



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES
100 CAMBRIDGE ST., 9th FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 02114
Telephone: 617-626-7300

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Elizabeth Mahony
Commissioner

April 1, 2025

BY E-MAIL

Chair Michael J. Barrett
Committee on Telecommunications
Utilities & Energy
Room 109-D

Chair Nick Collins
Committee on State Administration &
Regulatory Oversight
Room 312-E

Chair Michael J. Rodrigues
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Room 212

Mr. Michael D. Hurley
Senate Clerk
Room 335

Chair Mark Cusack
Committee on Telecommunications
Utilities & Energy
Room 34

Chair Antonio F.D. Cabral
Committee on State Administration &
Regulatory Oversight
Room 466

Chair Aaron Michlewitz
House Committee on Ways and Means
Room 243

Mr. Timothy Carroll
House Clerk
Room 145

Dear Chairs Barrett, Cusack, Collins, Cabral, Rodrigues, Michlewitz, and Mr. Hurley and Mr. Carroll,

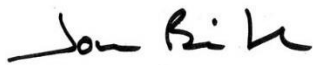
Under the provisions of Section 10(f) of Chapter 25A of the General Laws, the Green Communities Division is submitting the 2024 Annual Report to the Massachusetts General Court for your review. This report summarizes the Green Communities Designation and Grant Program. The program is committed to support our 351 Municipal Communities with both technical and financial assistance to achieve the Commonwealth's clean energy and climate goals. In 2024, the Green Communities Division awarded over \$17 million in grants.

During the 2024 calendar year, one Green Community (Clinton) opted to rescind the Stretch Energy Building Code, removing the town from the Green Communities program. However, an additional seven Communities were Designated, bringing the total to 297 Massachusetts Green Communities, which represents 90.5 percent of the Commonwealth's population.

The Division launched the Climate Leader Community Certification program in 2024, which supports municipalities seeking to drastically greenhouse gas emissions created by municipal operations. Modeled after the successful Green Communities program, municipalities seeking Climate Leader Community status pledge to eliminate the use of onsite fossil fuels by 2050, adopt a zero-emission-vehicle-first policy, and adopt the municipal opt-in specialized energy code.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

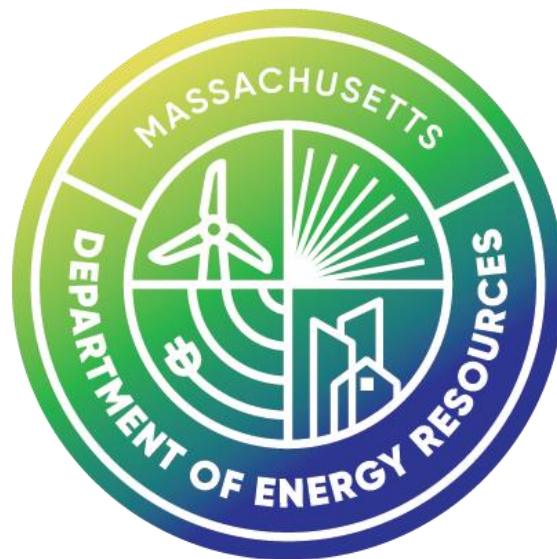
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Bissetta".

Joanne Bissetta
Director, Green Communities Division

Cc: Rebecca Tepper, Secretary, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner, Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
Susannah Hatch, Chief of Staff, Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
Johannes Buchanan, Assistant Secretary for Government Relations, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)

Department of Energy Resources



Green Communities Annual Report

2024

Table of Contents

Green Communities 2024 Annual Report.....	5
Designation Awards	6
Competitive Grant Awards.....	7
Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grants	10
Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG).....	11
Regional Energy Planning Assistance Awards.....	15



Green Communities 2024 Annual Report

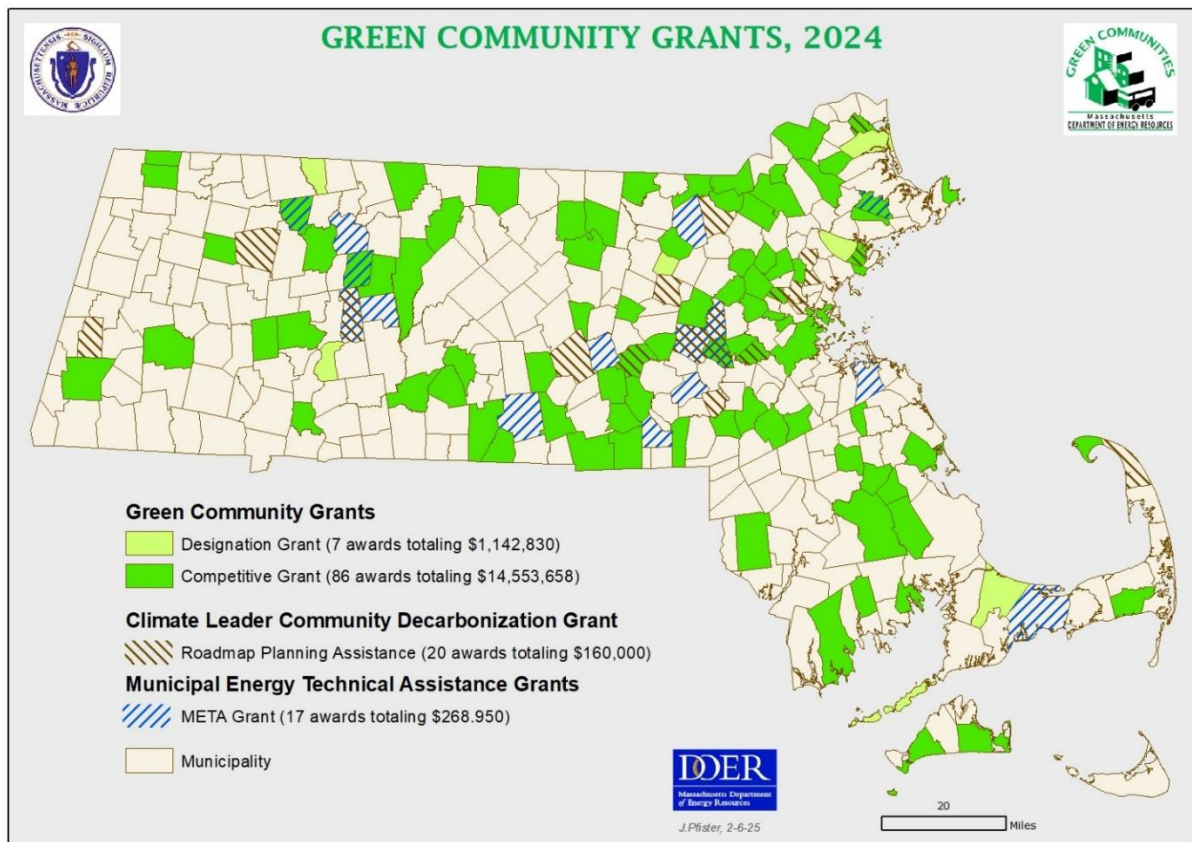
The Green Communities Division, established under M.G.L. c. 25A, § 10, assists the Commonwealth's municipalities and other local governmental bodies to: reduce energy consumption and costs; reduce pollution; facilitate the development of renewable energy and alternative energy resources; and create local jobs related to the building of renewable and alternative energy facilities as well as the installation of energy-efficient equipment.

In 2024, the Green Communities Division awarded \$15,965,438 in direct grants to 110 municipalities, and \$160,000 worth of direct technical assistance to 20 municipalities to develop municipal decarbonization roadmaps. The Division also awarded \$1,754,000 to 45 municipalities with populations under 35,000 via the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

In addition, the \$987,350 Regional Energy Planning Assistance awarded in 2023 to regional planning agencies continues to support municipal clean energy initiatives and capacity building. Each of these grant programs are summarized below.

In November, the Division hosted its first-ever Green Communities Summit in Devens. More than two hundred municipal officials gathered to learn about efficiency and decarbonization practices, learn from each other, and celebrate newly designated Green Communities and communities that achieved 20% energy savings. The successful event spurred new collaborations and provided input for needed resources and training.





Designation Awards

Under the Green Communities Act, cities and towns must meet five criteria to be designated a Green Community and receive funding. Initial Designation awards are formula-based grants awarded to newly minted Green Communities for clean energy projects at municipal and school facilities, as well as vehicular fuel reduction projects. Grant awards are based on a \$125,000 base for each designated Green Community, plus additional amounts tied to per capita income and population.

There are now 297 designated Green Communities, representing 90.5% of the Commonwealth's population. Since the inaugural designation in 2010, DOER has awarded over \$184.5 million in grants to cities and towns to upgrade municipal and school facilities. These grant-supported projects leveraged \$42.6 million in Mass Save® incentives and cut annual energy costs by an estimated \$29.2 million.

Seven municipalities applied, met the requirements, and were designated in 2024. This newest group of Green Communities committed to reduce their energy



consumption by 70,872 MMBTUs in five years, energy use equivalent to heating and powering 550 homes, and greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction of 4,423 tons, equivalent to taking 931 cars off the roads.

Boxborough - one of the communities designated in 2024 - was the first community designated under the expanded program pursuant to Chapter 179 of the Act of 2022, An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind, which allowed the participation of multi-jurisdictional Municipal Light Plant (MLP) communities.

Municipality	Grant Award
Gosnold	\$130,930
Leyden	\$126,540
Newbury	\$133,950
Peabody	\$271,560
Boxborough	\$132,000
Sandwich	\$167,500
South Hadley	\$180,350

Clinton, at a Town Meeting in June 2024, rescinded the Stretch Energy Code, thus nullifying the town's Green Communities designation status.

Competitive Grant Awards

Once designated as a Green Community, cities and towns are eligible for competitive grants. These grants provide financial support for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that further the designated communities' clean energy goals. In 2024, existing Green Communities that have successfully invested their initial designation grants and previous competitive grant awards participated in the twelfth annual round of DOER Green Communities competitive grants. Grants are capped at \$250,000 per municipality, except for multi-year building decarbonization grants, which were capped at \$500,000. In 2024, grants were solicited in the spring and fall.

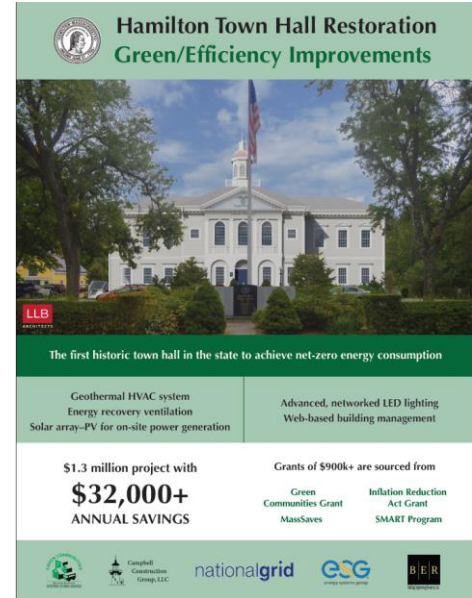
Forty-three (43) out of forty-five (45) municipalities that applied for **Block 1 Competitive Grants** (Spring 2024) were approved by DOER to receive \$7,282,934 in funding for at least some of their requested project(s). The proposed projects will leverage \$2,148,794 in utility incentives and yield energy cost savings of \$524,842 annually. The 22,297 MMBtus expected in annual energy savings translates to the amount of energy consumed by 172 Massachusetts households. The projects are



estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,451 metric tons annually, roughly equivalent to taking over 280 cars off the road.

The **Town of Hamilton's** \$500,000 award is supporting the decarbonization of its historic town hall that includes the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system and a ground-mounted solar PV system.

It is part of a larger building renovation project funded by the Community Preservation Funds that brings the building into ADA compliance, restores historic building attributes and creates a 21st century public facility.



Municipality	Grant Award
Bedford	\$65,638.00
Bellingham	\$51,732.00
Berlin	\$213,074.00
Burlington	\$250,000.00
Carver	\$147,789.00
Dartmouth	\$160,763.00
Deerfield	\$190,187.00
Dracut	\$80,613.00
Georgetown	\$177,448.00
Great Barrington	\$40,328.00
Halifax	\$221,649.00
Hamilton	\$500,000.00
Haverhill	\$139,150.00
Leverett	\$114,388.00
Lincoln	\$5,000.00
Lowell	\$249,317.00
Marion	\$212,675.00
Needham	\$162,848.00
Newburyport	\$110,034.00
New Salem	\$126,860.00
North Adams	\$177,072.00

Municipality	Grant Award
Palmer	\$118,575.00
Plainfield	\$47,180.00
Plympton	\$135,007.00
Rehoboth	\$225,000.00
Rockland	\$249,751.00
Salem	\$250,000.00
Shelburne	\$75,734.00
Southborough	\$123,936.00
Southbridge	\$226,549.00
Stoneham	\$225,000.00
Stoughton	\$249,445.00
Swampscott	\$81,615.00
Tyngsborough	\$131,828.00
Upton	\$126,402.00
Uxbridge	\$225,000.00
Warren	\$201,054.00
Wellesley	\$500,000.00
Westborough	\$140,973.00
West Boylston	\$43,905.00
West Springfield	\$217,203.00
Winchendon	\$208,489.00
Woburn	\$125,000.00



Forty-three (43) out of forty-eight (48) municipalities that applied for **Block 2 Competitive Grants** were approved by DOER to receive \$7,270,724 in funding for at least some of their requested project(s). The proposed projects will leverage \$2,306,490 in utility incentives and yield an annual energy cost savings of \$594,842. The 18,664 MMBtus expected in annual energy savings translates to the amount of energy consumed by 145 Massachusetts households. The projects are estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,330 metric tons annually, roughly equivalent to taking over 246 cars off the road.

West Brookfield's \$186,616 competitive grant award will support an extensive air sealing project at West Brookfield Elementary School that will save over 4,800 therms of natural gas use and improve indoor air quality and comfort of occupants. The grant will also fund air-source heat pumps at the 64-year-old West Brookfield Fire Station to provide efficient heating and cooling.

Municipality	Grant Award
Acushnet	\$500,000
Andover	\$69,754
Arlington	\$125,000
Athol	\$138,573
Becket	\$139,500
Boston	\$189,000
Boxford	\$225,000
Chilmark	\$177,741
Clarksburg	\$22,857
Douglas	\$100,000
Duxbury	\$170,151
East Bridgewater	\$106,688
Edgartown	\$217,674
Fitchburg	\$243,130
Grafton	\$47,424
Harwich	\$135,388
Lawrence	\$173,166
Leicester	\$17,500
Leominster	\$237,669
Lexington	\$52,000
Littleton	\$173,895
Lunenburg	\$225,000

Municipality	Grant Award
Middleborough	\$53,405
Natick	\$99,703
Norfolk	\$172,500
Northampton	\$494,613
Northbridge	\$125,000
Oxford	\$233,026
Pepperell	\$144,463
Provincetown	\$192,127
Rockport	\$225,000
Sharon	\$151,546
Shutesbury	\$44,748
Sturbridge	\$220,684
Sudbury	\$30,000
Tewksbury	\$125,000
Walpole	\$225,000
Waltham	\$152,275
Warwick	\$143,930
Watertown	\$173,652
Wenham	\$500,000
West Brookfield	\$186,616
Westhampton	\$90,326



DOER staff works with communities to ensure energy projects are well thought-out and defined. Projects that were not awarded funds either had little to no energy or emissions savings or needed additional scoping and/or analysis.

For a complete list of grant awards and projects by Green Community, see our [website](#).

Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grants

Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grants are offered once a year by the Green Communities Division of the Department of Energy Resources.

All municipalities, regional school districts, and water/wastewater districts were invited to apply for META via a Program Opportunity Notice (PON) that was posted on CommBuys (the public procurement platform administered by the Operational Services Division) on October 3, 2023; applications were due November 17, 2023. Municipalities were not required to be a designated Green Community to apply. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$25,000 to fund technical assistance and expertise needed to complete energy projects in cities and towns to reduce energy costs, reduce GHG emissions, and decarbonize local buildings and fleets. A total of \$268,950 was awarded to 17 municipalities.

The town of **Shelburne** used its \$14,900 META grant award to study energy resiliency options at two town-owned buildings, one of which recently converted to heat pump technology from an oil-fired steam system.

Grantee	META Category	Grant amount
Amherst	Retro-Commissioning	\$15,000
Barnstable	Energy Resiliency	\$15,000
Charlton	Renewable Thermal Engineering Study	\$15,000
Framingham	Renewable Thermal Engineering Study	\$15,000
Hamilton	Owner's Agent Services for ESCO	\$15,000
Hingham	ASHRAE Audit	\$25,000
Holliston	Energy Resiliency	\$25,000
Leverett	Energy Resiliency	\$10,000
Mendon	ASHRAE Audit	\$13,050
Montague	Energy Resiliency	\$15,000
Natick	Retro-Commissioning	\$15,000
NMRSD	Renewable Thermal Engineering Study	\$6,000
Pelham	ASHRAE Audit	\$15,000
Shelburne	Energy Resiliency	\$14,900



Shrewsbury	Community Shared Solar	\$15,000
Wayland	Design of Solar PV plus battery energy storage	\$25,000
Westford	Owner's Agent Services for ESCO	\$15,000

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)

Funds for these grants to municipalities was provided through a formula EECBG grant from the United States Department of Energy (DOE) to DOER for the purpose of disbursing funds to municipalities with populations under 35,000. DOER solicited competitive grant applications on May 24, 2024; applications were due on August 16, 2024. Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)—also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)—the goals of the EECBG program are to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy use, and improve energy efficiency in ways that maximize benefits to communities and disadvantaged communities. DOER created the EECBG subgrant program for which 303 municipalities were eligible, and awards were capped at \$50,000 per municipality, or \$75,000 for a building envelope improvement project.

Twenty-nine (29) of the fifty-six (56) applications received were approved by DOER to receive \$1,754,000 in funding for at least some of their requested project(s). The approved applications include two (2) collaborative applications involving multiple municipalities. In total, forty-five (45) municipalities will be served by EECBG funding. DOER prioritized projects based on several factors, including benefit to Justice40 communities (a criterion specified by DOE), benefit to Massachusetts Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, availability of alternative funding for proposed projects, geographic distribution, and diversity of project types.

The proposed projects will leverage \$7,103,222 in utility incentives and municipal contributions and yield annual energy cost savings of \$97,263. The 9,726 MMBtus expected in annual energy savings translates to the amount of energy consumed by 75 Massachusetts households. The projects are estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 555 metric tons annually, roughly equivalent to taking 107 cars off the road.

Nantucket was awarded \$75,000 to replace 57 aging and leaky windows at the municipally-owned nursing home. Once completed, this project will reduce oil use and improve indoor air quality and occupant comfort.



Municipality	Project	Grant Award
Acton	Energy Efficiency and Electrification for All Campaign	\$25,000.00
Ashland	Residential Decarbonization Climate Action Plan	\$15,000.00
Athol	Town Hall HVAC Decarbonization Construction Plans	\$50,000.00
Clinton	Clinton Elementary School Weatherization	\$57,643.75
Dartmouth	Southworth Library Weatherization	\$10,994.00
East Longmeadow	Department of Public Works Service Building Weatherization	\$21,685.00
Edgartown	Microgrid Feasibility Study	\$30,500.00
Gloucester	Municipal Buildings Weatherization	\$75,000.00
Halifax	Halifax Elementary School Heat Pump Feasibility Study	\$50,000.00
Holliston	Adams Middle and Placentino Elementary Schools Solar and HVAC Feasibility Studies	\$25,000.00
Ludlow	Regional Energy Manager Seed Funds	\$292,500.00
Belchertown		
Chester		
East Longmeadow		
Easthampton		
Goshen		
Granby		
Hampden		
Hatfield		
Huntington		
Longmeadow		
Palmer		
Plainfield		
South Hadley		
Wilbraham		
Medfield	Town House (Town Hall) Window Replacement	\$61,739.00
Millville	Longfellow Municipal Building Window Replacement	\$51,400.00
Montague	Municipal Building Decarbonization Planning	\$27,000.00
Nantucket	Municipal Nursing Home Window Replacement	\$75,000.00
Newburyport	Clean Energy for Elders Campaign	\$50,000.00
Northampton	Town Hall and Academy of Music Weatherization	\$75,000.00
Pepperell	Regional Energy Manager Seed Funds	\$162,000.00
Dunstable		
Littleton		
Townsend		
Princeton	Town Hall and Fire Station Weatherization	\$18,311.00



Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap Assistance for Climate Leader Communities Certification

The inaugural group of 35 Green Communities was designated in 2010. Since then, the program has grown to include 297 municipalities. In 2021, [An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy](#), was enacted into law, codifying the Commonwealth's commitment to achieve net zero emissions in 2050 and efforts to combat climate change and protect vulnerable communities. As a result, DOER intends to offer additional opportunities and resources to municipalities that actively participate in the Green Communities Designation and Grant Program through a new program that aligns with the Commonwealth's goals. **Climate Leader Communities** is a voluntary program that encourages municipalities to implement clean energy and climate-friendly policies and programs to broaden depth and breadth of decarbonizing municipal and school facilities, along with enhanced community engagement.

To be eligible for [Climate Leader Community](#) certification, communities must meet the following requirements:

1. Be an existing Green Community in "good standing"
2. Have a local body (sustainability committee, energy committee, etc.) that advises the municipality on clean energy/climate initiatives.
3. Commit to eliminate on-site fossil fuel use by 2050 (municipal buildings/operations)
4. Create a municipal decarbonization roadmap.
5. Adopt a zero-emission vehicle first policy.
6. Adopt the specialized opt-in building code.

Recognizing that cities and towns may need assistance to develop municipal decarbonization roadmaps, the Green Communities Division is offering planning assistance to eligible municipalities for roadmap development to help achieve Climate Leader Community certification. This planning assistance is provided through consultants selected by the Green Communities Division. In 2024, this assistance was awarded to the municipalities listed below.

Amherst	Arlington	Ashfield
Chelmsford	Framingham	Medford
Melrose	Millis	Natick
Needham	Newburyport	Salem
Somerville	Stockbridge	Stow
Truro	Wakefield	Wayland
Westborough	Worcester	



Regional Energy Planning Assistance Awards

Regional Energy Planning Assistance (REPA) grants are offered by the Green Communities Division to augment municipal capacity necessary to: 1) participate in the Green Communities Designation and Grant Program; and 2) advance clean energy projects in under-resourced municipalities.

REPA grants are solicited and awarded every two years; the most recent grant award was issued in summer 2023 and is valued at \$987,350. In 2024, regional planning agencies and Cape Light Compact carried out direct services to 159 municipalities and continue to work on capacity building activities and regional projects to benefit all communities within their respective regions. It is important to note that several of the regional planning agencies are developing regional climate action plans through the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). REPA will be used to bolster stakeholder engagement, particularly among EJ communities.

