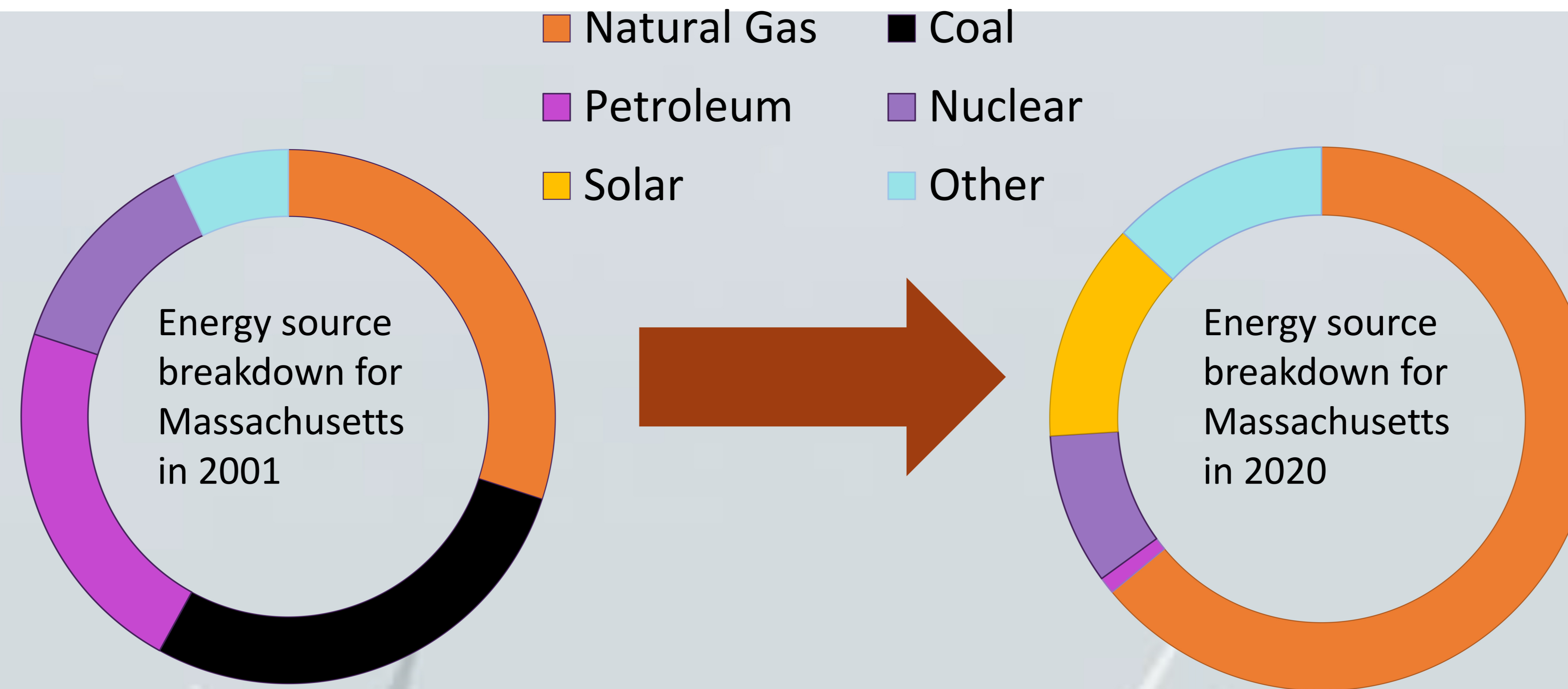




Side-by-side of the Salem Harbor Station, a former coal power plant which was transitioned into natural gas. This represents the widespread transition of New England's energy to the "low emissions" natural gas sector, which while better than coal or oil still pollutes and supports the fossil fuel economy



**Methods:**  
We analyzed peer-reviewed articles and past policies regarding energy infrastructure in New England and Worcester. We also got expert insight about advancements in modern energy infrastructure.

**Problem: Energy infrastructure in Worcester and Massachusetts is unsustainable and outdated.**

**Goal: Develop a policy proposal with plausible solutions that can be sent to lawmakers in Worcester and Massachusetts**

**The massive problem of energy unsustainability requires a diverse set of solutions. Our policy includes investments in modern grid management technology, incentives for companies to invest in green energy sources, and regulations to make fossil fuels less economically enticing.**

Market influence dictates policy, and markets often favor unsustainable practices

Policies which subsidize sufficient growth and new energy technology can be proposed combined with sustainability-focused economic policies such as carbon taxes result in a sustainability-focused market

Policy makers have little incentive to institute sustainable policy most of the time; not politically relevant

Capitalize on times when infrastructure is in the political conversation, such as recent spending bills, to propose policy or present policy proposal to politicians in concerted campaigns

Natural gas has filled the void created by decrease in coal usage, creating a short-term solution.

Investment in renewable energy, especially wind and solar, and electrification of other sectors. Distributed Energy Resources (such as solar panels on houses), can also encourage more energy self-reliance

Electrification of sectors traditionally powered by other means (heat and transportation), results in the grid being placed under increased strain.

Use of grid automation technology to increase efficiency by limiting losses during transition of energy and integrate modern DER's

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