



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

*Maura Healey, Governor
Kim Driscoll, Lt Governor
Rebecca Tepper, Secretary
Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner*

Green Communities 2024 Competitive Grant Overview

April 2024

**COMMBUYS Bid Number: BD-24-1041-ENE01-ENE01-100639
Agency Document Number: PON-ENE-2024-021**

Green Communities Contacts

Regional Coordinators act as direct liaisons with cities and towns on energy efficiency and renewable energy activities

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Welcome to COMMBUYS

COMMBUYS is the only official procurement record system for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

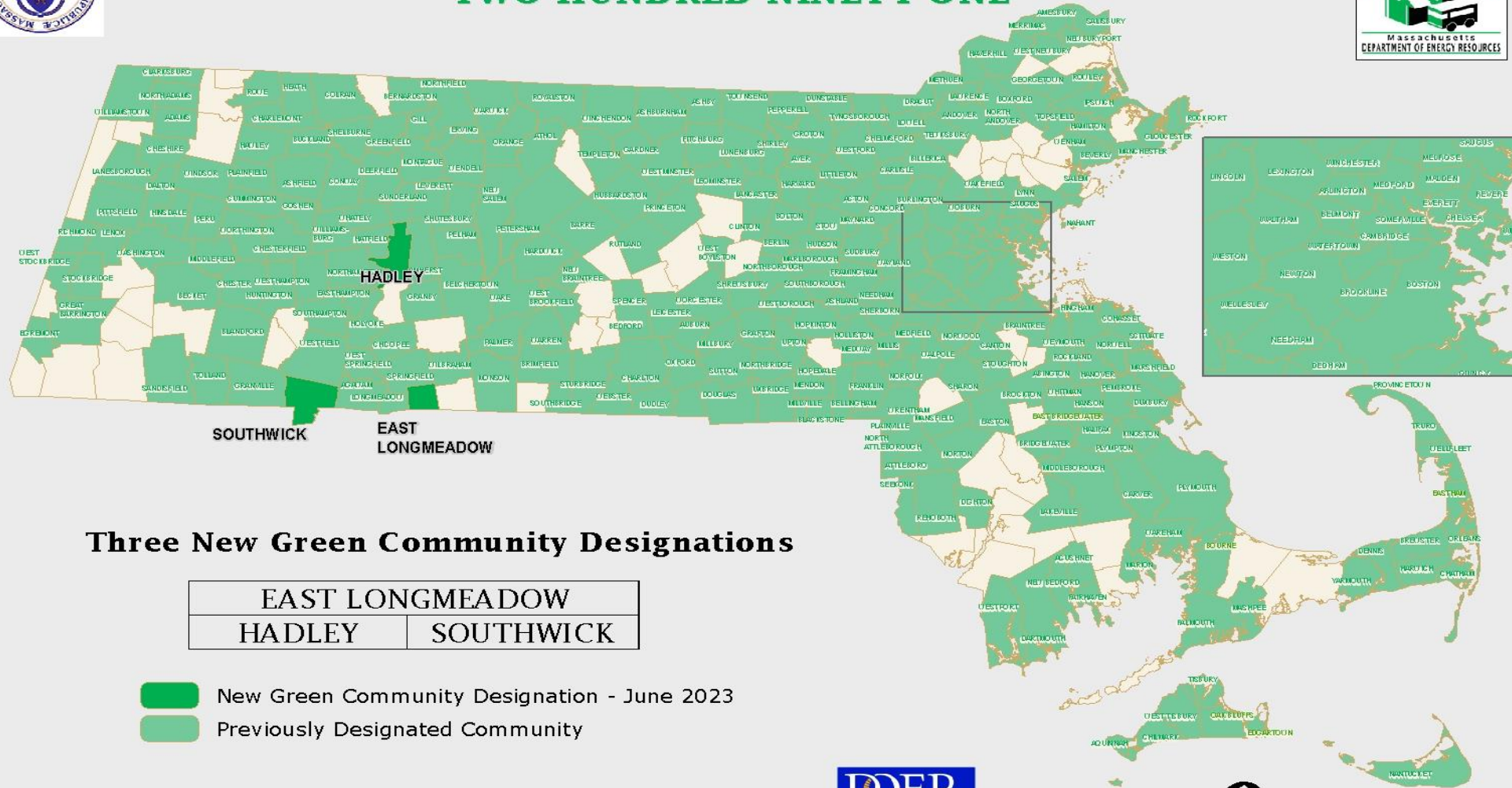
[MORE INFORMATION](#)

PON-ENE-2024-021

In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the information contained in this video, slide deck, and the Program Opportunity Notice (PON) the PON shall be referred to as the official document.



GREEN COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS REACH TWO HUNDRED NINETY-ONE



Three New Green Community Designations

EAST LONGMEADOW	
HADLEY	SOUTHWICK

-  New Green Community Designation - June 2023
-  Previously Designated Community



J. Pfister, 5-25-23



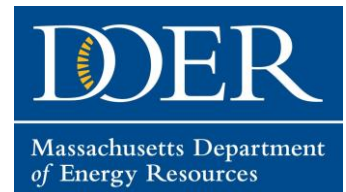
20

Miles

Green Communities Division - The energy hub for *all* Massachusetts cities and towns



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Eligibility

- ☑ Must be a Green Community “in good standing”
 - To apply for **Block 1** a Green Community must have submitted its FY 2023 Annual Report by the **Dec. 1, 2023**, deadline and addressed outstanding issues by **March 21, 2024**
 - To apply for **Block 2** a Green Community must have submitted its FY 2023 Annual Report by the **Dec. 1, 2023**, deadline and address outstanding issues by **April 5, 2024**



Eligibility

- ☑ Must be a Green Community “in good standing”
 - To apply for **Block 1** a Green Community must have submitted its FY 2023 Annual Report by the **Dec. 1, 2023**, deadline and addressed outstanding issues by **March 21, 2024**
 - To apply for **Block 2** a Green Community must have submitted its FY 2023 Annual Report by the **Dec. 1, 2023**, deadline and address outstanding issues by **April 5, 2024**
- ☑ Previous grants expended and closed out
 - To apply for **Block 1** a Green Community must have submitted its Final Grant Report by the **February 2, 2024**, deadline and addressed outstanding issues by **March 21, 2024**.
 - To apply for **Block 2** a Green Community must submit its Final Grant Report by the **August 30, 2024**, deadline and address outstanding issues by **October 11, 2024**.



2024 Award Limits

PON, p. 3

For applicants applying for projects that directly benefit
Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities

Traditional and Prescriptive Projects

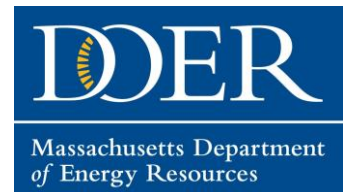
\$250,000

Building Decarbonization Grant

\$500,000 (10% Match Required)



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Projects directly benefitting EJ Communities PON, p. 3

- The project narrative must consider more than the project's location in an EJ community.
- The narratives should demonstrate an understanding of the EJ community's burdens and describe how the **project(s)** will directly benefit the EJ population.
 - The narrative should include both measurable and qualitative elements.



2024 Award Limits

PON, p. 3

For applicants for projects that do not directly benefit EJ communities and have received less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in past cumulative Green Communities Competitive Grant awards:

Traditional and Prescriptive Projects

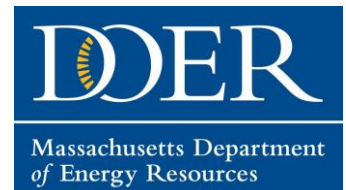
\$225,000

Building Decarbonization Grant

\$500,000 (25% Match Required)



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2024 Award Limits

PON, p. 3

For applicants for projects that do not directly benefit EJ communities and have received greater than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in past cumulative Green Communities Competitive Grant awards:

Traditional and Prescriptive Projects

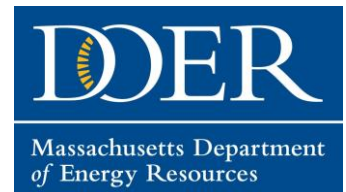
\$125,000

Building Decarbonization Grant

\$500,000 (25% Match Required)



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More than \$1 million

Communities with greater than \$1,000,000 in past cumulative Green Communities Competitive Grant awards

- Acton
- Arlington
- Auburn
- Beverly
- Chelmsford
- Gloucester
- Hanover
- Kingston
- Lexington
- Maynard
- Medford
- Medway
- Melrose
- Milton
- Natick
- Newton
- Northbridge
- Salem
- Scituate
- Southborough
- Sutton
- Swampscott
- Tewksbury
- Westford
- Westwood
- Weymouth
- Winchester
- Woburn



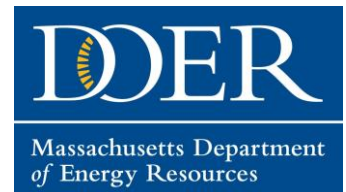
2024 Award Limits - LED School Lighting

PON, p. 3

Award Category		Traditional and Prescriptive Project Limits with interior LED School Lighting Limits
EJ Projects		\$250,000 (\$250,000 for <u>interior</u> LED School lighting)
Non-EJ Projects	Less than \$1 million	\$225,000 (\$100,000 for <u>interior</u> LED School lighting)
	More than \$1 million	\$125,000 (\$50,000 for <u>interior</u> LED School lighting)



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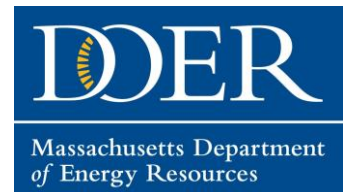
2024 Award Limits

PON, p. 3

- Traditional and prescriptive project grant award requests cannot exceed \$250,000
- For communities with <\$1mill in past competitive grants, \$225,000 of that request can be for projects that don't directly benefit EJ communities. \$25,000 remains that can be requested for EJ-benefitting projects.
- For communities with >\$1mill in past competitive grants, \$125,000 of that request can be for projects that don't directly benefit EJ communities. \$125,000 remains that can be requested for EJ-benefitting projects.



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Scenario #1

PON, p. 3

Scenario:

- The Town of Prescott, MA is:
 - an eligible Green Community
 - in the “more than \$1 million” category
- The Town has two projects they want to apply for:
 - \$75,000 in weatherization at its Elementary School (EJ project)
 - \$250,000 HVAC project at its Visitor’s Center (non-EJ project).

Answer:

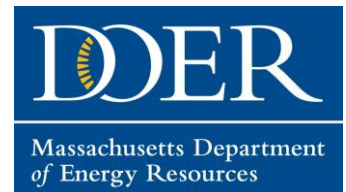
- Traditional and prescriptive project total requests cannot exceed \$250,000.
- Communities in the “more than \$1M” category are limited to \$125,000 in non-EJ projects.

Prescott can apply for a total of \$200,000. \$75,000 toward the EJ weatherization project and non-EJ project \$125,000 at the Visitor’s Center.

Project	EJ Status	Request
Wx School	EJ	\$75,000
HVAC Visitor’s Center	Non-EJ	\$125,000
Total		\$200,000



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Scenario #1b

PON, p. 3

Scenario:

- The Town of Prescott, MA is:
 - an eligible Green Community
 - in the “more than \$1 million” category
- The Town has two projects they want to apply for:
 - \$150,000 in weatherization at its Elementary School (EJ project)
 - \$250,000 HVAC project at its Visitor’s Center (non-EJ project).

Answer:

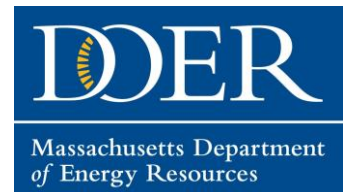
- Traditional and prescriptive project total requests cannot exceed \$250,000.
- Communities in the “more than \$1M” category are limited to \$125,000 in non-EJ projects.

Prescott can apply for a total of \$250,000. \$150,000 toward the EJ weatherization project and non-EJ project \$100,000 at the Visitor’s Center.

Project	EJ Status	Request
Wx School	EJ	\$150,000
HVAC Visitor’s Center	Non-EJ	\$100,000
Total		\$250,000



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Scenario #1b (alt)

PON, p. 3

Scenario:

- The Town of Prescott, MA is:
 - an eligible Green Community
 - in the “more than \$1 million” category
- The Town has two projects they want to apply for:
 - \$150,000 in weatherization at its Elementary School (EJ project)
 - \$250,000 HVAC project at its Visitor’s Center (non-EJ project).

Answer:

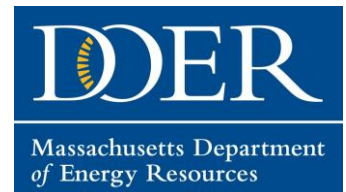
- Traditional and prescriptive project total requests cannot exceed \$250,000.
- Communities in the “more than \$1M” category are limited to \$125,000 in non-EJ projects.

Prescott can apply for a total of \$250,000. \$125,000 toward the EJ weatherization project and non-EJ project \$125,000 at the Visitor’s Center.

Project	EJ Status	Request
Wx School	EJ	\$125,000
HVAC Visitor’s Center	Non-EJ	\$125,000
Total		\$250,000



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Scenario #2

PON, p. 3

Scenario:

- The Town of Enfield, MA is:
 - an eligible Green Community
 - in the “less than \$1 million” category
- The Town has three projects they want to apply for:
 - \$120,000 in lighting at Elementary School A (EJ project)
 - \$120,000 in lighting at Elementary School B (non-EJ project)
 - \$35,000 weatherization project at a Fire Station (non-EJ project)
 - \$7,500 toward a new DPW Ford Lightning Truck (non-EJ project)

Answer:

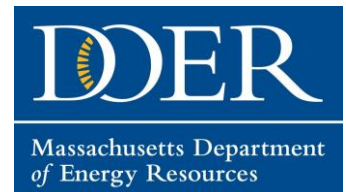
- Traditional and prescriptive project total requests cannot exceed \$250,000
 - \$250,000 of which can be an EJ LED School lighting project.
- Communities in the “less than \$1M” category are limited to \$225,000 in non-EJ projects
 - \$100,000 of which can be non-EJ LED School lighting project.

In this scenario, Prescott can apply for a total of \$250,000. \$120,000 toward lighting at Elementary School A (EJ project), \$100,000 in lighting at Elementary School B (non-EJ project), and \$30,000 toward the weatherization project at the Fire Station. The new EV DPW Truck would be left off the request because the project total has already reached the \$250,000 limit.

Project	EJ Status	Request
Lighting at ES A	EJ	\$120,000
Lighting at ES B	Non-EJ	\$100,000
Wx at Fire Station	Non-EJ	\$ 30,000 (reduced from \$35k)
DPW EV	Non-EJ	\$7,500
Total		\$250,000



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Project Categories

PON, p. 6

- **Section 2 Prescriptive Measures** - streamlined application requirements and evaluation

PON, p. 9

- **Section 3 Traditional Energy Efficiency Projects** - building envelope improvements, HVAC, controls, retro-commissioning, etc.

PON, p. 15

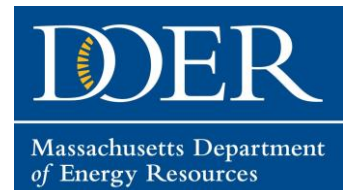
- **Section 4 Building Decarbonization Projects** - support for larger, more complicated projects

PON, p. 17

- **Section 5 Special Eligibility Projects** - expanded offerings



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Prescriptive Projects

PON, pp. 6-9

- A. Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs)
- B. Walk-in Refrigeration Controls
- C. Door and Window Weather-Stripping

New! D. Workforce Development

- E. Light-duty Hybrid (HEVs) or Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles (PHEVs)
- F. Light-duty Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs)
- G. Medium- or Heavy-duty BEVs
- H. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

New! I. Battery-powered Lawn Care & Landscaping Equipment



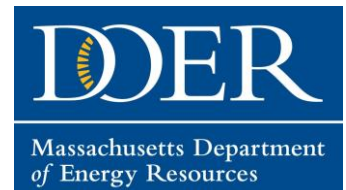
Traditional Energy Efficiency Projects

PON, pp. 9-15

- A. Building Envelope Improvements
- B. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Equipment
- C. Water Heaters
- D. Building Controls Systems
- E. Interior Lighting and Controls at Public Schools
- F. Streetlights
- G. Retro-commissioning
- H. Pumps, Motors, and Drives
- I. Vehicular Efficiency Measures
- J. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
- New!** K. Repairs to Existing Renewable Energy Systems
- L. Commercial Refrigeration



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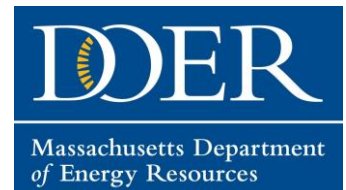
Building Decarbonization Projects

PON, pp. 15-17

- *“comprehensive building decarbonization projects that extend beyond the typical grant in implementation time and cost and are ready for immediate implementation.”*
- \$500,000 limit
- At least 25% local match, 10% for applications directly benefitting EJ
- Must demonstrate GHG emission reductions
- Must be completed within three (3) years of grant contract execution
- Cannot apply for other projects in PON
- Cannot apply for competitive grants for 2 years after award
- Please pay close attention to *The application must include:*



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Specially Eligible

- Applicants are eligible to apply for additional qualified projects as described in Section 5 if they have met all the eligibility criteria above; and
 - have been a Green Community for six (6) or more years, and
 - have achieved and maintained a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) energy reduction of their Energy Reduction Plan target for three (3) or more years, and have not had any violations in meeting the 5 Criteria in the past year.
- The DOER will inform potential applicants of their Special Eligibility based on data contained in their Green Communities Annual Reports.



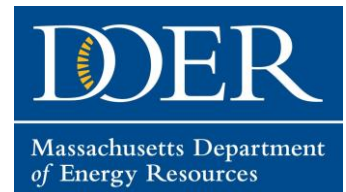
Additional Projects – Special Eligibility

PON, p. 17

- **Double the maximum award amounts**
 - for hybrid and battery-electric vehicles as indicated in Section 2 – *Prescriptive Projects*
- **Energy efficiency projects**
 - at a facility not included in the municipality's baseline but in a district associated with the municipality, such as a regional school district, a water district, or a wastewater district.
- **Behavior-based energy efficiency programs**
 - that focus on energy savings resulting from changes in individual or organizational behavior and decision-making, such as programs that employ goal setting, rewards, and other tactics to encourage efficient energy use.
- **Community outreach programs**
 - to promote existing residential and/or commercial energy efficiency programs, such as MassSave, including supplemental grant programs; and/or to promote other clean energy initiatives such as community-shared solar, Solarize, or HeatSmart



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Please remember/note...

PON, pp. 9-15

PON, p. 5

- The Competitive Grant application should include estimated **utility incentives**.

PON, p. 10

- DOER's support of fossil-fuel-fired heating equipment is limited ...

PON

- *The application must include: ...*

PON, p. 11

- For HVAC projects, *evaluation from a qualified contractor or electrician assessing that the building's electrical supply is adequate for the requested equipment.*

PON, pp. 10-11

- Building envelope improvements are necessary for a successful HVAC project and, therefore, are required for any HVAC application.

PON, p. 19

- Please review the Application Narrative section.



Non-Qualified Projects

PON, pp. 4

- Staffing beyond ten percent (10%) of the grant amount (not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for program administration.
- New Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems
- Exterior lighting, other than LED Streetlights
- Revolving loan funds
- Energy audits, feasibility studies, or assessments
- Air or water-source heat pumps for space cooling only
- Non-commercial appliances
- Projects for buildings/facilities not included in the municipality's baseline and therefore not in the municipality's Energy Reduction Plan (e.g., a Regional School District), except for municipalities deemed "Specially Eligible" under Section 5 as approved by the DOER.



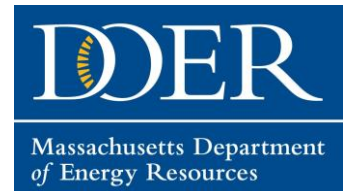
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Application Logistics

- Use CommBuys Q&A function for grant-related questions
 - Block 1 by April 19, 2024 at 5 pm
 - Block 2 by September 20, 2024 at 5 pm
- Must use DOER's **online application portal (iMeet Central)**
 - **Do not** submit applications to CommBuys
- Follow instructions – reach out to RCs for clarification




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
Confirmation of Submittal

Make sure you receive a confirmation of submittal



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 Joanne Bissetta

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Competitive Grant Application

► Instructions--Read First

• Ready--Grant Application Form

• **Submission Confirmation**

Submission Confirmation

Last edited by Jane Pfister 56min ago



GREEN COMMUNITIES
Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

**Your Competitive Grant Application
has been submitted to the Green Communities Division**

The information you provided and the files you selected have been saved in the system.

You will likely receive an email from DOER soon after submission but no later than 2 business days confirming your Grant submission and the number of files uploaded. If you do not receive an email confirmation in 2 business days, please contact Jane Pfister, jane.pfister@mass.gov / 617-626-1194). Thank you.

Tags:

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Thank you!

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