Growing Solar, Protecting Nature

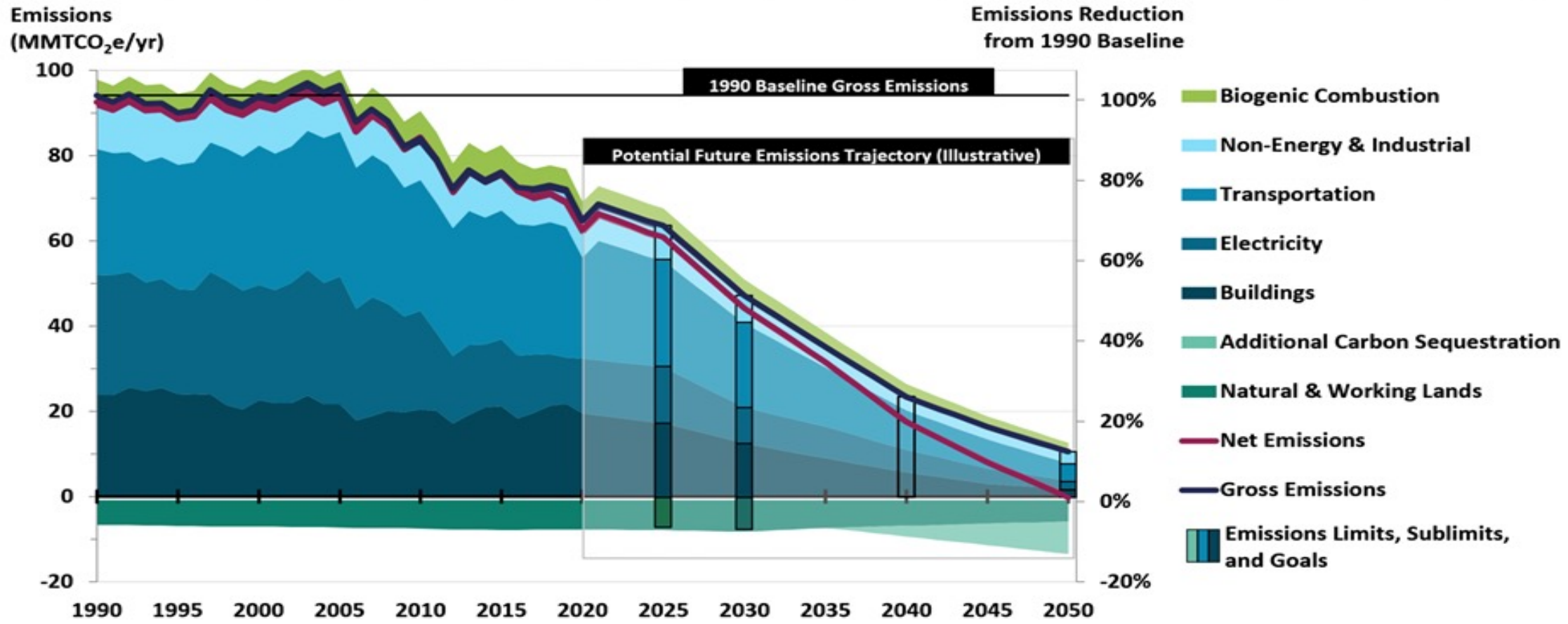
Restructuring Roundtable
Boston, MA
June 14, 2024

Harvard Forest

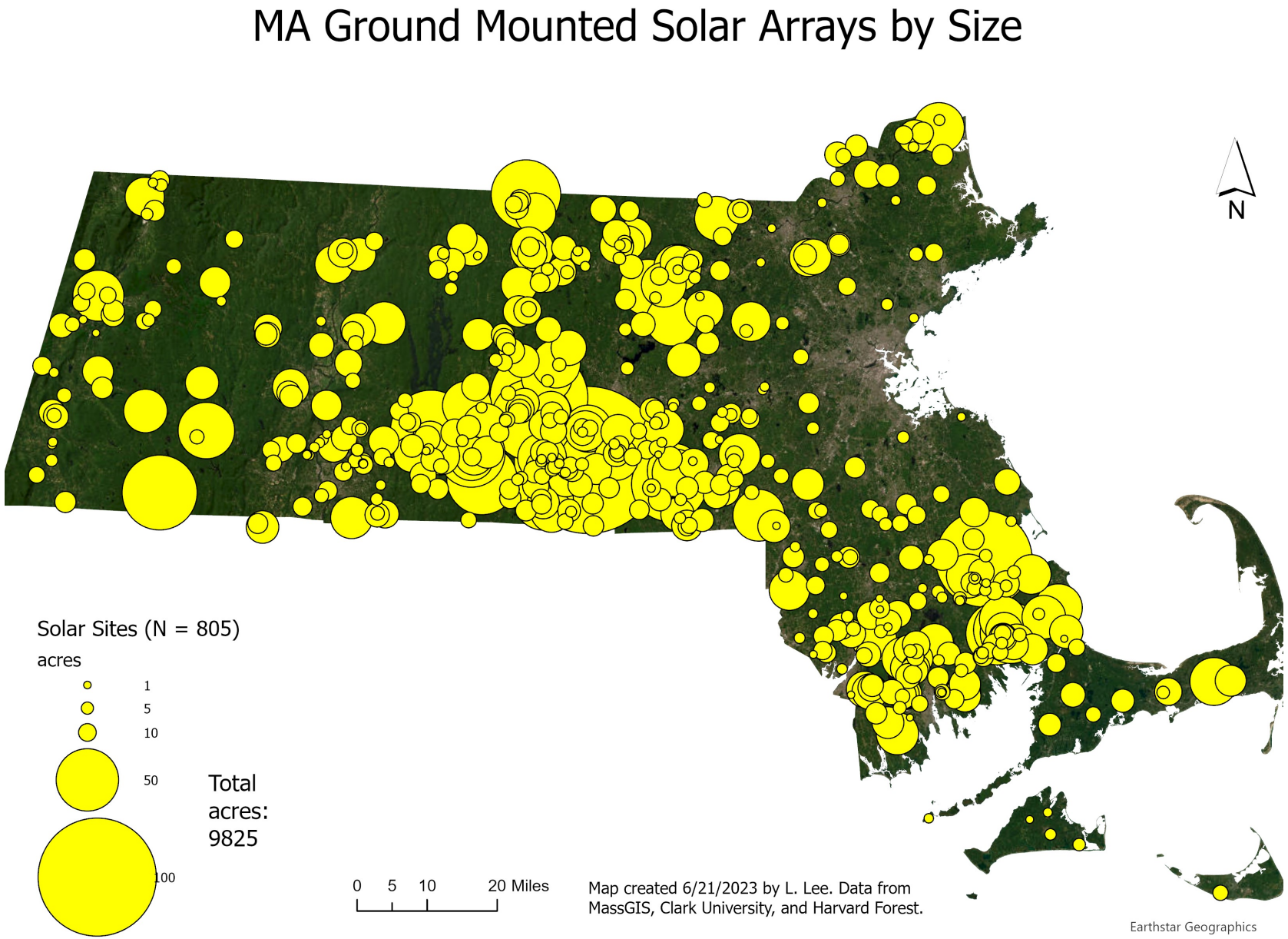
Mass Audubon

Progress on Massachusetts' ambitious Net-Zero GHG goals: Better than most, next decade is *absolutely critical. And nature must play a big part.*

FIGURE 3-5. PAST EMISSIONS THROUGH 2020, EMISSIONS LIMITS AND SUBLIMITS, AND ILLUSTRATIVE POTENTIAL EMISSIONS TRAJECTORY THROUGH 2050



Source: MA 2050 Clean Energy and Climate Plan (2022).



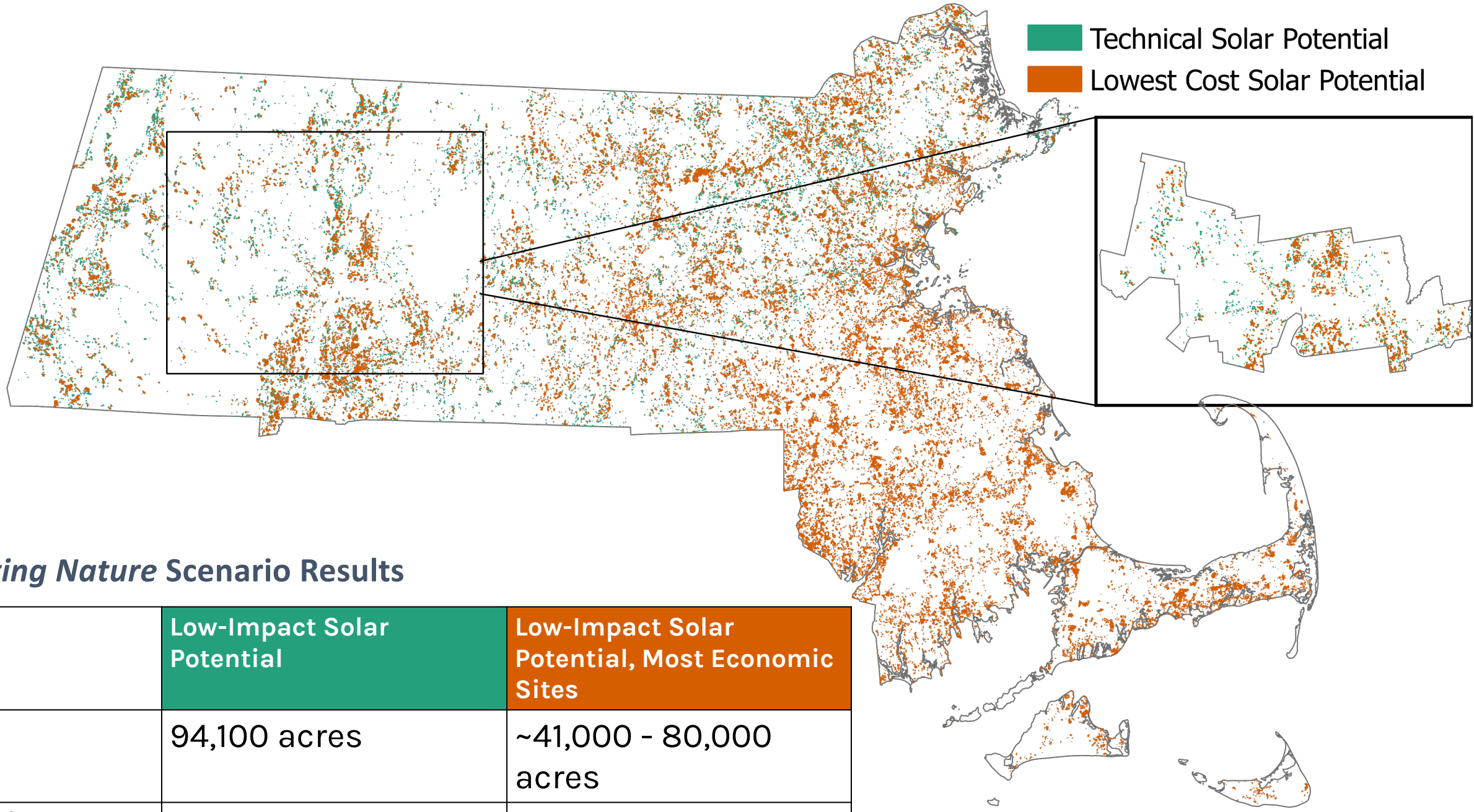
State of Solar in Massachusetts

- Total solar capacity installed in MA (2024): ~5 GW
- State estimates solar needed to decarbonize electricity:
  - 10 GW by 2030
  - 27-34 GW by 2050

The Healey Administration also set ambitious goals for natural and working lands

- **Executive Order 618: Biodiversity Conservation in Massachusetts**
- **30% of Commonwealth lands protected by 2030**
- ***Forests as Climate Solutions***
- **Resilient Lands, Healthy Soils, and Farmland Action Plans**
- **Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting (CEISP)**

Source: Mass Audubon (2023).



Protecting Nature Scenario Results

	Low-Impact Solar Potential	Low-Impact Solar Potential, Most Economic Sites
Statewide	94,100 acres	~41,000 - 80,000 acres
Hampshire County	6,268 acres	2,939 – 4,933 acres

Our Results: Shifting siting incentives will reduce losses of highest-value natural and working lands

	Current Siting	Protecting Nature: Mid-Impact	Protecting Nature: Low-Impact
Forest Carbon Lost	5.8 Million metric tons of CO_2	1.1 Million metric tons of CO_2	0.9 Million metric tons of CO_2
High-Biodiversity Natural Lands Lost	20,969 Acres	0 Acres	0 Acres
Prime Farmland Lost	8,119 Acres	0 Acres	0 Acres

Full results available at: https://www.massaudubon.org/our-work/publications-resources/growing-solar-protecting-nature

Thank You!

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