



Palmer, MA Solar Farm: FAQ

Can you provide a brief description of how solar credits work?

We agree to purchase the electricity produced at a solar field in Palmer, Massachusetts, at a cost of 10.25 cents per kilowatt hour. We pay the solar producer each month for the electricity that was produced and sent to National Grid. National Grid allocates credits to our accounts as we specify, at the General Service (G1) rate. If the current G1 rate is 17 cents per kilowatt hour, then we essentially paid 10.25 cents and were credited 17 cents. The difference between the two is our savings.

The total energy savings dollar amount?

I have estimated the savings, working with the solar operator at roughly \$400K in year one.

How many departments were able to report savings and which ones?

The 7 Departments who will benefit from the solar credits are: Schools, Police, Library, Youth Services, DPW, Water, Fire, and Plant & Facilities.

We have two (?) electricity zones?

Yes. Andover receives its electrical supply power from the WCMA and the NEMA zones. [See map](#). The 15 million kilowatt hours used by municipal government in Andover is roughly split 50-50 between the two. WCMA is Western/Central Massachusetts Load Zone and NEMA is Northeast Massachusetts and Boston Load Zone.

Which zone gets the solar credits?

Solar credits can only be applied to accounts within the same load zone. Since the solar field is located in Palmer, Massachusetts, which is in the WCMA Load Zone, those credits can only apply to our WCMA accounts.

Will streetlights and other non-buildings get any solar credits?

Yes. Non-building accounts that will also receive credits are Town Street Lights and the Fish Brook Pumping Station.

How many buildings in the zone with the solar credits?

The 12 WCMA Zone buildings are: Andover High School, High Plain/Wood Hill, Doherty Middle, West Elementary, West Middle, Shawsheen Elementary, Public Safety Center, Memorial Hall Library, Cormier Youth Center, West Andover Fire Station, Red Spring Road Shop, and the Town House.

Note of caution: All utility projections are just that, projections and estimates.

Check out how much energy the Palmer Solar Farm is producing through this [live data stream](#).