



Planting Our Roots

CARPENTER HILL BESS

Community Engagement Plan

APRIL 2026

Project Overview

ABOUT

The Carpenter Hill BESS is a Large Clean Energy Storage Facility under EFSB jurisdiction per the 2024 Climate Act.

Given the community's documented concerns about BESS projects and the site's location in an Agricultural district with strong rural character, this plan emphasizes early, transparent, and accessible outreach.

The project must complete all pre-filing engagement requirements codified at 980 CMR 16.00 before submitting an application to the EFSB.



CAPACITY

150 MWAC / 600 MWh



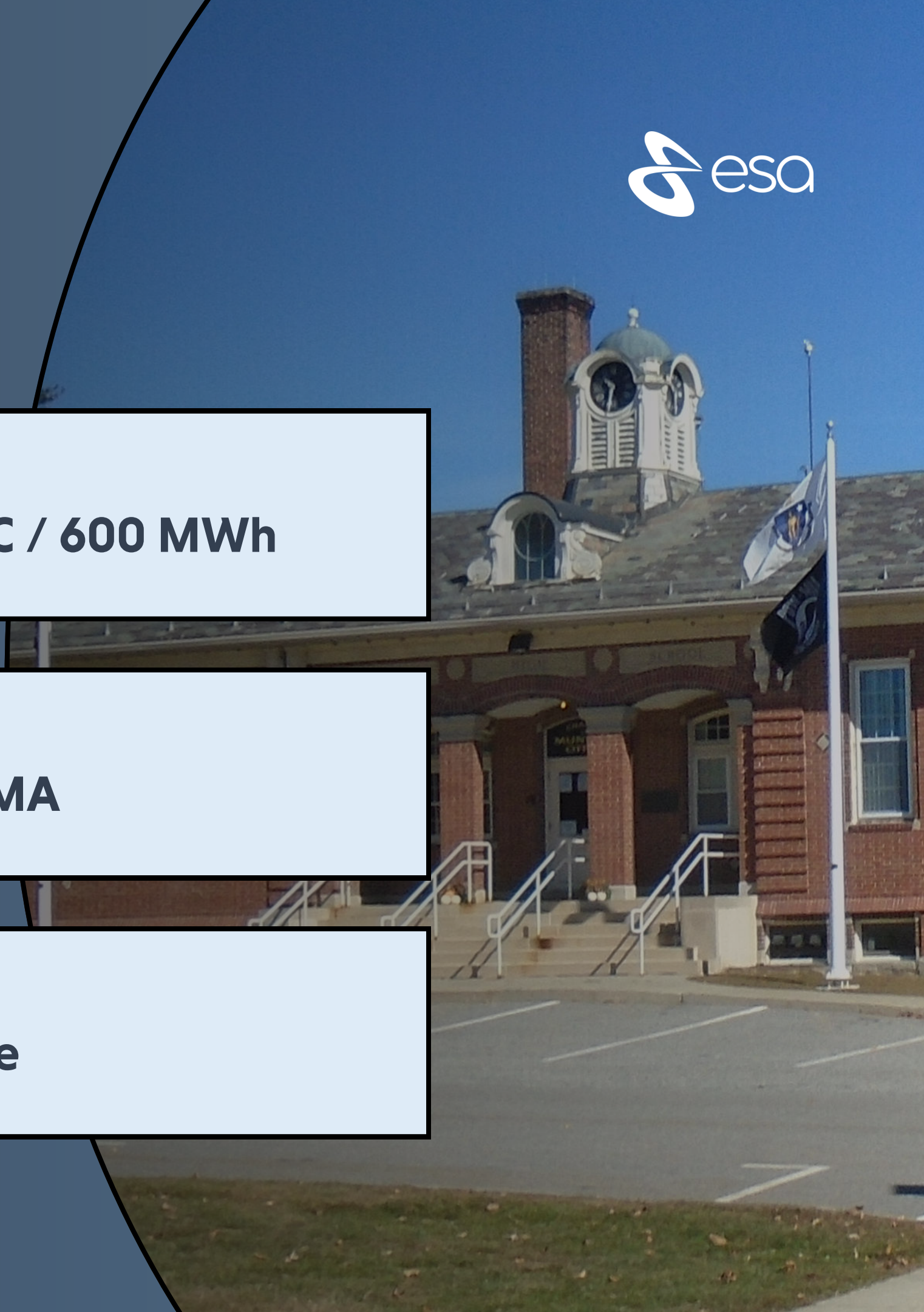
LOCATION

Charlton, MA



ZONING

Agriculture



Every great **harvest** starts with a **seed**.

Community trust is cultivated through
collaboration and conversation.



Following Our Values



Be Authentic

Use open and effective communication to be your real self, always.



Put People First

Lead with empathy, to put relationships before transactions.



Be Flexible

Our business is change. Be willing to adapt and learn from your mistakes to improve.



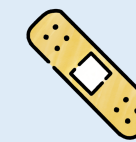
Be Curious

Always ask why, challenge the status quo, and find new solutions.



Care For The Future

Leave places and communities better than when you found them.



Scrape Your Knees

Don't fear failure. Take the leap, take risks, be persistent and push it.

Our Engagement Philosophy

We believe the best projects are built with communities, not imposed upon them. Charlton residents deserve complete honesty, genuine respect, and a real seat at the table.



Transparency

We will share what we know, acknowledge what we don't, and be upfront about challenges. If something changes, we will say so and explain why.



Honesty

We will not overstate benefits or minimize risks. We will provide factual, science-based information about battery energy storage safety, environmental impacts, and grid benefits.



Kindness

We will treat every person with courtesy and respect. We will create warm, welcoming meeting environments and remove barriers to participation.



Accountability

The "closing the loop" presentations at the second public meeting (showing exactly what we heard and exactly how we responded) are the backbone of our accountability commitment. We will post this information publicly so the record is permanent and accessible.



Fun & Reward

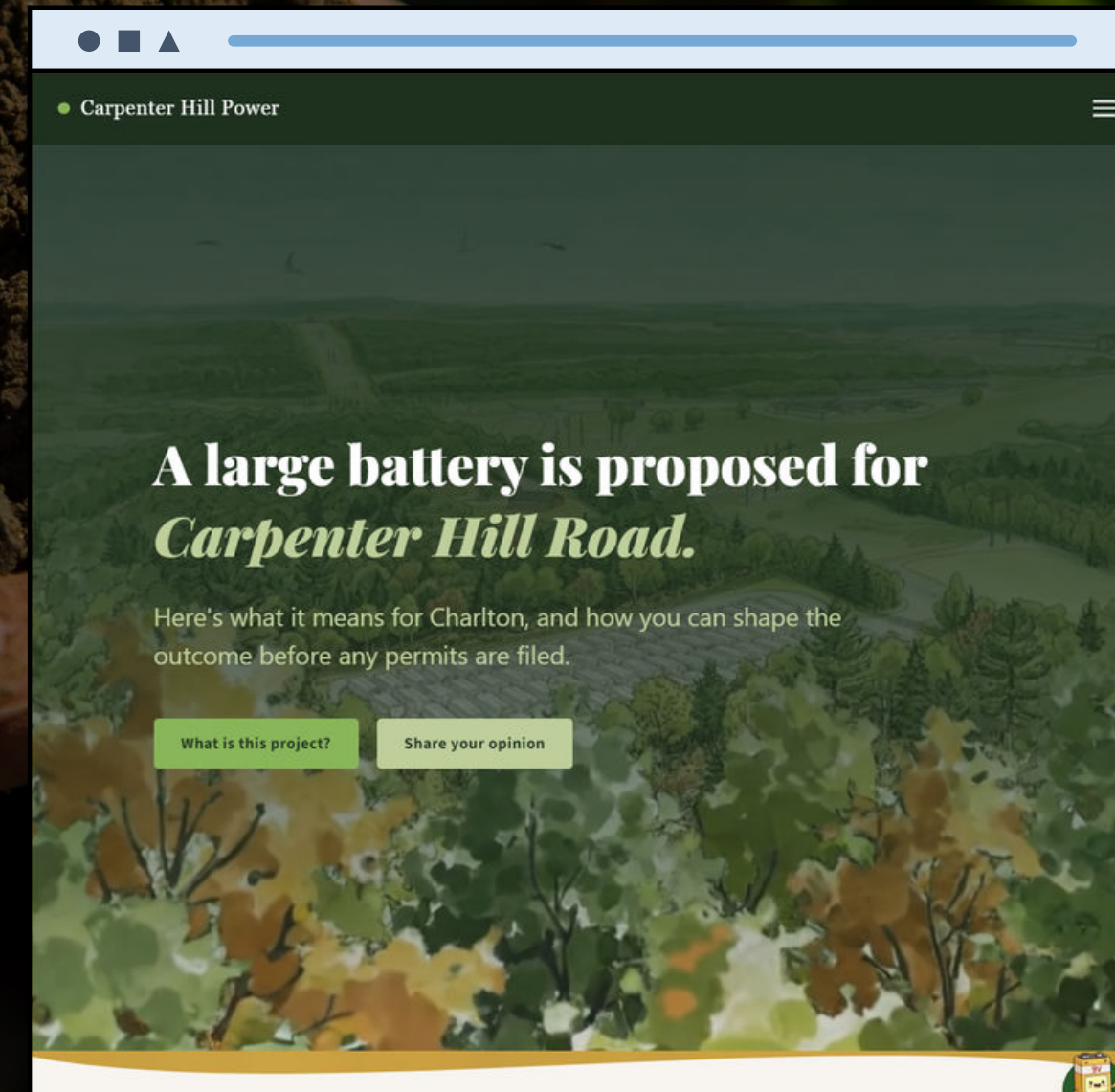
Community engagement shouldn't feel like a chore. By partnering with local businesses, incorporating hands-on activities, offering site visits, and creating interactive formats, we aim to make every engagement event something the community actually wants to attend.

Intro: Prepare Our Soil

March-April 2026

Lay the groundwork, establish relationships, and satisfy initial agency consultations.

-  Meet with DPP and OEJE to kick off the Pre-filing Outreach Period.
-  Consult with the MEPA Office
-  Begin Agency Consultations with relevant local and state permitting entities
-  Launch project webpage
-  Create project email distribution



Phase 1: Plant the Seeds

April-May 2026

Build relationships through one-on-one and small-group meetings before going to the broader public.

-  Individual meetings with municipal officials (Select Board, Planning Board)
-  Neighbor outreach (door-knocking) to abutters and residents within site radius.
-  Stakeholders outreach: CBOs, labor reps, Tribal Nations, state legislators, regional planning (CMRPC).
-  Document all meetings



Phase 2: Begin to Water

June 2026

Present the project to the broader community and gather structured feedback.



The first public meeting will be held after Key Stakeholder meetings and after addressing initial feedback. This meeting will be designed to be welcoming, informative, and participatory.

ASL interpretation required. Translation into languages spoken by 5%+ of population. CART captioning recommended.

Phase 3: Tending, Pruning, and Weeding

July-September 2026

Respond to feedback, deepen community relationships, and co-develop the Community Benefits Plan. Present design changes informed by community feedback, update on the CBP, and prepare for the Pre-filing Notice.

The second mandatory public meeting must be held prior to submitting the Pre-filing Notice and must present any changes to project design and how input received during the first public meeting was considered.



Phase 4: Prepare for Harvest

October-November 2026

Formalize the engagement record and submit the Pre-filing Notice.

We are committed to co-developing the CBP with the Charlton community. Benefits are distinct from, and in addition to, any required mitigation measures. Through our engagement activities, we will solicit community input on priorities that may include, but are not limited to:

Direct Contribution to Town

(e.g., Host Community Agreement payments, PILOT agreements, or annual community benefit fund contributions)

Local workforce development

e.g., commitments to hire local and regional workers during construction, partnerships with trade unions and apprenticeship programs)

Fire Department Support

(e.g., funding for BESS-specific training, specialized equipment, or hazmat response capabilities)

Grid Resilience Benefits

(e.g., exploring options for local emergency backup power or reduced energy costs for the community)

Educational Partnerships

(e.g., STEM scholarships for Charlton students, energy education programs with local schools, internship opportunities)

Environmental Stewardship

(e.g., conservation of the 32-acre forest buffer through a permanent conservation restriction, pollinator habitat installation, support for local trail maintenance or park improvements)

Building an energy project the right way requires **patience, honesty, and care.**

We will plant with transparency.
We will water with listening, and
we will harvest together.



CONTACT US



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