



Town of Lexington Annual Town Meeting 2023

Article 26: Amend the General Bylaws – Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code

Presenter: Joe Pato

Article 26 asks the Town to adopt the Municipal Opt-in Specialized Energy Code. The code, developed by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), provides a more energy efficient and low greenhouse gas emission alternative to the Stretch Energy Code or the baseline Massachusetts Energy code. It ensures new construction is consistent with state and local net zero goals for 2050 through deep energy efficiency, reduced heat loads, and building electrification.

Adoption of the Specialized Code is a requirement for any community seeking to participate in the 10-community fossil fuel free demonstration program, which the Town is actively pursuing. In addition, adoption of the Specialized Code was a key action laid out in the *Getting to Net Zero Roadmap*, adopted by the Select Board in 2018, and it was listed as an “Immediate Action” in the Housing chapter of the Lexington Next Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the planning board in September 2022. Both the Building and Planning Departments have been consulted and are prepared to enforce the Specialized Code. If adopted, the code would go into effect in Lexington on January 1, 2024.

The Select Board voted 3 in favor of passage of Article 26 and 2 waiting for town meeting discussion.