



Environmental and Energy Services
CITY OF BOSTON

THOMAS M. MENINO
Mayor

March 21, 2013

BRIAN R. SWETT
Chief of Environment and Energy

Richard K. Sullivan Jr., Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114



Dear Secretary Sullivan,

Solar energy is taking off on rooftops throughout the City of Boston and the Commonwealth. The City views solar energy as a viable renewable energy supply that provides pollution-free energy for our government, homes, businesses, institutions and our neighborhood schools. Thanks to forward thinking policies you have adopted, the Commonwealth is emerging as a national leader on solar.

The City has encouraged the development of solar through incentives and by participating in Solarize Mass. As a result of the success of these programs, and investments in solar from Boston City Government, residents and businesses, Boston has approximately 7.8 megawatts of solar energy—almost a third of the way towards our 25 megawatt goal.

The State has made tremendous progress towards its goal of having 250 megawatts of solar installed by 2017 and is on track to surpass that goal nearly four years ahead of schedule. In 2012 alone, 110.68 megawatts were installed, and the State has now reached a total of 220 MW of installed solar in the Commonwealth.

The City of Boston is thankful to have such great leadership from the State. We urge a bold and achievable vision of a solar future for Massachusetts and for the City. To that end, we encourage considering the following state-wide goals:

- A goal of getting 50,000 solar roofs by 2020 and at least 150,000 by 2030,
- Quadrupling Governor Patrick's current goal of having 250 MW of installed solar by 2017 to 1000MW,
- Adjusting the Department of Energy Resources' (DOER) current requirement that 400MW of our electricity come from clean, local solar energy by the so-called solar carve-out—by increasing it four-fold to 1600MW.

We could meet all of the state's energy needs by capturing just a fraction of the solar energy that shines on Massachusetts. But, with solar providing less than 2 percent of our energy, we have barely scratched the surface of solar energy's potential.

We look forward to working with you to make solar an even bigger part of our state's strategy to tackle our environmental and energy challenges; while helping to create a hub of energy innovation in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Swett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Swett

Chief of Environment and Energy