

Newton's Big Plans to Maximize Solar Power

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Communities throughout Massachusetts are always looking for renewable energy sources. Newton has several ideas that they are exploring to be one of those communities. Recently, schools and environmentalists across Newton are advocating for a city-wide transition from energy produced by burning fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, in order to reduce our community's carbon footprint.

In order to achieve a reduced carbon footprint, many buildings, including offices and schools, have had solar panels installed for power, instead of the standard method of burning fossil fuels for electricity. As said by Joana Canedo from [Green Newton School Connections](#), "All of the solar panels that have already been installed in the city by the city in municipal buildings. [From this,} electricity usage it's 21% less based on fossil fuels." This proves that Solar power is a good alternative energy resource to burning fossil fuels.

Overall, solar power is a great alternative to fossil fuels because it has no negative environmental impact and never runs out. The only issues with solar power are that it is expensive to create and that the sun only provides energy during the day. To solve the issue of the lack of energy at night, we could store the energy we don't use during the day and save it for the night. This could be achieved by the panels converting the radiant energy from the sun into thermal energy, and then storing the heat by trapping it inside a place where it cannot escape. This would then be transmitted to flat-plate collectors that heat carrier fluids such as air and water to temperatures ranging from 150° - 200° F. However, these are currently not very consistent with efficiency rates of such collectors being anywhere from 20 - 80%.

What you can Do!

If you want to learn more about Newton's response to climate change, I highly recommend you check out [Green Newton's](#) website where you can find tons of different articles and sources on a variety of different topics such as their new program called [Newton Power Choice](#), where you can opt for 100% of your power to be from renewable sources! There are also many other programs and information about what you can do to help keep our town safe and healthy.