



May 15, 2024

Massachusetts Envirothon Steering Committee:


Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School is committed to reducing its environmental impact and to supporting its students in taking action to further those efforts. In 2019, Minuteman opened a new LEED Silver certified building, replacing its 30-year old facility. The building and campus was designed to have minimal impact on the environment. This includes, but is not limited to, a solar photovoltaic system housed on the roof that generate about 15% of the building's energy, a water collection tank (2,000 gallons) for the Horticulture greenhouse that takes roof water to be used to water in the 3600sqft production greenhouse, eight electric car charging stations on the property, located in the staff and student parking lots as well as near the athletic fields, and all plantings on the campus are native plants with no additional irrigation needed. Minuteman was named a Green Ribbon School in 2024 by the United States Department of Education.

Our student team of Felix Nelson, George O'Brien, Alex Evans, Alan Cross-Donnet, and Lucas Marsden have worked since December to build on these efforts by working with the school and district administration, as well as our elected officials, to develop a proposal to introduce solar carports to the parking lot, which would add shade and renewable energy. The team is working with our Director of Operations and Superintendent to discuss the feasibility of the proposal, including logistics and funding. They collaborated with our State Representatives Sean Garballey and Cindy Friedman focusing on understanding the role that the legislative process plays in an energy transition, as well as the bureaucratic processes and organizations that they needed to contact. They worked with their Environmental Science teachers to develop their research process which culminated in a presentation of the data they collected from the Department of Energy, Eversource, and school records using ArcGIS. This experience allowed our students to fully engage in the civic process in their pursuit to make the world a better place, while gaining an understanding of the complexity of making change. In addition, they were able to further hone their data analysis and presentation skills.

We are very proud of the work our students have done in creating this proposal and the initiative they have taken to further Minuteman's mission of reducing our environmental impact. We look forward to continuing to work with them on the development of this plan.

Should you have any questions, please contact Minuteman High School at 781-861-6500 or email me at [achiariello@minuteman.org](mailto:achiariello@minuteman.org).

Regards,

  
Anthony Chiariello  
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Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School