

# Renewable Energy: Cleaner Air and Cooler Planet

## Clean energy technologies are taking hold in Metro Boston.

Like most of the U.S., Metro Boston relies heavily on fossil fuels that are changing the climate and polluting the air we breathe. The more dependent we are on fossil fuels, the more vulnerable we are to supply shortages and volatile fuel prices. Renewable energy technologies that rely on the sun, wind, and biomass can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. New clean energy sources also diversify our fuel sources, reducing risks to supply and prices.

Massachusetts is ready to take a leading role in energy sustainability. The map shows some of the 600 clean power projects that have been funded through the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) statewide. Schools in Newton, Beverly and Somerville have installed small solar and wind systems. The town of Hull now operates two wind turbines that produce more than 2.4 megawatts. By the end of 2008, large wind turbines will be completed in Ipswich, Lynn, Gloucester and Rockport. A host of recent LEED-certified buildings (including many affordable housing developments) demonstrate that energy efficiency pays off. Municipalities can do much to advance clean energy in the region, by making their own operations more efficient, encouraging green building, and supporting public and private renewable energy projects.

