

## REPORT OF THE WEST TISBURY ENERGY COMMITTEE 2024

The West Tisbury Energy Committee has continued its work this year to guide and assist the Town toward its goal of reducing fossil-fuel use by 100% and increasing what fraction of our electricity is renewable by 2040.

Toward that end, in April the Town adopted the Specialized Code (225 CMR 22.00 and 225 CMR 23.00) for all new construction. The Specialized Code is a slightly more stringent version of the Stretch Code. For all-electric houses, requirements remain the same as with the Stretch Code; for houses that use mixed fuels for heating, cooking, and hot water, there is the additional requirement to install solar and pre-wire for future conversion to all-electric.

In 2012, West Tisbury attained Massachusetts' Green Communities status, which requires the Town to reduce municipal building energy use by 20%, track Town buildings' energy use, increase fuel-efficiency when acquiring municipal vehicles, and adhere to the Stretch Energy Building Code. Through its designation as a Green Community, the Town is eligible for grants to implement further energy-efficiency goals. Green Communities is now offering a "Climate Leader" program for municipalities that have adopted the Specialized Code, which enables increased State funding opportunities for decarbonization. The Energy Committee will be drafting a Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap to lay out how the Town will meet the State's mandated climate goals by 2050.

At the West Tisbury School, two Level-2 electric EV chargers (four ports total) are now available for use by the School and the public. These are in addition to the Level-2 electric EV charger (two ports total) located at the West Tisbury Library.

The Town, as a member of the Cape Light Compact (CLC), continues to advance green, cost-effective electricity and administer the State's Mass Save program. The CLC's new residential pricing for Winter 2025 will be 12.024 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), approximately 1.3 cents per kWh lower than that of Eversource. CLC's power-supply customers should see this price reflected on their electric utility bills from February 2025 onward.

The Town also worked with Vineyard Power, CLC's Mass Save partner on the island, to advance energy-efficiency and electrification programs, including for income-eligible residents. As part of this process, information about resident eligibility for Mass Save programs was included in the Town's annual tax bill. This outreach will continue in 2025. For more information, please see the Energy Committee's page on the Town website.

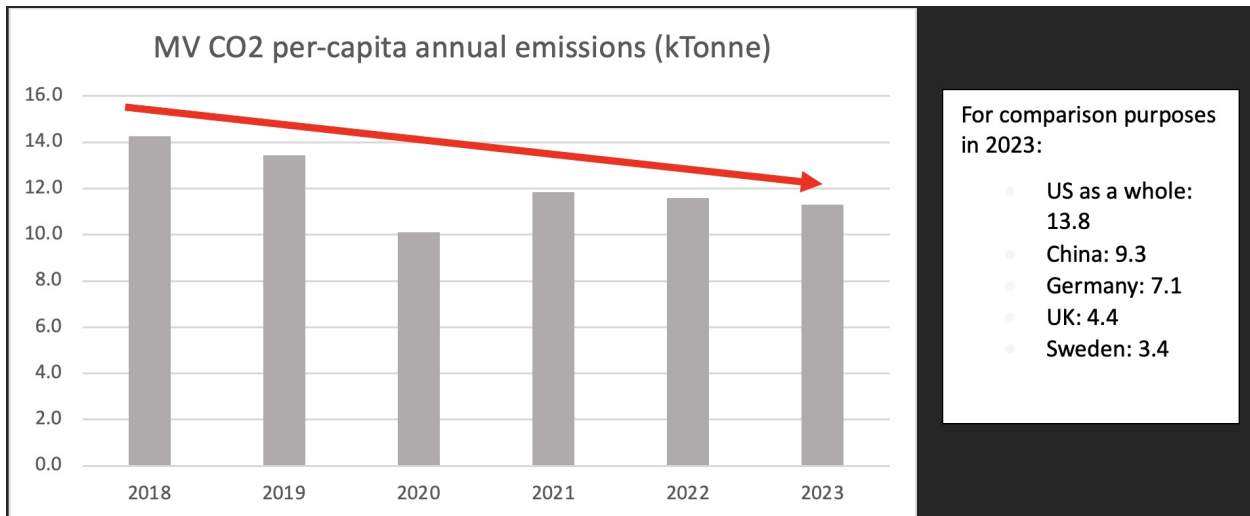
In terms of energy use, the following graphs demonstrate trends **island-wide**, with the most recent data from 2023. The island's use of fossil fuel declined slightly, though not at a rate that will meet our 2040 goals. That said, from 2018 to 2023, the island's year-round population grew by over 20%.

Source: Vineyard Power/Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee (VSEC)

The island also made strides in sourcing our electricity from renewable energy, with the bulk produced through photo-voltaic solar panels. Our use of on-island renewables has grown 70% since 2018, and now constitutes nearly 10% of total electricity use. If this trend continues, and is combined with cleaner grid-supplied electricity, our 2040 goal is attainable.

Source: Vineyard Power/VSEC

With respect to emission of greenhouse gases, the island trend is encouraging, especially given population growth since 2018. The graph below demonstrates total island CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from burning of fossil fuels and energy generation.



Source: Vineyard Power/VSEC

Island ownership of EVs has grown significantly. In 2020, the island had 112 fully electric cars; in 2024, the number has grown to 465 (in addition to 279 plug-in hybrids), slightly higher than the statewide average. [Source: MA Vehicle Census]. This growth has come in spite of limited (but increasing) infrastructure and on-island repair possibilities. In 2024, West Tisbury had 88 fully electric vehicles, up from 19 in 2020. Combined with 45 plug-in hybrids, EVs constitute about 3% of Town-registered vehicles.

This year, the Energy Committee said goodbye and thank you to long-time member Sue Hruby, who has been a critical voice in moving the Town toward greater energy efficiency and renewables.

We would welcome new members! If interested, please contact [wtenergy@westtisbury-ma.gov](mailto:wtenergy@westtisbury-ma.gov).

Richard Andre, chair  
 Kate Warner  
 Nicola Blake  
 Michael Gately