

# 2019 Energy Efficiency Plans Take Broader Approach

**GREEN ENERGY  
CONSUMERS ALLIANCE**  
*Formerly known as People's Power & Light/Mass Energy*

Kai Salem, kai@greenenergyconsumers.org  
www.greenenergyconsumers.org

Kai Salem, energy programs associate, presenting our advocacy initiatives.

## The best way to reduce our carbon footprint is to just use less energy.

For years, Green Energy Consumers Alliance has advocated to strengthen energy efficiency and conservation programs in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Our efforts have contributed to utility-administered programs that provide consumers with appliance rebates, free home energy audits, weatherization, and other reduced cost or no cost ways to make saving energy easier.

In 2018, Rhode Island developed its Energy Efficiency Program Plan for 2019, and Massachusetts finalized its Three Year Efficiency Plan for 2019 – 2021. But these plans look a little different from the tried-and-true formula of cutting down on our energy usage — and that's a good thing.

Both states have begun to acknowledge pollution reductions as a goal of the efficiency programs, rather than just cost savings. This allows the programs to invest in more diverse technology that reduces emissions, like efficient electric heating systems and battery storage. The efficiency plans will also better engage renters, non-English speakers, and other consumers who have struggled to access the programs in the past.

Although these plans are a step in the right direction, we have a long way to go before the efficiency programs are doing everything they can to increase efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. In 2019, Green Energy Consumers will track the implementation of energy efficiency programs and to advocate for innovation, equity, and ambitious goals.

**GREEN ENERGY  
CONSUMERS ALLIANCE**

*(formerly Mass Energy and People's Power & Light)*

**CURRENTS.**  
Your renewable energy newsletter

WINTER 2019  
NO. 59



## Drive Green helps 500 drivers go electric. You're next.

Thinking about an electric car? The Massachusetts state MOR-EV electric vehicle rebate changed as of January 1st, and the \$7500 federal tax credit is due to start ramping down for General Motors vehicles in April, but our Drive Green program will continue to offer significant discounts on an increasing variety of electric vehicles (EVs).

Drive Green, designed to offer educational resources, test-drives, and discounts on electric cars, has officially helped get more than 500 EVs on the road – cutting down on unhealthy greenhouse gas emissions and saving 500 drivers money. Previously available only in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, we're now expanding Drive Green to parts of upstate New York on behalf of National Grid, and to Westchester County in partnership with the non-profit Sustainable Westchester!



*Thanks to Alok G. for taking care of these cutie-pies by driving green!*

The Drive Green website has a ton of new information on charging, winter driving, public health, vehicle efficiency, and more. An increasing number of local dealerships are offering Drive Green discounts to buy or lease, and the types of cars available are expanding as well – from mini-vans to crossovers with 4 wheel drive.

**Your next car should be electric.  
We want to help. Get started at  
[greenenergyconsumers.org/drivegreen](http://greenenergyconsumers.org/drivegreen).**



## We're excited to announce big partnerships for 2019.

Thank you, Massachusetts Sierra Club and Rhode Island Audubon Society, for endorsing our "Green Powered" program and committing to getting more people to make the switch.

*"The Green Energy Consumers program, called Green Powered, actually increases the share of renewable energy in the Commonwealth, helping us to cut back faster on fossil-fuel consumption."*

**DEB PASTERNAK, ACTING DIRECTOR, MASS SIERRA CLUB**

*"We are dedicated to protecting birds, wildlife, and their habitats through environmental education, advocacy, and conservation. We believe that promoting clean energy is key to a sustainable future for people and all living things."*

**LAWRENCE TAFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RHODE ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY**



*Top: Sierra Club staff at our co-sponsored Hull wind turbine tour in 2017 | Bottom: EV showcase at RI Audubon's Raptor Weekend, 2017, in Bristol, RI.*





Honoring their Green Municipal Aggregation program, Board member Bob Shatten presented an award to members of Gloucester's Energy Committee Candace Wheeler, Paul McGeary, and Linda Stout-Saunders during our annual Fall Meeting

## More Communities Are Buying into Green Power

We're thrilled to report that the movement we call "Green Municipal Aggregation," (GMA) also known as "Community Choice Energy" or "Aggregation," is growing! In late 2018, we signed contracts to serve residents of Gloucester, Hamilton, and Stoneham (all in Massachusetts) with 5% more renewable electricity than is required by state law starting early this year.

Arlington, Brookline, Somerville, Sudbury, and Winchester are preparing to renew their successful GMA programs. Several more communities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island are looking to take their first steps (We're anxious to see which city or town in the Ocean State will be the first to adopt this program).

If you live in a community in either Massachusetts or Rhode Island that does not have a GMA program, and you are willing to help influence local decision makers, reach out to us at [hello@greenenergyconsumers.org](mailto:hello@greenenergyconsumers.org)

## "GREEN POWERED" IS WHAT YOU ARE!

**Green Energy Consumers** is our new name – and it better reflects our mission to speed the transition to a low-carbon future. We want more people to unite for a low-carbon future by participating in our programs. And when more people participate specifically in our green power program, like you do, more renewable energy comes online.

That's why we're making the green power program simpler and clearer. It's got a new name, "Green Powered," and New England Wind and New England GreenStart will now be called the 100% and 25% levels.

This change is reflected in your 2018 tax receipt, enclosed with this newsletter if you made contributions in 2018. If you have questions, contact us at 800-287-3950 x5 or [hello@greenenergyconsumers.org](mailto:hello@greenenergyconsumers.org). Happy new year!

## Supporting the three Providence wind turbines

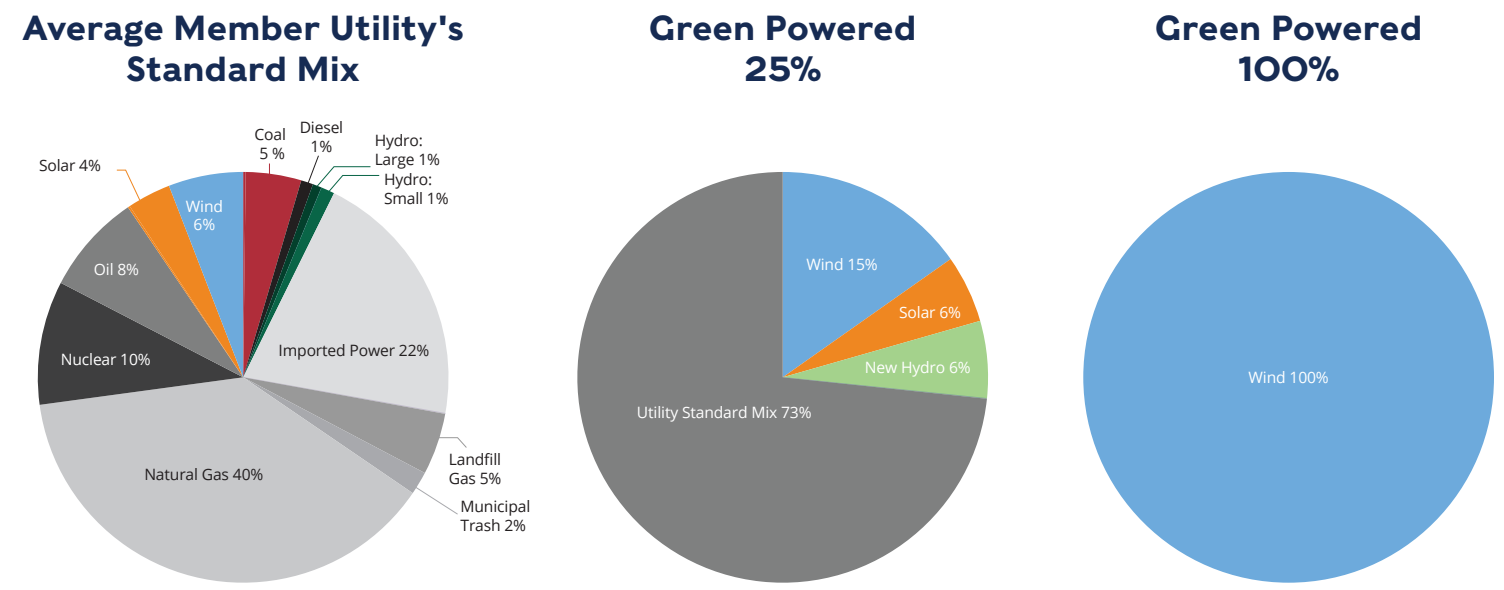


Green Energy Consumers is now purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from 3 wind turbines owned and operated by the Narragansett Bay Commission. The project is located at Field's Point Wastewater Treatment Facility in Providence, RI overlooking the beautiful Narragansett Bay. Altogether, the 3 turbines produce about 7,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year - enough to power 1,950 homes!

**How do RECs work?**  
Visit our blog to learn more:  
[greenenergyconsumers.org/blog](http://greenenergyconsumers.org/blog)

## Green Energy Consumers Alliance "Green Powered" 25% and 100%

DISCLOSURE PIES | WINTER 2019



The full disclosure label, including GreenStart Value, can be found at [greenenergyconsumers.org/disclosure](http://greenenergyconsumers.org/disclosure).