



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.



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.



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.



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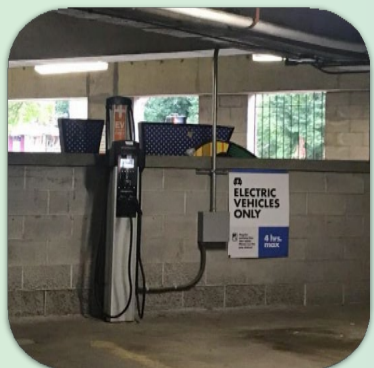
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City of Lowell

The City of Lowell was designated one of 35 inaugural Green Communities in 2010 and has maintained its position as a leader in clean energy and sustainability since. The City has reduced greenhouse gas emissions from city operations by 45% and energy use by 17% from 2010. In recent years, the City has led by example through its deployment of publicly-accessible EV charging stations, construction of highly efficient buildings, and completion of extensive energy projects to make existing buildings 'decarbonization-ready.' Coupled with strategic partnerships with community-based organizations, the City is working to ensure the benefits of the clean energy transition reach the diverse population of the City.



Lowell Accomplishments



Since 2019, Lowell has installed 66 municipally-owned EV charging ports across the city for both public and municipal fleet use. The city is building on this momentum and launching a public engagement strategy to allow residents to inform future EV charging deployment.



The City has 935kW of behind-the-meter solar PV and is working to more than double this number in the next year. A study completed in 2023 identified 4.6 MW of solar potential across 14 City properties, 1.7 MW of which is on solar-ready roof structures. The City has secured SMART blocks and filed interconnection agreements for these sites.



Lowell worked with National Grid to complete efficiency projects across the city with the goal to reduce electricity use by over 1.3 million kWh and natural gas use by 60,000 therms over three years. The City achieved these targets within 1.5 years. Lowell is now working with National Grid to host the first networked geothermal system in the utility's territory.



In 2022, with support from MassCEC and Mass Save, Lowell created a new Energy Advocate position that provides residents with services to ensure they understand their energy bills, learn about strategies to reduce energy costs, and can access programs that reduce their energy burden.