



## Report to the Legislature on the Progress of the Green School Works Program

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Pursuant to Outside Section 35 of the fiscal year 2024 GAA Budget, which amended Chapter 69 by adding Section 37: “(c) Annually, not later than July 15, the commissioner shall report to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint committee on education, the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy and the house and senate committees on ways and means on the grants awarded during the previous fiscal year, including the grant amount, grant recipient, a description of the project for which the grant was awarded and any progress on completion of the project..”

July 2025

This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Pedro Martinez, Commissioner

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July 22, 2025

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit the fiscal year 2025 Annual Report to the Legislature on the Progress of Green School Works Program pursuant to Outside Section 35 of the fiscal year 2024 GAA Budget, which amended Chapter 69 by adding Section 37(c).

Any questions may be directed to Jessica Leitz via email [Jessica.Leitz@mass.gov](mailto:Jessica.Leitz@mass.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pedro Martinez".

Pedro Martinez  
Commissioner

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# Introduction

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) respectfully submits this Report to the Legislature: *fiscal year 2024 Annual Report to the Legislature on the Progress of Green School Works Program* pursuant to Outside Section 35 of the fiscal year 2024 GAA Budget, which amended Chapter 69 by adding Section 37(c):

## SECTION 35

### *Section 35 Green School Works*

*Said Chapter 69 is hereby further amended by adding the following section:-*

*Section 37. (a)(1) There shall be a competitive grant program, known as Green School Works, to provide financial support to eligible K-12 public schools or districts for projects to install or maintain clean energy infrastructure. The program shall be administered by the department, in consultation with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center, established by Section 2 of Chapter 23J. Grants shall be made available to address the costs of installation, operation, or upgrades of clean energy infrastructure that improves energy efficiency, reduces carbon emissions, or mitigates impacts of climate change, including school rooftop construction or repair costs necessary for a clean energy infrastructure project to be safely installed; provided, that such installation, operation or upgrades shall be conducted in compliance with any relevant procurement laws, including, but not limited to, Chapter 149 and all state and local building codes.*

*(2) Grants awarded by the department shall maximize the total number of projects that shall be undertaken by public schools or districts.*

*(b) The department, in consultation with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center, shall establish eligibility and selection criteria for the program. The department may give preference to grant applications from schools serving low-income and environmental justice populations.*

*(c) Annually, not later than July 15, the commissioner shall report to the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Joint Committee on Education, the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, and the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means on the grants awarded during the previous fiscal year, including the grant amount, grant recipient, a description of the project for which the grant was awarded and any progress on completion of the project.*

*(d) The department, in consultation with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center and the Massachusetts School Building Authority, established by section 1A of Chapter 70B, shall promulgate regulations to implement this section.*

Created as part of the state's fiscal year 2024 budget, the goal of the Green School Works program (the "Program") is to provide financial support to "K-12 public schools or districts for projects to install or maintain clean energy infrastructure." The program is meant to address "the costs of installation, operation, or upgrades of clean energy

infrastructure that improves energy efficiency, reduces carbon emissions, or mitigates the impacts of climate change, including school rooftop construction or repair costs necessary for a clean energy infrastructure project to be safely installed.” The enabling legislation additionally sets as objectives maximizing the total number of projects undertaken by public schools or districts and giving preference to projects for schools serving low-income and environmental justice populations.

As we noted in last year’s legislative report, based on the input of a working group of clean energy and school building experts from across state government, DESE transferred the funds to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) to run the program, while DESE maintains oversight for the program (reporting, regulating, etc.) as specified in the budget language.

## Implementation Grant Launch

Following a robust stakeholder engagement and planning process in 2024 and early 2025, the Green School Works Implementation Grant program opened up for proposals from eligible Massachusetts kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade public schools, districts, and collaboratives.

The heart of the implementation grant program lies in its commitment to equity and sustainability. Funding eligibility was prioritized for schools, districts, and collaboratives where at least 40% of students are classified as low-income, ensuring that the benefits of cleaner air, lower energy bills, and healthier learning environments reach the communities that need them most. Many of these schools are located in environmental justice communities that have historically borne the brunt of environmental degradation and underinvestment.

MassCEC accepted applications during a monthlong window, from March 31, 2025, through April 30, 2025. A round of communications was done to drum up interest in the program, including email blasts from multiple agencies, as well as webinars and partner organization outreach. Interest from school districts was stronger than anticipated, with MassCEC ultimately receiving 54 grant requests totaling \$159.7 million.

Green School Works Implementation Grants provide eligible schools, districts, and collaboratives with funding to implement projects that improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, or mitigate the impacts of climate change. The funding opportunity was intentionally broad and flexible to support a range of project types from a small project involving a single technology to a full school decarbonization project.

## Implementation Grant Awards

After the close of the application process window, a cross-agency team reviewed all of the proposals and scored them based on the criteria outlined in the request for proposals (“RFP”). As outlined in the RFP, there was an effort to select projects at schools and collaboratives throughout the Commonwealth, in both large and small districts, that:

- Met the goals of the Green School Works program (serving low-income students, reducing energy and emissions, and providing other benefits to the school community including resilience),
- Had the relevant capacity, support, and budget in place to ensure the project’s success, and
- Contributed to developing school decarbonization evidence-based practices (tests an innovative solution, demonstrates a highly replicable approach, and/or fills a funding gap).

In June 2025, MassCEC awarded \$52.5 million for the following 18 projects under the Green School Works implementation grant program:

- **Alfred Glickman Elementary School** (Springfield Public Schools) - \$5,000,000
  - Springfield Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps and ventilation upgrades at Alfred Glickman Elementary School, serving PreK through 5th grades.
- **Barnstable United Elementary School** (Barnstable Public Schools) - \$2,732,994
  - Barnstable Public Schools will use the funding to install heat pumps at Barnstable United Elementary School, serving kindergarten through 5th grades.
- **Excel Academy Charter High School** (Excel Academy Charter) - \$173,841
  - Excel Academy Charter will use the funding to double their rooftop solar capacity at Excel Academy Charter High School, which serves grades 9th through 12th.
- **Greylock Elementary School** (North Adams Public Schools) - \$300,000
  - North Adams Public Schools will use the funding to help cover the cost difference between ground-source heat pumps and conventional HVAC at their newly built Greylock Elementary School, serving PreK through 2nd grades.
- **Horace Mann Laboratory School** (Salem Public Schools) - \$5,000,000
  - Salem Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps and ventilation at the Horace Mann Laboratory School, serving grades Kindergarten through 5th.

- **Jeanne D'Arc School** (Lowell Public Schools) - \$5,000,000
  - Lowell Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps and complete weatherization and energy efficiency work at the recently purchased Jeanne D'Arc School, which will serve students with autism in grades PreK through 12th.
  
- **Lt. Elmer J McMahon Elementary** (Holyoke Public Schools) - \$3,969,000
  - Holyoke Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps at Lt. Elmer J McMahon Elementary School, serving grades Pre-K through 5th.
  
- **Lynn Vocational Technical Institute** (Lynn Public Schools) - \$4,883,200
  - Lynn Public Schools will use the funding for heat pump water heaters, electric service upgrades, and distribution service upgrades at Lynn Vocational Technical Institute, serving grades 9th through 12th.
  
- **Otis Elementary School** (Boston Public Schools) - \$1,519,383
  - Boston Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps and ventilation upgrades at the Otis Elementary School, serving grades kindergarten through 5th.
  
- **Plouffe Middle School** (Brockton Public Schools) - \$4,030,494
  - Brockton Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps and a building management system at the Plouffe Middle School, serving grades 6th through 8th.
  
- **Ralph C. Mahar Regional School** (Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District) - \$524,000
  - The Ralph C Mahar Regional School District will use the funding to install air source heat pumps, ventilation system upgrades, and heat pump water heaters at the Ralph C Mahar Regional School, serving grades 7th through 12th.
  
- **Reingold Elementary School** (Fitchburg Public Schools) - \$2,850,000
  - Fitchburg Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps, ventilation upgrades, and electric system upgrades at Reingold Elementary School, serving grades 1st through 5th.
  
- **Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School** (Stoughton Public Schools) - \$2,709,820
  - Stoughton Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps, a heat pump water heater, electrical service upgrades, and a building management system at the Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School, serving grades Pre-K through 5th.

- **Samoset Middle School** (Leominster Public Schools) - \$729,133
  - Leominster Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps, ventilation upgrades, a building management system, and weatherization at Samoset Middle School, serving grades 6th through 8th.
  
- **Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School** (Northampton-Smith Vocational Agricultural) - \$668,820
  - Northampton-Smith Vocational Agricultural will use the funding to install heat pump water heaters at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, serving grades 9th through 12th.
  
- **Snug Harbor Elementary School** (Quincy Public Schools) - \$4,500,000
  - Quincy Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps, ventilation upgrades, electric service upgrades, a building management system, and LED lighting at Snug Harbor Elementary School, serving grades Pre-K through 5th.
  
- **William S. Greene Elementary School** (Fall River Public Schools) - \$2,090,315
  - Fall River Public Schools will use funds to install air source heat pumps and a building management system at William S. Greene Elementary School, serving grades Pre-K through 5th.
  
- **95 G Street Building** (Boston Public Schools) - \$5,000,000
  - Boston Public Schools will use the funding to install air source heat pumps, ventilation upgrades, a building management system, electric service upgrades, and air filtration at the 95 G Street building, which will be home to a Boston Public Schools high school.

The MassCEC team is currently working to draft grant agreements with each of the awardees so that they can receive funds as needed.

## Technical Assistance

On June 30, 2025, MassCEC opened the Green School Works technical assistance offering to eligible schools, districts, and collaboratives. MassCEC has prequalified 17 vendors to provide technical assistance and plans to begin making awards to vendors to provide Green School Works technical assistance in fiscal year 2026.

Technical Assistance offers an excellent opportunity for eligible schools, districts, and collaboratives to receive low- or no-cost support for decarbonization planning that focuses on modern, energy efficient school buildings and facilities. The Green School Works technical assistance offerings described below were designed to align with Mass Save® offerings, so that Mass Save-eligible schools, districts, and collaboratives could stack Green School Works funding on top of Mass Save funding. This ensures that Green School Works funding will have the most impact by leveraging Mass Save funding while reducing or eliminating any co-pays for low-income serving schools and adds renewable energy analysis to the state's main source of electrification planning. Adding Green School Works technical assistance services to Mass Save offerings also streamlines the experience for schools, districts, and collaboratives that will work with a single vendor and get a single report. The Green School Works technical assistance services are:

- **Comprehensive Building Assessment:** A scoping study to assess the current conditions at a building and identify energy-saving and carbon emissions reducing opportunities, including weatherization and building electrification. Additional scope can be added to include the context of local ordinances such as BERDO and BEUDO.
- **Portfolio Decarbonization Roadmap:** An in-depth, high-rigor assessment of the strategies a school district or collaborative would need to employ to meet specific decarbonization targets for a portfolio of buildings (e.g. multiple buildings on one campus or multiple buildings across a school district). In addition to weatherization, building electrification, and energy efficiency, this study may also address other impacts such as motor vehicle fleets, maintenance equipment, and the embodied carbon of construction materials.
- **Focused Study:** A detailed study investigating the economic and energy impacts of implementing a measure or specific set of measures. These are often needed when submitting a Mass Save application for custom projects where an estimate of energy savings and cost is required.

Each of these services includes a renewable energy feasibility analysis and Massachusetts Class I Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) analysis paid for by Green School Works. Participants will also receive information on available incentives and funding opportunities for energy-efficient and fossil-fuel-free technologies and infrastructure.

When the eligible school, district, or collaborative is not a Mass Save customer, MassCEC will pay for all or part of the total technical assistance cost.

## Fiscal Year 2026 Activities

As stated above, in FY26 MassCEC intends to contract with all of the grantees listed above and begin dispersing funding as projects move forward. MassCEC will also enroll eligible schools, districts, and collaboratives in the technical assistance services described above.

An additional \$10 million was allocated to Green School Works in the supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2025, as well as an additional \$10 million in the State's Fiscal Year 2026 budget. DESE and MassCEC intend to use these resources to issue new funding opportunities in FY26.