



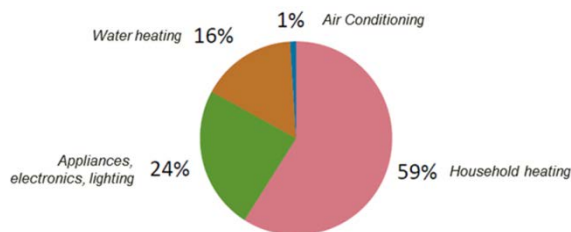
# WORCESTER ENERGY

December, 2015 Newsletter

**Worcester Energy** is a municipal initiative intended to encourage residents, businesses and institutions throughout the city to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Please read on to learn how you can reduce energy use and your carbon footprint and save money. Together **WE** can make a difference!

## Your Home and Energy Efficiency

Did you know that in Massachusetts' cold climate, household heating comprises 59 percent of a home's energy use? Additionally, the average Massachusetts household spends about \$2,500 per year on energy. Home insulation improvements and investments in efficient heating equipment are therefore great targets for energy and cost savings.



Average distribution of energy use (million Btu) by end use for Massachusetts residents (Source: U.S. EIA)

To start improving your home's energy efficiency, consider a free *Home Energy Assessment* through the **Mass Save®** program ([www.MassSave.org](http://www.MassSave.org)).

In Worcester, more than 9,000 assessments have been completed during the past four years. Visit the **WorcesterEnergy.org Take Action** page to learn more about Mass Save® and other resources, including energy and cost savings tips, information on green energy for your home, and current availability of other incentives.



[www.WorcesterEnergy.org](http://www.WorcesterEnergy.org)

Please visit the Worcester Energy webpage to learn more, including:

- How the City's **Energy Savings Performance Contract** is improving the energy efficiency of municipal and school buildings;
- Details about the City's four existing **solar installations** and the additional 12 that are planned;
- **Sustainability accomplishments** in the Worcester community, such as a wind turbine at Holy Name and "green" buildings in Worcester;
- How **you** can **Take Action!** Find resources and information regarding costs, benefits, and other considerations when weatherizing your home, upgrading your heating system, installing solar on your roof, purchasing green electricity, and more!

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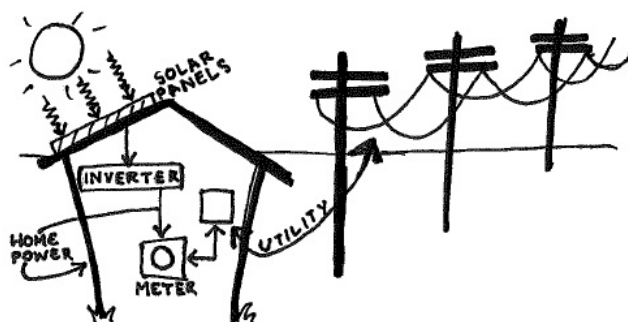


## Roof-top Solar

Are you curious about roof-top solar installations? Or perhaps you have been approached by a company seeking to inspect your roof for its solar potential?

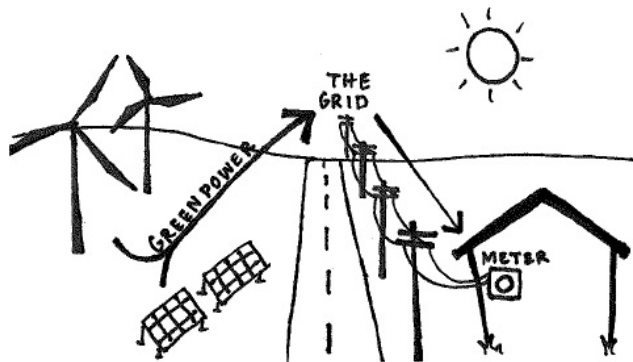
In general, there are two major options for homeowners who are considering solar: the outright purchase of a solar panel system OR leasing roof space to a company who will install their own solar panel system and sell electricity produced by these panels back to you at a lower cost.

Visit the [WorcesterEnergy.org](http://WorcesterEnergy.org) **Take Action** page for more information and to help determine whether solar is a good choice for your home. You will also find examples of existing residential roof-top solar projects that have been completed in Worcester!



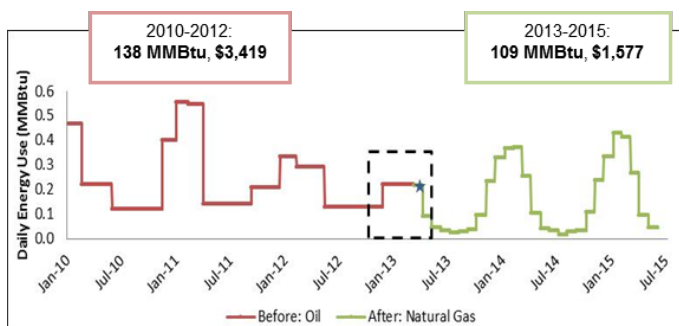
## Purchasing Green Electricity

Most of the electricity supplied to your home probably comes from conventional sources of energy, such as coal or natural gas. However, as a consumer in Massachusetts, you have the option of selecting from many different providers of electricity, including those who rely more on renewable energy sources. Choosing clean, renewable electricity is easier than ever and typically costs only a few dollars per month more than continued use of conventional sources. More information about sources and costs of electricity are available on the [WorcesterEnergy.org](http://WorcesterEnergy.org) **Take Action** page.



## Did You Know?

In 2014, the city administered the Residential Rebate Pilot, a program that provided 208 rebates to homeowners in Worcester for weatherization work, installation of efficient heating systems, and other energy efficiency upgrades. Visit [WorcesterEnergy.org](http://WorcesterEnergy.org) to learn more about this program, and to read a detailed case study comparing energy use and cost reductions in two participating single-family homes.



Case study comparison of before and after heating costs for an oil to natural gas conversion.

While the Residential Pilot program has been concluded, visit the [WorcesterEnergy.org](http://WorcesterEnergy.org) **Take Action** page for resources and other incentives that can help you reduce energy use and save money.

## The Future of Worcester Energy

Tell us what you think! Do you find this newsletter and the [WorcesterEnergy.org](http://WorcesterEnergy.org) website useful? What additional information would be helpful? What kinds of resources would help you save money and switch to more sustainable energy sources?

Please e-mail [WorcesterEnergy@worcesterma.gov](mailto:WorcesterEnergy@worcesterma.gov) to provide feedback.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and sustainable 2016!

