

# Communities' CO2 reduction efforts negated by proposed Hanscom private jet expansion

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Communities in Massachusetts are proud of their progress reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For example, the Town of Concord has over 20 years installed 10MW of solar panels, **avoiding 4,000 Tons per year** of CO2e emissions. Yet, the sobering fact is that all of this progress is cancelled out by the current and growing emissions due to private jet operations at Hanscom Field.

Hanscom Field private jet traffic emissions already **contribute approximately 752,000 tons per year** of CO2e (See section on CO2 Calculations.) The airfield recently announced plans to build 27 more hangars, covering an area nearly **2/3 mile long in a paved area equivalent to 70 football fields**. This nearly triples the jet hangar capacity of the airfield.

Even if that tripling of capacity only adds 50% to the flight volume, that would **contribute about 376,000 tons of CO2e per year**, dwarfing and negating the ongoing carbon reduction plans of communities. Even without this project, the jet operations are on track for growth of 10% per year, corresponding to 75,000 tons per year emissions growth, while the surrounding towns each [plan to reduce by about 4,000 tons per year](#). Therefore, *even without this project*, ongoing private luxury jet growth at Hanscom cancels the combined climate efforts of about 19 municipalities.

This is why at recent public meetings on the project, State Senator Mike Barrett was adamant that this proposed expansion is totally against everything we are trying to do as a town, a state, and as a country to stop global warming.

In the developers' Environmental Notification Form to MEPA (Office of MA Environmental Policy Act, which is conducting an environmental review of this proposed development), the proponent of the project is required to answer certain prescribed questions. Incredibly, in answer to the question of whether the project "promotes decarbonization", they answered "yes".

Under the law, the proponent of the project is required to file an Environmental Notification Form disclosing potential impacts. Incredibly, they are not required to disclose any of the huge GHG emissions impacts of the aircraft, but only required to disclose the relatively tiny emissions associated with their buildings and equipment. By adding solar arrays and electric vehicle chargers, they can claim the airport will achieve net zero emissions goals..

Most citizens are unaware that taxpayers subsidize this climate-destructive private jet activity. [The airport pays no sales taxes](#). While you pay a sales tax on your Toyota, there is no sales tax on private jets. There is no sales tax on repairs or spare parts or upgrades. Massport is mandated by federal law to provide airport capacity to whoever wants it, with no consideration for the environmental goals of our country.

Citizens who care about the environment and seek to reduce the carbon footprint caused by their towns are urged to learn more and become involved with their local governments.