

**MAYOR KIM  
DRISCOLL'S  
BIMONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER**

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# FYI SALEM

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

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## From the Mayor's Desk



**Photo Courtesy:** Dina Rudick,  
*The Boston Globe, Bostonians of  
the Year: Honorable Mentions*

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone's new year is off to a great start! This past Monday I kicked-off 2015 by delivering my 10th Annual State of the City Address to the Salem City Council. In my remarks, I touched upon many of our community's accomplishments in 2014: saying goodbye to Salem's last coal ship and welcoming our first cruise ship; the demolition of the old power plant and building of the new, cleaner natural gas facility; the opening of the MBTA's new train station and parking garage; the launch of SeeClickFix; our busiest,

yet safest Halloween on record; and our strong financial standing which earned the City its seventh distinguished

budget award and a reaffirmation of our record high AA bond rating, just to name a few.

In many respects, Salem is doing better than ever before, but we can't be caught standing still. We will be vigilant about looking for ways to improve what we do and how we do it. That includes our ongoing efforts to improve Salem's public schools, giving our kids the resources they deserve to close the achievement gap and our teachers the support they need to make it possible.

As much as things moved forward in 2014 for Salem, 2015 will surely be a year of even greater change.

I've called 2015 the "year of the shovel", recognizing the many projects that will get underway in the upcoming year, including: the new power plant, Canal Street surface improvements, National Grid's Cable Replacement Project, a new Riley Plaza mixed-use development, the Grove Street and North River Canal Corridor upgrades, the Universal Steel lot redevelopment, and upgrades to the Salem Wharf, among others.

Among many of these projects in 2015, we'll tackle efficiencies in how we acquire our municipal energy. Just this past week for example, Footprint Power received their financing, allowing this critical project to finally advance. So for this issue of **FYI Salem**, we take a look at some of our ongoing energy related projects and renewable energy efforts across the City. Please enjoy!

*Kim Driscoll*

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**BUILDING  
SALEM****Footprint Power®****Community Benefits Agreement**

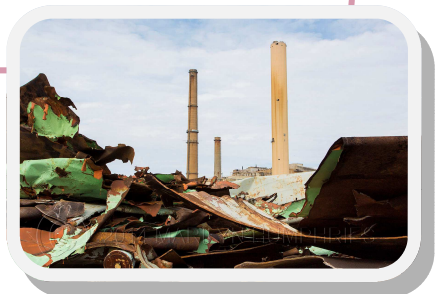
In 2014, Footprint Power received final federal, state, and local approvals for its redevelopment into a 674-megawatt natural gas plant that will provide power to almost 700,000 homes when it comes online in 2017. As part of the project, 40 acres of the 65 acre waterfront site will be freed up for redevelopment,

including a new Salem cruise pier and amenities. This project will generate considerable tax revenue to the City and under a recently agreed to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), Salem can expect total tax revenues of nearly \$100 million over the next 18 years, an average of \$5.5 million per year. Additionally,

the City negotiated a substantial community benefits agreement that calls for Footprint to contribute at least \$4.2 million to support City projects, the surrounding neighborhood, and Salem schools, while giving the City shared ownership of the pier. Below is a look at some of the key terms included in the Footprint CBA.

**Power Plant Demolition.** Photo Courtesy: Marilyn Humphries

- Shared ownership interest in the power plant pier via creation of a Port Authority entity to manage and oversee port operations
- Community involvement in planning for the responsible redevelopment of the remaining site acreage
- Maintenance for the publicly accessible parts of the waterfront and the Derby Street edge
- Development of a hire local initiative for plant employees
- Provision of annual youth internship program for local high school and college students
- \$300,000 in job training support for displaced plant workers
- \$750,000 for the Salem Public School's digital initiative
- \$375,000 for the Salem Public School's enrichment and athletics programs
- \$750,000 for pavement and road repairs on streets surrounding plant
- \$250,000 in permit fees and \$134,000 to offset Harbormaster costs
- \$75,000 to update the City's Harbor Plan
- \$56,000 to support the City's BuildingSalem public information initiative
- \$750,000 for the City's Community Preservation Act
- \$120,000 for public art installations on the waterfront and plant site
- \$10,000 annual donation to the Fourth of July fireworks and celebrations
- \$300,000 for off-site greenhouse gas and particulate emissions reductions
- \$250,000 to support the City's existing environmental initiatives
- Advocating for legislation that supports responsible natural gas extraction
- Funding for emergency training drills with Salem Fire Dept personnel



# Salem Power Choice

## *Municipal Electrical Aggregation*



Salem Power Choice is an innovative electrical aggregation program that will allow the City to provide group purchasing of electricity for all of our residents and businesses. By negotiating and bulk purchasing energy, City ratepayers can get a lower, more stable rate, while also determining what share of

their electricity they want from renewable or alternative sources. For example, the City of Lowell is receiving 100% renewable energy through the purchase of energy credits and was still able to reduce its bills. The potential average savings in Salem is estimated to be between \$29 and \$66 per year. Additionally, the

contract can be written to hold the rate steady for a longer period of time than traditional suppliers, which often fluctuates seasonally. Salem Power Choice, which was given the go-ahead by the City Council in December, provides Salem with an opportunity to leverage the purchasing power of 17,000 ratepayers

to provide for greener, more stable, and less expensive energy. For more information, contact Jeff Elie at 978-619-5693 or by email at [jelie@salem.com](mailto:jelie@salem.com). Stayed tuned for more info on this in 2015!

## Working for You: Jeff Elie



**#1) Position:** Energy & Sustainability Manager, Planning Department

**#2) Time at City Hall:**  
2 years, 4 months

**#3) Responsibilities:** Manage all renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation projects for the City. Develop and sustain a

comprehensive energy and sustainability strategy that effectively addresses the environmental, economic, and social sustainability goals of the City. Research renewable energy opportunities and apply for energy-related grants. Staff the Renewable Energy Task Force and Salem Bicycling Advisory Committee.

**#4) Favorite Project:**  
Converting all 3,300 overhead

streetlights in Salem to LEDs which will save the City 50% - 60% in energy and provide cost savings, while casting clearer light that will make our City safer for driving and walking at night!

**#5) How can Salem be more Green?** Consider powering buildings, specifically emergency facilities and services, through renewable energy sources including solar PV, wind and fuel cells.

## Better Know A Board: RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE

The mission of the Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF) is to create ideas, research technologies and recommend programs with the goal of bettering Salem's environmental stewardship. RETF recognizes that protecting

the environment and reducing consumption of resources is part of our civic responsibility and hopes to enhance the economic, social and natural environment of Salem by promoting renewable energy use, highlighting the need for energy conservation,

advocating for responsible energy use, and supporting the reduction of emissions that contribute to climate change. RETF meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the City Hall Annex, 120 Washington Street, 3rd Floor.

### RETF Members:

**Jeff Barz-Snell, Chair**  
**Jeff Brandt**  
**Jeff Cohen, Alternate**  
**John Hayes**  
**Cindy Keegan**  
**Nick Lewis**  
**Rishi Nandi**  
**Richard Nye**

## Ready for Tomorrow: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment & Adaptation

As much as Salem is known for being one of America's greatest historical communities, we are also forward looking. Critical to that is ensuring that we plan appropriately for the reality of life in a world with a changing climate. As a coastal city, it is even more vital that we identify our most vulnerable assets and take appropriate actions to mitigate potential threats that will be caused or exacerbated by climate change.

To meet this need, Salem's Department of Planning and Community Development

presented a draft report in December outlining some of the most serious potential climate change impacts on Salem, the resulting stresses to different sectors in the City, and actionable project ideas to address some of the most critical issues. These climate change impacts include extreme heat events, sea level rise, extreme precipitation events and storm surge. The study evaluates the potential impact those four climate change events will have on Salem's critical building and water infrastructure, energy supply, storm water systems, transportation networks



and routes, and vulnerable populations. Climate change is happening, and we have to prepare for the consequences that will ensue. By planning well today, Salem will be ready for tomorrow. To view the full draft of **Ready for Tomorrow: The City of Salem Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment & Adaptation Plan**, visit: [Salem.com/Pages/SalemMA DPCD/studies](http://Salem.com/Pages/SalemMA-DPCD/studies).

## National Grid Cable Replacement Project

**What is the Salem Cable Project?** National Grid is working to replace two underground electric transmission lines, located in Salem. These lines transmit electricity used by hundreds of thousands of residents and businesses in Salem and throughout the North Shore.

**Why is it necessary?** The transmission lines are aging, in bad condition, and they need to be replaced. The Salem Cable Replacement Project will install new cables in a ductbank and manhole system. The new cables should also address capacity limitations and maintenance issues with the current system. When completed, the Salem Cable Replacement Project is expected to supply reliable electricity to Salem and other North Shore communities for years to come.

**When is it happening?** Pending final approval, project construction is scheduled to begin in late January or early February 2015. The construction timeline and additional information is available at National Grid's website: [SalemCableProject.com](http://SalemCableProject.com).

**How can I get the latest info?**

- ♦ Signup for the **weekly e-Newsletter**
- ♦ Like the **Salem Cable Project & BuildingSalem** pages on Facebook
- ♦ Follow **@SalemCableProj** & **@BuildingSalem** on Twitter
- ♦ Call the local toll-free hotline: **1-844-SALEM-CABLE (844-725-3622)**

