



ADOPTED MAY 24, 2022

Shrewsbury Electric & Cable Operations Environmental Justice Resolution

Shrewsbury Electric & Cable Operations (SELCO), established in 1908, is a community owned and operated utility serving Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. SELCO provides high-quality electric, cable, telephone, and internet services at competitive prices to residential, municipal, and commercial customers within the Town of Shrewsbury.

SELCO provides numerous energy efficiency and electrification incentives for residential, municipal, and commercial and industrial customers, and has recently expanded its participation in programs aimed at adapting to a future with increased electrification and a focus on decarbonization. SELCO's role as a community leader is built on our commitment to working cooperatively with diverse stakeholder groups for the overall benefit of our customers. We seek to have a positive economic, social, and environmental impact on our community through good citizenship and equitable access to programs for all customers.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has recently increased its focus on "Environmental Justice," or rather, the economic, environmental and public health impacts on underserved communities. The Commonwealth has designated 11 Environmental Justice (EJ) block groups, or neighborhoods, in Shrewsbury, which are home to more than 60% of Shrewsbury's population. These neighborhoods have been designated as EJ under two of the state's three criteria: high populations of minorities and low-income residents. There are currently no EJ neighborhoods that qualify under the third criteria - English isolation, or households without someone older than 14 who speaks English well. SELCO recognizes that customers experiencing English isolation do reside in our service territory, despite populations not being concentrated enough to trigger designation under the state's metrics.

Environmental Justice is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. EJ is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits.

Senate Bill 9, the climate bill legislation signed in 2021 by Governor Baker, further defines Environmental Justice and how the Commonwealth will address it. This includes the establishment of Environmental Justice principles to be used by the Administration; the promulgation of regulations regarding carbon emissions that affect EJ populations; the creation of job training and employment opportunities for EJ populations, and an increase in informational outreach to EJ populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Shrewsbury Electric & Cable Operations supports the Commonwealth's effort to address Environmental Justice concerns in designated Environmental Justice communities, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Shrewsbury Electric & Cable Operations is committed to examining ways to improve access to information, programs, and incentives for all of its ratepayers, including its underserved communities, as part of its mission to provide superior service at a fair price.