

My Experience as a Municipal Fellow in Arlington, MA



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Final Thoughts & Thanks

Arlington, MA

Arlington has demonstrated strong climate leadership through multiple state designations and initiatives:

- Designated as a Massachusetts **Green Community** and **Climate Leader Community**
- Developed the **Clean Energy Future Committee**, which drives community progress toward long-term clean-energy and climate goals
- Adopted a **Net Zero Action Plan** to guide emissions reductions
- Launched **Electrify Arlington** to support community-wide electrification efforts

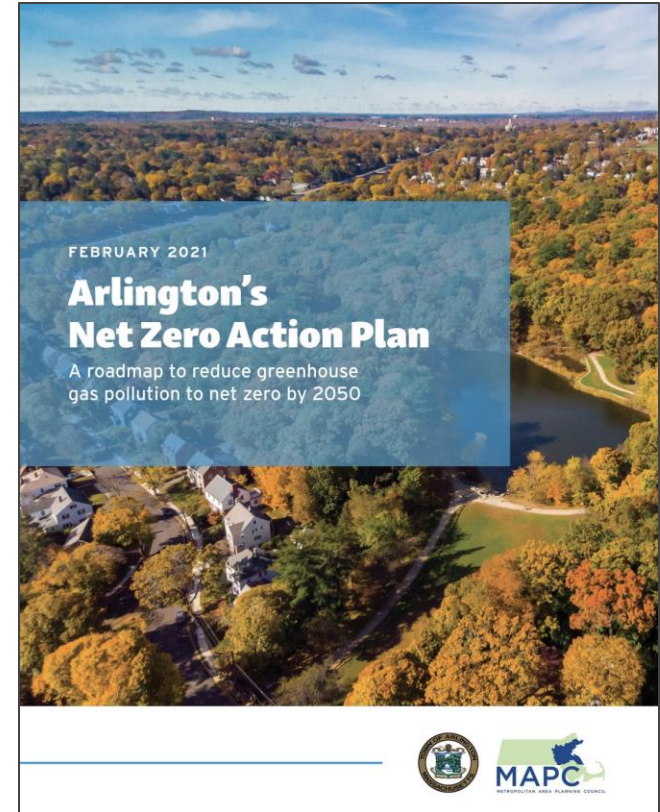


Net Zero Action Plan Update

The Town of Arlington has committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution by 2050.

The plan is due for its 5-year update, and I have taken on an important role in coordinating activities related to outreach, greenhouse gas emissions, and project management.

Let's walk through my journey of updating the NZAP.



Completed the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory.

- Since the first inventory in 2017, to the most recent inventory in 2022, there was a **14.8% decrease** in GHG emissions.

Presented findings to the Clean Energy Future Committee (CEFC).

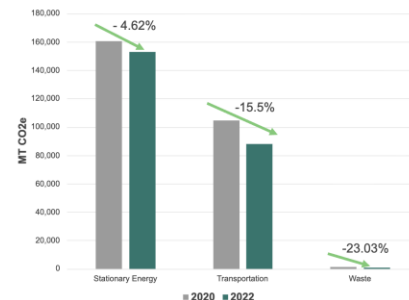
- Helped inform NZAP Action Items and fueled discussions in the committee.

Developed a public-facing GHG inventory for the website.

Community-wide Emissions

Changes in emissions by sector from 2020 to 2022.

- Stationary energy GHG emissions decreased by 4.62%.
- Transportation GHG emissions decreased by 15.5%.
- Waste GHG emissions decreased by 23.03%.

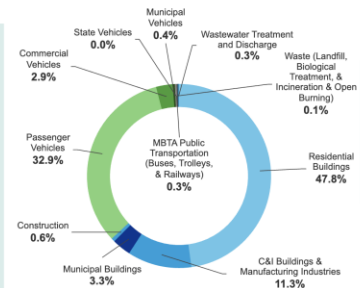


Community-Wide Emissions

Community-Wide Emissions (MT CO2e) by Subsector in 2022

Ranked by GHG emissions (highest to lowest)

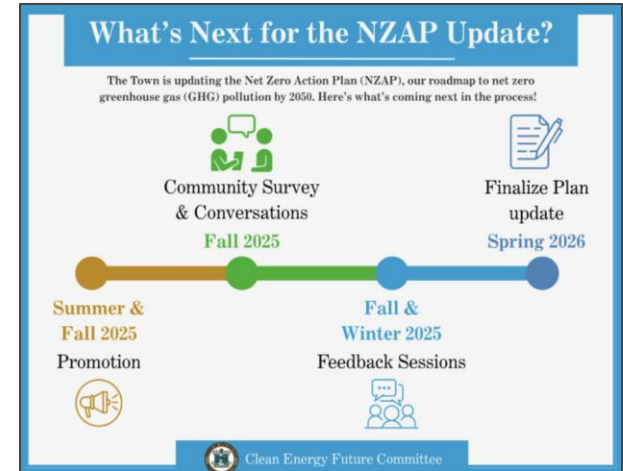
- Residential buildings (47.8%)
- Passenger vehicles (32.9%)
- C&I buildings and manufacturing industries (11.3%)
- Municipal buildings (3.3%)
- Commercial vehicles (2.9%)
- Construction (0.6%)
- Municipal vehicles (0.4%)
- Wastewater treatment and discharge (0.3%)
- State vehicles (<0.1%)
- Waste (Landfill, Biological Treatment, & Incineration & Open Burning) (0.1%)



Developed an outreach plan with the Outreach Subcommittee.

- Coordinated and led regular meetings with the Outreach Subcommittee to guide engagement efforts.
- Developed and implemented an outreach plan outlining event materials, committee road show logistics, and progress tracking across stakeholder groups.

Helped conduct community outreach.



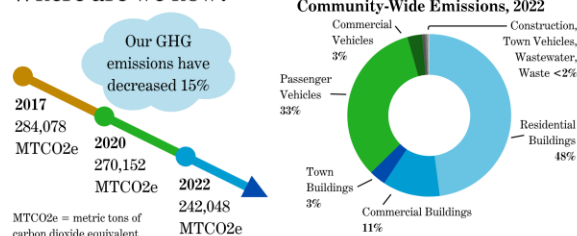
NZAP Outreach Event/Activities						
Events / Meetings						
Outreach Type	Event	Date	Virtual? (Y/N)	Presentation Needed? (Y/N)	Outreach Materials	
Tabling						
Awareness, Tabling	National Night Out	8/5/2025	N	N	Flyers: Learn more flyer, Timeline flyer, Arlington done previously flyer Activity: Sticker on priority topics, Suggestion box, Sign in sheet	
Awareness, Tabling	Farmer's Market Tabling	8/27/2025	N	N	Flyers: Learn more flyer, Timeline flyer, Arlington done previously flyer Activity: Sticker on priority topics, Suggestion box, Sign in sheet	
Awareness, Tabling	Town Day	9/20/2025	N	N	Flyers: Timeline, Arlington accomplished, take our survey, what is NZAP (poster) Activity: Take surveys, what motivates you	
Awareness, Tabling	Farmer's Market Tabling	9/24/2025	N	N	Flyers: Learn more flyer, Timeline flyer, Arlington done previously flyer Activity: Suggestion box, Sign in sheet	
Awareness, Tabling	Farmer's Market Tabling	10/22/2025	N	N	Flyers: What is NZAP (poster), What Arlington done flyer Activity: Take survey, Sign in sheet	
Focus Groups/Forums						
Focus Groups/Forums	Student Forum	10/7/2025	N	Y	Agenda: Introductions, Talia intro PP, Student sort activity, NZAP Survey	
Focus Groups/Forums	Public Forum	11/19/2025				
Subcommittee Road Show						
Stakeholder Engagement	Meeting - ABAC	10/15/2025	Y	Y	Directed to take survey, brief presentation	
Stakeholder Engagement	Meeting - Dept Heads	10/20/2025	Y	Y	Directed to take survey, brief presentation	
Stakeholder Engagement	Meeting					
Stakeholder Engagement	Meeting					

Arlington is updating our Net Zero Action Plan

What does this mean?

To do our part to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, Arlington has committed to net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution by 2050. The Town's Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) is our roadmap to net zero and is updated every 5 years.

Where are we now?



Where are we headed?

Action items in our NZAP focus on



Buildings

Using less energy
Heating with electricity



Mobility

Driving less in private cars
Burning less gas



Clean Energy

Decarbonizing energy supply
Improving grid reliability



Cross-Cutting Themes

Community Education
Regional Advocacy



Learn more!
tinyurl.com/ArlNZ-Update



What is the NZAP?

Arlington is updating our Net Zero Action Plan

What does this mean?

To do our part to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, Arlington has committed to net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution by 2050.

The Town's 2021 Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP), our roadmap to net zero, is due for its 5-year update! We've done a lot, and now it's time to revisit our priorities.

What do you care most about?

Place a sticker near the topics you want to prioritize for the NZAP update.



Use less energy



Use clean electricity
for heating & cooking



Make it easier to bike,
walk, & take transit



EV charging stations



Rooftop & community
solar arrays



Phase out gas pipes,
fix gas leaks

Other priorities? Place your idea in the box!



Learn more!
tinyurl.com/ArlNZ-Update



Farmers Market Activity

Arlington Net Zero Action Plan Five-Year Update

To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, Arlington has committed to net zero greenhouse gas pollution by 2050. Help update our community's roadmap to net zero!

Net Zero Action Plan Update Public Forum

November 19, 7:00–8:30PM

Arlington Community (Senior) Center
20 Academy Street / 27 Maple Street

Virtual option available, scan QR code



tinyurl.com/6hcm9jef

Learn about current net zero planning efforts
Share your ideas about action implementation
Commit to next steps to help slow climate change



Learn more!
tinyurl.com/ArlNZ-Update



Public Forum Flyer

Assisted with the Student Public Forum.

- Student Public Forum included a presentation, group discussion on priorities, and the town survey.

Helped plan and present at the Public Forum, in addition to leading an EV focus group discussion.



Brainstormed annual reporting key metrics for the NZAP and presented to the CEFC.

Decarbonization Road Map Focus Group

Instructions:

- 1) Read about the efforts that Arlington is making to meet its climate goals.
- 2) Ask questions of the facilitators about items that need clarification.
- 3) After you've completed this, rank them in order based on which item you would prioritize action on, keeping in mind limitations on funding and people's time. Think about which items have the potential to have the most impact, quickly.

Rank (1-10)	Action Items Use this document for further explanation.
	NZB 1: Decarbonize Arlington Homes and Businesses <i>Examples:</i> Expand Electrify Arlington campaign; pursue neighborhood-scale electrification to support gas system decommissioning; enforce and secure the future of Arlington's Fossil Fuel Free Bylaw; support increased energy efficiency of rental properties; increase tree planting on private property.
	NZB 2: Update Town Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures <i>Examples:</i> Ensure Town bylaws fully support net zero development and renovations; require assessment of energy efficiency improvements when buildings are sold or new renters move in; make it easier to do energy improvements for historic properties; support development and preservation of dense, mixed-use, affordable, transit-oriented housing ; incorporate GHG reduction into Town procurement and contracting processes.
	NZB 3: Efficient Operation and Decarbonization of Town Facilities <i>Examples:</i> Secure funding to decarbonize municipal buildings; adopt embodied carbon policies for Town construction and renovation projects [Embodied carbon is the emissions footprint associated with the production of materials used in buildings (e.g., steel, concrete).]; Pursue innovative clean energy solutions for Town buildings.
	ZEM 1: Decarbonize Private Vehicles

Helped develop survey, handed out flyers to increase completion, and analyzed results data.

- A total of 316 residents took the survey on ranking priority NZAP action items.
- Conducted survey data analysis and summarized common themes in comments.

Option	Points
NZB - Net Zero Buildings	
NZB 1	
NZB 1.1 - Expand the Electrify Arlington campaign	1301
NZB 1.2 - Pursue neighborhood-scale electrification to support natural gas system decommissioning	1327
NZB 1.3 - Enforce and secure the future of Arlington's Fossil Fuel Free Bylaw	1026
NZB 1.4- Support increased energy efficiency of rental properties	1146
NZB 1.5 - Establish an embodied carbon reduction initiative for residential and commercial construction	1001
NZB 1.6 - Increase tree planting on private property	751
NZB 2	
NZB 2.1 - Ensure Town bylaws fully support net zero development and renovations	1085
NZB 2.2 - Require assessment of energy efficiency improvements at point of property sale and tenant turnover	799
NZB 2.3 - Reduce barriers to energy improvements for historic properties	792
NZB 2.4 - Support development and preservation of dense, mixed-use, affordable, transit-oriented housing	984
NZB 2.5 - Incorporate GHG reduction into Town procurement and contracting processes	765
NZB 3	
NZB 3.1 - Secure funding to decarbonize municipal buildings	534
NZB 3.2 - Adopt embodied carbon and materials reuse policies for Town construction and renovation projects	447
NZB 3.3 - Pursue innovative clean energy solutions for Town facilities	549
ZEM - Zero Emission Mobility	
ZEM 1	
ZEM 1.1 - Expand access to public electric vehicle (EV) charging	598
ZEM 1.2 - Enhance EV education and resources offered through Electrify Arlington campaign	371
ZEM 1.3 - Advocate for smart charging options and EV-specific utility rates	489

Arlington Net Zero Action Plan Five-Year Update

Do you care about climate change?

Shape our path to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by prioritizing the actions that matter most to you.



tinyurl.com/NZAPsurvey



Learn more!
tinyurl.com/ArlNZ-Update



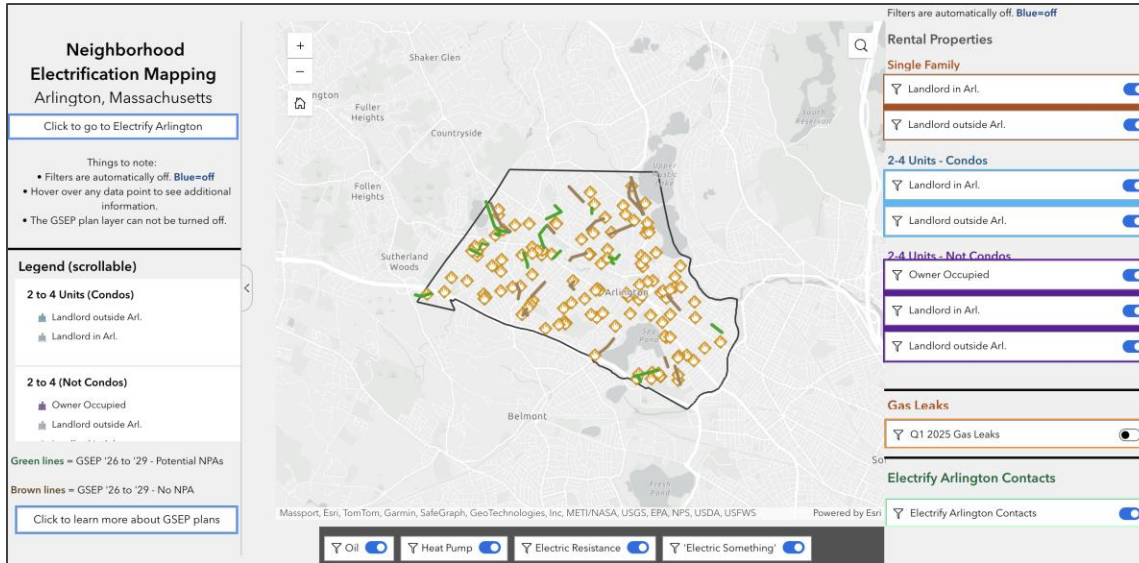
Electrification Outreach Mapping

Goal:

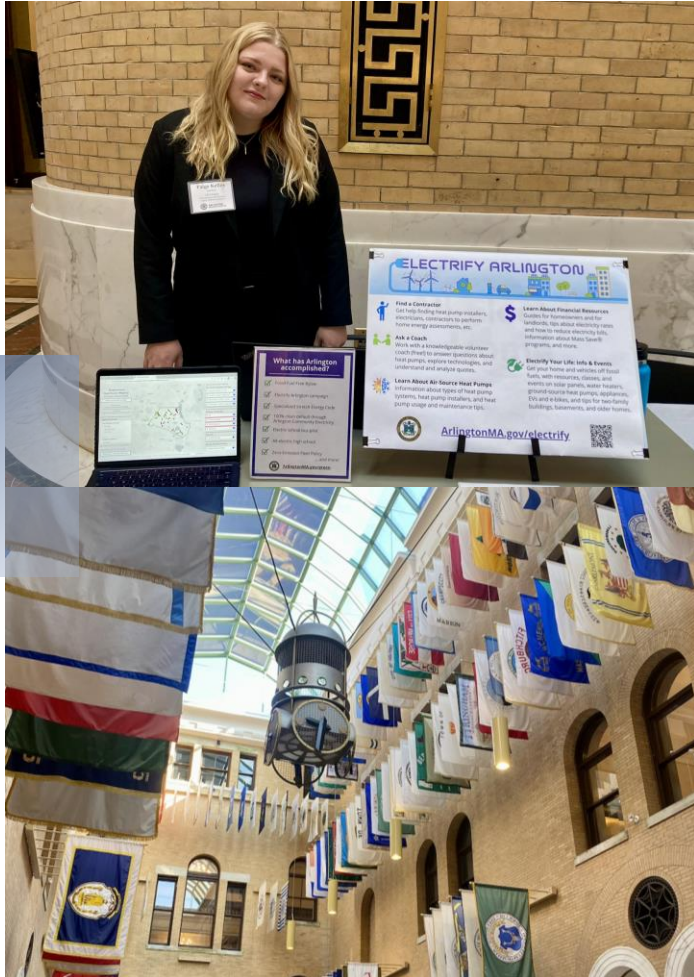
- Identify and visualize opportunities to accelerate neighborhood scale electrification outreach efforts as part of the Electrify Arlington campaign.

Key Activities:

- Cleaned large datasets to translate into layers in GIS, including heating fuel type, home type, income level, gas leaks, and more.
- Developed an interactive dashboard.



Sustainability Day at the State House



- Represented **Arlington's sustainability initiatives** alongside my supervisor.
- Engaged with **state legislators** to discuss local climate and clean energy priorities.
- Networked with **sustainable businesses** and **regional planning agencies**.
- Attended a **panel on municipal sustainability efforts** and best practices.

Overall Fellowship Takeaways

Professional Growth

- Gained hands-on experience in **local sustainability and clean energy planning**.
- Strengthened skills in **stakeholder engagement**, data analysis, and project coordination.



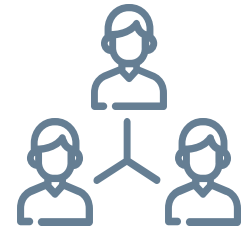
Personal Insights

- Learned how to balance **technical analysis** with **community priorities and equity goals**.
- Recognized the important role **volunteers in communities** play in town planning.



Looking Ahead

- Inspired to continue advancing **climate and sustainability initiatives** that are both **data-driven and people-centered**.
- Will carry forward a deeper understanding of **how important local sustainability work is**.



Talia

Thank you for your immense support throughout this entire 6 months.

Your dedication to sustainability initiatives and community engagement will stick with me for my career.

You have taught me so much!

Devon, Amy, and Carley

Thank you for your guidance and coordination throughout the entire fellowship.

Your thoughtfulness and dedication to our success was very appreciated.

Boston University Staff

Thank you so much for being so open to any questions and needs myself and the town had.

This fellowship would not be what it is without your data insight and support.

Arlington Planning Department & Clean Energy Future Committee

Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and allowing me to learn and grow in this fellowship.

Your passion has inspired me.

Thank you for listening!

Are there any questions?

