

Section 5-31

INTERIM RESTRICTION FOR BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

While the City recognizes An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity and Protecting Ratepayers (the “2024 Climate Act”), the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources has yet to promulgate final regulations governing Battery Energy Storage Systems, a land use not presently addressed by this ordinance. Since such regulations must be known and duly considered in order to effectively evaluate and establish local zoning regulations for such a novel and evolving use in regard to public health, safety and welfare, this interim restriction is hereby established.

For purposes of this section, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is one or more devices, assembled together, capable of storing energy in order to supply and distribute electrical energy at a future time, including any standalone/principal such use of land, and any accessory system (supporting a non-BESS principal use) having an aggregate energy capacity of 250 kWh or more. Excluded from this definition is any large (100 MWh capacity or more) BESS solely under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth’s Energy Facilities Siting Board as specified by the Act and its regulations.

In any zoning district, a Battery Energy Storage System is a prohibited use. This moratorium shall remain effective until, and through, September 30, 2026, or such time prior when zoning regulations superseding any provision of this section are duly adopted.

(2/26/26)