



Jay Mason
Chair

In Lowell Sustainability Council

RECOMMENDATION

Date: August 26, 2021
Subject: CCA Contract Renewal
Recommendation: The Lowell Sustainability Council Recommends the City to continue to include at least 45% additional renewable content sources from MA Class 1 RECs in its upcoming CCA contract renewal

Dear Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council:

The Lowell Sustainability Council (LSC) recommends that the City continue its commitment to include, at minimum, an additional 45% renewable energy content above what is mandated by the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard. The 45% renewable energy content should continue to be supplied by MA Class 1 Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) which support local renewable energy products. This distinction between the MA Class 1 RECs as opposed to National RECs is an important one, because only the voluntary purchase of MA Class 1 RECs help increase demand for local renewable energy. National RECs typically come from projects that are already financially feasible, for example wind turbines in Texas. Though these RECs may be cheaper, they do nothing to shift our grid towards higher renewable content.

The 45% additional renewable content for our last CCA contract was a huge achievement for Lowell and helped make renewable energy accessible in an equitable way to all Lowell residents. We would like to see that continue especially considering our climate goals as a City and in light of the most recent IPCC report, which showed that aggressive action needs to be taken today. Simply put, it is an easy way to have a huge impact, and we would be taking advantage of a possibly multi-year, large scale opportunity for Lowell residents to participate in curbing the effects of climate change. Consequences that affect cities like Lowell and its population much more than others. It is a benefit for residents to live in a city that offers a pre-negotiated option with local renewable content.

In addition to the 45% minimum renewable content, we would recommend the City pursue an option that allows ratepayers to “opt up” to 100% renewable content if they choose. Many other cities and towns in Massachusetts offer this, and it would increase our impact even more while offering flexibility to consumers.

The LSC would welcome the opportunity to offer assistance to the City in this effort. With the above in mind, the Lowell Sustainability Council strongly recommends the City continue to include an additional

45% renewable content sourced from MA Class 1 RECs in its upcoming CCA contract renewal as well as a 100% opt up option.

Respectfully submitted by:
Lowell Sustainability Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Mason', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jay Mason, Chair

jm/cl/mhm