



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES**  
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**Charles D. Baker**  
Governor

**Karyn E. Polito**  
Lt. Governor

**Bethany A. Card**  
Secretary

**Patrick C. Woodcock**  
Commissioner

June 9, 2022

BY E-MAIL

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

Chair Jeffrey N. Roy  
Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy  
Room 43

Mr. Michael D. Hurley  
Clerk of the Senate  
Room 335

Chair Marc P. Pacheco  
Committee on State Administration & Regulatory Oversight  
Room 312-B

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

Mr. Steven T. James  
Clerk of the House of Representatives  
Room 145

Dear Chairs Barrett, Pacheco, Roy, Cabral, and Mr. Hurley and Mr. James:

Pursuant to the Green Communities Act, (S. 2768) The Division of Green Communities is submitting the 2021 Annual Report to the Massachusetts General Court for your review.

This report summarizes the Green Communities Designation and Grant Program. The program's focus is committed to support our 351 Municipal Communities with both Technical and Financial assistance.

During the 2021 calendar year, another 9 Communities were Designated, bringing the total to 280 Massachusetts Green Communities, which represents 87 percent of the Commonwealth's population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Bissetta".

Joanne Bissetta  
Director, Green Communities Division

Enclosure.

Cc: Bethany Card, Secretary, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)  
Patrick Woodcock, Commissioner, Department of Energy Resources (DOER)  
Emily Webb, Chief of Staff, Department of Energy Resources (DOER)  
Johannes Buchanan, Assistant Secretary for Government Relations, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)

## Designation Awards

The 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, and for municipalities that provide as-of-right siting for renewable energy generation.

This new group of nine cities and towns have committed to reduce their energy consumption by 86,875 MMBTUs in five years, energy use equivalent to heating and powering 673 homes, and a greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction of 5,804 tons, equivalent to taking 1,222 cars off the road.

Municipality	Award
Braintree	\$202,590
Clinton	\$164,753
Falmouth	\$188,214
Hopedale	\$137,759
Norton	\$173,321
Princeton	\$130,869
Rowley	\$136,868
Walpole	\$166,203
West Stockbridge	\$127,556

**TOTAL: \$1,428,134**

## Competitive Grant Awards

Under the Green Communities Act, cities and towns must meet five criteria to be designated a Green Community and receive funding. The grants provide financial support for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that further the designated communities' clean energy goals. This tenth annual round of DOER Green Communities competitive grants is awarded to existing Green Communities that have successfully invested their initial designation grants and previous competitive grant awards. Grants are capped at \$200,000 per municipality. In 2021, grants were solicited in the spring and fall. Fall 2021 applicants were awarded grants in January 2022.

Fifty-nine (59) out of seventy (70) municipalities that applied for Block 1 Competitive Grants were approved by DOER to receive funding for at least some of their requested project(s). Representing total cost savings of over \$1.1 million annually and leveraging utility incentives of over \$1.6 million, the proposed projects are all together estimated to yield energy savings of over 45,000 MMBtus, which translates to the amount of energy consumed by over 350 Massachusetts households. In greenhouse gas emissions terms, the projects are estimated to reduce emissions by 3,249 metric tons – roughly equal to taking over 838 cars off the road.

Abington	\$200,000	Halifax	\$200,000	Northborough	\$161,930
Acton	\$93,921	Hamilton	\$155,136	Northbridge	\$190,178
Arlington	\$99,632	Hanson	\$143,336	Orange	\$33,149
Ayer	\$92,037	Harvard	\$195,647	Oxford	\$200,000
Bolton	\$127,573	Holyoke	\$195,603	Quincy	\$200,000
Brockton	\$196,881	Lancaster	\$35,300	Rochester	\$172,115
Burlington	\$164,711	Malden	\$122,249	Rutland	\$173,270
Carver	\$160,526	Manchester-by-the-Sea	\$36,493	Sherborn	\$71,952
Charlton	\$199,006	Marshfield	\$140,589	Southborough	\$200,000

Chelsea	\$200,000	Melrose	\$104,663	Stoneham	\$200,000
Clarksburg	\$192,910	Merrimac	\$50,178	Sturbridge	\$122,531
Dartmouth	\$172,720	Methuen	\$172,849	Sutton	\$124,807
Dedham	\$31,279	Millis	\$62,510	Swampscott	\$100,000
Easton	\$91,741	Milton	\$100,000	Topsfield	\$61,186
Essex	\$140,400	Montague	\$64,728	Townsend	\$163,576
Fairhaven	\$184,956	Nahant	\$195,457	Truro	\$11,691
Fitchburg	\$151,283	Natick	\$25,000	Webster	\$168,444
Framingham	\$90,318	Newton	\$100,000	Winchendon	\$196,510
Grafton	\$200,000	Northampton	\$100,000	Winchester	\$78,591
		North Andover	\$192,589	Windsor	\$45,595

**Total                    \$7,857,746**

### **Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Awards**

Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grants are used by Massachusetts municipalities, regional school districts, and water /wastewater districts to aid in the management of projects or the development of clean energy projects. engineering analysis, feasibility studies and other professional/technical work that is beyond the capabilities of municipal and school staff to support. These grants are capped at \$15,000. In 2021, projects in environmental justice communities received preferential scoring.

Acton-Boxboro RSD	Renewable Thermal: Heat Pump	\$15,000.00
Amherst	Evaluation of storage opportunities	\$15,000.00
Bourne	Owner's agent services for energy savings performance contract	\$15,000.00
Framingham	Retro-Commissioning	\$15,000.00
Gosnold	Audit of Oil, Propane or Electric Heated Building	\$7,500.00
Hamilton	Retro-Commissioning	\$15,000.00
Holyoke	Renewable Thermal: Heat Pump	\$15,000.00
Ipswich	Renewable Thermal: Heat Pump	\$15,000.00
Lakeville	Audit of Oil, Propane or Electric Heated Building	\$15,000.00
Longmeadow	Retro-Commissioning	\$15,000.00
Lowell	Retro-Commissioning	\$15,000.00
Merrimac	Multiple Categories	\$15,000.00
Natick	Fleet Assessment	\$15,000.00
Pepperell	Community Shared Solar: Assessment	\$15,000.00
Quincy	Fleet Assessment	\$15,000.00
Somerville	Evaluation of storage opportunities	\$15,000.00
Stoneham	New high-performance building assistance: Building Integrated Design Services	\$15,000.00
Westford	Owner's agent services for energy savings performance contract	\$15,000.00
Weston	Renewable Thermal: Heat Pump	\$15,000.00
Worcester	Fleet Assessment	\$15,000.00

**Total Awards: \$292,500**

## Regional Energy Planning Assistance Awards

Regional Energy Planning Assistance (REPA) grants are offered by the Green Communities Division of the Department of Energy Resources 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. The statutory authority is found under M.G.L. c. 25A, § 10, which established the DOER Green Communities Division to assist 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 energy and alternative energy facilities and the installation of energy-efficient equipment.

All technical assistance agencies (regional planning authorities, councils of governments, extension services and joint power entities) that provide clean energy assistance to municipalities were invited to apply. The Program Opportunity Notice was posted on CommBuys on May 11, 2021, and applications were due on July 9, 2021. Grants fund technical assistance and expertise needed to complete energy projects in cities and towns with the aim of reducing energy costs and strengthening local economies. A total of \$939,024 was awarded to 11 agencies, out of \$1,203,326 requested. The grant period is two years and will provide assistance to 162 municipalities.

The following technical assistance agencies were awarded funds: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), Cape Light Compact (CLC), Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC), Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), and Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD).

Technical Assistance Agency	Green Communities Support	Net Zero Planning	Regional Clean Energy Planning & Project Support	TOTAL
BRPC	\$0	\$30,000	\$12,000	\$42,000
CLC	\$17,292	\$48,000	\$0	\$75,292
CMRPC	\$0	\$70,500	\$3,000	\$88,000
FRCOG	\$3,212	\$46,000	\$25,000	\$99,212
MAPC	\$15,000	\$13,500	\$80,000	\$143,500
MRPC	\$0	\$55,500	\$25,000	\$80,500
MVPC	\$5,219	\$12,000	\$40,500	\$80,219
NMCOG	\$0	\$12,000	\$30,000	\$54,000
OCPC	\$2,990	\$39,000	\$0	\$61,990
PVPC	\$15,000	\$51,000	\$84,000	\$150,000
SRPEDD	\$6,311	\$54,000	\$0	\$64,311
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$65,024</b>	<b>\$431,500</b>	<b>\$299,500</b>	<b>\$939,024</b>