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# Accelerating Decarbonization with District Energy:

Vicinity Energy's Rapid Electrification Plan

June 21, 2022



## Vicinity Energy: Net Zero Carbon by 2050

### Leveraging Existing Infrastructure, New Technologies and Renewable Energy Sources to Decarbonize the Building-energy Sector

District Energy has a 100-year history of greening and Vicinity will deploy innovative technologies to achieve *net zero carbon emissions by 2050... Cutting our emissions in half by 2035* 



## Vicinity's Assets Have the Reach to Take a "Big Bite" out of Carbon Emissions

- 65+ million square feet of buildings served
- All downtown hospitals, life science, civic / commercial
- Existing **26-miles** of robust underground energy delivery piping
- 2 central plants poised for electrification
- Potential to avoid 800,000
  metric tons/year





# Vicinity Electrification Strategy and Execution Plan:

Case Study Boston and Cambridge

## **District Energy Can Eliminate New Gas Boilers in Cambridge**

"Natural gas...has no place in a clean energy future." – Mothers Out Front



#### New gas boilers in Cambridge will:

- "lock in" an emissions profile; they cannot become greener
- generate unmonitored emissions and pollutants
- degrade from their theoretical efficiency over time
- negatively impact Environmental Justice populations

A hybrid design of heat pumps + eSteam<sup>™</sup> = low carbon energy supply to buildings that eliminates new gas boilers



## District Energy Systems Evolving as the State Encourages More Off-Shore Wind



- District energy systems will meet this shift through electrification of our core steam generating assets
- Source renewable power, electrically generate thermal energy and convey this energy to customers through existing delivery system
- Maintain Kendall CHP as blackstart and dispatchable asset for the New England electric grid.



## Vicinity is Electrifying...<u>NOW</u>

Our **Phase I** decarbonization plan includes electric boilers, industrial-scale heat pumps, & thermal storage.



Electric Boilers 50 MW

#### 2021/22 -

- 50MW electric boiler (120,000 lb/hr)
  - In final design
  - Equipment being sourced
- Filing process with ISO-NE in process

#### 2024 -

- Installation of electric boiler at Kendall Station
- Connected to existing high-voltage transmission lines
- Heating produced will be from net zero/renewable power
- End state up to 300 MWs of electric boilers



Heat Pumps 10 MW

#### 2021/22 -

- 3rd party design nearly complete
- Issuing a request for proposal (RFP)

#### 2025 –

- Plan to install largest heat pump complex in MA
- Use heat "lifted" from the Charles River to make steam
- Dramatically reduces our carbon footprint in the near term



### Thermal Storage 1,000 MWh

#### 2021/22 -

- Approved for Network Service with ISO-NE
- ISO-NE interconnection in process

#### 2025/27 -

- Provide 1,000 MWh of storage
- Mitigate cost and carbon content of electrical peaks by "peak shaving"
- Aligned with winter offshore wind peak
- Dramatically lower cost of electrified steam, driving adoption





### Achieving Net Zero: Significantly Reducing Emissions by 2035

Vicinity's carbon footprint will dramatically drop as we consume renewable power to generate "eSteam"



## Vicinity's eSteam<sup>™</sup> ... the future of district energy renewable thermal is emerging now!



We are bringing *renewable thermal and energy storage* assets to Cambridge

- Leverage existing electric transmission interconnect to access wholesale marketpriced renewable power
- Convert renewable power to steam through highly efficient technologies at scale
- Leverage existing status as wholesale grid customer to access real-time energy
- Purchase of renewable power can be customer-controlled or Vicinity-supported
- Customers can use Vicinity's eSteam<sup>™</sup> to achieve their net zero goals at their own pace





Electrification of district energy may be the easiest and most cost-effective path to net zero for all of Center City buildings!

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