



Data Sources: MAPC, 2015 ISO New England Electric Generator Air Emissions Report, American Community Survey, U.S. Energy Information Administration Residential Energy Consumption Survey

Electricity Generation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Using MAPC’s Local Energy Action Dashboard (LEAD) communities can get a snapshot of the carbon footprint of their residential, commercial, and industrial buildings to make strategic decisions about reducing their climate impact.

The average single-family detached house consumes more than twice the energy as an average apartment in a large multifamily building. As such, cities with more high-density housing boast a lower per-household carbon footprint.

Of the three main fuel sources powering Massachusetts homes—oil, natural gas, and electricity—oil releases the most greenhouse gases (GHGs). Burning natural gas in furnaces and boilers is relatively clean, but the leaky delivery system releases methane gas—a very destructive GHG—directly into the atmosphere. And, as the mix of fuel sources at power plants supplying electricity to New England shift away from fossil fuels toward renewable sources like solar and wind, electricity will become an even greener option. Efforts to help homeowners and

landlords shift away from oil heat, reduce natural gas leaks at the municipal level, and eliminate barriers to home solar are all ways our region can work to reduce the collective carbon footprint. Visit lead.mapc.org for more information.

