

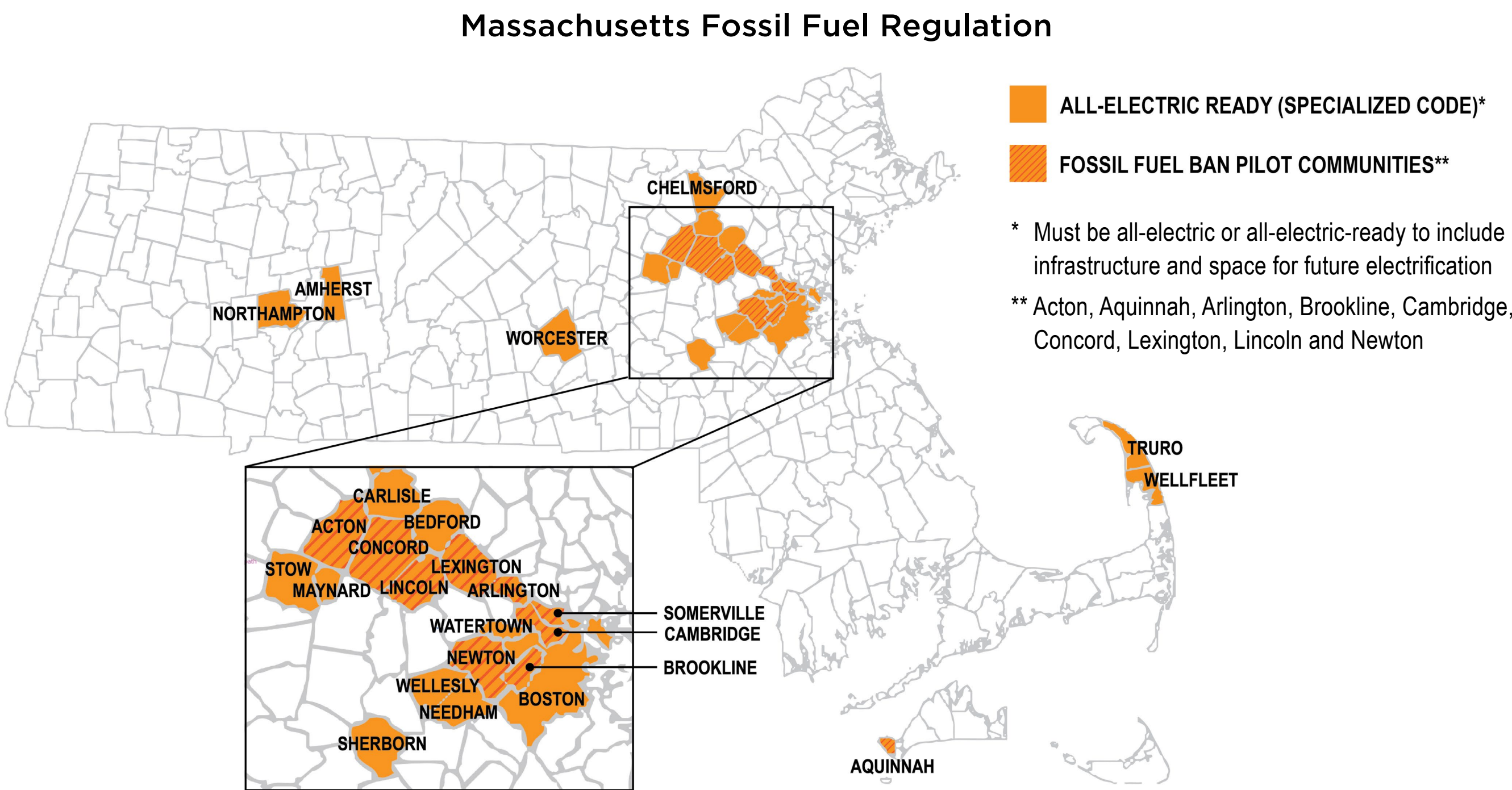
## Boston Paves Its Own Path: The City Opt's Out of the Gas Ban, but Still Embraces an Electrified Future with the Specialized Code

Boston recently made the decision not to join the Massachusetts Municipal Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program pilot, making it the tenth community to opt out. However, this doesn't mean Boston is stepping back from its commitment to a sustainable, decarbonized future.

Starting January 1, 2024, Boston is set to implement the Specialized Code. This code mandates that all new construction and major renovations must be "all-electric-ready" by including infrastructure and space for future electrification, reinforcing the city's dedication to reducing its carbon footprint.

Despite bypassing the Fossil Fuel Free Building pilot, Boston's decarbonization approach is still forward-thinking and impactful. For example, multifamily buildings will now be required to obtain Passive House certification, marking a significant leap toward energy efficiency. Furthermore, satisfying many of the code compliance pathways (i.e., Passive House and ASHRAE 90.1-2019) will be nearly impossible without electrified heat pump space heating and domestic hot water.

While Boston may have opted out of one pilot program, the journey toward a sustainable, all-electric future is still very much on the agenda for the city thanks to the Specialized Code. Explore the graphic below to see how communities are embracing this shift with the Specialized Code and fossil fuel ban.



There are still nine communities that are participating in the Massachusetts Municipal Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program. Somerville, Salem and Northampton are vying for the tenth spot, with Boston opting out. The program will go into effect in pilot communities as early as January 1, 2024. Notably, some pilot communities like Cambridge still have exceptions for fossil fuel usage in critical-use life science and healthcare applications, district energy systems, manufacturing process loads, multifamily domestic hot water heating, and cooking in restaurants.

At JB&B, we're here to support you in navigating these changes. Whether it's understanding the Massachusetts Municipal Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program or embracing the forward-focused Specialized Code, we're your partners in building decarbonization!



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