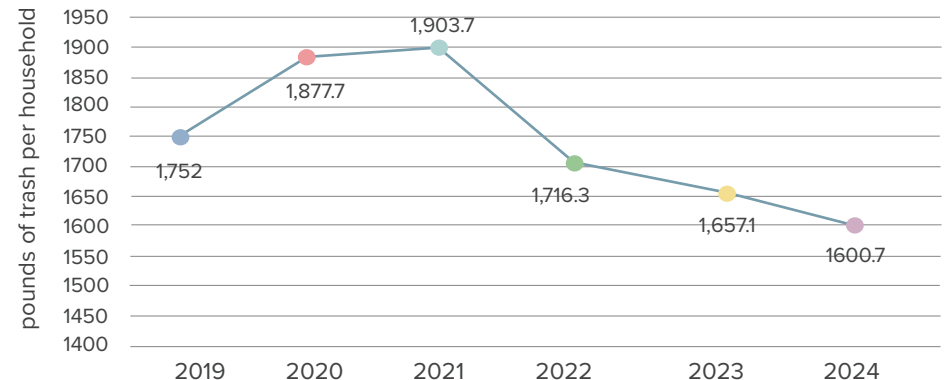


Figure 15: Total household waste generated (lb/household/year) between years 2019 and 2024 (source: City of Watertown Department of Public Works Recycling Program)



## Metrics Updates & Analysis

*Household Waste Diversion Rate (measured in total tons recycled divided by tons of waste generated)*

2030 Target: 50% | 2050 Target: 100%

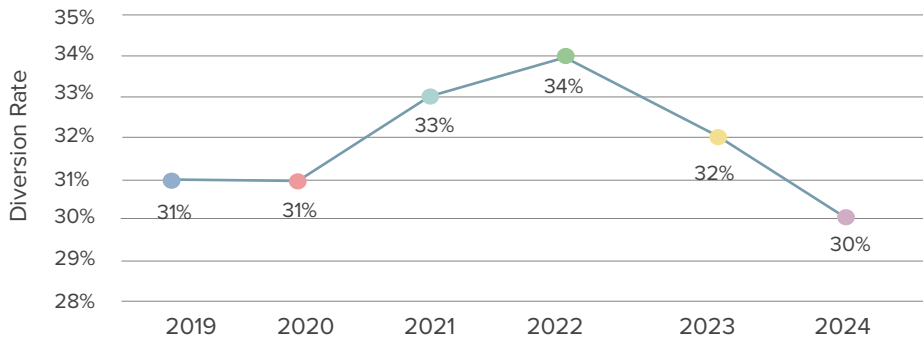


Figure 16: Total diversion rate (tons recycled/total tons waste generated) for recycled materials between years 2019 and 2024 (source: City of Watertown Department of Public Works Recycling Program).

*Participation in Composting Services*

2030 Target: 2500 households enrolled | 2050 Target: 10,000

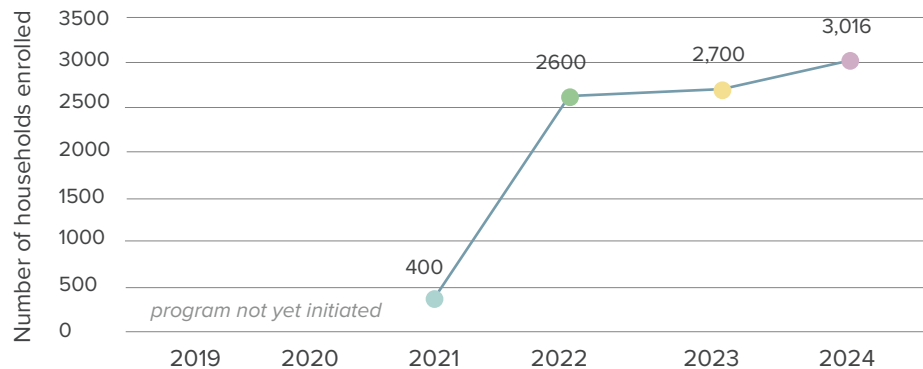


Figure 17: Total number of households that have signed up for composting services through the Black Earth Composting program between years 2021 and 2024 (source: City of Watertown Department of Publics Works Recycling Program)

### METRIC 5

*Critical infrastructure in hazardous areas*

**This data has not been updated.** It is only available through the city's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is currently wrapping up its 2025 update.





## PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITY

The Public Health and Community Preparedness plan element is focused on ensuring the well-being, health, and safety of Watertown residents through improved climate change preparedness and response, enhanced communications, and accessible resources for physical, mental, and emotional health.

### SECTION OVERVIEW

The Public Health and Community Preparedness plan element is focused on ensuring the well-being, health, and safety of Watertown residents through improved climate change preparedness and response, enhanced communications, and accessible resources for physical, mental, and emotional health.



*The Watertown Farmers Market completed its 12th season in October 2025.*

*Image description: Farmer's stall with people milling about.*



## Metrics Table

Metric	Data				
Metric (unit)	Baseline Year	Baseline Data	Most Recent Data	2030 Target	2050 Target
Number of census tracts with moderate or higher heat vulnerability score	2019	2 of 6	Data not available	0	0
Community members signed up for emergency alerts and communications (%)	2021	34% (12,068)	48.3%	80%	100%
Businesses signed up for emergency alerts and communications (# of businesses)	2021	2,749 (need to ID total # of businesses)	Data not available	80%	100%
Customer-hours of weather-related power outages	Average 2018-2020	28,965	5,199	14,000	0
Number of residents served by resilience hubs annually	New Metric				



# Metrics Table

Sources			
Originally Proposed Source	Data availability as of this report	Updated Source	Relevant plan actions
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Data not available	Data generated for specific study and no longer updated	PH 2.1, PH 2.2, PH 2.3 PH 3.1
Watertown Police	Data available from same source	<i>Unchanged</i>	PH 3.2, PH 3.3, PH 3.4
Watertown Police	Data not available	Metric not currently tracked	PH 3.2, PH 3.3 PH 4.1
Eversource Outage Accident Reports to DPU	Data available but problematic	<i>Unchanged</i>	PH 2.2 PH 3.1 PH 4.1
New Metric			PH 1.1, PH 1.2 PH 3.1 PH 4.1, PH 4.2

Columns from 2022 Climate & Energy Plan  
 Columns added for 2025 Metrics Report



## METRIC 1

*Number of census tracts with moderate or higher heat vulnerability score*

**This data is not available.** The referenced map was derived as part of the MetroCommon x 2050 long range regional planning effort led by MAPC from 2019-2021. The vulnerability index generated as part of the project has not been updated to reflect changes in the environment and populations since that time.

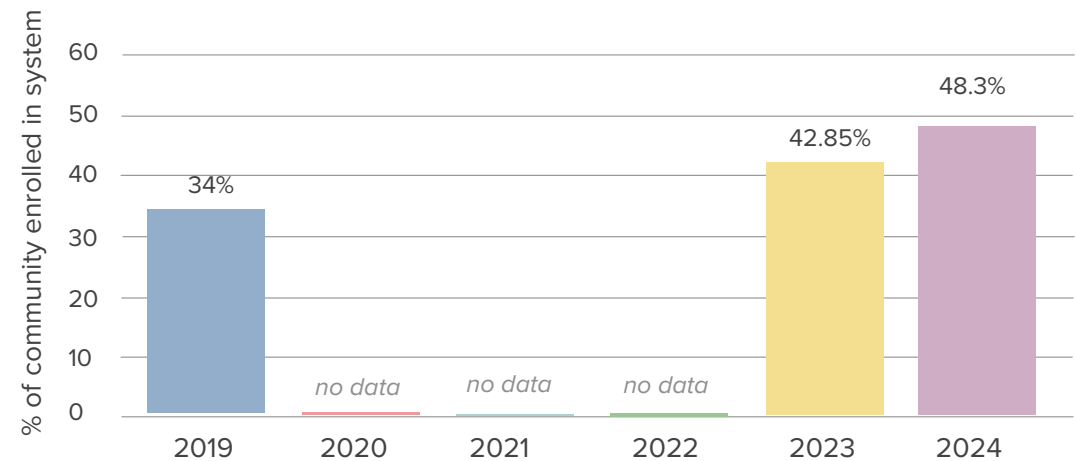
## METRIC 2

*Community members signed up for emergency alerts and communications*

**This data source remains consistent.** The Watertown Police Department directly tracks this metric year-to-year and is visualized in *figure 18*. The missing data from years 2020 to 2022 are due to gaps in the raw data. The raw data is from Everbridge, a software that Watertown Police uses.

**Key Takeaway:** The City has increased enrollment in its emergency alert services each year, but it still hovers below 50%.

*Percentage of community members signed up for Watertown Alerts*  
2030 Target: 80% | 2050 Target: 100%



*Figure 18: Estimated percentage of residents signed up for emergency alerts and communication between years 2021 and 2024 (source: City of Watertown Police Department).*



## METRIC 3

### *Businesses signed up for emergency alerts and communications*

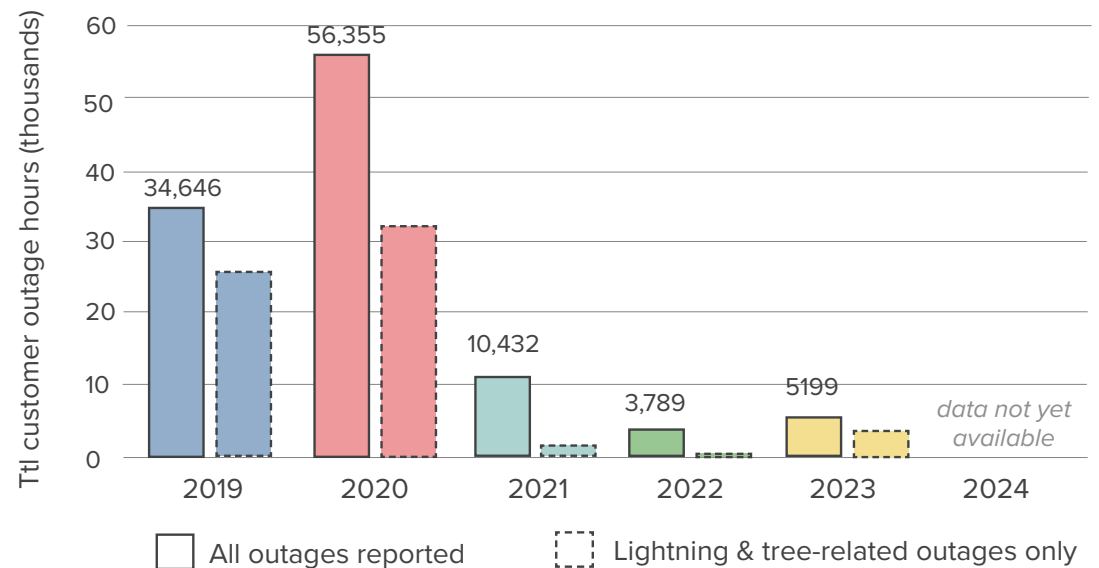
**This data is not available.** The raw data provided by Everbridge for this metric currently has no way of differentiating between individuals and businesses during the emergency alert registration process.

## METRIC 4

### *Customer hours of weather-related power outages*

**This data source required adjustment to normalize the data across the years.** The source provided in the CEP does not specify which outages were “weather-related”. As a proxy, we provide the data both for total outage hours, as well as those caused specifically by lightning and tree contact events in *figure 19*. Based on this analysis, the total power outage customer hours drastically decreased in 2021 and has stayed reduced.

*Total customer hours of weather-related power outages*  
2030 Target: 14,000 | 2050 Target: 0



*Figure 19: Total customer hours of weather related power outages between years 2019 and 2023 (source: Department of Public Utilities, Eversource).*



### **METRIC 5**

*Number of residents served by resilience hubs annually*

**This data does not exist yet.** This metric was proposed to track future progress once resilience hubs have been established within the city and will be updated as the City makes progress on this goal.