



*City of Beverly, Massachusetts*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **RE: BEVERLY AND SALEM MAYORS HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE ACTION**

BEVERLY – Today the Mayors of Beverly and Salem received recognition by the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayors Climate Protection Awards, along with 11 other mayors. The Climate Protection Awards are made possible through a partnership between the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Walmart. Winning mayors are honored for exemplary city programs that demonstrate how local climate action can reduce energy use and carbon emissions and protect local communities.

Mayor Michael P. Cahill received top honors among U.S. cities with a population below 100,000 for Beverly's work facilitating the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and greening schools. Mayor Driscoll is recognized for Resilient Together, Beverly and Salem's joint climate action and resilience plan. Just as climate change has regional impacts, the Cities recognized the need for a regional response and the power of a collective vision for a resilient future.

"I'm so pleased that Salem received this recognition from the Mayors Climate Protection Awards for our regional Resilient Together climate action plan, and that our friends and neighbors in Beverly received the top award this year for all of their innovative work on energy and climate protection," said Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Salem is deeply committed to real action when it comes to the climate crisis, and has been for years. From the development of our hazard mitigation plans and climate vulnerability plan several years ago, to prior capital investments in stormwater management, flood measures like seawalls and living shorelines, our current thoughtful approach to revising our flood zone ordinance, and the Resilient Together plan."

"We have taken meaningful steps toward reducing our own carbon footprint through expanding electric vehicle infrastructure and fleet composition, conversion of our streetlights to LED fixtures, installation of rooftop solar on schools and buildings, solarize and efficiency discount programs for residents, our municipal electrical aggregation program, our forthcoming green building ordinance, and our efforts to grow micro-mobility and alternative transportation options. Now, we look to the future and the possibilities of offshore wind, with Salem as a central part of that new green industry, and to the establishment of the City's first Sustainability Department to embed this work permanently in our city operations and see that the plan of action laid out in Resilient Together is advanced thoughtfully and consistently."

"Cities across America are leading the way, cutting greenhouse gas emissions to ensure our children a bright and healthy future," said Beverly Mayor Michael P. Cahill. "In Beverly, we recently opened a new police station heated and cooled by geothermal energy, acquired our second electric school bus as we transition our school fleet to fully electric, have performed energy efficiency work in all our schools and most city buildings, and continue to rapidly install city-wide EV charging infrastructure. Together with our great partners in neighboring Salem and elsewhere, and especially locally with our school Administration, School Committee, and City Council, we are determined to find and scale climate solutions on all fronts for the benefit of our residents, now and in the future. We are grateful to The U.S. Conference of Mayors and to Walmart for their leadership in this effort."

The award highlights advancement in Beverly's municipal fleet electrification and deployment of public EV charging infrastructure, as well as energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at schools to reduce carbon emissions. Recognizing that schools presented the greatest opportunity to rapidly reduce public building energy usage, with school buildings accounting for 42 percent of total municipal building emissions, the City has taken the following actions:

- City departments, including the Department of Public Services, Beverly Public Schools, and Grants Office, secured and deployed Massachusetts *Green Communities* funds toward controlled heating, cooling, ventilation equipment upgrades at five schools and new energy management systems.
- Construction of a new LEED Silver-certified middle school serving 1,400 students.
- A 5 MW solar array on a former Beverly landfill applies Renewable Energy Credits to schools and hosts community solar for 100 Beverly homes.
- Installation of EV charging stations at three schools.
- Planned installation of solar arrays on roofs and parking lots at Beverly Middle School and Beverly High School, as well as replacement of the historic 1981 solar array on the High School grounds.

Bridging both programs is Beverly's first all-electric school bus, which was among the first in the country to deploy vehicle-to-grid technology to send electricity back to the grid during peak demand periods. This bus and the second bus, delivered last week, are leased to Beverly by Highland Electric Fleets.

In addition to the programs highlighted in the award, Beverly has advanced other projects and programs to reduce carbon pollution and improve quality of life for residents, such as:

- Solar arrays at municipal parking lots and buildings;
- Net zero energy-ready police station with a geothermal heating and cooling system;
- Streetlight retrofit with right-sized LED technology, reducing energy by 80%;
- A free community compost drop-off pilot program; and,
- Transit-Oriented Development around Beverly's MBTA commuter rail station downtown with street improvements for pedestrians and cyclists.

Following their collaboration on the joint Resilient Together plan, the Cities of Beverly and Salem have partnered on elements of its implementation, including the launch of residential and small business energy efficiency outreach campaigns this winter.

*Additional details are available in the U.S. Conference of Mayors [press release](#) and [winning program descriptions](#) of the 2021 Mayors Climate Protection Awards*