

## Mass Save Electrification Incentives for New Construction Webinar: Question and Answer

MAPC Webinar: March 1, 2023

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### General Questions:

- **Q: How do MAPC programs relate to Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission in terms of these programs? Are the construction requirements the same?**
  - A: The building code is set at the state level and enforced locally. There should be consistency no matter what region of the State you're in- but depends on if your municipality is on the base code, stretch code, or specialized code.

### Commercial New Construction Questions:

- **Q: With the incoming IRA incentives, will these be exclusive from Mass Save? That being said, if a school project receives money/reductions from IRA in the future will that money be deducted from any support received from Mass Save?**
  - A: Mass Save will not be deducting IRA tax credits from our program incentive support. We encourage customers to look into the tax opportunities.
  - **Q: thank you! could you please a source of information for the tax opportunities?**
  - This webinar includes a good summary of the tax incentives:  
<https://builtenvironmentplus.org/making-cents-of-incentives/>
  - **Q: who is the point of contact for this topic? Schools and Mass Save?**
  - A: I am happy to take a first crack at questions you might have about schools and Mass Save, especially if your project is in Eversource electric service territory. If the project is in another provider's electric service territory, you would reach out to your electric Mass Save Sponsor. But my email is kim.cullinane@eversource.com if I can help you. The last slide in the Commercial New Construction/Major Renovation presentation has contact information for all 6 Mass Save Program Sponsors.
- **Q: Which path includes "Deep Energy Retrofits" sponsored by Green Communities**
  - A: Deep energy Retrofit would be covered in a future webinar related to existing buildings. Today's conversation is centered on new construction.
- **Q: Does Mass Save have preferred energy modeling vendors and/or preferred energy modeling software for these pathways? Is there financial support in the pathways to help pay for the required the energy modeling?**
  - A: The Path 1 commercial Mass Save offer requires that the project team conduct its own energy modeling - they need to do that to be checking their EUI (Energy Use Intensity) through their design to ensure they're hitting the target we set. We do bring in and cost share vendors to help with load reduction analysis, Life-Cycle

Cost Analysis (LCCA), HVAC system selection support in Path 1. For Path 2, which is a little different, we do bring in a vendor to do modeling that we cost share with customers.

- **Q: Is Tier 3 \$0.35/sf?**
  - A: Path 2 Tier 4 is 35cents/sf and Tier 3 is 50 cents/sf. Path 3 is 35 cents kWh savings.
- **Q: Can you clarify if any Mass Save electrification incentives can be used if electrification is over-time?**
  - A: If electrification is happening “over time” it sounds more like this might be a deep energy retrofit project. That program, and Retrofit programs in general, weren’t the subject matter for the webinar today, but please do reach out to your Mass Save Sponsors to ask for support if you have a project of this nature. We certainly want to assist with and promote these types of projects.
- **Q: Can you use Mass Save program when engaging with a municipal electric company?**
  - A: Projects in municipal electric utility territory may or may not be eligible for support from Mass Save Sponsors. Mass Save Sponsors need to look at those projects on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility, but you should reach out to your municipal utility and ask what incentives they have for decarbonization and energy efficiency in general.
- **Q: There is a new pilot program which allows 10 municipalities eligible to opt-in to an “All Electric” requirement for new construction. Should they also adopt the new Specialized Code to receive Mass Save incentives, or will they still be eligible for incentives?**
  - A: The baseline is the Base code and the Mass Save program always has been able to support communities no matter which code- Base or Stretch code- they are on. Mass Save Sponsors expect to continue our current practice of supporting projects in cities and towns that are implementing optional policies that are more stringent than the state base code. We currently serve projects in Stretch Code territory and will be supporting projects in the Specialized Op-In Code territories (and all-electric territories) as well. We want communities to know that Mass Save programs are a resource for their constituent residents and businesses if they are considering adopting this new Specialized code.
- **Q: There are a special set of communities that are about 42 Municipal Light Plants that are also interested in all-electric in new construction? Do those incentives for new Constructions still apply under Mass Save?**
  - A: That is less clear, historically, projects must be customers of one of the Mass Save entities to serve them. We are in deep discussions on this, and right now would be on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Residential New Construction Questions:**

- **Q: How do these incentives compare to what's now required by the stretch code?**

- A: The new Specialized Opt-In Code was modeled after the Mass Save Passive House and All-Electric Home incentive paths, so there is significant alignment between the incentive eligibility and code requirements. Similarly, the minimum performance threshold for eligibility in the standard Low Rise new construction incentive path changed in January 2023 because of the new Stretch Code. The program is designed to offer incentives for building performance that goes beyond what is required by code, but the incentives can often offset the incremental costs of such upgrades.

### **EV Charging Infrastructure Questions:**

- **Q: what is the status of DPU 21-90 for reducing demand charges for EV charging stations?**
  - A: The new rate "EV-2" was approved alongside our new make ready programs in December. This will include a reduced demand rate for customers with EV chargers on their own meter and load >100 kW. This will be available for customers this July.
- **Q: Will solar PV systems be able to be incorporated into EV charging stations? carport shelters for EV charging?**
  - A: We encourage innovative green energy solutions at our sites, but cannot cover the cost of solar PV installations under our program. We also prefer to keep the electrical feeds separate, with the EVSE on its own meter.
- **Q: Are there any EV charging incentives for school buses?**
  - A: Yes, we will have a medium/heavy-duty pilot program for public fleets, but only available to those operating in Environmental Justice Communities
- **Q: Can you explain how incentives will change if MassEVIP incentive received?**
  - A: The MassEVIP incentives will be deducted from the Eversource incentive if they are received before our incentives are given out
  - **Q: Follow up question- From the MakeReady side too, which covers different costs than EVIP covers?**
  - A: At this time, yes, but we are seeking clarification from our regulators about this
- **Q: Has there been any regulatory progress on the electric rates for EV station metered accounts?**
  - A: We have a new "EV-2" rate that was approved last December, will be available this July. Customers can opt into this new, reduced-demand rate if they have a separate meter for EV chargers and load >100 kW
  - **Q: Steve, don't you mean < 100 kW?**
  - A: Hi Ken, no, >100 kW. If a charging site is <100 kW they would remain on their general commercial electric rate
- **Q: We're aware of 1-2 year supply chain delays for transformers and switch gear. What is the plan to accommodate these delays into rollout of incentives and programs? It will take out almost half of the 2023-26 timeframe.**

- A: We are actively seeking projects where service can be brought from existing electrical equipment, rather than installing new switchgear or transformers. For projects that do require larger equipment, we are starting those Work Orders as early as possible to get them in the queue for materials
- **Q: Must the entire community meet EJ requirements or will incentives apply if installation is done within an EJ tract within the community?**
  - A: The EJ criteria are applied to blocks within a community, not towns or zip-codes. We will apply EJC incentives if the particular charging site address is within one of these blocks <https://mass-eoeea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1d6f63e7762a48e5930de84ed4849212>
- **Q: I'm an electrician looking to help customers install EV chargers at residential and commercial areas. Who can I talk to about grants or incentives for contractor or customer.**
  - A: Steve Conte, [steven.conte@eversource.com](mailto:steven.conte@eversource.com) Eversource's EV Program
- **Q: The Make Ready slides mentioned say that customers on "standard service" are eligible. What does that mean for customers who are part of municipal aggregation program? (e.g., those choosing a competitive supply contract rather than basic service)**
  - A: Customers who receive their electricity from a competitive supplier can still participate in our programs as long as they are an Eversource electric distribution customer (pays Eversource bills)

#### Acton-Boxborough Project Questions:

- **Q: Can you please send a link to the EV charger QPL?**
  - This is still being worked on by our Marketing team but should be published to our website very soon. But for L2 chargers, if the product is on the SASD database and is OCPP compliant, we can support <https://neep.org/SASD>
- **Q: We have a couple year old school building that was built solar ready. What are the incentives for actually installing the solar panels?**
  - A: The Mass Save programs are not able to provide incentive dollars to buy down the cost of solar panels (by statute). Check out the SMART program as a revenue stream for the solar panels, and of course, your electric utility will work with you through the interconnection process.
  - A: Munis [meaning municipal entities] are now eligible for the ITC 30% of the solar PV system cost. Direct pay from the US Treasury.
- **Q: Is ABRSD willing to be a show-n-tell/peer for other school districts to bring their team in for walk through in helping them with working with their town/city approvals // Is ABRSD willing to be a peer mentor for other school districts considering ZNE/Geothermal options?**
  - A: NESEA will be doing a tour on April 21<sup>st</sup> as part of their Pro Tours Series [BuildingEnergy Pro Tours | NESEA](#)
- **Q: I would love more detail re: replacing gas-fired RTUs with electric RTUs.**



- A: You can access the study that was conducted here [ABRSD Douglas Gates Engineering Analysis LCCA 2019.7.10.pdf - Google Drive](#) for more information.