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## **Baker-Polito Administration Announces 13th Annual Leading by Example Awards**

*Recognitions Highlight State and Municipal Clean Energy Accomplishments*

**BOSTON** – The Baker-Polito Administration today recognized eight Massachusetts state agencies, public higher education institutions, municipalities, and public sector individuals for their leadership in promoting clean energy and sustainability initiatives at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual [Leading by Example](#) Awards. Awardees were honored for policies and programs that advanced or brought about significant energy and emissions reductions, renewable energy installations, increased energy efficiency, waste minimization, sustainable transportation, and a host of initiatives that reduce environmental impacts associated with state and municipal operations and lower operating costs.

The Leading by Example (LBE) program is administered by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and works collaboratively with state agencies and public colleges and universities to advance clean energy and sustainable practices that reduce the environmental impacts of state government operations. The awards were presented at a State House ceremony by DOER Commissioner Judith Judson and Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance Commissioner Carol Gladstone.

“Through collaboration between state and local leaders, Massachusetts remains a national leader in energy efficiency and renewable energy,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “Individuals, communities, institutions and agencies across the Commonwealth continue to take meaningful steps in sustainability that has a strong environmental impact across the state.”

“Our administration is proud of the efforts that state agencies, institutions of public higher education, cities and towns and public employees have made to lower emissions and increase long-term sustainability” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “These efforts ensure progress in energy and environmental goals in a way that not only benefits local communities, but everyone in the Commonwealth as we continue advancing as a state towards a sustainable future.”

Leading by Example efforts across state government are directly reducing energy and environmental impacts and lowering operating costs. State agencies, authorities and public higher education campuses have collectively reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 26% from a 2004 baseline, installed more than 27 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity on state lands, reduced heating oil use by 82%, eliminating use of more than 18 million gallons of fuel, installed 148 electric vehicle charging stations, and converted more than 118 acres of lawn on state properties into productive pollinator habitats. Additionally, since 2014, 13 solar projects at 11 sites receiving LBE grants will generate more than 200 million kilowatt hours (kWh) and result in more than \$25 million in fiscal benefits to these agencies and campuses over 20 years.

“The Commonwealth has aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets and the ‘Leading by Example’ program helps set a model at the statewide and local levels to show how we can all contribute to lowering emissions,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides**. “The ongoing work of entities and individuals – from municipalities, to transit authorities, to community colleges – can all contribute to the Baker-Polito Administration’s goal of a cleaner, more reliable and affordable energy future.”

LBE Awards were presented to the Massachusetts Port Authority and the Department of Correction and in the state agency category, Berkshire Community College and UMass Lowell in the public higher education category, the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority and the City of Worcester in the municipal category, and Jillian Wilson-Martin of the Town of Natick and Claudine Ellyin of the MA College of Art and Design in the individual categories.

“The tremendous efforts displayed by the awardees honored here today are directly reducing energy and environmental impacts and lowering operating costs,” **said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Judith Judson**. “It’s the efforts of these awardees and those in years past along with our clean energy policies that are critical to moving Massachusetts forward in our shared clean energy future.”

“Today’s awardees and the many public agencies that work hard to fulfill the Commonwealth’s commitment to energy sustainability deserve this recognition,” **said Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance Commissioner Carol Gladstone**. “This year’s winners are examples of innovation and leadership that will make a positive impact in our communities and our state.”

### **State Agency Awardees**

The **Massachusetts Port Authority** is receiving a recognition award for wide-ranging energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation programs across several sites, including lighting retrofits to save 1,776,000 kWh of electricity, designing a solar canopy at Logan Terminal C, a commitment to procure approximately 200 pieces of electric ground support equipment, LEED Gold certification at a Terminal B connector, the purchase of hybrid electric vehicles, installation of electric vehicle charging ports, and more.

The **Department of Correction** is receiving a recognition award for numerous sustainability efforts, including the replacement of over 14,000 light fixtures across four campuses to save over 6,000,000 kWh of electricity annually, replacing inverters to continue solar production on-site, converting from oil to natural gas, eliminating some 500,000 gallons of fuel and resulting in the removal of underground oil storage tanks, and the creation of pollinator habitats on several acres of unused land, and more.

### **Public Higher Education Awardees**

**Berkshire Community College** is receiving a recognition award for clean energy, waste reduction and additional sustainability initiatives including the installation of solar PV that generates the equivalent of 20% of campus electricity consumption, achieving an 81% waste diversion rate and 2<sup>nd</sup> place nationwide in the Recyclemania program through significant composting and recycling programs, a deep retrofit of the Hawthorne/Melville to meet LEED Silver standards, and more.

**UMass Lowell** is receiving a recognition award for extensive sustainability efforts across campus, including the completion of a \$23.1 million comprehensive energy efficiency program to implement 100 energy-saving measures to reduce annual GHG emissions by 4,000 metric tons, the launch of an Urban Agriculture Program to provide local produce for the campus and community, implementation of several sustainable landscaping practices, including pollinator habitats and use of sheep to “mow” certain areas, partnerships with the City of Lowell to improve public transportation infrastructure, and more.

### **Municipal Awardees**

The **Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority** is receiving a recognition award for the installation of solar arrays at the Hyannis Transportation Center and the Dennis Operations Center that will provide the equivalent of 94% of on-site electricity consumption, the installation of 22 Electric Vehicle charging ports, shifting its fleet to smaller vehicles to substantially reduce emissions, lighting retrofits to high efficiency LEDs in buildings and parking lots, and more.

The **City of Worcester**, designated a Green Community in 2010, is receiving a recognition award for energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste minimization, and other sustainability efforts, including lighting retrofits at schools to reduce energy use by 67%, installation of 15 solar projects on municipal lands totaling 10.5 MW, an electricity aggregation program that will offset 29 thousand tons of GHG emissions annually, launching the *Blue Spaces Initiative* to protect and promote public waterways, and more.

### **Public Sector Individual Awardees**

**Jillian Wilson-Martin**, Sustainability Coordinator for the Town of Natick, is receiving an individual recognition award for a wide array of successful sustainability efforts, including taking a leadership role on more than 50 energy efficiency projects resulting in \$300,000 in cost savings, the installation of 1.1 MW of solar on municipal property with another 600 kilowatts (kW) planned for FY2021, the purchase of three municipal electric vehicles, the installation of three electric vehicle charging stations, and many more efforts to help the City meet its climate resiliency and clean energy goals.

**Claudine Ellyin**, Sustainability/Environmental Health & Safety Officer for the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, is receiving an individual recognition award for her work across numerous projects, including ensuring an 80-92% recycling rate of debris material during the South Building construction, increasing electronic waste recycling, evaluating opportunities for solar and electric vehicle charging station installations, and supporting and promoting talks and workshops to promote sustainability efforts across campus.

“Ms. Wilson-Martin has been a local leader on all sustainable issues, and I am grateful to the Department of Energy Resources for recognizing her tremendous contributions to both our local community and the Commonwealth,” said **State Representative David P. Linsky (D-Natick)**. “Massachusetts continues to make considerable contributions towards sustainable practices and this event is a great opportunity to recognize the work of so many valuable individuals and agencies as well as a way to share information as to how we can improve.”

“I’ve seen Jillian Wilson-Martin in action as Natick’s Sustainability Coordinator, and she’s so deeply dedicated to the important work that she does to help Natick combat climate change at the local level,” said **State Senator Becca Rausch (D-Needham)**. “She’s incredibly knowledgeable about energy efficiency and other sustainability solutions; this is a well-deserved award.”

“This program highlights a diverse group of awardees that are essential to achieving the administration’s clean energy goals,” said **State Representative James Kelcourse (R-Amesbury)**. “I applaud the Baker-Polito Administration for continuing to support collaborative efforts across the Commonwealth to promote a more sustainable future.”

“The awardees of the Leading by Example program have exhibited the actions that we should all practice to help reduce our energy consumption and improve our sustainability,” **said State Senator Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton)**. “In reducing energy consumption and waste there are positive effects on lowering greenhouse gas emissions as well as saving critical funds in both the private and public sectors.”

“Congratulations to the recipients of this prestigious award. These municipalities, agencies and individuals exemplify the innovative work being done throughout the Commonwealth to combat climate change and move us towards a more sustainable future,” **said State Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer)**.

Since taking office, the Baker-Polito Administration has invested over \$12.3 million in grant funding through the Leading by Example program to state agencies and higher education institutions to advance clean energy efforts. In addition, over that same time frame, nearly \$80 million in Green Community grants has been awarded to cities and towns across the Commonwealth to help municipalities reduce energy use and costs by implementing clean energy projects and energy efficiency measures.

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