



BERKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM

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Protecting the environment for wildlife in support of the natural world that sustains us all.

## Pittsfield Generating Peaker Plant

Pittsfield Generating is over 30 years old and is powered by “natural” gas. This facility, which runs less than 5% of the time, costs ratepayers millions of dollars while polluting our community, emitting thousands of pounds of nitrogen oxides, a hazardous gas that poses several significant health risks.

**Pittsfield Generating accounts for over 15% of the city of Pittsfield’s total stationary emissions, despite only running for a few days out of the year.**

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### What is a Peaker Plant?

A peaking power plant is an electricity generating facility that only operates when total demand for electricity is very high, such as on very hot summer days or on very cold winter days when both heating demand and electric demand is high.

**Replacing the aging Pittsfield Generating Facility peaker plant with a cleaner energy source like a solar and battery storage facility would reduce community exposure to pollution, improve health outcomes, and support the Commonwealth in meeting its climate targets.**



Scan for more information on the Pittsfield Generating peaker plant.



### Environmental Justice

Pittsfield Generating is very close to Environmental Justice neighborhoods. There is a life expectancy discrepancy in Pittsfield of 12 years between these EJ neighborhoods and the more affluent outlying parts of the city.

Two of the three Berkshire County fossil fuel power plants have already been retired. 98% of the time, the plant only employs two crew members. Four additional staff work during the infrequent moments when the plant is running.

**Transitioning Pittsfield Generating to renewable power would help position the city as a hub for clean technology, attracting new business and jobs to the community.**