# Massachusetts is Ready for Net Zero 2021 REPORT, FEBRUARY 10TH

# NET ZERO - 4.13 Million Sq Ft



# What's this all about?!

Built Environment Plus sent a request out to the Massachusetts building community for data on what's happening around net zero buildings. We wanted to take a pulse on:

- 1. How many Net Zero projects exist or are in development in and around Massachusetts.
- 2. Does it cost more to build these projects?
- 3. What building types are achieving net zero?
- 4. Who is bringing these projects to reality?
- 5. How are they getting it done?

The Building Community answered our call and in nine short days we released this draft report on our findings. Submissions are still flooding in. We will update this document as we gather more data.

The bottom line is:

- 1. The Net Zero and Net Zero Ready building stock exceeds 5 million square feet and is growing at an exponential rate in the Commonwealth today.
- 2. The vast majority are doing this with little to no added cost. 87% reported <1% construction cost premium to achieve Net Zero Ready.
- 3. Net Zero Buildings span a wide range of types, with a high degree of representation from K-12, higher education, healthcare, laboratory, office, and multi-family.
- 4. There are dozens of builders, architects, engineers and owners already bringing these projects to reality. Some are developers.
- 5. Net Zero Ready buildings are highly energy efficient: 86% are at least 35% more efficient than the current stretch code baseline and all rely on heat pumps as the primary source of heat. Net Zero buildings also procure on-site and/or off-site renewable energy to offset 100% of consumption on a net annual basis.

FEB10,2021 It's clear from this quick survey that Massachusetts is more than ready for net zero The opt-in Net Zero Stretch Code as part of the S.9 Climate Bill is a clear and essential next step.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BUILD NET ZERO READY? NOT MUCH!



Percentage Change in Construction Cost due to Net Zero

Net zero ready buildings are being built at the same cost as conventional buildings. 87% of net zero ready buildings reported have less than a 1% construction cost premium. This is consistent across all building types and sizes, including high-rise buildings that are hundreds of thousands of square feet.

#### FEAR: Net zero is expensive.

**REALITY:** The vast majority of net zero buildings carry little to no added construction cost and significantly reduce operating cost. When construction is financed via loans or bonds, the operating savings more than offset the loan payment premiums. This results in positive cash-flow from day one.



### **NET ZERO READY DATABASE SNAPSHOT** 5.2 Million Sq Ft Currently Documented. More Pending...



### **The Companies Working on these Net Zero Projects:** Sorted by Sq Ft

#### OWNERS:

City of Cambridge Alexandria Real Estate Gate Residential Properties Midwood Investment & Development National Development UMass Medical School **Boston University** Chelsea Soliders' Home Princeton University Acton Boxborough Regional School District Madison Park CDC **Trinity Financial** Samuels & Associates P-12 **Property LLC** Ovster River Community School District HRI Pennrose Massbay Community College Westborough Public Schools Southern Connecticut State University Capstone Communities LLC Hope Real Estate Enterprises LLC Stony Brook University **Bristol Community College** Commonwealth of MA, DCAMM TND Traggorth DCAMM Fred Gordon Clark University **Tlee Development Rees Larkin Development** Town of Lexington Hampdentailor LLC Town of Eastham Hampshire College Sustainable Energy Fund Millersville University E3 Development Harvard University Z Captial Investments Mass Audubon MA Dept. of Conservation &

Recreation Chungha Cha Ryan Bushey Courtney and Lynn McCracken Preservation of Affordable Housing Somerville Community Corporation Gate Residential Somerville Housing Authority

#### ARCHITECT:

Arrowstreet NBBJ Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture Sasaki Elkus Manfredi ARC ZGF **KPMB** Perkins Eastman Payette William Rawn Associates ICON Architecture. Inc **DHK** Architects Elkus Manfredi Architects Lavallee Brensinger Architects **DiMella Shaffer** Bruner/Cott Architerra Inc. Placetailor **HMFH** Architects Ellenzweig Cambridge Seven Associates Utile Studio G Architects **DiNisco Design Architects &** Planners Oudens Ello Architecture, LLC Ashley McGraw Architects Spillman Farmer Architects **Barkow Leibinger** Mills Whitaker Architects Maple Hill Architects

Maryann Thompson Architects Snohetta Ryan Bushey MBV Architects

#### **MEP ENGINEER:**

BR+A Garcia, Galuska, Desousa ARUP Wozny Barbar RFS WSP Van Zelm **RW** Sullivan AKF Yeaton Petersen Kohler Ronan BLW Vanderweil Norian Siani Ripcord VAV International Zade TMP Kohler & Lewis South Mountain Company **MBV** Architects

#### ENERGY CONSULTANT:

The Green Engineer Thornton Tomasetti

#### BUILDER:

Moriarty Suffolk Consigli Construction Co. Shawmut Dellbrook JKS W. T. Rich Bauen Corporation NEI GC Gilbane Building Company Haycon

Bond Brothers Columbia Construction Co. Groom Construction Placetailor Wright Builders TN Ward Perrotto One Way Development Lee Kennedy MCR Contruction South Mountain Company Michael Joplin

### HOW MUCH BETTER CAN WE DO THAN THE CURRENT CODE? MUCH BETTER!



# Efficient buildings are far surpassing the current Stretch Code. Compared to the code baseline, 86% of submissions achieved at least 35% savings, whereas the current Stretch Code only requires a meager 10% savings.

#### FEAR: Isn't the current Stretch Code difficult enough already?

**REALITY:** The current Stretch Code is not a stretch. Well insulated building envelopes and high performance heat recovery easily outperform the current stretch code. With the addition of heat pumps, the energy consumption is slashed.



### HOW ARE BUILDINGS USING ELECTRICITY FOR HEATING? GROUND-SOURCE AND AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS!



# All 5+ million square feet of buildings are using heat pumps as the primary heating source. This spans all building types and sizes reported, including high-rise buildings that are hundreds of thousands of square feet.

FEAR: Net zero buildings must be 100% electric with no exceptions.

**REALITY:** Net zero standards promote electrification, but allow flexibility for fossil fuel use where appropriate. Examples include: back-up systems, lab buildings, healthcare facilities, commercial kitchens, large domestic hot water systems, and others.

**FEAR:** The electric grid can't support electric buildings. **REALITY:** New net zero buildings have lower peak electric demand than their peers.



### HOW ARE BUILDINGS ACHIEVING NET ZERO? ON-SITE AND OFF-SITE RENEWABLE ENERGY!



Of the 5+ million SF of net zero ready buildings, 3.4 million SF anticipate achieving net zero energy. Net zero buildings procure on-site and/or off-site renewable energy to offset 100% of annual consumption.

**FEAR:** Net zero buildings must produce all energy on-site. **REALITY:** Net zero buildings can procure renewable energy from off-site.

FEAR: Renewable electricity costs more than grid electricity.

**REALITY:** There are many procurement methods for renewable energy. Some marginally increase cost. Others cost less, such as: power purchase agreements and virtual power purchase agreements.



### This Report is Just Getting Started...

For questions related to this report, please reach out to communications@builtenvironmentplus.org

To learn more about Built Environment Plus check out our website <u>https://builtenvironmentplus.org/</u> and to check for updates to this report visit <u>https://builtenvironmentplus.org/road-to-net-zero/</u>

We are continuing to add to the database. Use <u>this form</u> to contribute additional projects or contact the email address above to request a spreadsheet.

Thank you to the many people and organizations who contributed to this effort. The building community united to provide this data swiftly.



Driving sustainable and regenerative design, construction, and operations of the built environment.



Zero Energy Buildings in Massachusetts: Saving Money from the Start 2019 REPORT



### The 2019 Cost Report

Our report, Zero Energy Buildings in MA: Saving Money from the Start, assessed in 2019, zero energy (ZE) upfront building costs, model performance, and life-cycle costs in Massachusetts. With buildings being a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, scientists, advocates, and local leaders are working to curb emissions and reduce energy use in the built environment by both retrofitting existing buildings and constructing new buildings to achieve Zero Energy Standards. While stakeholders and decision makers frequently cite high costs as the primary barrier to ZE buildings, we and report lead Integral Group found that many types of ZE buildings can be built with no added upfront cost and some commercial buildings can see return on investment in as little as one year.

#### READ IT HERE

