

Richard Crowley, Chair
Lisa Davey, Vice-Chair
Massachusetts Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS)

Dear Chair Crowley and Board Members,

The Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee of Greenfield, MA, urges you to update the current Massachusetts stretch energy code to a Net Zero stretch code with the EZ Code as its basis. Giving communities the option to adopt a Net Zero stretch code will support Greenfield's commitment to a 100% renewable, fossil-fuel-free future, help achieve our statewide energy efficiency and climate goals, and make buildings safer, more comfortable, and more efficient for families and businesses across the Commonwealth.

As you know, the MA stretch code is no longer ahead of the base code. As noted above, Greenfield is interested in moving our community to a 100% renewable, fossil-fuel-free future. We have made a commitment that all new municipal buildings will be built to the zero-energy standard. Over the past few years, Greenfield has built two zero-net-energy-ready buildings, a new office building for the DPW, and a new senior/community center. We are presently working on designing two more zero-net-energy buildings – a library and a fire station. Having a code in place ensuring that construction in the private sector will also be zero-net energy is necessary for us to achieve our town-wide goals, as well as moving Massachusetts closer to meeting climate goals as outlined by the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act.

We appreciate the opportunity to send comments to the BBRS on the proposed E-Z Code. We are pleased that the proposed code addresses the key issues needed to move us all forward including: strategies to reduce base energy use by requiring enhanced thermal envelopes; ensuring that all utilities including heat be electric, so that we can achieve zero-carbon emissions as the electric grid is upgraded; attention to resiliency; and preparing for the future so that our vehicles can also be electric and stop using fossil fuels, and that energy storage devices could be added

As noted above, Greenfield has made a commitment to a fossil-fuel-free-future. In addition to municipal efforts to build new zero-net-energy-ready buildings, starting in 2015 Greenfield Light and Power was launched, a municipal aggregation offering 100% green electricity to all electricity customers, usually at a savings over the utility offering, so that everyone has access to zero-carbon electricity at no additional cost. In 2010, we became one of the first Green Communities in Massachusetts and have achieved a 26% reduction in municipal energy consumption. Additionally, we have aggressively marketed the Mass Save programs through our Energy Smart Homes and Businesses programs; added 500 kW of new solar PV through a successful Greenfield Solar Challenge effort using a Greenfield based installer; and we are now promoting C-PACE financing to commercial property owners and have the (soon to be announced) first successful C-PACE project in western Massachusetts.

A zero stretch code is crucial to us in achieving our, and the state's, goals to address the climate crisis.

Sincerely,
Hannah Rechtschaffen, Chair
Sustainable Greenfield Energy Committee

cc.
Governor Charles Baker
House Speaker Robert DeLeo
Senate President Karen Spilka
Representative Paul Mark
Senator Jo Comerford