



City of Newton
David B. Cohen, Mayor

Newton Energy Update

*Saving Money, Protecting Public Health and
the Environment, & Building Awareness*

By The Newton Citizens Commission on Energy & The Newton Planning & Development Department • June 2003

Newton's Energy Use: Planning for the Future

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ENERGY ACTION PLAN

The Newton Citizens Commission on Energy is pleased to bring to you this periodic bulletin on energy and the environment in Newton. Our goal is to reduce energy use in the City of Newton through cost saving measures and strategic planning.

The Energy Update: A Community Bulletin

This periodic bulletin is provided to encourage your involvement in creating and implementing a strategic energy plan for Newton. We need your input and recommendations, and hope that you will become a participant in the planning process. It is the mission of the Citizens Commission on Energy to develop a citywide energy plan for Newton, and there are many reasons why we find this an exciting opportunity:

- **To save the City and the community money in energy bills**
- **To better care for our local environment**
- **To protect public health**
- **To use resources wisely and efficiently**
- **To plan ahead for continued growth and consumption needs**

The Energy Action Plan

The Citizens Commission on Energy, in coordination with the Planning & Development Department, is creating an Energy Action Plan to devise strategies for saving money and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Once adopted, the Energy Action Plan will serve as a

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1998 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Newton: A Breakdown by Sector

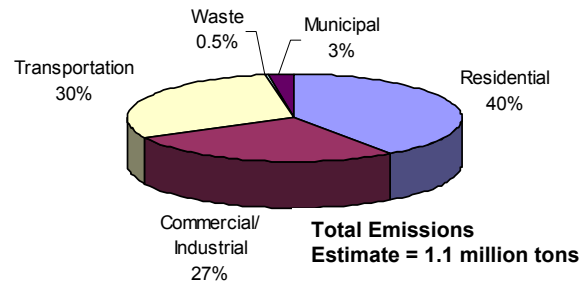


Figure 1: 1998 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Newton

A Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Newton

A METHOD FOR MEASURING PROGRESS

In 1999, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen signed a resolution to join the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. Part of the commitment involved in joining other municipalities in this international initiative is to inventory energy use and greenhouse gas emissions for the entire City. So, with the help of an intern from Tufts University, the Planning & Development Department completed a greenhouse gas inventory for the year 1998. The pie chart above shows a general breakdown of the inventory, and detailed results are available in the Planning & Development Department.

What are greenhouse gases?

Greenhouse gases are chemical compounds that occur naturally and as a result of human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels and using energy inefficiently. These activities are causing greenhouse gases to accumulate in the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. Many harmful effects of climate change are predicted by scientists around the world, ranging from temperature increases and sea level rises, to intensified flooding and droughts.

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guiding document for future programs, projects and policies in Newton. The plan's purpose will center on the following activities:

- **Setting a goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions below the 1998 inventory levels (see page one)**
- **Identifying ways to reach this goal**
- **Involving the entire community: City Departments, residents, businesses, and institutions**

What does all this mean for you?

We need your help – everyone in the City of Newton uses energy and produces greenhouse gas emissions.

We need your input and recommendations, and hope that you will become a participant in the process.

The Newton Energy Update will help to keep you informed of recent happenings, achievements and progress in the Energy Action Plan process. We hope that you will contribute your ideas and comments, and share with us your concerns.

You are probably already doing many things to save energy and protect the environment – we are here to help coordinate efforts throughout the community and serve as a resource for residents, businesses and City government in developing the Newton Energy Action Plan.

Newton Citizens Commission on Energy

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What is a greenhouse gas inventory?

The greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is a way of accounting for all of the GHG emissions in a community. Using special software, we are able to analyze energy, waste, and other sources of GHG emissions to come up with a total amount of emissions from Newton, as well as specific amounts from the residential, commercial and municipal sectors.

What do we do with the GHG inventory?

The Citizens Commission on Energy is using the 1998 GHG inventory as a baseline and will update it periodically to measure our progress and to determine how our GHG emissions have changed since 1998. For example, the graph below shows an approximately **20% increase in electricity use in Newton from 1998 to 2002**, resulting in an increase in GHG emissions from electricity generation.

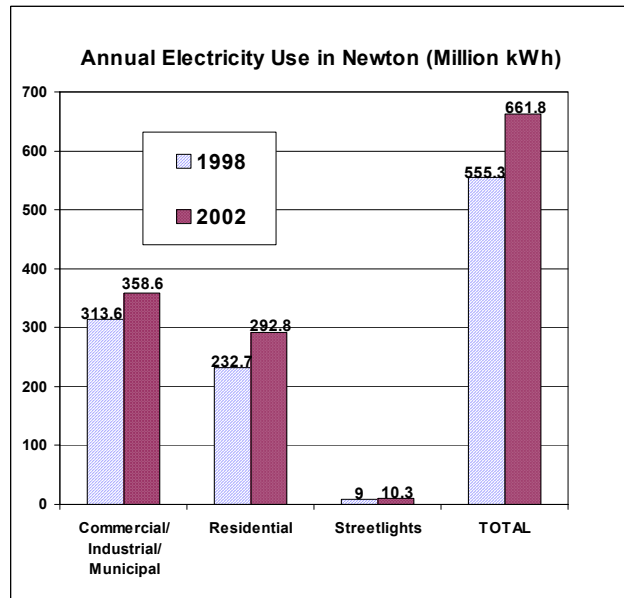


Figure 2: Annual Electricity Use in Newton: 1998 to 2002 by sector (Source: Nstar)

Analyzing GHG emissions is not an exact science, but rather a useful tool to measure our progress and ability to reach our goals, to be determined in the Energy Action Plan. With your help, the Citizens Commission on Energy will create and implement a plan to reduce GHG emissions, save money, and improve the environment and quality of life in Newton.