

My family and I live in Northfield and I have served on the Northfield Energy Committee for the past three years. We've made progress helping to move our community toward a more sustainable relationship with energy by installing an electric charging station, building a bus stop, and performing energy audits on town buildings as well as talking to community members about energy use.

At the same time, my family and I have built a home on a piece of land outside of town. We've done our best to focus on minimizing the embodied energy of the materials and designing the home to use as little energy as possible. I'm a mechanical engineer by trade and I now work as a designer helping other folks looking to build new energy efficient homes like ours.

While I'm proud of what we've achieved on our land, I've come to see that building energy efficiency is often a much easier problem to tackle when you start from scratch like we did with our place than when you try to improve an existing structure. In my opinion, Thermal Energy Networks offer our greatest opportunity to increase the energy efficiency and sustainability of our existing communities where buildings are older, less energy efficient, and closely spaced.

I encourage you both to spend some of your valuable time in the service of passing S.252/H.669 this session to lay the groundwork necessary to help towns move towards more sustainable energy use in the future.

Thank You Both,
Patrick Meehan
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