

# Action Implementation Blueprints



## ACTION NAME

**Provide incentives for businesses and homeowners to invest in renewable energy.**

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

CMLP will provide rebates and incentives for solar. CMLP and the Town will also explore creative financing options that would encourage investments by residents and businesses in renewable energy and battery technology.

### CHAMPION

CMLP and Sustainability Division

### IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

### PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

#### TIME FRAME

#### KEY PARTNERS

1. Maintain, promote, and enhance solar incentive programs for residential and commercial customers to ensure continued adoption of renewable energy in town.

**2020-2025**

- CMLP
- Concord Municipal Light Board
- CSEC

2. Create Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program. PACE programs allow building owners to finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water efficiency projects through property tax assessments. Commercial PACE is available to Massachusetts municipalities and can be enacted by the Select Board.

**2020-2021**

- Sustainability Division
- Assessor's Office
- Select Board
- Town Manager
- CMLP

3. Explore potential for offering incentives for customer-sited energy storage projects.

**2022-2025**

- CMLP
- Sustainability Division
- MA DOER
- Information Technology

4. Explore potential for on-bill financing, revolving loan funds, and other financing options for renewable energy and battery storage, as well as energy efficiency improvements for residential and commercial customers.

**2022-2025**

- CMLP
- Sustainability Division



## FINANCING RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

- CMLP ratepayers
- State incentives
- DOER
- MassDevelopment

### TRADEOFFS (CHALLENGES/BARRIERS)

- State solar rebate programs change every few years.
- Determination of how to structure financing to cover upfront cost of renewables and energy storage.
- For energy storage and PACE programs, it is critical to ensure proper consumer protection rules are in place.

### EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

- The solar and energy storage incentive programs should have a specific carveout for low-income or disadvantaged customers that provides higher incentives (up to 100% incentives in some cases).
- PACE and on-bill financing program should reduce or eliminate any fees or interest rates to low-income or disadvantaged customers.

### TRACKING SUCCESS

#### Outputs:

- Solar incentive programs
- PACE program
- Design for other financing options

#### Outcomes:

- Net energy bill savings to customers
- Reduced GHG emissions
- Increased renewable energy generation in town
- Increased energy storage

### ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

- Marketing, education, and outreach plan will be critical to this effort and getting customers to take advantage of incentives.
- Establishing a comprehensive website with information and social media campaign.
- Town committees and community groups with sustainability missions can help to build community support.