

# ISO New England Introduction & Regional Update

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*House Transportation Committee*



Sarah Adams

STATE POLICY ADVISOR





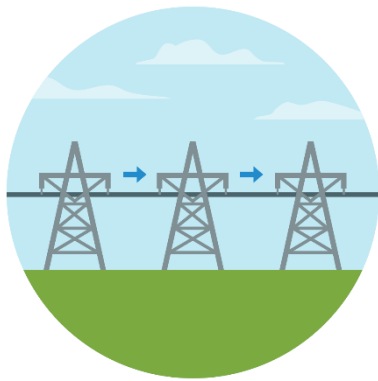
# ABOUT ISO NEW ENGLAND



# ISO New England Performs Three Critical Roles to Ensure Reliable Electricity at Competitive Prices

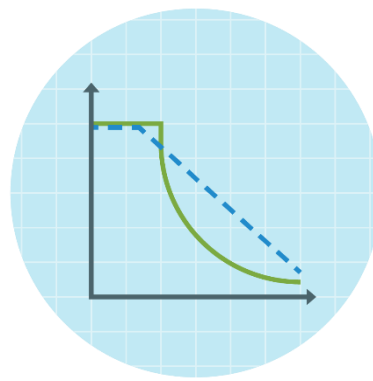
## Grid Operation

Coordinate and direct the flow of electricity over the region's high-voltage transmission system



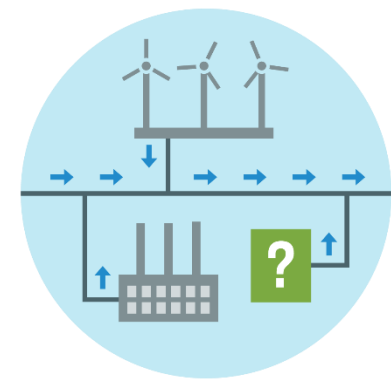
## Market Administration

Design, run, and oversee the markets where wholesale electricity is bought and sold



## Power System Planning

Study, analyze, and plan to make sure New England's electricity needs will be met over the next 10 years



# ISO New England's *Mission and Vision*

## Mission: *What we do*

Through collaboration and innovation, ISO New England plans the transmission system, administers the region's wholesale markets, and operates the power system to ensure reliable and competitively priced wholesale electricity

## Vision: *Where we're going*

To harness the power of competition and advanced technologies to reliably plan and operate the grid as the region transitions to clean energy



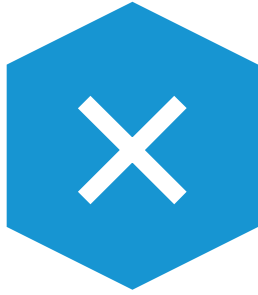
*The ISO's new **Vision** for the future represents our long-term intent and guides the formulation of our Strategic Goals*



# Things We Don't Do



Handle  
retail  
electricity



Own power  
grid  
infrastructure



Have a stake  
in companies  
that own grid  
infrastructure



Have  
jurisdiction  
over fuel  
infrastructure



Have control  
over siting  
decisions





# ISO New England Keeps Power Flowing Across the Region Every Minute of Every Day

# Why Competitive Markets?

*New England restructured its power industry and launched competitive wholesale electricity markets in the late 1990s based on several key principles*



**Competition** among wholesale electricity buyers and sellers yield prices that accurately reflect a resource's true operating costs



**Efficiency and transparency** spur innovation and investment in new technologies and power resources to ensure power system reliability



**Investment risk** associated with developing new power resources shifts from consumers to private investors



# Markets Select the Most Cost-Efficient Resources to Meet Current and Future Electricity Needs

*Energy Market Values Vary with Fuel Prices, While Capacity Market Values Vary with Changes in Supply*

## Energy Market

The Day-Ahead and Real-Time Energy Markets are forward and spot markets for trading **electric energy**

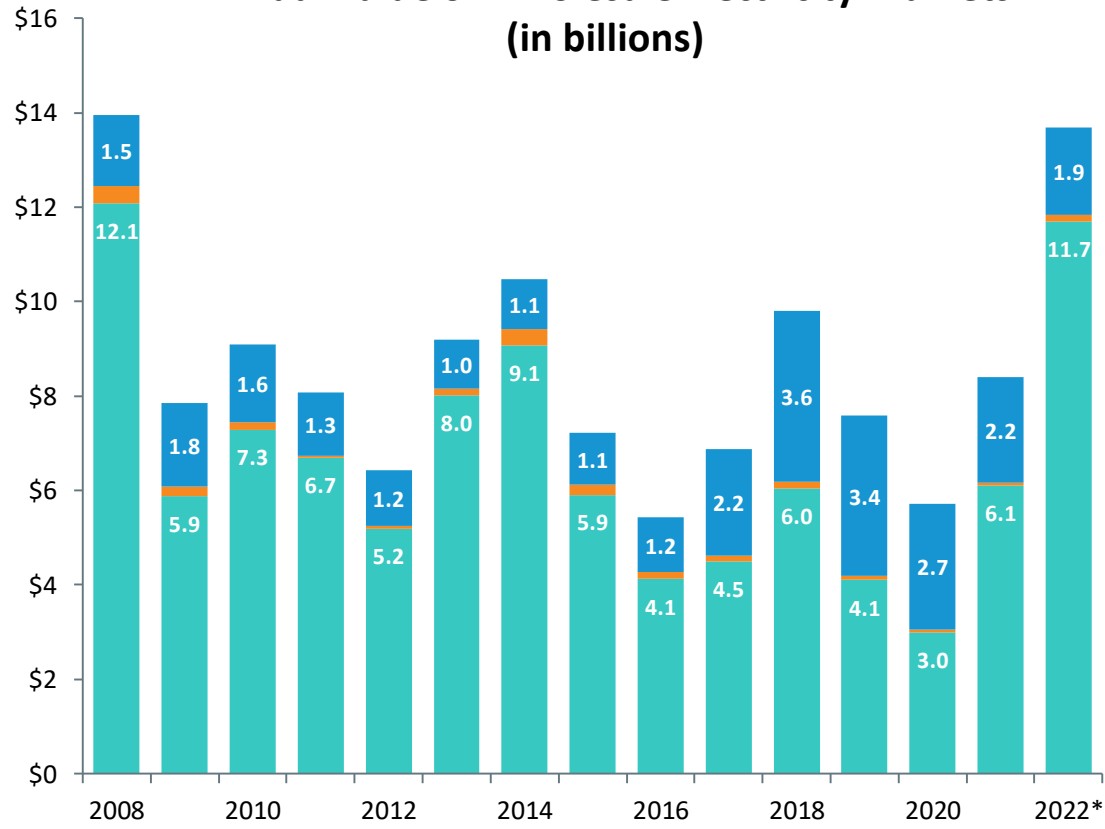
## Ancillary Services

Resources provide **short-term reliability services**, as well as services needed to support the physical operation of the system (eg., regulation, voltage support)

## Forward Capacity Market

Resources compete to sell **long-term reliability services** to the system in three years' time through annual Forward Capacity Auctions

### Annual Value of Wholesale Electricity Markets (in billions)

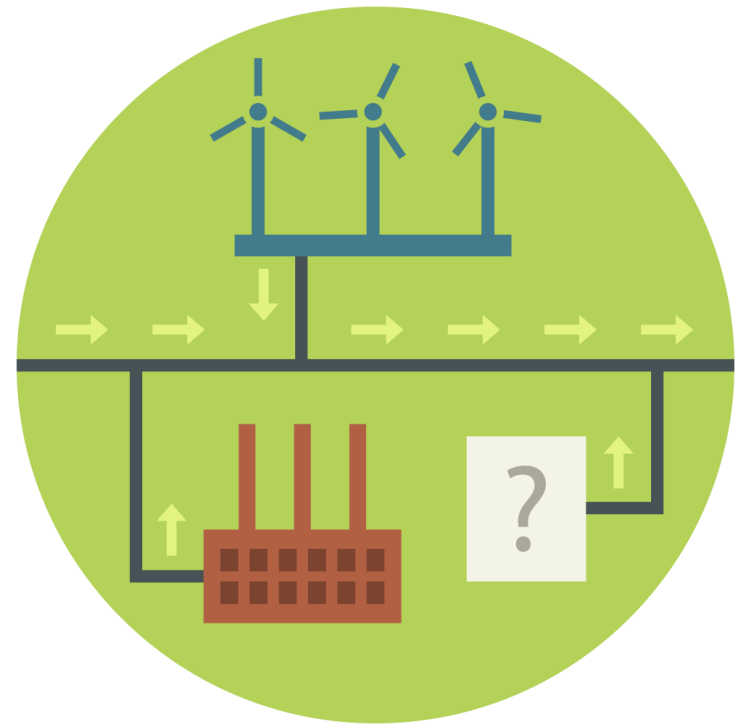


Source: 2022 Report of the Consumer Liaison Group; \*2022 data is preliminary and subject to resettlement



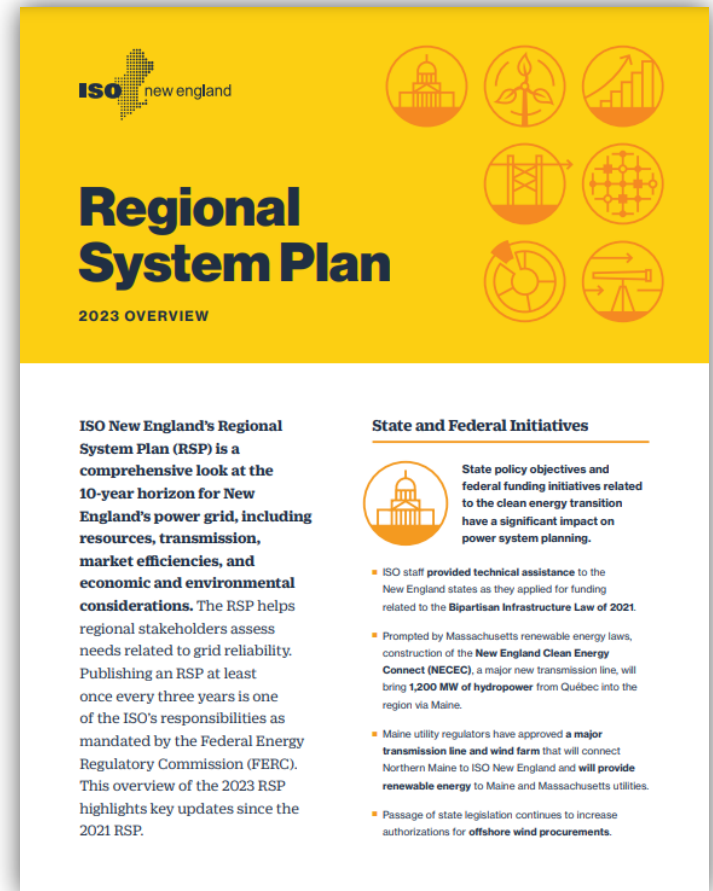
# ISO New England Manages Regional Power System Planning to Meet Future Electricity Needs

- Manage regional power system planning in accordance with mandatory reliability standards
- Administer requests for interconnection of generation and regional transmission system access
- Conduct transmission system needs assessments
- Plan regional transmission system to provide regional network service
- Develop Regional System Plan (RSP) with a ten-year planning horizon



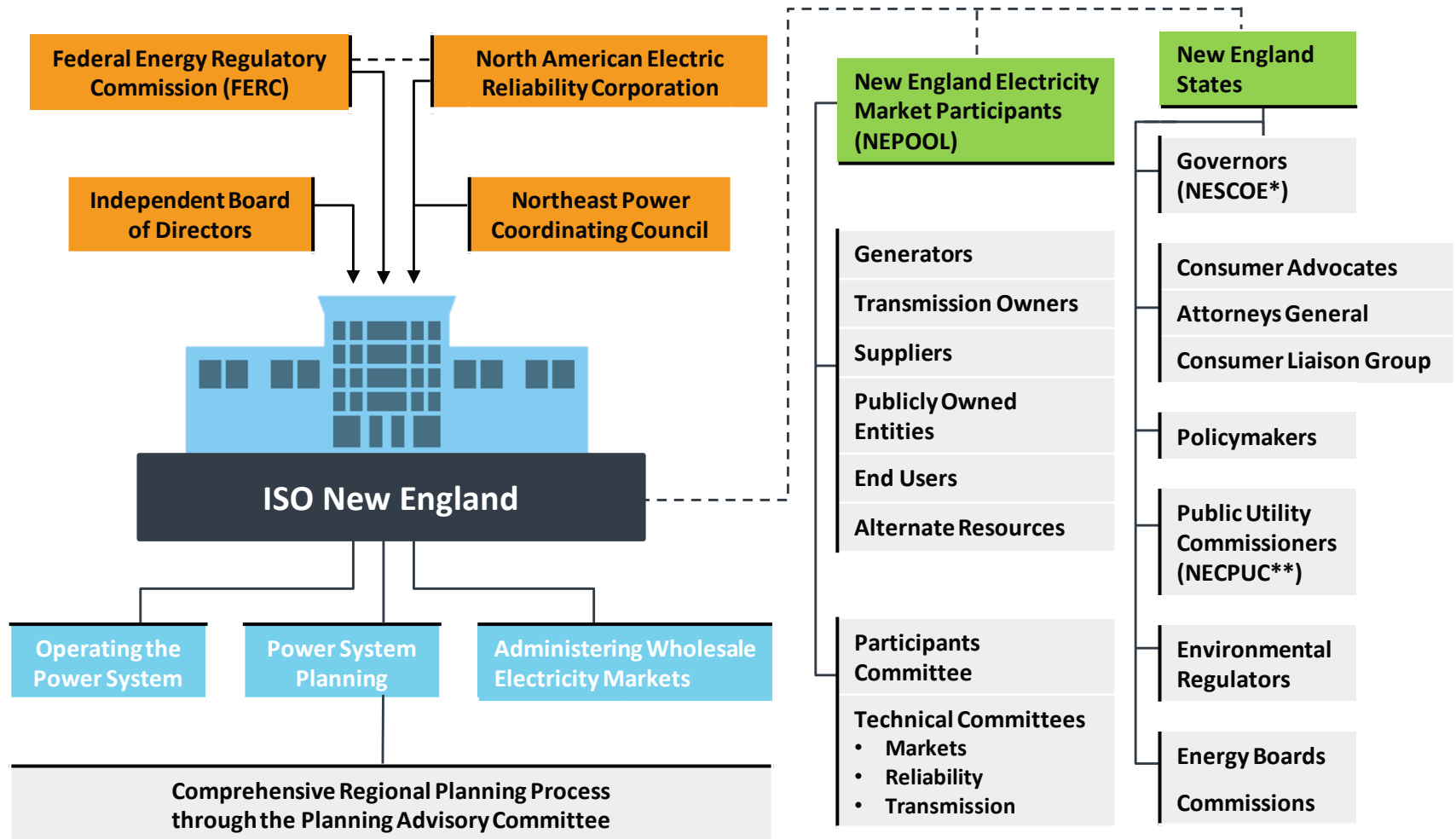
# 2023 Regional System Plan

- To forecast system needs 10 years out, the RSP considers:
  - Forecasts of Electric Energy, EE, and PV Capacity and Energy
  - Existing and Future Resource Development in Areas of Need
  - Fuel-Related Risks to System Reliability
  - Existing and Pending Environmental Regulations
  - Projections of Capacity and Operating Reserves Needs
  - Federal, State, and Regional Initiatives
  - Transmission System Needs, Solutions, and Cost Considerations
  - Interregional Planning
- ISO New England hosted a public meeting to discuss the 2023 Regional System Plan on November 1
  - A [recording](#) of the meeting is available on our website



[Regional System Plan 2023 Summary](#)

# Numerous Entities Including an Independent Board Provide Oversight of and Input on ISO's Responsibilities

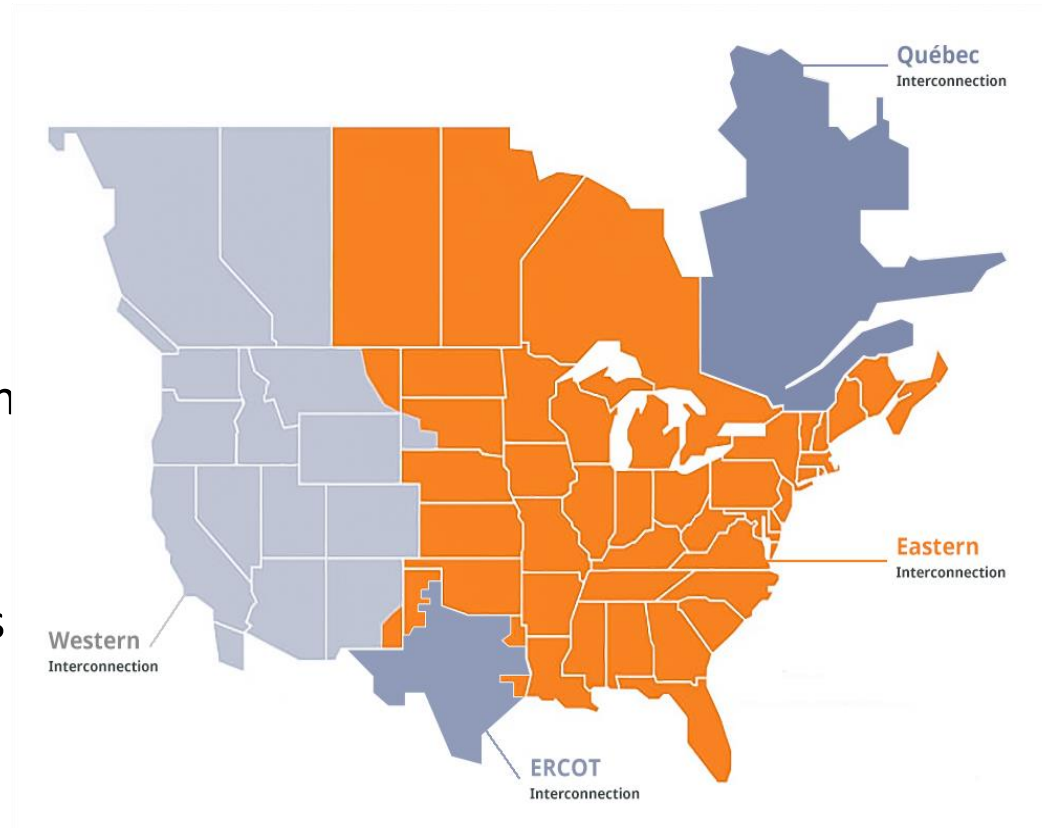


\*New England States Committee on Electricity

\*\*New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners

# New England's Power Grid Is Part of a Larger Electric Power System

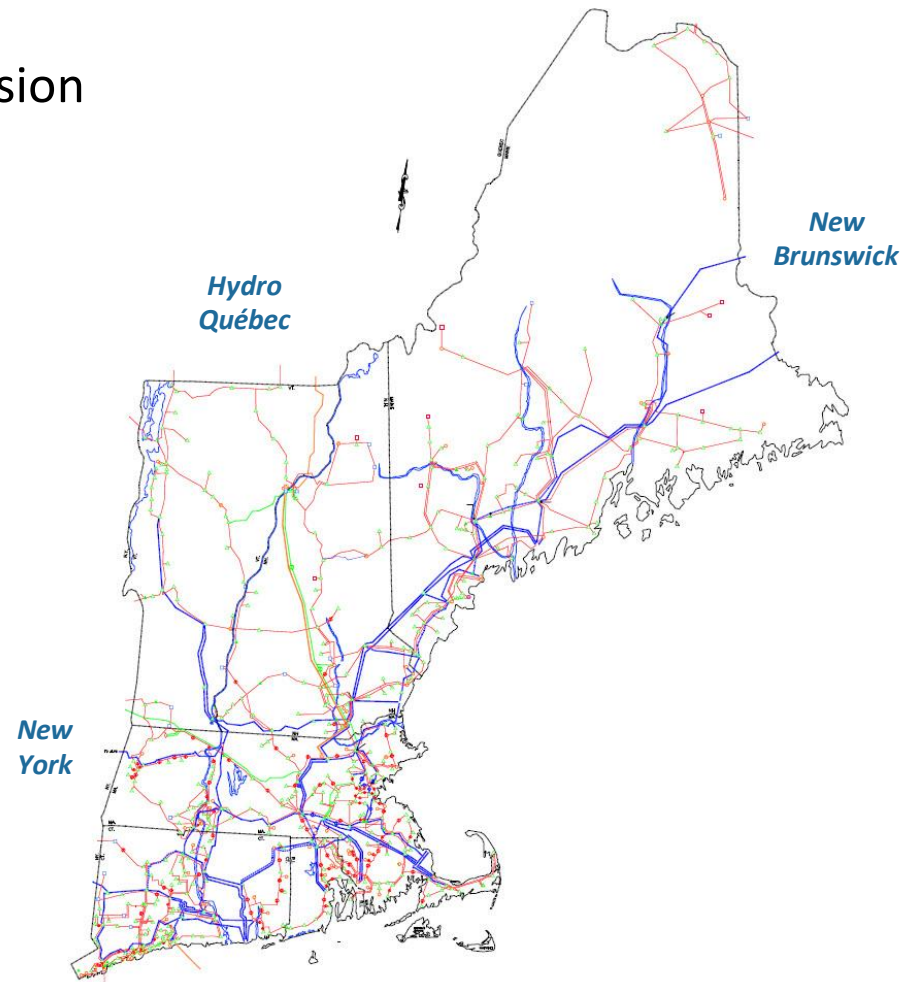
- Part of the **Eastern Interconnection**, one of four large power grids in North America
  - Interconnected through primarily alternating current (AC) transmission
- Tied to **Québec** only through direct current (DC) transmission
- 2003 blackout ushered in wide-area monitoring and **mandatory** reliability standards
- Subject to reliability standards set by **NERC** and **NPCC**\*



\* North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC)

# New England's Transmission Grid Is the Interstate Highway System for Electricity

- **9,000 miles** of high-voltage transmission lines (primarily 115 kV and 345 kV)
- **13 transmission interconnections** to power systems in New York and Eastern Canada
- **14%** of region's energy needs met by imports in 2022
- **\$12 billion** invested to strengthen transmission system reliability since 2002; **\$1.4 billion** planned
- Developers have proposed multiple transmission projects to access **non-carbon-emitting resources** inside and outside the region



# GRID TRANSFORMATION

*Achieving state policy goals will fundamentally change the resource mix*



# There Are **Four Pillars** Necessary to Support a Successful Clean Energy Transition



1

**Significant amounts of clean energy** to power the economy with a greener grid



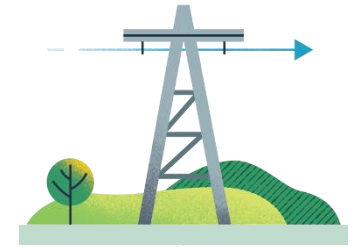
2

**Balancing resources** that keep electricity supply and demand in equilibrium



3

**Energy adequacy**—a dependable energy supply chain and/or a robust energy reserve to manage through extended periods of severe weather or energy supply constraints



4

**Robust transmission** to integrate renewable resources and move clean electricity to consumers across New England



# ISO-NE Is a Summer-Peaking System

New England shifted from a winter-peaking system to a **summer-peaking** system in the early 1990s, largely because of the growth of air conditioning and a decline in electric heating

- Peak demand on a normal summer day has typically ranged from 17,500 MW to 22,000 MW
- Summer demand usually peaks on the hottest and **most humid** days and averaged roughly 25,600 MW since 2000
- Region's all-time summer peak demand was **28,130 MW** on **August 2, 2006**



The region could shift back to a **winter-peaking system** with the electrification of heating demand

- Region's all-time **winter** peak demand was **22,818 MW** on **January 15, 2004**



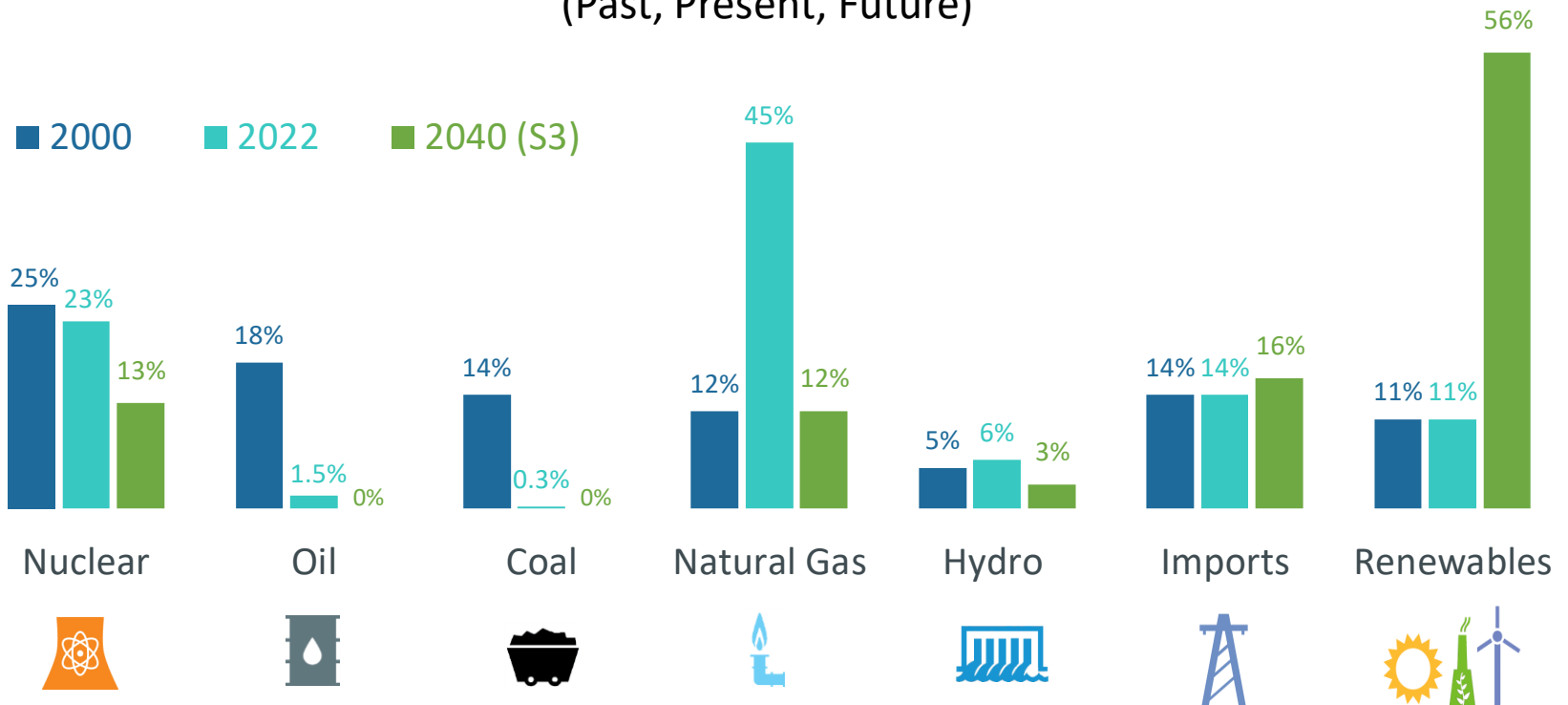
# State Laws Target Deep Reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Increases in Renewable and Clean Energy

|                                        |                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ≥80% by 2050                           | Five states mandate greenhouse gas reductions economy wide: MA, CT, ME, RI, and VT (mostly below 1990 levels) |
| Net-Zero by 2050<br>80% by 2050        | MA emissions requirement<br>MA clean energy standard                                                          |
| 90% by 2050                            | VT renewable energy requirement                                                                               |
| 100% by 2050<br>Carbon-Neutral by 2045 | ME renewable energy goal<br>ME emissions requirement                                                          |
| 100% by 2040                           | CT zero-carbon electricity requirement                                                                        |
| 100% by 2030                           | RI renewable energy requirement                                                                               |

# Dramatic Changes in the Energy Mix

*New England made a major shift from coal and oil to natural gas over the past two decades, and is shifting to renewable energy in the coming decades*

Percent of Total **Electric Energy** Production by Source  
(Past, Present, Future)

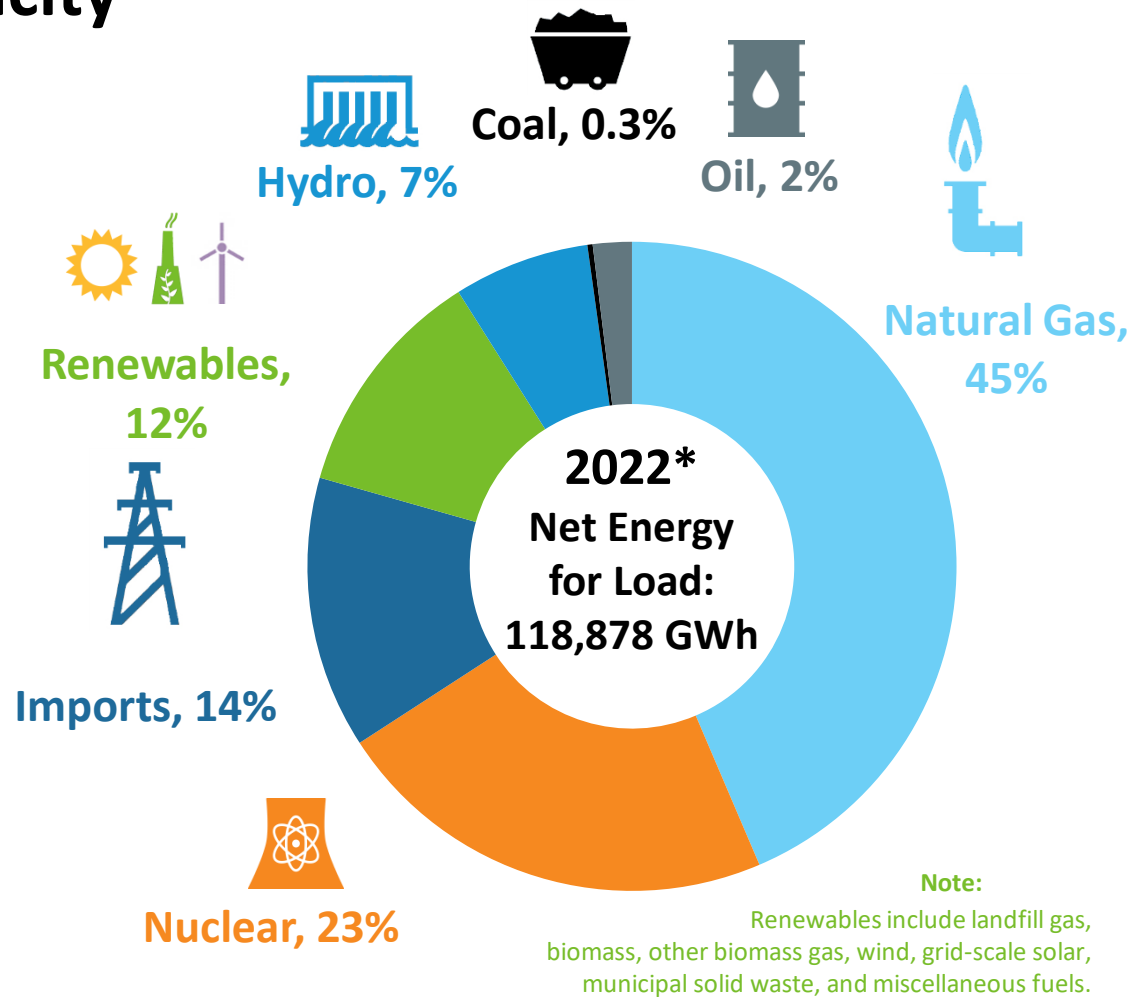


Source: ISO New England [Net Energy and Peak Load by Source](#); data for 2022 is preliminary and subject to resettlement; data for 2040 is based on Scenario 3 of the ISO New England [2021 Economic Study: Future Grid Reliability Study Phase 1](#).

Renewables include landfill gas, biomass, other biomass gas, wind, grid-scale solar, behind-the-meter solar, municipal solid waste, and miscellaneous fuels.

# Lower-Emitting Sources of Energy Supply Most of New England's Electricity

- In 2022, most of the region's energy needs were met by natural gas, nuclear, imported electricity (mostly hydropower from Eastern Canada), renewables, and other low- or non-carbon-emitting resources
- Region is transitioning away from older coal and oil resources

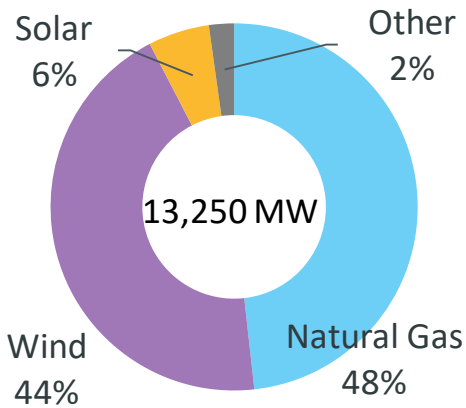


\*Data is subject to adjustment. Source: 2022 Net Energy and Peak Load by Source  
<https://www.iso-ne.com/isoexpress/web/reports/load-and-demand/-/tree/net-ener-peak-load>

# The ISO Generator Interconnection Queue Provides a Snapshot of Resource Proposals

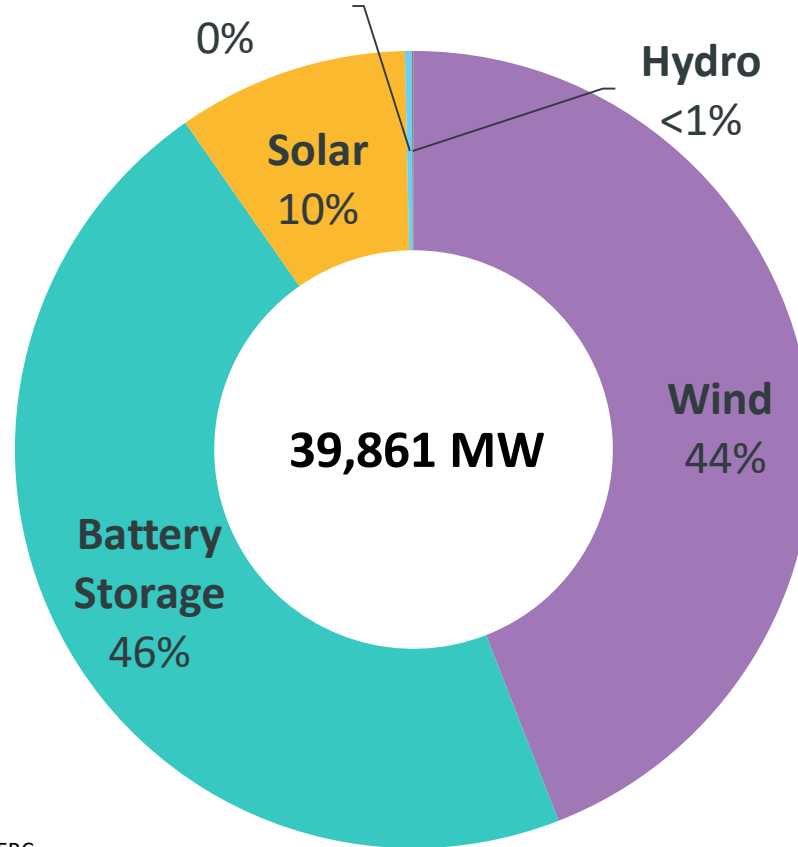
*Dramatic shift in proposed resources from natural gas to battery storage and renewables*

**Then**

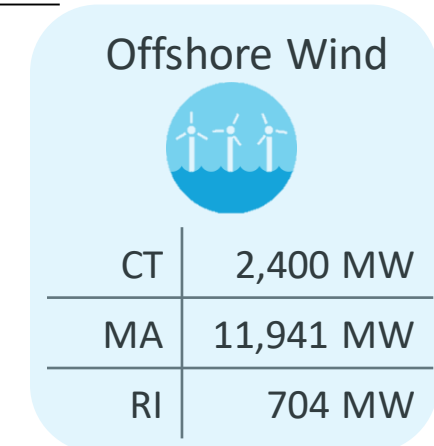


June 2017

**Now**



January 2024

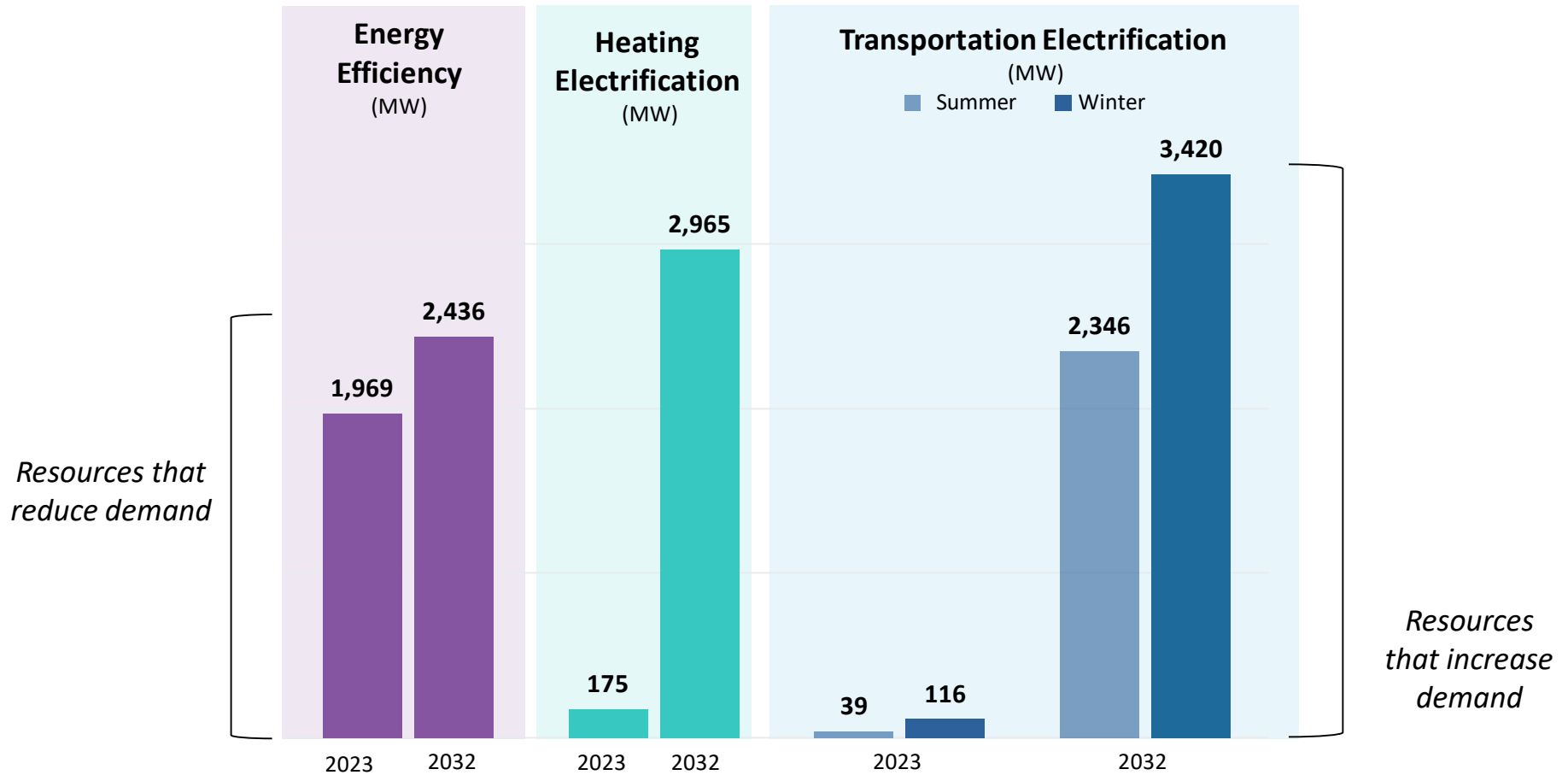


Source: ISO Generator Interconnection Queue, FERC Jurisdictional Proposals; Nameplate Capacity Ratings.



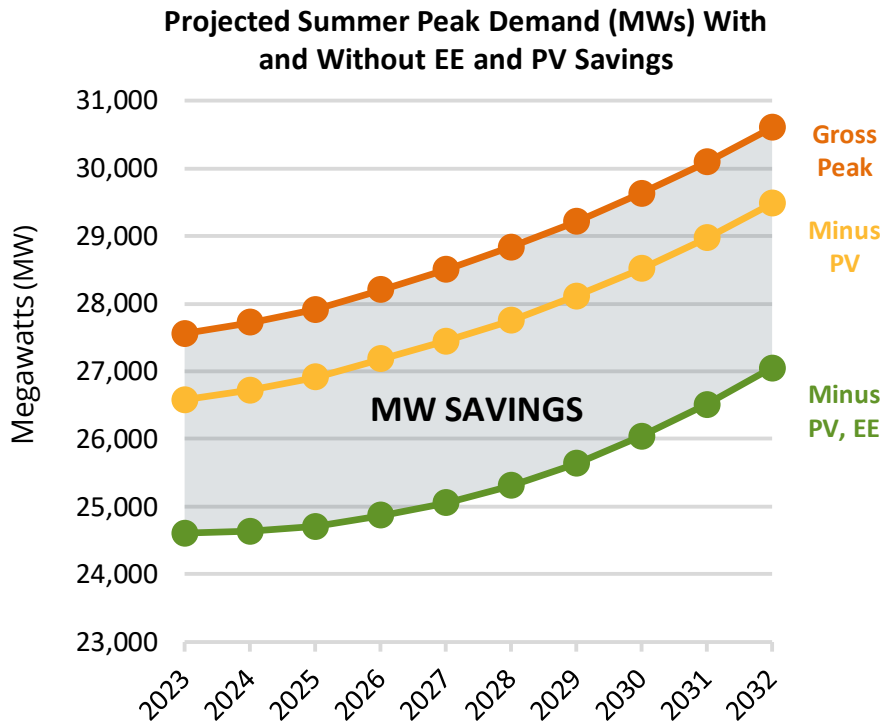
# ISO's Ten-Year Forecasts Provide an Outlook for Electricity Use and Peak Demand

*Deployment of these technologies create new challenges for grid operations and forecasting*



Source: [ISO New England 2023-2032 Forecast Report of Capacity, Energy, Loads, and Transmission](#) (2023 CELT Report) (May 2023)

# Energy Efficiency and Behind-the-Meter Solar Resources Are Reducing Peak Demand



- The gross peak and load forecast
- The gross peak and load forecast minus existing and anticipated “behind-the-meter” (BTM) solar PV resources
- The gross peak and load forecast minus existing and anticipated BTM solar PV and energy efficiency

- **28,130 MW:** all-time summer peak demand, set on August 2, 2006
- Energy efficiency (EE) and behind-the-meter (BTM) solar are **reducing peak demand**
- Peak demand reductions:
  - 2023: EE and BTM solar **reduce peak demand by 10.7%**
  - 2032: EE and BTM solar **reduce peak demand by 11.6%**

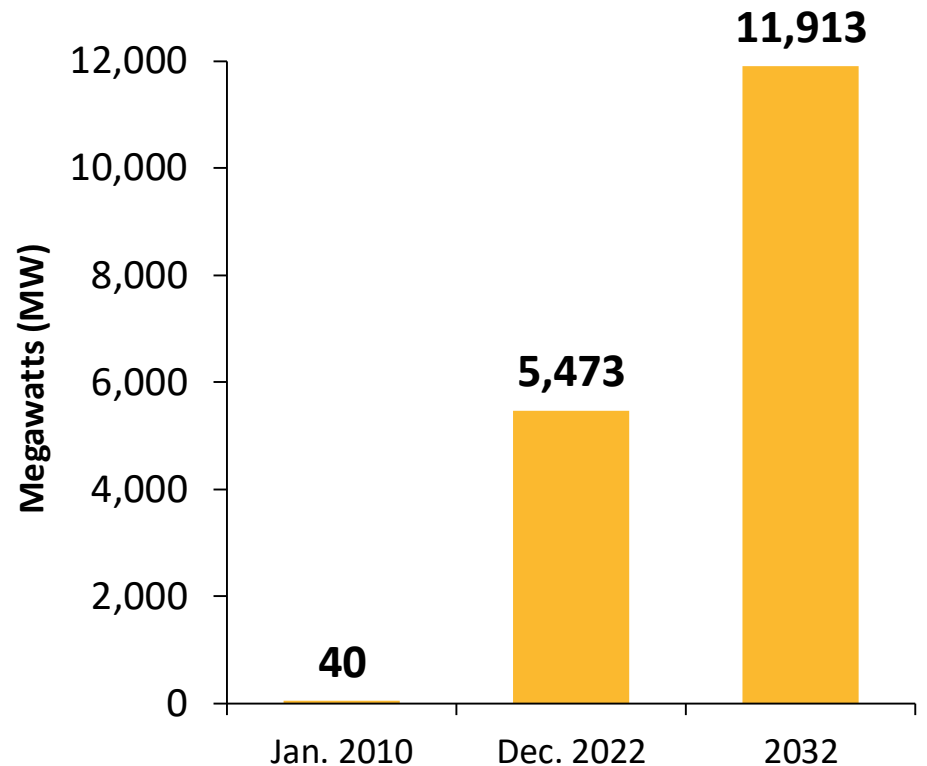
Source: [ISO New England 2023 Forecast Data](#). Summer peak demand is based on the “50/50” forecast.

# ISO New England Forecasts Strong Growth in Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Resources

December 2022 Solar PV Installed Capacity (MW<sub>ac</sub>)

| State              | Installed Capacity (MW <sub>ac</sub> ) | No. of Installations |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Connecticut        | 912                                    | 73,553               |
| Massachusetts      | 3,289                                  | 150,020              |
| Maine              | 295                                    | 8,583                |
| New Hampshire      | 183                                    | 14,427               |
| Rhode Island       | 326                                    | 17,034               |
| Vermont            | 468                                    | 19,348               |
| <b>New England</b> | <b>5,473</b>                           | <b>282,965</b>       |

Cumulative Growth in Solar PV through 2032 (MW<sub>ac</sub>)

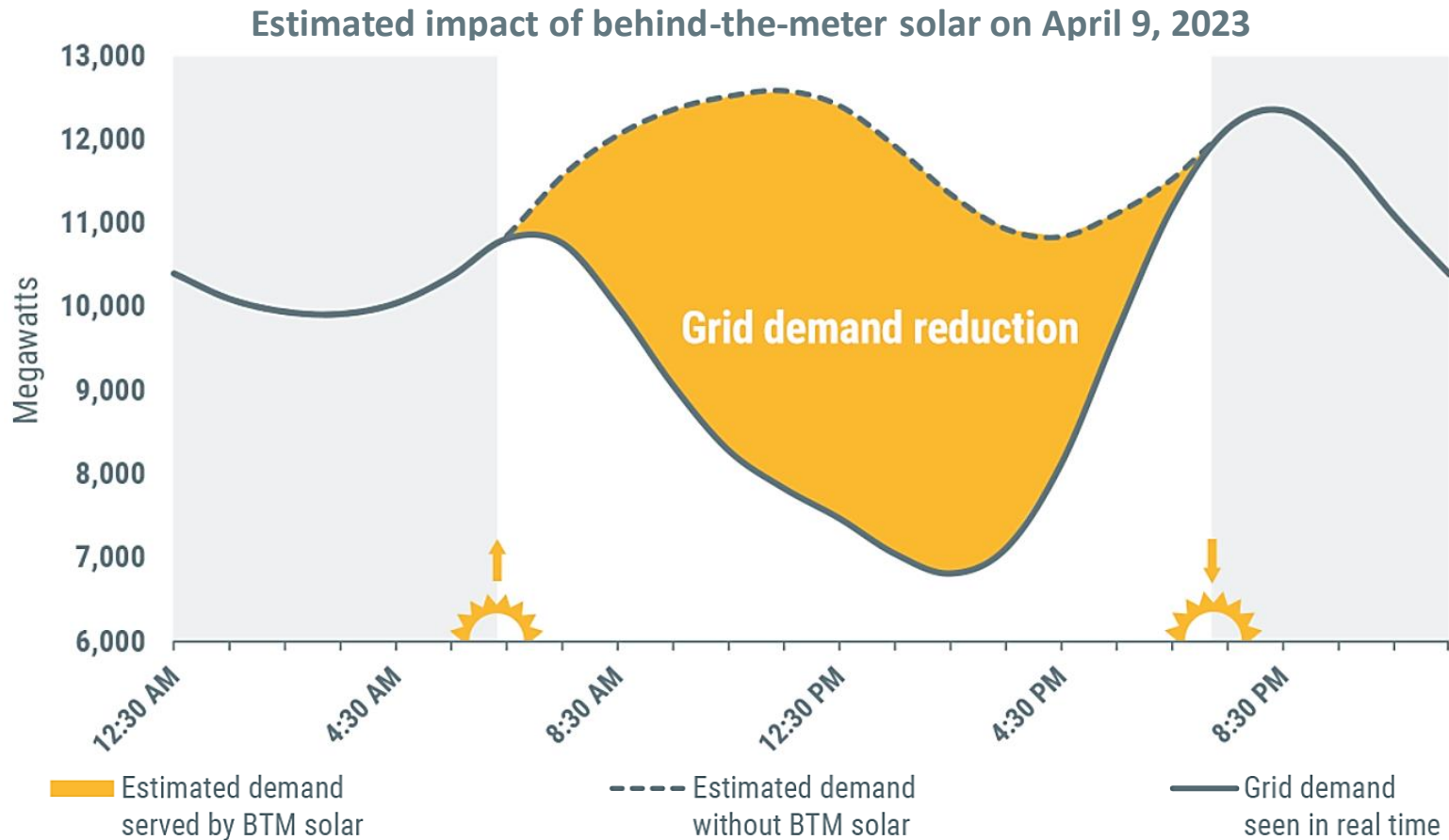


Note: The bar chart reflects the ISO’s projections for nameplate capacity from PV resources participating in the region’s wholesale electricity markets, as well as those connected “behind the meter.” The forecast does not include forward-looking PV projects > 5 MW in nameplate capacity. Source: [ISO New England 2023-2032 Forecast Report of Capacity, Energy, Loads, and Transmission](#) (2023 CELT Report) (May 2023), and [2023 Photovoltaic \(PV\) Forecast](#); MW values are AC nameplate.



# Nighttime Electricity Load on the Region's Electric Grid is Exceeding Daytime Consumption On Sunny Days

*Continued development of solar deployment drives down afternoon load, especially in spring when demand is lower*



Source: ISO Newswire Article from April 11, 2023, [New England again sets record for low demand on regional power system - ISO Newswire](#)

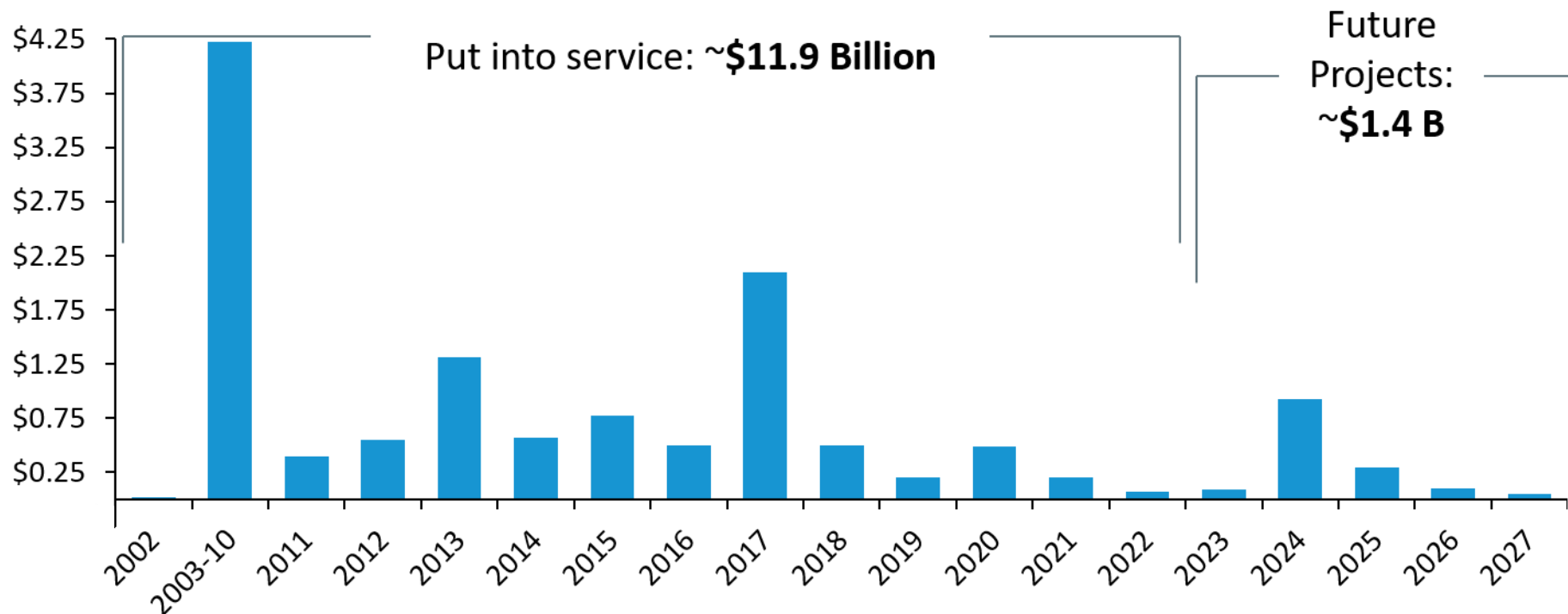
# TRANSMISSION DEVELOPMENTS



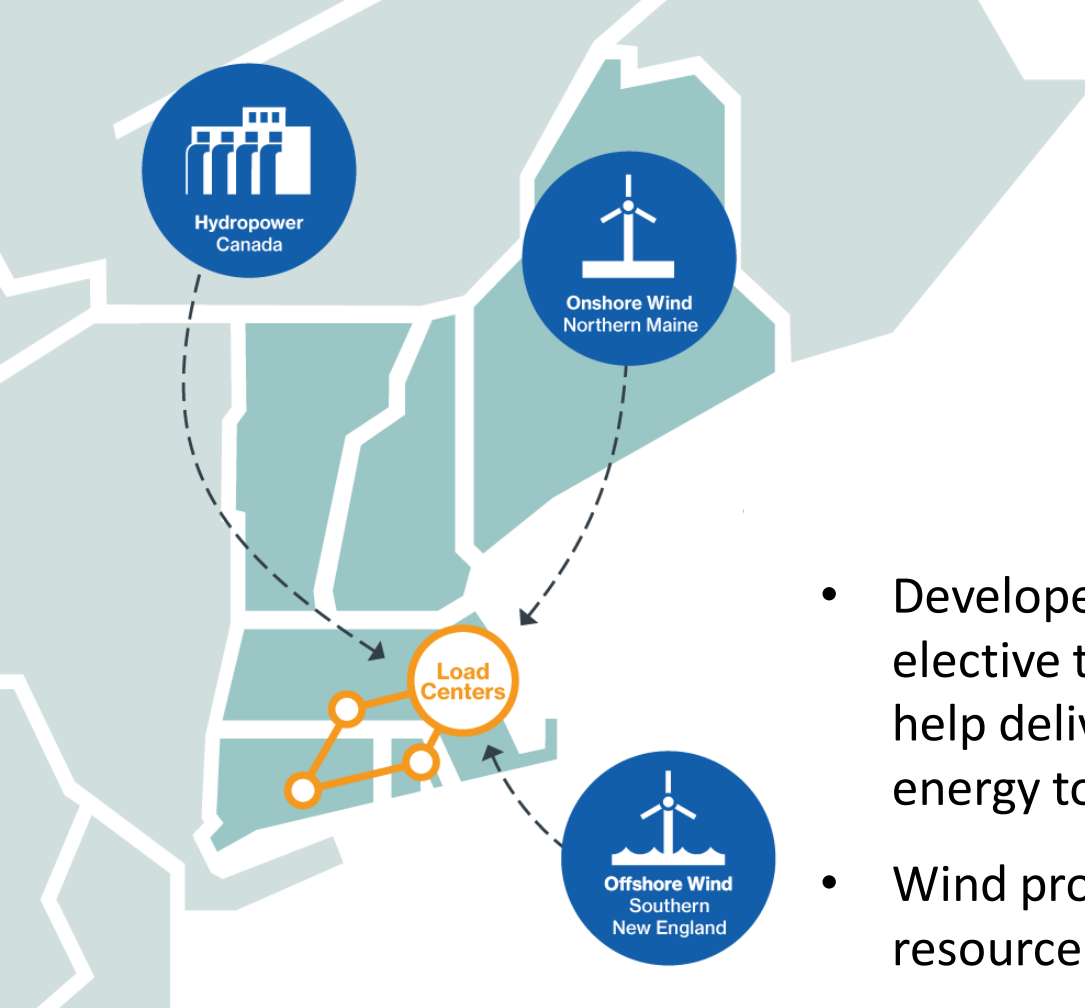
# New England Has Made Major Investments in Transmission to Ensure a Reliable Electric Grid

*Transmission investment by year that projects are put into service (capital costs)*

Billions of Dollars



Source: ISO New England RSP Transmission Project Listing, October 2023  
Estimated future investment includes projects under construction, planned and proposed



# Developers Are Proposing Large-Scale Transmission Projects to Deliver Clean Energy to Load Centers

- Developers are proposing eight elective transmission upgrades (ETUs) to help deliver over **14,000 MW** of clean energy to New England load centers
- Wind projects make up over **40%** of new resource proposals in the ISO Queue
  - Most are offshore wind proposals in southern New England, but some are onshore wind proposals in northern New England and **would require transmission** to deliver the energy to load centers

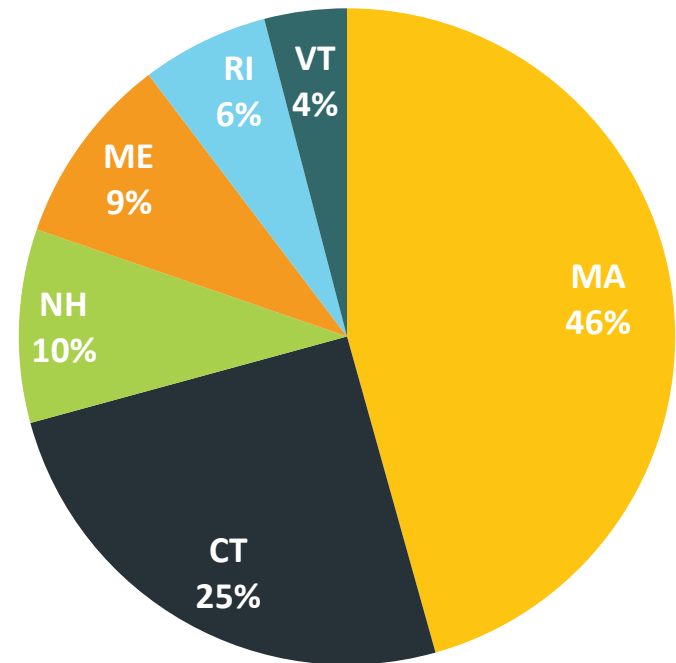
*Lines represent types of ETUs private developers have proposed in recent years*

Source: [ISO Interconnection Queue](#) (January 2024)

# How Are Transmission Costs Allocated?



- The New England electric grid is a **tightly interconnected** system; each state shares in the benefits of reliability and market efficiency upgrades
- The amount of electricity demand in an area determines its **share** of the cost of new or upgraded transmission facilities needed for reliability or market efficiency



2022 Network Load by State

# Changes to Transmission Planning Processes

- The ISO revised Attachment K to incorporate new transmission planning process designed to look beyond the current 10-year planning horizon
  - Changes filed in [December 2021](#); accepted by FERC in [February 2022](#)
- The 2050 Transmission Study is the first example of this longer-term transmission study
- New England states have many goals and mandates related to energy and environmental objectives
- Individual states and the New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) provide input during the planning process



# ISO NEW ENGLAND STUDIES



# Overview of Studies Supporting Future Grid

- **Weather:** [Operational Impacts of Extreme Weather Events](#)
  - Rigorously model likelihood and impact of extreme weather events
- **Transmission:** [2050 Transmission Study](#)
  - Determine transmission needs to support renewable/high load future
- **Operations:** [Future Grid Reliability Study \(Phase 1\)](#)
  - Examine operational effects of renewable-heavy grid
- **Markets:** [Pathways to the Future Grid](#)
  - Evaluate different market options to support a renewable-heavy grid
- **Reliability:** [Transmission Planning for the Clean Energy Transition](#)
  - Explore how near-term needs assessments should evolve with renewables

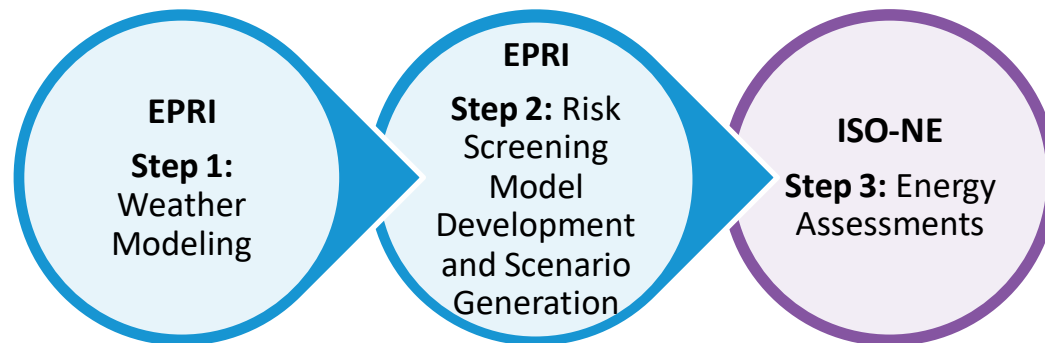




# Operational Impact of Extreme Weather Events

## – Energy Adequacy Study

- [Operational Impact of Extreme Weather Events](#) is a probabilistic energy-security study undertaken jointly by the ISO and the Electric Power Research Institute ([EPRI](#))
- The study seeks to inform the region about future energy adequacy risks and provide context for assessing solutions, is one of several [key projects](#) undertaken by the ISO to help New England prepare for tomorrow's greener grid
- The study is being undertaken in three major steps, with EPRI providing weather modeling and risk screening model development, and ISO completing the energy assessments, using the [21-day energy assessment tool](#)



- The energy adequacy risk profile is dynamic and will be a function of the evolution of both supply and demand profiles

# Energy Adequacy Study Key Takeaways

- [Final Report](#) released in December 2023 includes results of Step 3 energy assessments completed for winter and summer 2027 and 2032 events, and reviews sensitivity analysis performed for the worst case 2032 winter event
- Results reveal a range of energy shortfall risks and associated probabilities and reveal similar energy adequacy risk with and without the Everett Marine Terminal in-service
- Sensitivity analysis of 2032 worst-case scenarios indicate an increasing energy shortfall risk profile between 2027 and 2032
- Timely additions of BTM and Utility Scale PV, offshore wind, and incremental imports from NECEC are critical to mitigate energy shortfall risks that result from significant peak winter load growth and retirements
- This energy adequacy study tool developed in partnership with EPRI provides a much needed foundation for the ISO to monitor risks and study the system as it continues to evolve



# Introduction to the Regional Energy Shortfall Threshold (REST)

- The Probabilistic Energy Adequacy Tool (PEAT) framework for risk analysis under extreme weather events will be essential for evaluating regional energy shortfall risk as the resource mix evolves and as climate projections are refined
- ISO's initial 2027 and 2032 energy adequacy study results are expected to help inform the development of a Regional Energy Shortfall Threshold (REST)
  - ISO expects that the REST will be a reliability-based threshold that reflects the region's level of risk tolerance with respect to energy shortfalls during extreme weather
- The REST scope of work was [introduced](#) at the December NEPOOL Reliability Committee meeting; work will continue through 2024

More information on the Operational Impacts of Extreme Weather Events Key Project, including ongoing efforts related to development of a Regional Energy Shortfall Threshold, is available on the ISO website: [Operational Impacts of Extreme Weather Events Key Project \(iso-ne.com\)](https://www.iso-ne.com/operational-impacts-of-extreme-weather-events-key-project)

# 2050 Transmission Study

## *A High-Level Study for the Years 2035, 2040, and 2050*

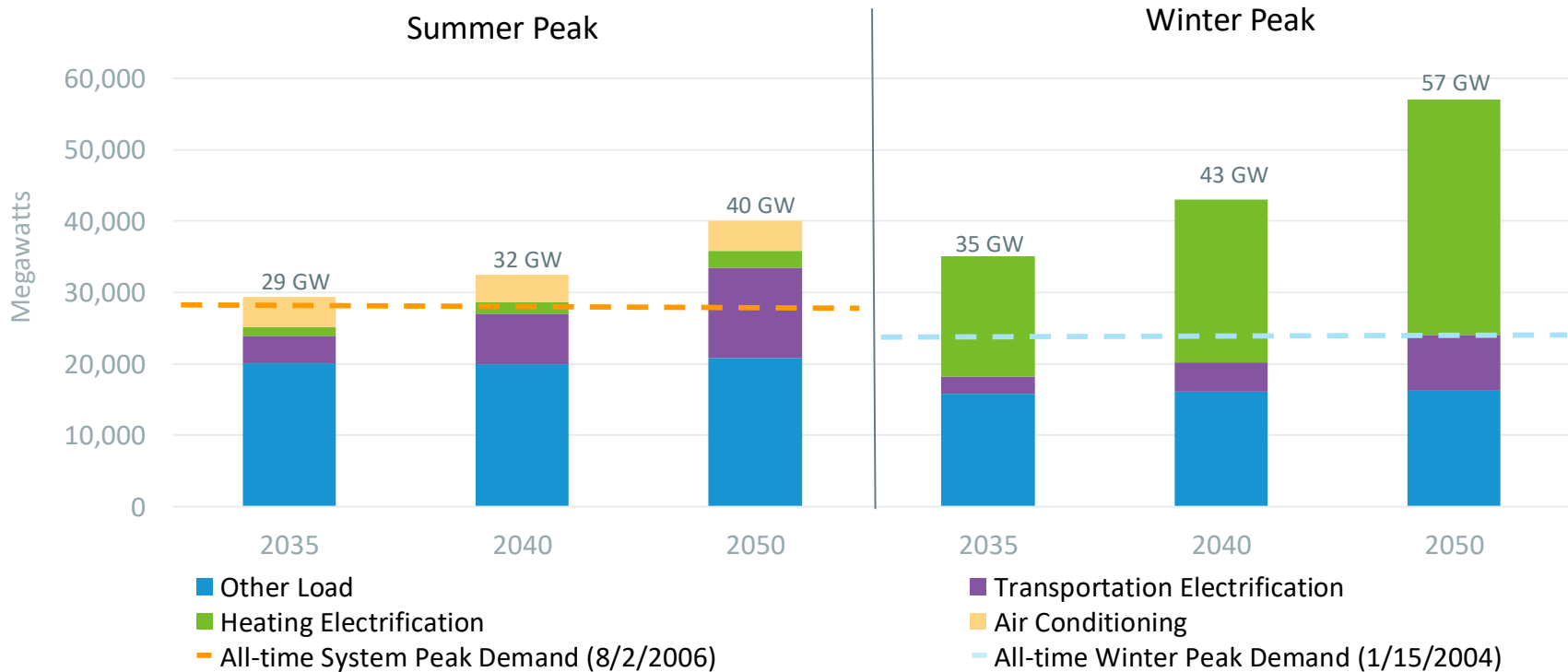
- Initial study scope and assumptions developed **in conjunction with the states** and in accordance with a recommendation from NESCOE's October 2022 [New England States Vision Statement](#)
- Aims to **inform the region** of the amount, type, and high-level cost estimates of transmission infrastructure that would be needed to cost-effectively:
  - Incorporate clean-energy and distributed-energy resources
  - Meet state energy policy requirements and goals, including economy-wide decarbonization
- Looks **well beyond** the ISO's 10-year horizon for transmission planning and is **not** a plan to build specific projects
- The [Draft 2050 Transmission Study](#) was published in November 2023 and the ISO anticipates finalizing the report in early 2024



The most up-to-date information on the 2050 study is available at the [Planning Advisory Committee](#) and [Longer-Term Transmission Studies](#) webpages.

# New England System Peak Grows Substantially and Shifts to Winter-Peaking

## 2050 Transmission Study

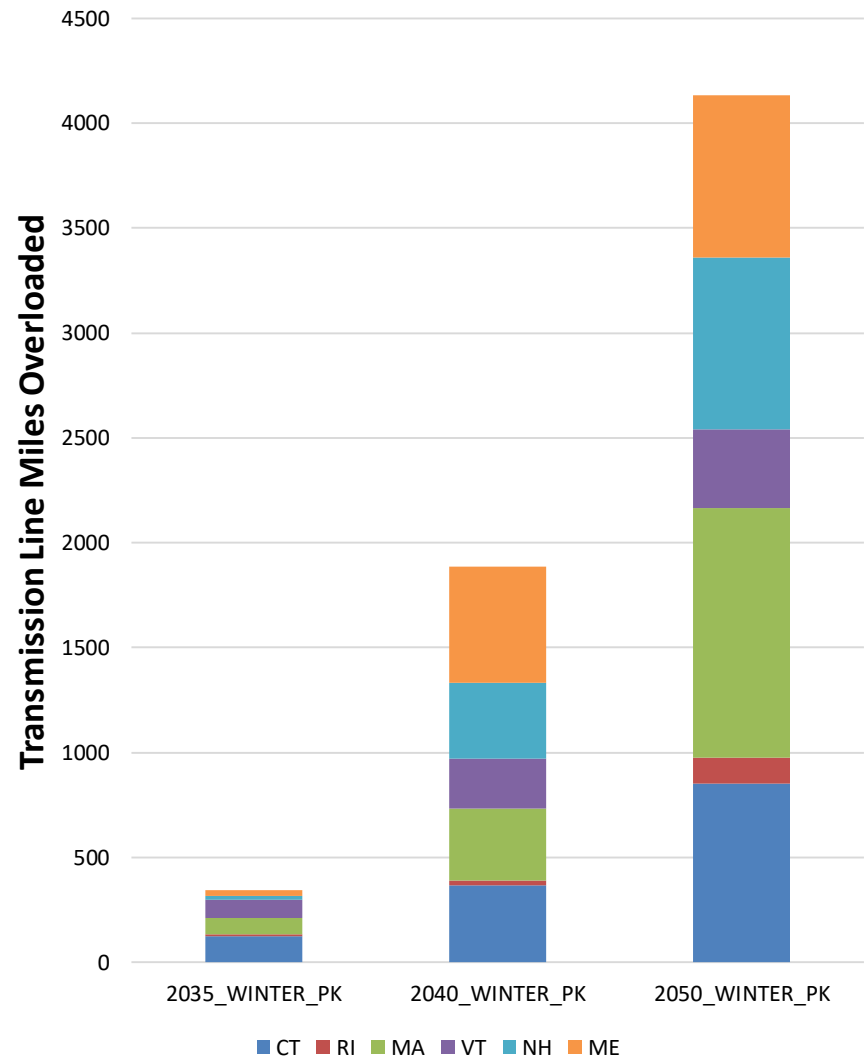


Source: ISO New England [2050 Study Draft Report](#). The future scenarios in the 2050 Study were based on the All Options Pathway in [Massachusetts' Deep Decarbonization Roadmap](#) report, published in December 2020.

# 2050 Transmission Study

- Preliminary results indicate approximately **4,000 miles, or 50%**, of New England's transmission line mileage could be overloaded by 2050
- Total mileage of transmission overloads can be **decreased by about 35%** by reducing the 2050 winter peak from 57 GW to 51 GW
- Significant **new transmission** will be needed to reliably serve load under the assumptions analyzed in this study
- The final report details **multiple roadmaps** and **cost estimates** for the evolution of certain portions of the transmission system

Total Transmission Line Miles Overloaded for Winter Evening Peak



# OTHER ISO NEW ENGLAND PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

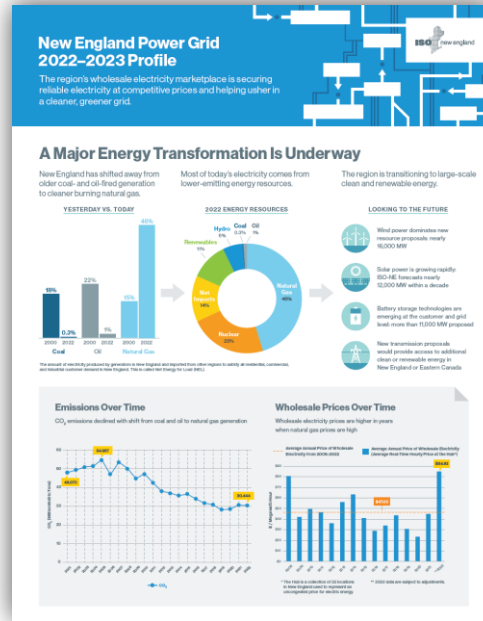


# ISO New England Releases Several Publications



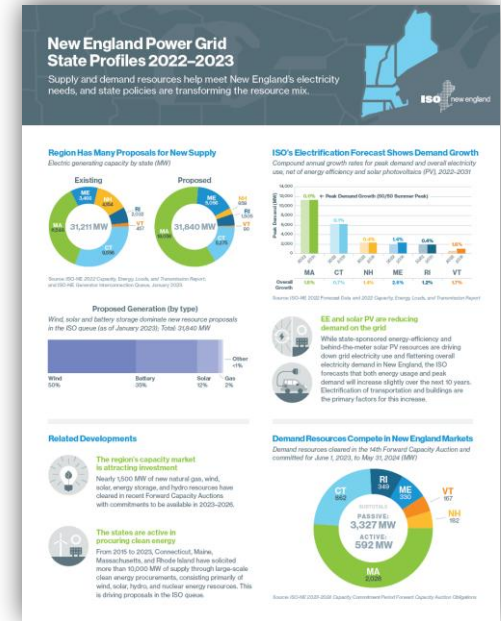
## 2022 Regional Electricity Outlook

Provides an in-depth look at New England's biggest challenges to power system reliability, the solutions the region is pursuing, and other ISO New England efforts to improve services and performance



## New England Power Grid Profile

Provides key grid and market stats on how New England's wholesale electricity markets are securing reliable electricity at competitive prices and helping usher in a cleaner, greener grid



## New England State Profiles

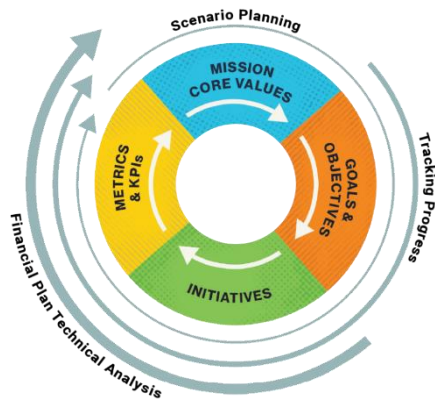
Provides state-specific facts and figures relating to supply and demand resources tied into the New England electric grid and state policies transforming the resource mix in the region



# ISO New England's Strategic Plan

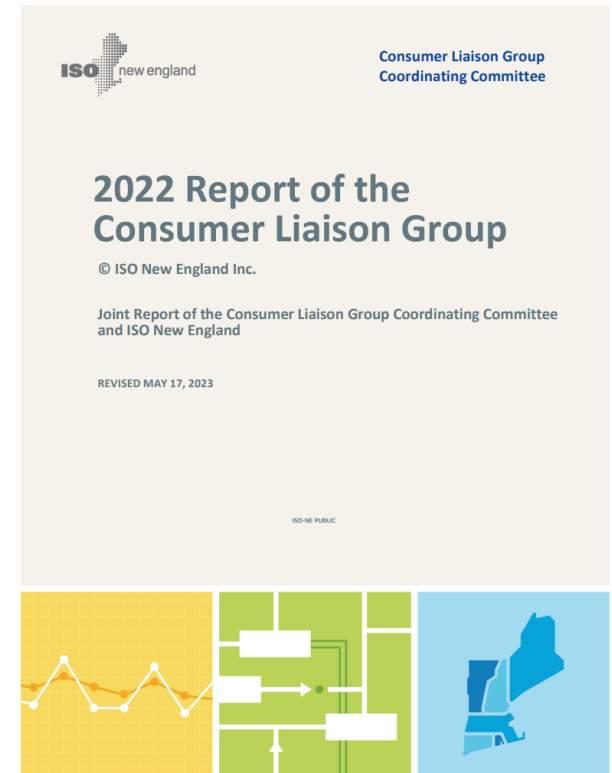


- In October 2022, the ISO released [Vision in Action: ISO New England's Strategic Plan](#)
- The plan provides insight into how the ISO intends to fulfill its three critical roles during the clean energy transition
- In addition to discussing the ISO's key goals and initiatives, the plan offers perspectives on trends shaping the power industry
- ISO CEO Gordon van Welie presented an overview of the plan at the [2022 Open Board Meeting](#)



# Consumer Liaison Group Provides a Forum for Consumers to Learn about Regional Electricity Issues

- A forum for sharing information between the ISO and electricity consumers in New England
- The CLG Coordinating Committee consists of 12 members who represent various stakeholder groups
- Quarterly meetings are free and open to the public, with in-person and virtual options to participate
- Tentative 2024 CLG Meeting Dates:
  - Wednesday, March 6
  - Tuesday, June 4
  - Thursday, September 12
  - Wednesday, December 4



[2022 CLG Annual Report](#)

More information on the CLG is available at:  
<https://www.iso-ne.com/committees/industry-collaborations/consumer-liaison/>

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# FOR MORE INFORMATION...



## Subscribe to the *ISO Newswire*

[ISO Newswire](#) is your source for regular news about ISO New England and the wholesale electricity industry within the six-state region



## Log on to ISO Express

[ISO Express](#) provides real-time data on New England's wholesale electricity markets and power system operations



## Follow the ISO on X (fka Twitter)

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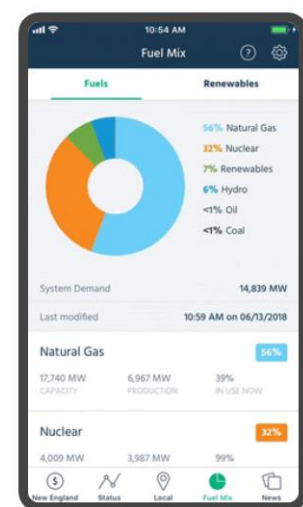
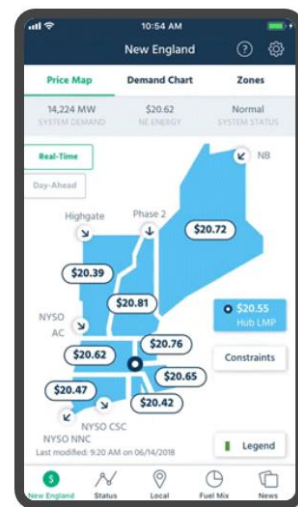


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## Download the ISO to Go App

[ISO to Go](#) is a free mobile application that puts real-time wholesale electricity pricing and power grid information in the palm of your hand



# Questions

