

# Einson lends support to renewable energy initiative

By Jim Sullivan Staff Writer  
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AMESBURY — District 3 City Councilor Matt Einson has joined more than 70 Massachusetts elected officials calling for a 50 percent renewable energy supply in the state by 2030.

The sole official from Essex County to do so, Einson joined Cambridge Mayor E. Denise Simmons, seven Newton city councilors, a pair of Watertown town councilors and 38 members of Brookline Town Meeting, among others, in signing a Massachusetts Climate Action Network letter.

**The letter asks lawmakers to support an increase in the state's renewable portfolio standard by 3 percent a year to achieve a 50 percent renewable energy supply by 2030.**

Also known as a renewable electricity standard, a renewable portfolio standard is the mandated percentage of clean energy privately held utility companies such as National Grid must sell back to their customers.

**At the moment, the state's renewable portfolio standard increases by 1 percent a year. The letter says increasing the rate by 3 percent each year "will allow the state to fully realize the benefits of new clean energy demand and lower wholesale electricity prices."**

The letter – which Massachusetts Climate Action Network Executive Director Carol Oldham presented to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy during a hearing Tuesday at the Statehouse – also calls for an increase in the renewable energy supply of 100 percent by 2050.

**“It’s a slow ramp up, which makes it very reasonable,”** Oldham said. **“We have made** this commitment as a state in various laws and there are plenty of cities and towns that intend to be 100 percent by 2050.

Approached by a constituent on the matter, Einson said he read the letter and reached out to the Massachusetts Climate Action Network before signing on.

**“This makes a lot of sense to me and I thought it was worth signing my name,”** Einson said. **“The increase from 1 to 3 percent is in line with trying to meet those goals.”**

Einson, a city councilor since 2015, is running unopposed for re-election this fall and said he is pleased with the direction the city is headed when it comes to renewable energy.

**“We have the solar farms coming on line and we seem to be moving in a pretty good direction as far as that goes,”** Einson said.

Oldham added that the Massachusetts Climate Action Network, a nonprofit organization, has plenty of activists working to raise awareness in local communities and is happy to have Einson’s support.

**“The more people who know about this, the more people will support it,”** Oldham said. **“It is a great policy and it is something people want. All of the studies, all of the polling** and focus groups show that Massachusetts loves clean energy. It provides a ton of jobs in our state and I think local elected officials get excited about it once they learn what it is.”