



# 17th Annual Leading by Example Awards December 4th, 2023

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources  
Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance



*Recognizing outstanding decarbonization, clean energy and environmental efforts among agencies, public higher education institutions, municipalities, and individuals in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

## Town of Windsor

The Town of Windsor, a Berkshire County town with fewer than 1,000 residents, has successfully reduced greenhouse gas emissions from Town operations by 25% since becoming a Green Community in 2015. An active volunteer Energy Committee has spearheaded this effort, securing state and federal funds to deploy renewable energy systems, implement energy efficiency projects, and replace heating oil systems with air-source heat pumps. The Town has truly led by example, educating and empowering residents to deploy solar PV and heat pumps at their own houses after the successful installation at Town offices.



## Windsor Accomplishments



The Town has secured over \$270,000 in Green Communities designation and competitive grant funds since 2015, allowing it to replace oil-fired systems, such as water and space heaters, with efficient electric alternatives. Oil use by the town has been reduced by 80% since 2015.



The Town installed a 20kW solar array to provide power to Town Hall. Additionally, the Town participated in Solarize Mass, empowering dozens of residents to deploy rooftop solar PV. The Energy Committee developed a calculator to help residents estimate the percentage of their electricity needs being met by solar and compare results to neighbors.



Through a local newsletter written by volunteers, “Windsor Now and Then,” the Town provides updates on sustainability and clean energy efforts as well as a monthly “Energy Tip” to help residents save energy, reduce costs, and contribute to the Town’s clean energy goals.



The Town secured a \$25,000 grant from the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership in 2023 for Climate Smart Road Maintenance, which will allow it to research the most effective ways to combat invasive species and maximize pollinator habitats on town-managed roadways through changes in its mowing regime.