

Solar History in Medfield

Something amazing is happening in Medfield! It all started on Pine Street in the year 2000, where the first solar electric panels were installed in town. This solar project remained the only one in town for many years. By 2012, there were 10 properties in Medfield that had installed solar panels. That number tripled in the next two years. Since 2014, the growth has been rapidly accelerating. In the year 2015, there were 23 solar installations added in town. The following year of 2016, there were 31 additional installations.

Every year since, there has been a steady growth in the adoption of solar energy by the people of Medfield. In 2017 there were 19 new solar arrays, 2018 saw 9 more, and in 2019, an additional 17 new systems were added. This trend really began to pick up 2020 and 2021, when there were 23 new solar projects added in each year. Last year in 2022, there were a total of 63 new solar installations in Medfield! This means that over one-quarter of all installations in town were completed last year.

As of December 31, 2022, Medfield has 237 properties and 3,710 KW worth of photovoltaics installed. (This includes residential, commercial, and two municipal arrays). So far this year, the permits pulled for solar indicate a potential for an even higher number of new solar installations and capacity in 2023 than in 2022.

What is driving this growth? There are many reasons driving Medfield residents to add solar panels to their homes. The federal tax credit of 30% of the total cost is a handsome incentive. In Massachusetts, we benefit from net metering and additional state tax credits and utility incentives. With solar, net electricity costs over a year are substantially reduced or eliminated. Adding solar panels is also increasingly viewed as an investment that adds value to a home.

Going solar helps achieve the carbon reduction goals set by the Town of Medfield Climate Action Plan. More and more, Medfield residents are saving money, generating green electricity, and making history in the process.

For information on adding solar to your home go to the Sustainable Medfield Action Portal:

<https://sustainablemedfield.org>. Additional information can be found at:

www.energy.gov/eere/solar

www.masssave.com/solar

In addition, you are invited to attend the Medfield Energy Committee program “Go Solar, Medfield!” at 7pm April 10th (online) and/or 11th (in person at the Public Safety Building). Meeting details are on the Town of Medfield website.

Let’s keep the momentum going and make more Solar History in Medfield!

Written by Patricia Pembroke for the Medfield Energy Committee
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