



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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### WPD Paving the Way for Electric Vehicles

*Police Department Pilots Two Hybrid Electric Cruisers as Wellesley Completes Three Green Communities-Funded Projects*

**August 26, 2021 (Wellesley, MA)** - Wellesley police are saving fuel and cutting greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) with the addition of two hybrid electric police cruisers to their fleet. Using a Department of Energy Resources Green Communities grant, the Police Department purchased two Ford Interceptor police cruisers that couple an electric, battery-powered motor with an internal combustion engine. The vehicles will save the Town 2,300 gallons of gasoline annually, reduce maintenance costs, and eliminate emissions associated with idling – modeling proactive climate action.

Performance and reliability are required for police vehicles, and a growing number of communities across Massachusetts and around the country have proven that hybrid cars meet the demands of police work. Grant funds helped to defray the cost of the hybrid cruisers, and the department will continue to see fuel and maintenance cost savings during the life of the vehicles.

According to WPD Officer Tim Gover, the vehicles “handle well and the acceleration is comparable to, if not better than, a regular gas engine cruiser.” Officers have adapted well to this new technology and Chief Jack Pilecki predicts that more hybrid cruisers are in Wellesley’s future. “We’re pleased with the hybrid cruisers, and they enable our department to lead the way in the transition to electric vehicles, which is essential for addressing climate change. We’re demonstrating to the community that if electric vehicles are good enough for law enforcement, they more than satisfy the needs of the average consumer.”

### Other Green Communities Projects

The purchase of the police cruisers was one of three projects to receive Green Communities funding for Wellesley. Using a grant of approximately \$131,000, the Town also replaced existing lighting in the Wellesley High School auditorium and gymnasium, as well as in eight of nine municipal parking lots with new, high efficiency lighting. These LED lights improve lighting quality, last longer than conventional light fixtures, and require less frequent replacement – qualities especially beneficial in hard-to-reach locations. Since the same LED fixtures were installed across all parking lots, the Municipal Light Plant can streamline its lighting inventory for more efficient purchasing and maintenance. These lighting projects will lower municipal electricity use by approximately 82,500 kWh annually. Together, the lighting projects and police cruisers will save the Town more than \$17,000 per year.

### Energy Efficiency and Climate Action Goals

Energy efficiency measures in municipal fleet vehicles and buildings support the Town's climate action goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% below 2007 levels by 2030 and to reach net-zero by 2050. A town-wide Climate Action Plan is under development to provide a roadmap for reaching these goals along energy, building, mobility, waste, natural resource, and governance pathways. Beneficial electrification of buildings and vehicles along with energy conservation will be key elements of the Plan.

Residents who are interested in keeping up-to-date with climate action plan development can subscribe to receive updates by email at [ClimateAction@WellesleyMA.gov](mailto:ClimateAction@WellesleyMA.gov). To learn more, visit <https://www.wellesleyma.gov/1584/Climate-Action-Plan>. Community participation is welcome! Please email comments and questions to [ClimateAction@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:ClimateAction@wellesleyma.gov).

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