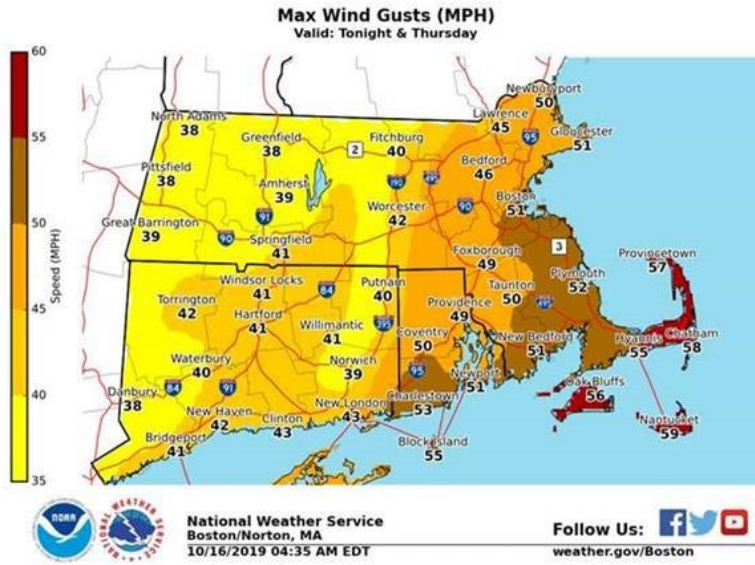


Mayor's Update



We're preparing for a powerful storm expected to bring heavy rain and strong winds to Newton tonight and into tomorrow.

Our Newton weather forecast is for 1 to 2 inches of rain beginning between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. continuing through the night with winds of 20 to 40 miles per hour and peak gusts up to 50 miles per hour.

DPW Commissioner Jim McGonagle has had crews out all day clearing storm drains in problem areas and will have staff standing by to address issues with flooding and/or road blockage throughout the night.

Fire Chief Gino Lucchetti has the Fire Department ready with equipment on apparatus to remove water from flooded basements and has backup pumps in the stations if necessary.

Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Marc Welch has crews on standby overnight in case of tree-related damage.

There is a chance of power interruption with this type of storm. If your power goes out call Eversource at 800-592-2000, or report an outage online [here](#). It's a good idea to keep your phones and computers charged.

Remember, never go near any down wires, always assume they are live.

(Solar array at Rumford Avenue)

Savings from Sustainability

Reducing fossil fuel use helps green our environment and also saves money for the City. The total savings from the City's electricity contract, LED lighting, solar facilities, demand response program, utility rebates, and State Green Communities grant funding was \$2.34 million last fiscal year alone.



Solar:

- The City's solar arrays at the Rumford landfill and on municipal building roofs and parking lots generated 4.4 million kilowatt hours (kwh) of electricity last fiscal year, saving the City \$757,000 in that one year alone.
- We estimate the City's next round of solar projects coming online in 2020 will save \$3.3 million (net present value) over the next 20 years.

Energy efficiency:

- Annual municipal electricity use has dropped 18 percent over the past nine years even with additions to and the expansion of several school buildings. Conversion to LED lighting in 24 municipal accounts saved 3 million kwh of electricity in FY2019, resulting in annual savings of \$508,000. Even bigger savings came from LED street lights and LED conversions in the high schools and middle schools.
- Natural gas use in Newton's new school buildings decreased 44 percent per year even as those building square footages increased 79 percent.
- Rather than using Eversource as its supplier, the City negotiated a contract with two other electricity suppliers for December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2020, saving \$685,000 in FY2019 compared to Eversource Basic Service rates.
- The City just signed a new 4-year natural gas contract that will save \$247,000 annually compared to the last contract.
- The City has received \$1.3 million in Green Communities grants since 2010 and \$2.1 million in utility rebates since 2013 (mostly for LED lighting), helping to pay for the energy upgrades.

Kudos go primarily to Bill Ferguson, our co-Director of Sustainability, for this work in "using less and greening the rest," to help the City save money. Thank you, Bill!

Yes to Composting!

Newton is composting! Last week alone 385 more Newtonians signed up with Black Earth Composting for curbside food waste pick-up, bringing the total number of households to 948.

The City of Newton is partnering with Black Earth Compost to offer once-a-week household curbside food waste collection for your meat, dairy, fruit & veggies, coffee grounds, tea bags and more.

The City went out to bid to vet a vendor on behalf of Newton residents. The service costs Newton residents \$59.99 for six months, plus a one-time start-up fee of \$34 to pay for a 13-gallon lockable bin to collect food waste for weekly pick-up on the curb by Black Earth Compost.



Black Earth Composting is already giving Newton a volume discount. The cost per Newton household will continue to decrease as more people sign up. When 3,000 households are enrolled in the program the price will fall to \$49.99 for six months.

Get more information about composting and sign up for Black Earth Compost at www.blackearthcompost.com. Watch a short video to learn more [here](#).

Human Rights

Know Your Civil Rights

The Newton Human Rights Commission is hosting a presentation by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD).

Learn about anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing and public spaces. Discuss the role of MCAD, the state agency that enforces civil rights laws, and what to do if you experience or witness an act of discrimination.

Join us on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Druker Auditorium at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St.

Shine a Spotlight on Human Rights Advocates

Do you know someone who improved the quality of life in Newton by promoting greater understanding and appreciation of our differences?

The Newton Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is seeking adult and youth nominations for their annual award that recognizes a person's commitment to human rights work.

Visit the NHRC's website [here](#) to learn more and submit a nomination by Friday, Nov. 8.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

*(With Cultural Affairs
Director Paula Gannon)*

P.S The 20th Annual Halloween Window Painting Contest for Newton children in grades 3 through 8 is Saturday, Oct. 26, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can register [here](#) until Friday, Oct. 18. Registration is \$10. We are still looking for more merchant windows and volunteers. Please call the Cultural Development office at 617-796-1540 for more details and to get involved or email Cultural Affairs Director Paula Gannon [here](#).



P.P.S Parts of the Upper Falls Greenway (from Oak Street to the Needham Street trailhead) will be closed next Sunday, Oct. 27 from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. for technology upgrades to the WHDH communications tower at 45 Tower Road. Questions? Call 813-363-3028 or email projects@affconsultingllc.com.

