



**Town Of Westford**

# Commitment to Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

Strategic Plan Implementation Workbook

## Overview



This implementation plan outlines the specific action items required to advance each strategy effectively. Each action item is categorized by its completion timeframe: short-term, mid-term, and long-term. Short-term actions are those expected to be completed within the next 12 months, mid-term actions are those that should be achieved within 12- to 24-months, and long-term actions are those projected to take 24 months or more.

This structured approach ensures that progress is measurable and aligned with the Town's overarching objectives. Additionally, this implementation plan is designed to be a living document, continuously updated as tasks are completed, and new action items emerge. Regular reviews and adjustments will help maintain momentum and ensure that the strategic plan remains relevant and responsive to changing circumstances.

The Town of Westford's Strategic Plan identified the following Strategic Outcome Areas:

- Responsive and Responsible Town Government
- Caring and Engaged Community
- Opportunities for Recreation and Preservation of Open Space
- **Commitment to Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action**
- Diverse and Attainable Housing Options
- Intentional and Appropriate Economic Growth
- Quality Educational Opportunities

For each of these outcome areas there are individual strategies and associated action items. Strategies are the specific projects, programs, or initiatives that the Town needs to undertake to make progress in each outcome area. Action items are the specific steps to advance each strategy.

## Strategies

Strategies are the specific projects, programs, or initiatives that the Town needs to undertake in order to make progress in the Strategic Outcome Area. The strategies within the Commitment to Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action outcome area are:

1. Create a Solar Siting Plan utilizing municipal and school properties
2. Conduct a portfolio-wide building energy audit and develop a prioritized implementation plan and funding strategy for energy efficient improvements to Town and School facilities
3. Develop a Fleet Transition Plan toward more energy efficient vehicles with supporting infrastructure
4. Develop a comprehensive waste reduction strategy to include residential and municipal sectors

## Key Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators (KPIs) measure and demonstrate progress in each of the Strategic Outcome Areas. They are measurable metrics used to evaluate success, providing a quantitative or qualitative way to assess performance and monitor progress. KPIs for Commitment to Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action include:

Key Performance Indicator	Person(s) Responsible	Target	FY2024	FY2025	Data Source	Frequency
Total renewable energy generated annually (kWh)	Town Manager	TBD	18,819	15,346	Mass Energy Insights/ Solren/Yaskawa	Annual
Reduction in energy use intensity for all Town buildings (total kBtu/total sqft)	Town Manager, Facilities	TBD	-1.66	TBD	Mass Energy Insights	Annual
Increase in annual fleet clean energy use (*metric being refined*)	Town Manager	TBD	TBD	TBD	This metric is being refined	Annual
Reduction in annual trash tons per household	Town Manager	TBD	n/a	0.12	MassDEP ReTRAC Report (note this is calendar year)	Annual
Tons of waste diverted through curbside and residential recycling programs	Town Manager	TBD	2,060	1,941	MassDEP ReTRAC Report (note this is calendar year)	Annual

### Baseline Assessments and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

To effectively measure progress and evaluate the success of each strategy, baseline assessments provide a starting point by documenting current conditions and performance metrics. These assessments establish a clear foundation for tracking changes over time, ensuring the town can monitor its achievements and make data-driven adjustments to its plans. See individual KPI tabs for trends and data.



## Strategy 1 - Solar Siting Plan

### Create a Solar Siting Plan utilizing municipal and school properties

#### Action Items

##### 1 **Development of Draft Solar Siting Plan Document**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office

Timeframe: 2 Years

Resources: TBD

Notes:

#### Updates/Status:

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 The Town is currently evaluating potential pathways for this effort. We will be meeting with National Grid to discuss what resources and support they can provide. We also can designate this as a specific project under the Task 3 of the NMCOG contract. We continue to work with Ameresco on Blanchard Roof and any facilities included in the original procurement.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 No update due to limited staff capacity.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 No additional update due to limited staff capacity.*

##### 2 **Establish solar-friendly permitting policies and amend zoning to be solar-ready**

Responsible: Land Use Management Department

Timeframe: 1 year

Resources: NMCOG

Notes: Current Zoning Bylaws only regulate large-scale solar. Staff wishes to clarify our bylaws to address small scale, residential solar arrays.

#### Updates/Status:

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 Discussion with NMCOG on designating this as a special project under the Sustainability Support Services engagement.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 NMCOG is working on development of draft Ground-Mounted Solar (Small Scale) and Solar Battery Storage Zoning Bylaws under the Sustainability Support Services contract in collaboration with the Land Use Management Department.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 The Planning Department expects to receive initial information from NMCOG by Thursday of next week about their efforts to recommend a zoning bylaw amendment for ground-mounted solar for consideration by the October 2025 Special Town Meeting. This information will be shared with CEASC as soon as practical and a the conversation is planned by the Planning Board on July 21st.*



## Strategy 1 - Solar Siting Plan

*FY2026 Qtr. 1 The Planning Board discussed changes relative to ground-mounted solar panel (in progress) arrays at their July 21st meeting. NMCOG presented recommended amendments for several sections based on DOER's model bylaw. Representatives from CEASC were included in the PB discussion. The consensus was that additional work was needed before Town Meeting could be asked to consider these changes; as such, it was not further considered for October 2025 STM and would be considered for a future TM warrant article. PB stated additional discussion with CEASC, other departments, and any other applicable boards or committees would occur in the interim.*

### **3 Work with National Grid to assist with transition and to understand capacity and interconnection obstacles**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office

Timeframe: Multi-year/ongoing

Resources: Staff time from multiple departments

Notes: Also see updates for ECON Strategy #1

[ECON - Economic Growth OA Workbook.xlsx](#)

#### **Updates/Status:**

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 Initial meeting set for February 4th with National Grid and staff to begin an ongoing dialogue on issues of mutual concern.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 Staff from Public Safety, DPW, TMO, LUMD, and Facilities met with staff from multiple divisions of National Grid on Feb. 4th to discuss myriad issues. While the principal topic was grid capacity specific to MBTA projects, interconnection was briefly discussed and follow-up is planned at a future meeting. Both parties agreed to continue meeting with a goal of once per quarter.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 No additional discussions have occurred relative to interconnections for solar. It is anticipated that this will be a topic investigated as part of the Ameresco performance contract if a solar project on Blanchard moves forward. For additional updates on grid capacity or stability issues, please refer to Economic Development FY2026 Qtr 1 update.*

### **4 Complete Blanchard Middle School rooftop solar project**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office/ School Facilities

Timeframe: TBD

Resources: Grants, incentives and potential future debt issuance

Notes:



## Strategy 1 - Solar Siting Plan

### Updates/Status:

- FY2025 Qtr. 2 No update. Roof replacement, including making it solar-ready, was fully completed in the 1st Quarter.*
- FY2025 Qtr. 3 Staff reengaged with Ameresco to discuss using the existing M.G.L. Ch.25A §11(i) procurement (performance contracting) as a potential vehicle for a solar array. A meeting is set for June to discuss specific projects to include in a revised project package.*
- FY2025 Qtr. 4 Ameresco has been provided a revised potential project set as well as cost savings and repayment data resulting from recently completed and pending projects for FY2025/FY2026. Staff is currently working with Ameresco to determine the feasibility of a potential Phase 1 performance contract.*
- FY2026 Qtr. 1 Ameresco provided a draft project set for staff review. Initial data indicates that a large-scale performance contract for specific projects is feasible, although the cost estimate data has not yet been updated for current construction costs. Work continues on this initiative, with an intended target of having sufficient information to consider an FY2027 Capital request, which would require a complete project financial model in early Qtr. 2.*



## Strategy 2 - Town & School Energy Efficiency Projects

Conduct a portfolio-wide building energy audit and develop a prioritized implementation plan and funding strategy for energy efficient improvements to Town and School facilities

### Action Items

**1 Complete Investment Grade Audit (IGA) with Ameresco to use as foundation for capital improvement plan (CIP) as it applies to facilities.**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office; Facilities Department

Timeframe: By end of FY2026

Resources: Staff time

Notes:

### Updates/Status:

- FY2025 Qtr. 2 Draft report received. Transmitted to Tecton as part of space needs assessment; currently being used to guide immediate project needs based on available incentives under Ch. 25A §4 procurements.*
- FY2025 Qtr. 3 Staff met with Ameresco representatives in January to discuss revisions to the project selection sheet and a potential project focusing on selected projects that cannot be pursued under Ch. 25A §14. Staff has been actively working with Beacon (our consultant for this project) to pursue a potential project including Blanchard Solar, Building Management Systems (BMS), and Cameron Senior Center HVAC. Meetings are scheduled with National Grid in May and Ameresco in June.*
- FY2025 Qtr. 4 Ameresco has been provided a revised potential project set as well as cost savings and repayment data resulting from recently completed and pending projects for FY2025/FY2026. Staff is currently working with Ameresco to determine the feasibility of a potential Phase 1 performance contract.*
- FY2026 Qtr. 1 Ameresco provided a draft project set for staff review. Initial data indicates that a (in progress) large-scale performance contract for specific projects is feasible, although the cost estimate data has not yet been updated for current construction costs. Work continues on this initiative, with an intended target of having sufficient information to consider an FY2027 Capital request, which would require a complete project financial model in early Qtr. 2. At this time, projects selected include Blanchard solar array, Building Management Systems (BMS) on all buildings with outdated controls, Cameron HVAC, and Westford Academy roof and HVAC. This may change as the financial model is refined.*



## Strategy 2 - Town & School Energy Efficiency Projects

### 2 **Develop a Prioritization and Implementation Plan for Energy Efficiency Projects**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office; Facilities Department

Timeframe: By Spring 2026 ATM

Resources: Staff time

Notes:

#### **Updates/Status:**

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 See update for Action Item 1. Currently using this to aggressively pursue short-term incentives with National Grid per Action Item #4.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 Tecton Architects is wrapping up the Space Needs Assessment project and has delivered draft needs assessment. Currently working on recommendations and draft CIP document, which will include most Town buildings. Final Department Head Workshop planned for Qtr. 4. The final deliverable will include a scalable Excel workbook that will include buildings under study. Staff will use this workbook to add in other data from other studies and capital and maintenance plans for a comprehensive CIP. A major component will be energy efficiency projects, either stand-alone or integrated into larger project scopes.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 Work on the Space Needs Assessment continues. Tecton is expected to deliver a near final draft in July. Due to limited staff capacity, focus has been on projects with beneficial incentives and which can be financed without the need for funding beyond any current appropriations.*

*FY2026 Qtr. 1 Draft CIP model submitted by Tecton in late July. Staff is reviewing, and expects (in progress) to complete the project by the end of Qtr. 1.*

### 3 **Develop a funding strategy for energy-efficiency projects**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office; Finance Department

Timeframe: Spring 2025 ATM

Resources: Staff time

Notes:

#### **Updates/Status:**

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 The Annual Town Meeting Warrant will include an article authorizing the creation of a fund or account in which rebates, grants, incentives and net energy savings can be transferred for use in funding Town and School energy efficiency project opportunities that arise due to the availability of short-term incentives, grants and other programs.*



## Strategy 2 - Town & School Energy Efficiency Projects

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 Article 4 was passed by Annual Town Meeting on March 22, 2025. Work continues on short-term projects (see Action Items #1 and #4). Staff is evaluating use of a significant leveraging of existing net metering credits (NMC) for FY2025 and FY2026 projects, as well as reallocation of future credits (Schedule Z) generated by the 2013-2014 solar purchase and sale agreements with NexAmp (Hubbarston and Charlton facilities) to fund future projects.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 Staff completed the evaluation of NMC's for major project financing and determined use for projects under M.G.L. Ch.25A §14 is viable and capacity exists. Schedule Z changes were submitted to accommodate the FY2026 Energy Efficiency Projects – Phase 2 Lighting project package; in total, 8 buildings were included, funded with \$724,575 in NMC. Staff will continue to monitor our accounts to ensure that future credits are available where needed to fund capital investment moving forward.*

### **4 Fast-track energy efficiency projects based on incentive and funding opportunities as they arise with a goal of completing at least one major slate of projects per fiscal year.**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office; Finance Department; Facilities Department

Timeframe: Annual, ongoing

Resources: Staff time, Incentives, Green Communities grants, and NMC.

Notes:

#### **Updates/Status:**

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 We currently have active on lighting projects at 2 buildings and weatherization projects on 8 buildings. Total project costs are \$860,305, with rebates for \$504,542 and additional on-bill financing for total incentives of \$767,700, resulting in a net year 1 cost of \$92,605 and a leverage ratio of 89%. These projects will generate a positive cash flow immediately upon completion and after repayment an estimated \$68,000 annually at current rates. We are currently evaluating additional lighting and transformer replacement projects on 16 buildings and the full electrification of the Abbot WWTP (currently heated with oil) for the FY2025-FY2026 projects.*



## Strategy 2 - Town & School Energy Efficiency Projects

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 Abbot WWTP Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)/Electrification Project under contract with Guardian Energy Management as the first project to utilize net metering credits (NMC) as a funding source. Using incentives and NMC, the project will fully electrify this facility at no out-of-pocket costs to the Town, replacing one of two remaining fuel oil systems in our inventory. Work is ongoing on a large package (>\$1.5M) in LED retrofits at up to ten Town and School facilities. An application was submitted for FY25 Green Communities Round 3 grant to fund transformer replacements at 5 Town and School facilities. If approved, this project will be fully funded with the grant, incentives and on-bill repayment, with no out-of-pocket costs and a short payback period.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 In May, the FY2026 Energy Efficiency Projects – Phase 2 Lighting package was approved by the Select Board and contracts executed. This \$1.5M package included 8 buildings and was funded entirely with incentives, net metering credits, and 0% On-Bill-Repayment, resulting in no up-front or out-of-pocket costs to taxpayers. Construction is anticipated to be fully completed by the end of FY2026 Qtr. 2. This is the largest single package of energy efficiency projects the Town has completed.*

*FY2026 Qtr. 1 In August, the Town was notified of a \$125,000 Green Communities award; the (in progress) program was highly competitive. This will allow the FY2026 Transformer Upgrade project to move forward. Contracts are pending execution and all projects should be completed by the end of FY2026 Qtr. 2. In FY2024, energy efficiency investments totalled \$360,739 and required \$86,209 in out-of-pocket costs; total investment in FY2025-FY2026 will reach \$2,875,100 with only \$92,605 in out-of-pocket costs. Total to-date projected annual savings exceed 1,100 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, 1,376 gallons of fuel oil, \$14,269 therms of natural gas, and more than 1.2 million kWh in electricity.*



## Strategy 4 - Fleet Transition Plan

Develop a Fleet Transition Plan towards more energy efficient vehicles with supporting infrastructure.

### Action Items

#### 1 **Transition full fleet inventory to Brightly software platform**

Responsible: Town Manager, Fire, Police and DPW

Timeframe: Summer, 2025

Resources:

Notes: Includes developing a fleet numbering system and SOP's for maintaining inventory.

#### Updates/Status:

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 All DPW and Facilities vehicles in Brightly. Fire Department vehicles will be entered in Qtr. 4.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 No update.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 Due to state requirements, the Fire Department will not be able to use Brightly as the certification requirements now require a specific software for Fire vehicle inventory tracking.*

#### 2 **Work with Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEASC) and Town departments to evaluate operational and cost impacts of Zero-Emission Vehicle First Policy.**

Responsible: TMO, DPW, CEASC

Timeframe: 1 Year

Resources: Staff time

Notes: Requirement #5 for Climate Leader Community program states "All Departments in the municipality must purchase only zero-emission vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable."

#### Updates/Status:

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 No update. This is planned for FY2026.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 No update. This is planned for FY2026.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 No update. This is planned for FY2026.*

*FY2026 Qtr. 1 CEASC has been tasked with developing a draft policy for staff review and (in progress) consideration as a starting point for this action item.*



## Strategy 4 - Fleet Transition Plan

### 2 **Develop comprehensive fuel tracking across all platforms and departments.**

Responsible: TMO, DPW

Timeframe: 1 Year

Resources: Staff time

Notes:

#### **Updates/Status:**

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 DPW fuel system replaced in early FY2025, and all vehicles have moved over to centralized fueling. This will allow full access to department/vehicle level fuel consumption and fuel efficiency. Individual cards were issued for all EV's using Town chargers to allow tracking of power consumption, which was not contemplated when the chargers were initially deployed. This will allow the Town to track EV charging costs moving forward.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 DPW fuel system replaced in early FY2025, and all vehicles have moved over to centralized fueling. This will allow full access to department/vehicle level fuel consumption and fuel efficiency.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 No update. At this time, we have made as much progress as we can with fuel data with existing staff capacity. Fuel data is currently in three (3) formats: WEX card data, DPW data, and in bulk deliveries for Fire diesel tanks. This data will be reviewed and reported annually as part of Mass Energy Insight (MEI) reporting. Action Item #3 (below) will include a plan to collect EV charging costs for fleet vehicles charged "behind the fence."*

*FY2026 Qtr. 1 Police Department staff is working on collecting additional data on the transition of (in progress) their patrol fleet to hybrid vehicles and resulting impact on fuel consumption. This will be presented in the final Qtr. 1 update.*

### 3

#### **Work with Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (CEASC) to identify a Town standard for future EVSE installations and replacement of any existing units.**

Responsible: TMO, DPW, CEASC

Timeframe: 1 Year

Resources: Staff time

Notes:

#### **Updates/Status:**

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 No update. This is planned for FY2026.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 No update. This is planned for FY2026.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 No update. This is planned for FY2026.*



## Strategy 4 - Fleet Transition Plan

*FY2026 Qtr. 1 Staff attended a training on EV and EVSE procurement, as there have been a number of new developments that will expand procurement options. New legislation in late 2024 resulted in changes that took effect in February 2025, and all the current state contracts (VEH110, VEH111, and VEH102) expire this fall; the new contracts will include additional categories for EVSE maintenance and other ancillary services. Combined, these changes present new opportunities to procure comprehensive EVSE and maintenance/operations contracts. During the course of the J.V. Fletcher Library Addition and Renovation project equipment submittal review and following the decommissioning of eight (8) existing and obsolete units, and considering the lack of staff capacity to manage both the existing and expanded public EV charging program, it became apparent the Town will be best served by a complete solution. The chargers included in the Library project bid are being held pending review, and may be procured under separate contract. CEASC and TMO will begin work this quarter on this Action Item as the first priority in the Fleet Transition Plan.*



## Strategy 4 - Comprehensive Waste Reduction

**Reduce waste generation and increase recycling rates to promote environmental sustainability and cost efficiency in waste management**

### Action Items

- 1 Develop SharePoint site to provide hub for managing collection and disposal contracts (in collaboration with WRC) and tracking/reporting data and trends.**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office

Timeframe: 1 year (complete by FY2026 Quarter 1 end)

Resources: TMO and IT staff time

Notes: MassDEP ReTrac reporting (CY basis) provides benchmarking and standardized reporting data.

### Updates/Status:

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 WRC completed MassDEP CY2024 ReTrac reporting, which will provide standardized benchmarking data. Assessor's office completed initial work on developing accurate data on eligible households, which is the foundational piece of several critical metrics.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 TMO centralized collection of all collection and disposal contract data, including invoices from EL Harvey and ReWorld, and other required reports. Still working on deploying a shared file location in recently migrated Office 365 platform, but still using emails currently to share information with WRC to review invoices and enforce contract terms.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 This is in progress but has been delayed due to other IT priorities. Staff continues to share information with WRC and is working towards a shared platform.*

- 2 Develop a comprehensive waste reduction strategy to include residential and municipal sectors.**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office

Timeframe: 1 year

Resources: Westford Recycling Commission, TMO staff time, NMCOCG

Notes: MassDEP ReTrac reporting (CY basis) provides benchmarking and standardized reporting data.

### Updates/Status:

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 No update.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 WRC designated a working group to assist TMO with developing a plan. NMCOCG will assist in developing plan document in collaboration with WRC and TMO. PAYT and an Enterprise Fund will be foundational elements of the plan.*



## Strategy 4 - Comprehensive Waste Reduction

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 Work continues on this initiative. NMCOG provided a template to WRC to inventory current volunteer-led programs. Staff has completed a plan outline and is planning on a complete draft document by the end of FY2026 Qtr. 1.*

*FY2026 Qtr. 1 WRC has completed their program inventory and the results are being (in progress) incorporated into the draft plan. TMO staff has been working with outside vendors to gather cost and operations data for food waste collection and mattress collection as part of increased diversion opportunities. See Action Item #4 update for information on PAYT.*

**3 Develop processes to allow more complete and disciplined management of existing solid waste and recycling contracts to optimize performance and minimize costs in order to redirect existing budgets to additional waste diversion efforts through an Enterprise Fund.**

Responsible: Town Manager's Office

Timeframe: 6 months

Resources: Westford Recycling Commission, TMO staff time

Notes:

### Updates/Status:

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 TMO, working with Town Counsel, settled a claim against Waste Management for \$110,000 for contract violations for the contract ending in FY2024. As part of the groundwork, internal control processes were developed to better monitor contract performance, providing a solid foundation to monitor and enforce compliance with the Town's current hauler, EL Harvey. Enforcement began in this quarter of volume limits on residential collection; these limits had been in place since 2019 but had not been enforced under prior contracts.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 2 TMO, using data and analysis conducted by Westford Recycling Commission members, successfully challenged the blended value rate being charged by EL Harvey, resulting in a credit of \$18,000 and improved oversight on invoices moving forward. WRC continues to take the lead in monthly review and verification of commodities pricing being used to determine recycling revenues.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 3 WRC continues to conduct monthly reviews and approvals of recycling commodities pricing.*

*FY2025 Qtr. 4 WRC continues to conduct monthly reviews and approvals of recycling commodities pricing. Following up on questions the WRC raised on glass recycling costs, volunteers from WRC toured EL Harvey's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to learn more about issues with the glass recyclign process and market. As a result, staff will evaluate the potential for source-separated glass collection to generate revenue rather than adding cost to our recycling program.*



## Strategy 4 - Comprehensive Waste Reduction

### 4 Implement Pay-As-You-Throw curbside collection

Responsible: Town Manager's Office; Finance Department

Timeframe: 1 Year

Resources: Staff time, program revenue, MassDEP grants

Notes:

#### Updates/Status:

- FY2025 Qtr. 2 Options for program structure presented to Select Board based on staff research and resident survey. Guidance from Board was to further evaluate Hybrid PAYT program (35-gallon cart(s) and fee-based overflow bags). Additional research underway.*
- FY2025 Qtr. 3 Staff solicited further recommendations from WRC on program design and conducted additional research. Resulting recommendations will be provided in the 4th quarter on a program designed around a "basic" service with automated carts under existing tax levy with fee-based collection of amounts in excess of basic service. Staff is working with vendors to finalize program costs, revenue projections and other details. Final recommendation expected early 1st Quarter FY2026. Application for MassDEP Technical Assistance Grant, a prerequisite for implementation grant funding, is planned to be submitted this quarter.*
- FY2025 Qtr. 4 TA Grant submittal delayed, but work continued on PAYT program recommendations. This initiative has been delayed as staff has refocused on the FY2026 Energy Efficiency projects.*
- FY2026 Qtr. 1 Staff has met with EL Harvey regarding any cost implications for bag collection. (in progress) Meetings have been held with several cart vendors, and cost estimates are being prepared. The Town applied for and received the MassDEP Technical Assistance grant and has been actively working with our Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC) to identify and address not only the technical and logistical aspects of PAYT implementation, but unintended consequences (such as illegal dumping) and other diversion activities that should accompany a successful PAYT program. To this end, staff is working on fee-based programs for mattress collection and has reengaged with food waste collection companies. Both PAYT and the Comprehensive Waste Reduction Plan will be the subject of a September 23rd Board update.*