



## NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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### **New Report Shows Municipal Light Plants Leading the Way in Carbon-Free Generation**

LUDLOW, Mass. – July 18, 2019 – A new report from Analysis Group, commissioned by the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM), demonstrates that municipal light plants in the state are proactively investing in carbon-free resources, in support of the state’s public policy goals to address climate change.

Analysis Group, with supporting data from the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), found that municipal light plants (MLPs) in Massachusetts are leading the way when it comes to integrating carbon-free generation into their power portfolios.

In the report, Analysis Group cites the MLPs’ ownership interests in carbon-free resources, such as MMWEC’s Berkshire Wind 1 and 2 and Seabrook and Millstone nuclear power plant projects, as the most important indicator of the role the municipal utilities play in helping the state and region transition to a lower-emission resource mix. Overall, the MLPs have an owned/contracted portfolio resource mix that is 94 percent non-emitting, including solar, wind, nuclear and hydro resources. When including market purchases, the MLP portfolio is approximately 75 percent non-emitting, compared to about 47 percent for Massachusetts investor-owned utilities.

Additionally, several MMWEC members, including municipal utilities in Ashburnham, Holyoke, Sterling, Templeton, Wakefield and West Boylston, have installed energy storage projects in their communities, further demonstrating their commitment to cleaner, emerging technologies.

Municipal utilities have tools, such as long-term contracts and low-cost financing, which help them to quickly act on development and contract opportunities. MMWEC members have the ability to issue tax-exempt bonds to finance projects, helping them to develop projects such as Berkshire Wind 1 and 2. Because of these tools, municipal utilities are often considered ideal partners for developers in getting these projects off the ground.

“This report is an affirmation of the commitment MMWEC and its project participants made more than 40 years ago, when MMWEC issued its first tax-exempt bonds to assist the utilities in developing their power portfolios,” said MMWEC CEO Ronald C. DeCurzio. “Municipal utilities have had the foresight to invest in cleaner technologies for decades, and are steadfast in their commitment to helping the state and the region reach their carbon emissions targets.”

MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1975 and authorized to issue debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state’s consumer-owned municipal utilities. It has 20 municipal utility members and 28 project participants.

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