



Massachusetts Department  
of Energy Resources

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

*Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner*

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# Climate Leader Communities Grants Overview

January 16, 2025

### Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) PON posted on Commbuys

- [BD-25-1041-ENE01-ENE01-111336](#)

### DOER is hiring! Director of Clean Energy Siting & Permitting

- “*Director of Clean Energy Siting and Permitting* to manage all aspects of the department’s work related to siting and permitting of small clean energy infrastructure”
- MassCareers (Job# 24000AUG)

### Green Communities will be at the MMA Annual Conference

- Thursday, January 23 and Friday, January 24, 2025
- Booth 702

### Town Hall

- Please join **DOER** for our second annual Town Hall on Zoom on Monday, January 27, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- Please register at <https://bit.ly/DOER2025TownHall>.

# Today's Webinar

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- **Overview of Climate Leader Communities Decarbonization Grants\***
  - [Technical Support \(PON-ENE-2025-014\)](#)
  - [Accelerator Grant Program \(PON-ENE-2025-013\)](#)
- **Scenarios**
- **Q & A**

*\* Program Opportunity Notices (PONs) and the corresponding attachments are available to download on Commbuys, the search term is "Climate Leader"*

# Division Grants

## Green Communities

### ***Regional Energy Planning Assistance (REPA) Grants***

- Green Communities Designation
- Annual report
- Green Communities Grant writing

### ***Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) Grants***

- \$400,000, annually
- Max \$25,000 per GC
- Assists communities with feasibility, technical studies, and engineering plans

### ***Competitive Grants***

- \$15,000,000, annually (two blocks of ~\$7,500,000)
- Max \$225,000 (or \$250,000 EJ) per GC
- \$500,000 Building Decarbonization grant
- New buildings and solar PV are ineligible

## Funding



*Plan*



*Study*



*Construct*

## Climate Leader Communities

### ***Decarbonization Roadmap Assistance***

- Vendors assist communities with Municipal Decarbonization Roadmaps
- Roadmaps are high-level plans aimed at eliminating fossil fuels in municipal operations

### ***Climate Leader Technical Support Grants***

- \$7,500,000
- Max \$150,000 – one award per Climate Leader Community, per PON
- Assists Climate Leaders with technical support for decarbonization projects

### ***Climate Leader Accelerator Grants***

- \$52,500,000
- Max \$1,000,000 – only one award per Climate Leader
- Support for new buildings and solar PV

# Climate Leaders Technical Support (PON-ENE-2025-014)

## Grant Details

Total Funding	\$7,500,000
Per Applicant Funding Limit	\$150,000
Awards	One per Climate Leader
Community Match Required	No
EJ Benefit	No
Deadlines	Rolling
Grants Reviewed	June and December

## Technologies (page 3, PON-ENE-2025-014)

1. Renewable thermal applications, including:
  - Heat pumps (ground-, air-, and water-source)
  - Solar thermal
2. PV applications serving on-site load
3. Energy resilience utilizing clean energy resources
4. Energy storage
5. Other clean technologies and/or strategies that target reductions in energy use, emissions, and fossil fuels (applicants must provide a detailed description of the potential associated energy and environmental benefits).

## Requirements

“grant funds shall only be made available for technical support that examines options related to **non-fossil fuels** that support efforts to meet the community’s **Climate Leader Communities Decarbonization Roadmap**.” (page 4, PON-ENE-2025-014)

“keeping with the DOER’s goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by **limiting and/or eliminating the use of fossil fuels** through the decarbonization of buildings” (page 5, PON-ENE-2025-014)

# Climate Leaders Accelerator Grant (PON-ENE-2025-013)

## Grant Details

Total Funding	\$52,500,000
Per Applicant Funding Limit	\$1,000,000
Awards	One per Climate Leader
Community Match Required	Yes, 10% of project cost Yes, no match is required if the project falls within a census block that includes two or more EJ criteria, one must be “income”
EJ Benefit	
Deadlines	1 <sup>st</sup> Fridays in August and February
Grants Reviewed	August and February

## Technologies (page 3, PON-ENE-2025-013)

1. Renewable thermal applications, including:
  - Heat pumps (ground-, air-, and water-source)
  - Solar thermal
2. PV applications serving on-site load
3. Energy resilience utilizing clean energy resources
4. Energy storage
5. Other clean technologies and/or strategies that target reductions in energy use, emissions, and fossil fuels (applicants must provide a detailed description of the potential associated energy and environmental benefits).

## Requirements

“grant funds shall only be made available for technical support that examines options related to **non-fossil fuels** that support efforts to meet the community’s **Climate Leader Communities Decarbonization Roadmap**.” (page 3, PON-ENE-2025-013)

“These decarbonization efforts should **significantly reduce or eliminate onsite fossil fuel combustion, reduce energy use, and/or lower energy costs**.” (page 2, PON-ENE-2025-013)

# Climate Leaders Accelerator Grant (PON-ENE-2025-013)

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## Program and Project Requirements Notes (pp. 3-6 PON-ENE-2025-013)

### *General*

- Training Requirements
- Preventative Maintenance Requirements

### *Solar PV*

- Requirements for Canopies, Rooftop Solar, Ground-Mount,
- Battery Requirements for PV  $\geq$  500 kW AC

### *Building Decarbonization Project*

- Building Envelope Requirements
- Incremental for new construction

# Projects Must Consider and Coordinate with...

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Utilities – including MassSave or MLP programs

- Energy Efficiency, Deep Energy Retrofit, and New Construction programs

MassCEC Green School Works, MSBA as needed

Incentive Programs (e.g. SMART)

Federal Clean Energy Tax Incentives: Elective Pay Eligible Tax Credits

- IRA Elective Pay (also known as Direct-pay)
- See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/direct-pay-information> for more information



## Application Notes

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**Technical Support** “highly” encourages municipalities to contact their Regional Coordinators to discuss potential proposals (page 3, PON-ENE-2025-014)

**Accelerator** grant “strongly encourages” a Notice of Intent (NOI) (page 7, PON-ENE-2025-013) recommended 3 months before the application

**Accelerator** and **Technical Support** grants require:

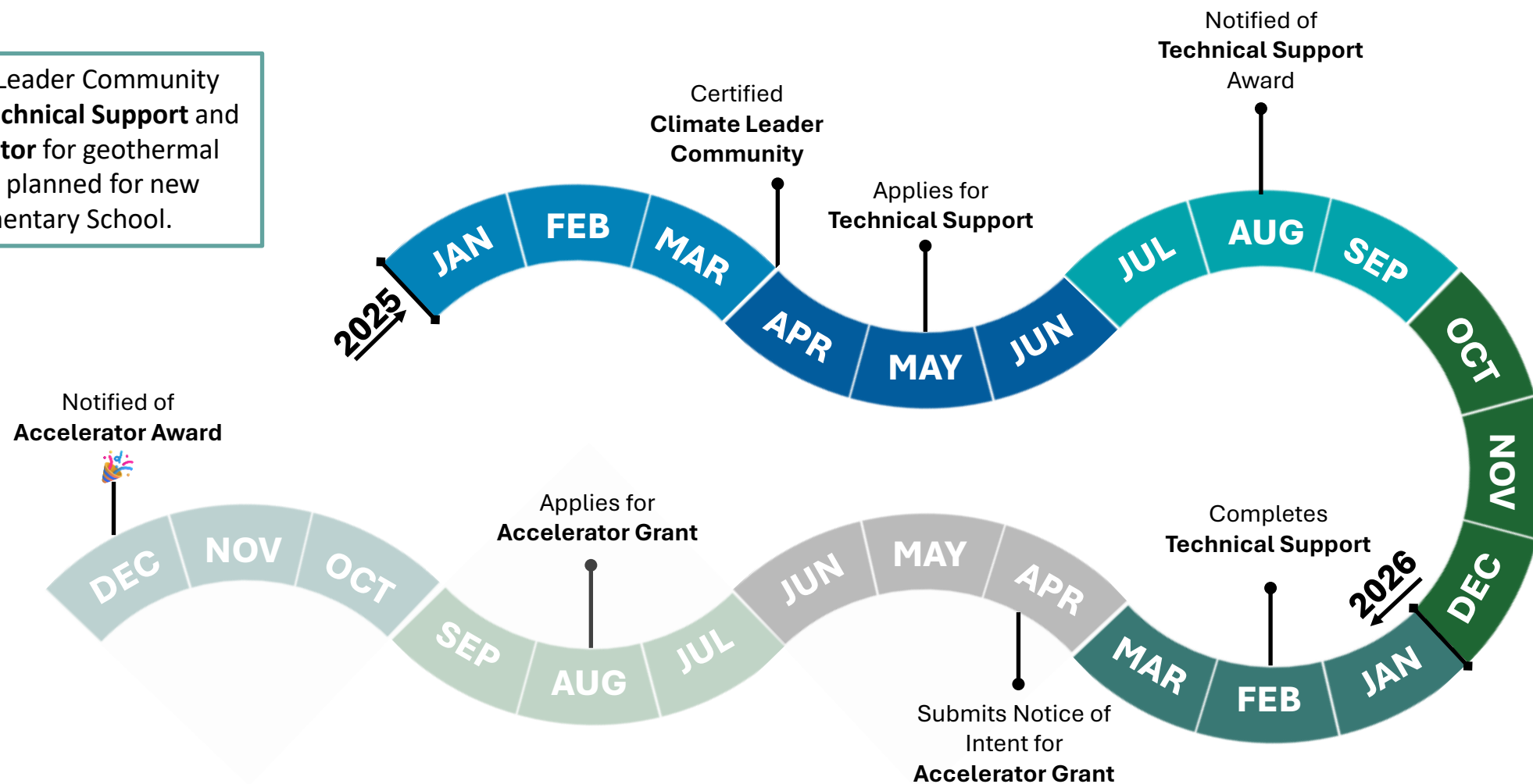
- Application Forms (.xlsx)
- Certificates of Application
- Available for download from Commbuys

Completed **Accelerator** and **Technical Support** applications should be submitted via email to Paul Carey at [paul.s.carey@mass.gov](mailto:paul.s.carey@mass.gov) and [green.communities@mass.gov](mailto:green.communities@mass.gov).

**\*\* Electronic only \*\* Do not submit applications through Commbuys \*\***

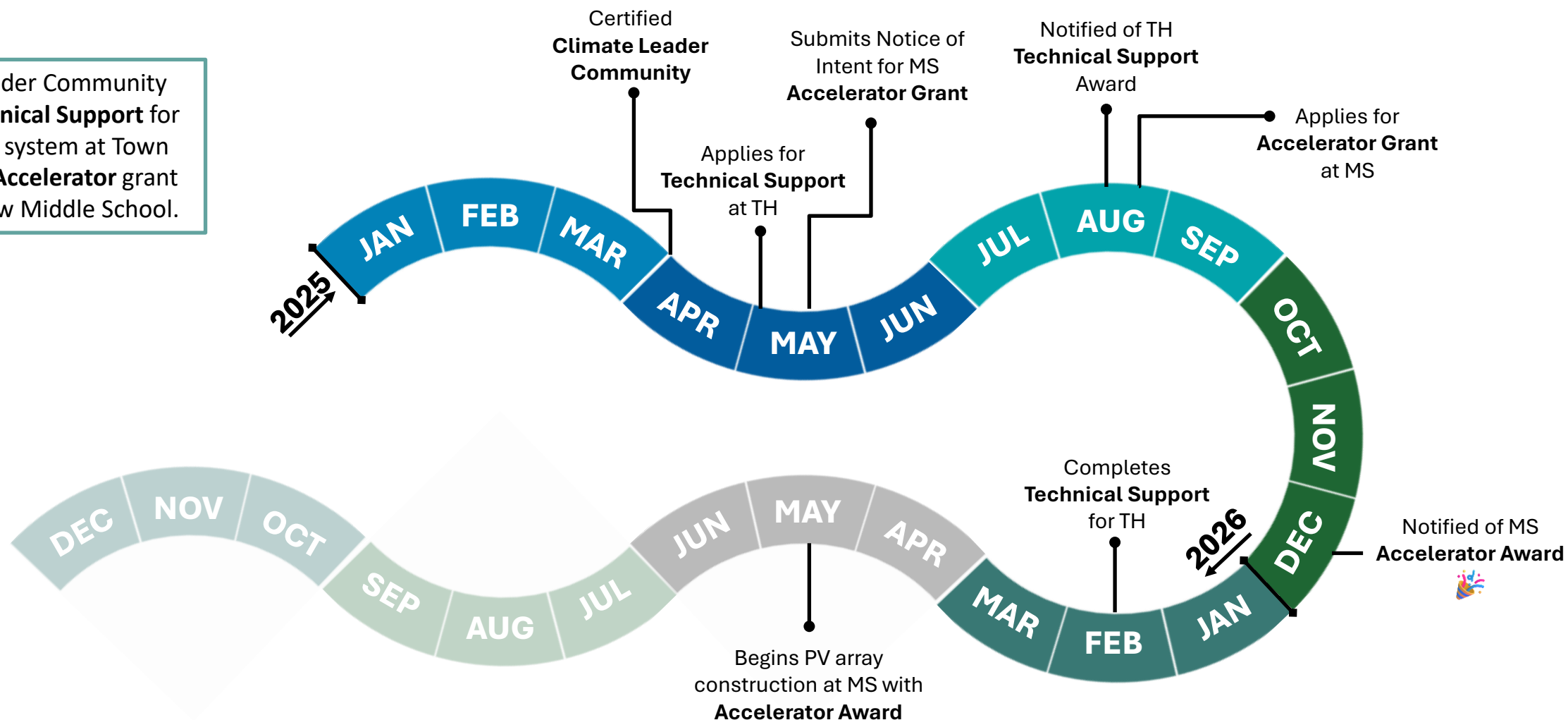
# Potential Pathways: Scenario #1

Climate Leader Community seeking **Technical Support** and **Accelerator** for geothermal system planned for new Elementary School.



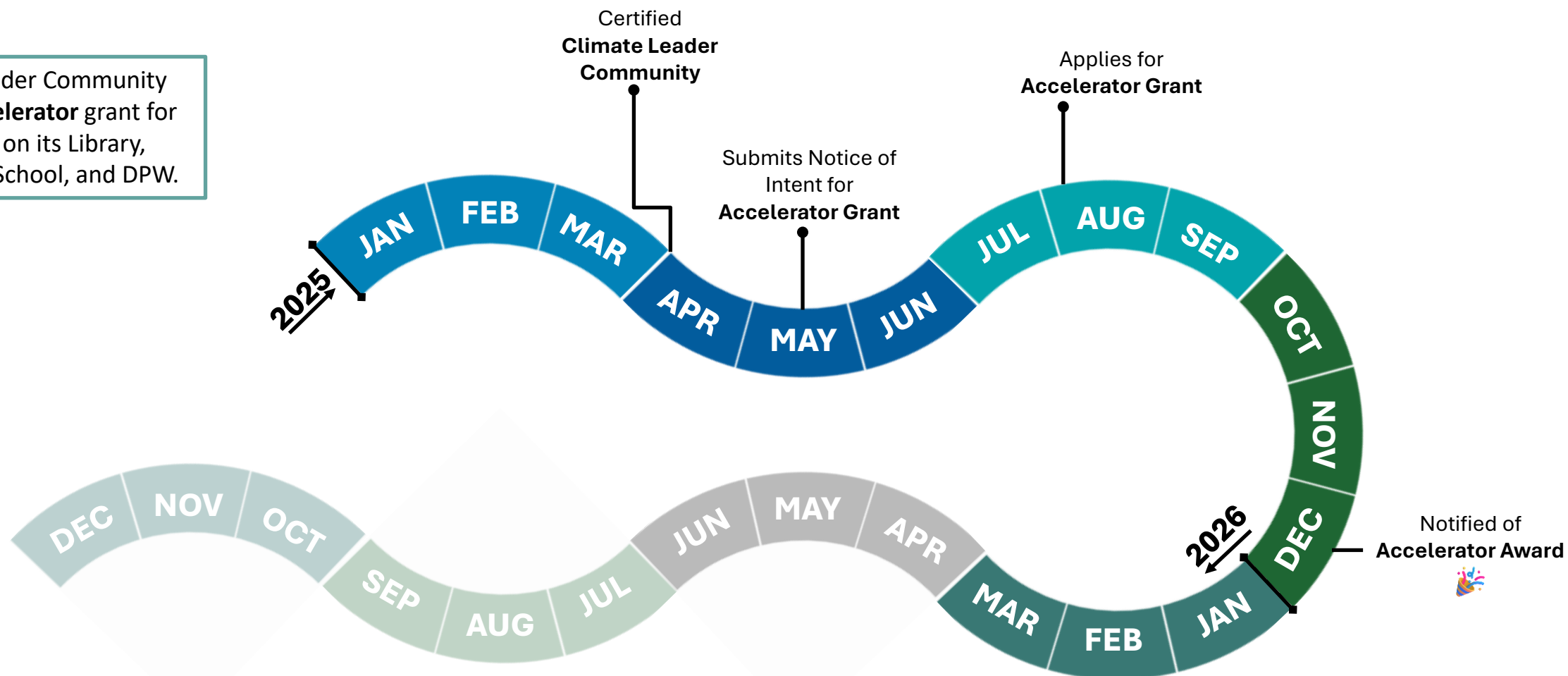
## Potential Pathways: Scenario #2

Climate Leader Community seeking **Technical Support** for geothermal system at Town Hall and an **Accelerator** grant for PV on new Middle School.



## Potential Pathways: Scenario #3

Climate Leader Community seeking **Accelerator** grant for PV arrays on its Library, Elementary School, and DPW.



# Green Communities Contacts

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

## **Northeastern**

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## **Southeastern**

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