



# KEY TAKEAWAYS •ENERGY•

## WHY ENERGY MATTERS

Energy impacts nearly all aspects of our daily lives. We depend on energy to travel; to heat and cool our buildings; and to power everything from streetlights, to smartphones, and medical equipment. Today, as the environmental and financial costs of energy rises, the need to produce and consume energy responsibly is clear. The thoughtful development of energy policies will provide a multitude of benefits to us all. Finding ways to rely less on fossil fuels and more on renewable energy sources can help improve air quality and related public health issues over time, as well as mitigate projected impacts from climate change. The same is true when we use energy more efficiently. Clean energy is also a growing sector in the Nation’s economy and presents an opportunity for local jobs.

## GREEN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

In February 2017, Chicopee was designated a Green Community by the Green Communities Division of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Green Communities receive technical assistance and financial support to improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy in public buildings, vehicles, facilities and schools.

Chicopee had to meet and now maintain the five criteria for Green Communities:

- As-of-right siting in designated locations for renewable/alternative energy generation, research and development, or manufacturing facilities. This has been implemented and two recent solar fields have been approved, adding to several existing solar fields.
- Expedited application and permit process for as-of-right energy facilities.
- Energy use baseline and plan to reduce energy use by 20% within five years. Municipal energy use dropped 19% from 2015 to 2018, and the City continues to improve.
- Purchasing of fuel-efficient vehicles and vehicles with idle-reduction technology.
- Adopt Board of Building Regulations and Standards Stretch Code for new construction.

Change in Municipal Energy Usage

	Baseline MMBTU	2018 MMBTU	% Change
Buildings	127,000	100,386	-21.0%
Open Space	1,047	421	-59.8%
Street & Traffic Lights	13,911	6,294	-54.8%
Vehicles	31,689	22,659	-28.5%
Water/Sewer	18,286	13,627	-25.5%
Other	5,781	16,747	+189.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>197,714</b>	<b>160,134</b>	<b>-19.0%</b>

Source: City of Chicopee 2018 Green Communities Report



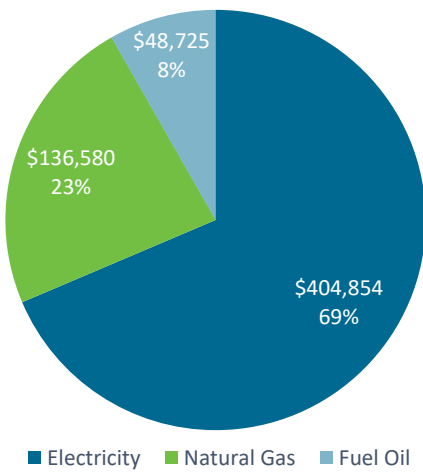
# MUNICIPAL ENERGY AUDIT

In 2014, the City contracted with Siemens Industry, Inc. to conduct an energy audit of municipal buildings to determine the energy consumption of its operations and assess opportunities to increase efficiency measures. In total, 49 buildings were audited. Siemens identified an estimated annual energy savings of \$620,000, not including any potential operational and maintenance savings. This amounts to about 25% of existing utility costs.

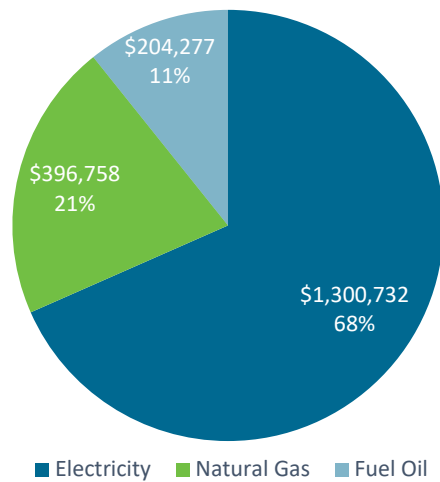
The City is taking steps every year to implement these recommendations, which represent long-term financial savings for the City as well as positive impacts on the environment. Siemens estimates that annual reductions would be the equivalent of . . .

- 10.5 acres of forest preserved from deforestation
  - 7.8 railcars of coal not consumed
  - 274.8 cars off the road for a year

Chicopee Municipal Energy Overview



Chicopee Schools Energy Overview



Source: Siemens Industry, Energy Audit, 2014.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The number of plug-in electric cars on American roads grows every year, and with them comes the need for more places to charge them. While most Americans charge their electric vehicles at home for shorter, local trips, there is a growing need for an expanded network of public charging stations outside the home. Chicopee is working to add to this network locally.

According to the website PlugShare ([www.plugshare.com](http://www.plugshare.com)) there are currently five charging stations within the City that are open to the public:

- RiverMills Senior Center at 5 West Main Street
- Residence Inn by Marriott at 500 Memorial Drive
- Chicopee Marketplace at 591 Memorial Drive
- Curry Nissan at 765 Memorial Drive
- Rumbleseat Bar at 482 Springfield Street

