



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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2026 Marine Oil Spill Prevention & Response Grant

COMMBUYS Bid# BD-26-1045-BWSC0-BWSC1-128537 MassDEP's Official Answers to Questions

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is posting these Official Answers to the Questions that were received by the May 15, 2026, deadline set forth in the Marine Oil Spill Prevention & Response Grant Procurement Calendar.

Question No. 1. Homeowners who heat with oil are required to ask and pay for an insurance rider to receive coverage, but many do not know it exists and most insurance companies / agents / brokers are not informing customers of the option (as they are only required by law to “make it available”). Of the 615,000 homes in the Commonwealth that heat with oil, only 20% have the rider.

Since rulemaking has not proven successful in ensuring homeowners and the environment are protected, Licensed Site Professional Association (LSPA) is shifting our focus to education and awareness. LSPA would like to embark on a targeted and focused marketing campaign to educate Massachusetts homeowners who heat with oil about the rider, but also about the importance of ensuring routine maintenance and the replacement of oil / faulty equipment to more technologically sound options. That said, as a small nonprofit, we don't have the type of dedicated resources needed to do this work effectively and so, we've begun considering potential grant opportunities that can help us offset these costs.

We've been discussing whether the MOSPRA grant could be an option for this work. I've read through the grant document just released and see where this projects meets the grants criteria in some ways, but, before embarking on the application process, I wanted to get your opinion on whether this would be a worthy project.

MassDEP Response to Question 1: MassDEP cannot tell you in advance whether this project will be awarded a grant as your application will be reviewed by a committee who will independently score the grant based on the criteria specified in the MOSPRA Grant Announcement and Application (GAA). If you apply for a grant we recommend you clearly

demonstrate a strong connection between the work you propose and the goals of the Oil Spill Act and marine oil spill prevention and response preparedness for the coast of Massachusetts. Cost sharing agreements included in the grant may also help a grant be approved in cases where the work completed under the grant has additional benefits outside of the MOSPRA program.

Question No. 2: I have a question about eligible equipment under the MOSPRA grant. When we respond to a release on the waterways, we operate with a number of mutual aid partners during the response, including police, other fire departments, departments of natural resources, and other state agencies. Radio communications tend to be an issue with interoperability. Would radio communications equipment be an allowable purchase under the MOSPRA grant? I would appreciate any guidance you can provide.

MassDEP Response to Question No. 2: If you apply for a grant we recommend you clearly explain how the equipment you purchase demonstrates a strong connection to the goals of the Oil Spill Act and marine oil spill prevention and response preparedness for the coast of Massachusetts. You may want to consider including a cost sharing arrangement (with other resources outside the grant) given that the equipment will also be used for other purposes besides marine oil spill response. Although we cannot provide any definitive statement on whether the grant will be awarded, based on the limited information provided in your question, funding this grant may be difficult to justify and we therefore recommend you make as strong a connection as possible with the criteria in the MOSPRA GAA.

Question No. 3: I am having trouble getting the yes or no boxes checked on the application as I fill it out. Do you have any guidance or direction I can go for help

MassDEP Response to Question No. 3: Thank you for pointing out that the check boxes do not work in the MOSPRA Grant application form. The functionality of those boxes was inadvertently lost when we updated the form. An updated form has been posted to the MOSPRA Grant Website, which now has functional check boxes.

Link to MOSPRA Grant Webpage: [Marine Oil Spill Prevention & Response Grant Program | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/marine-oil-spill-prevention-response-grant-program)

Question No. 4: Another question in the application under “Section 4 Community Information bullet iii”, you cannot answer the question because it will not allow you to type any words and there is no “yes” or “no” check boxes.

MassDEP Response to Question No. 4: An updated form has been posted to the MOSPRA Grant Website, which now has functional check boxes Under “Section 4 Community information Bullet part iii”.

Question No. 5: I was wondering if you are the person that receives the applications or if there is a person designated for our geographical area?

MassDEP Response to Question No. 5: The grant should be sent electronically to Jim Collins at James.Collins2@mass.gov

Question No. 6: The Town of Mashpee Department of Natural Resources is currently preparing for the MOSPRA grant round and is exploring the potential acquisition of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS), including pilot certifications, to enhance our marine oil spill prevention, response, and environmental protection capabilities.

As we evaluate platform options, we wanted to inquire specifically whether DJI-manufactured drones would be considered eligible for purchase under MOSPRA funding, given ongoing discussions surrounding potential federal restrictions or future procurement limitations related to certain foreign-manufactured UAS platforms.

Before moving forward with our planning process, we would greatly appreciate any guidance you can provide regarding:

- Whether DJI UAS platforms are currently eligible under MOSPRA-funded purchases
- Any existing or anticipated state or federal restrictions that may impact eligibility
- Preferred or recommended procurement standards for municipalities seeking UAS funding through MOSPRA

Our intent is to ensure full compliance while selecting the most effective platform for marine-based oil spill surveillance, emergency response, and prevention.

MassDEP Response to Question No. 6: MassDEP recommends that any agency proposing to purchase a UAS complete their own due diligence concerning the rules and restrictions of using foreign made drones, especially since these rules continue to evolve and may potentially limit the viability and use of foreign manufactured drones either now or in the future. If a foreign made drone that is allowed by the FCC and National Defense Authorization Act most closely meets your needs, then the purchase would be allowed under the MOSPRA grant program. MassDEP does not recommend specific manufactures or models of drones, and we are not excluding the purchase of foreign made drones that are not currently prohibited. Entities that are considering purchasing a drone may want to contact several neighboring communities that currently operate drones and obtain their recommendations on favorable models to purchase.

In terms of procurement standards, MassDEP recommends that agencies follow their applicable procurement procedures to obtain best value for equipment and services.