



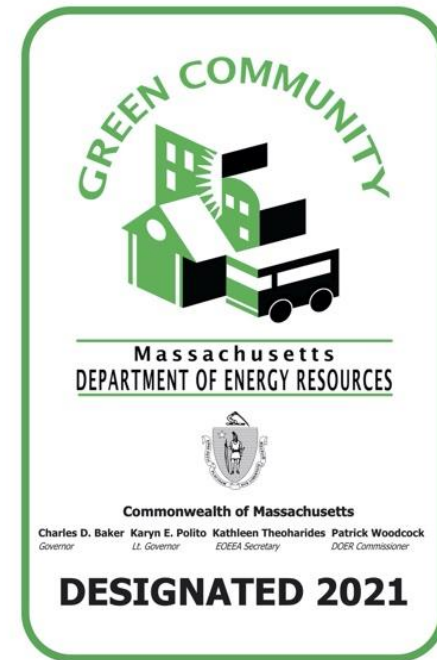
Green Communities 2.0 *(AKA Climate Leaders)*

July 15, 2022

Green Communities Designation and Grant Program

Designation Criteria

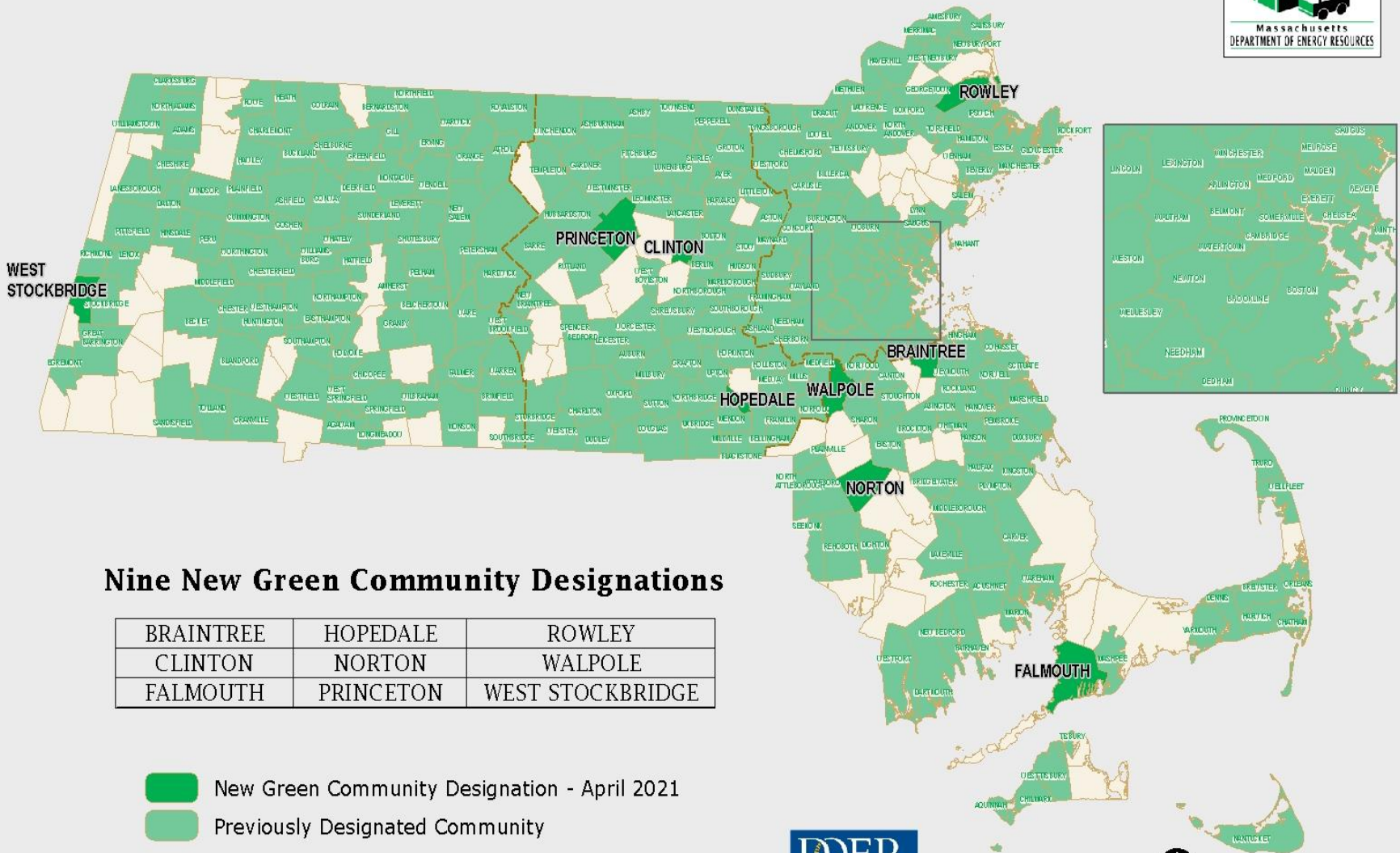
1. Adopt as-of-right siting for renewable/alternative energy generation, research and development, or manufacturing
2. Adopt expedited permitting process
3. Create an energy use baseline and a plan to reduce municipal energy use by 20% in 5 years
4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles
5. Reduce life-cycle costs of new construction by adopting the stretch energy code



Eligible for Grants on Municipal Property

- Energy efficiency projects
- Renewable energy projects

GREEN COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS REACH TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY



Nine New Green Community Designations

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| BRAINTREE | HOPEDALE | ROWLEY |
| CLINTON | NORTON | WALPOLE |
| FALMOUTH | PRINCETON | WEST STOCKBRIDGE |

- New Green Community Designation - April 2021
- Previously Designated Community

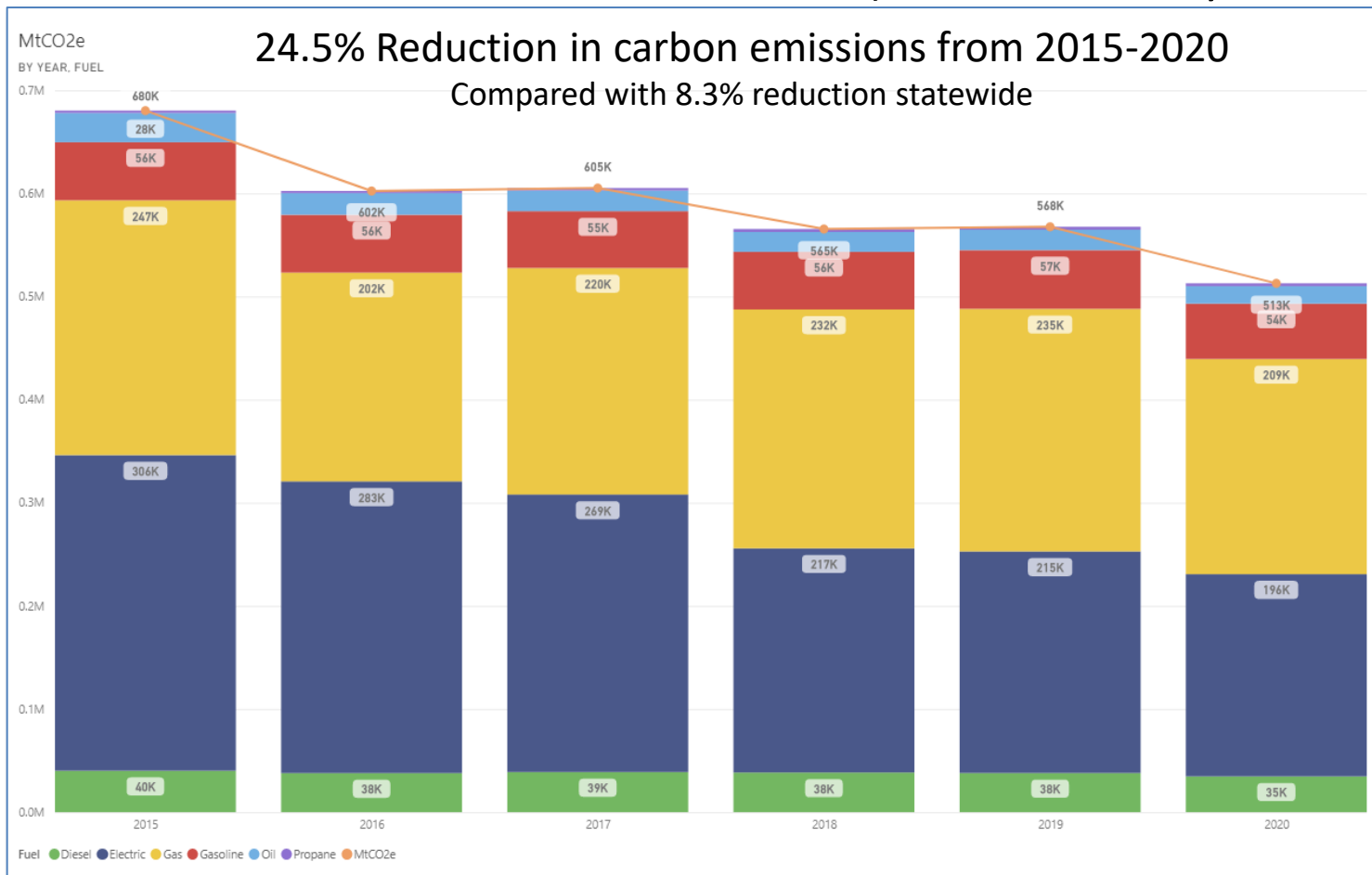


25

Miles

Green Community Stats and Impact

- 280 designated Green Communities
- 186 in the program for 5+ years
- 39 reached 20% reduction goal
- Average reduction among all Green Communities = 7% (weather-normalized)
- 11% fleet acquisitions (*non-exempt vehicles*) either BEV or hybrid



Climate Leader Program



Align resources for municipalities with EEA climate and energy goals



Provide framework for municipalities wanting to “do more”



Enhance engagement and forward progress with municipalities

Program Development

- Researched programs in other states
- Using actions that already exist
 - C-PACE
 - Complete Streets
 - SolSmart
- Input from:
 - Green Communities Advisory Committee
 - MCAN
 - MMA Energy and Environment Committee
 - All in Energy
 - Staff from EEA, DOER and MassCEC
 - 3 listening sessions with municipal staff and volunteers

Climate Leaders Conceptual Design

Key Requirements for CL Certification

- Must be an existing Green Community
- Establish/maintain a local committee to advise, coordinate, and/or lead clean energy and climate activities
- MVP Community status
- Commit to municipal decarbonization by 2050 and formulate a roadmap for implementation
- ZEV-First vehicle policy
- Specialized Stretch Code Adoption

Demonstrate energy leadership in the following categories:

- Clean energy policies/planning
- Community engagement
- Clean transportation

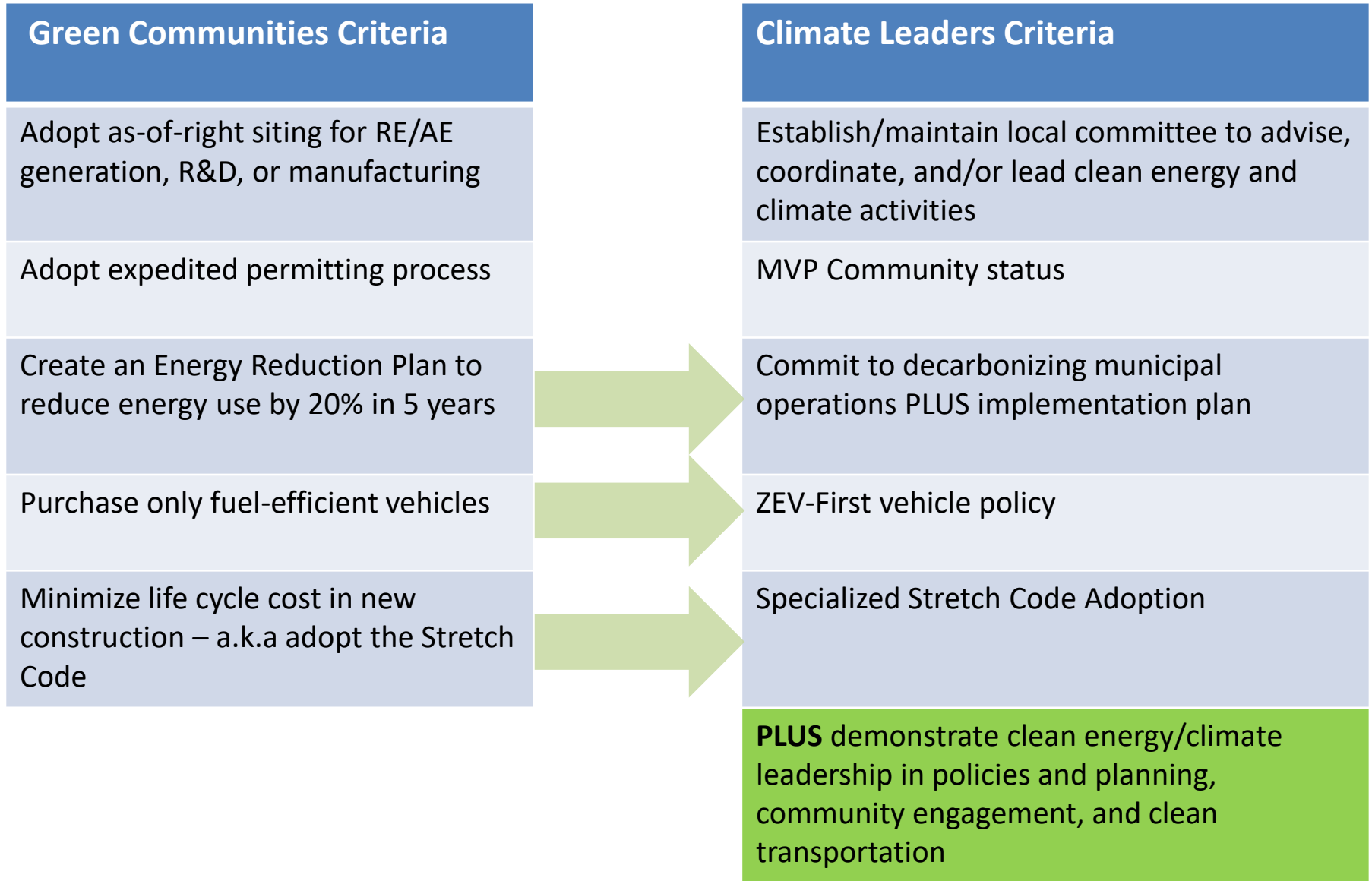
DOER to review leadership actions every 3 years

- Obsolete actions removed
- New ones added to reflect EEA/DOER priorities and/or new technologies
- Consider a re-certification for Climate Leader communities every 3 or 5 years

Potential grant funding opportunities

- Solar (rooftop/canopy) paired with EVSE or BESS
- Implementing Climate Leader Actions
- Municipal building electrification/decarbonization
- Seed funds for a municipal clean energy/climate coordinator
- Vehicle grant bonus

Program Evolution: From Green Community to Climate Leader



Proposed Leadership Actions – Best Practices Recommended

Communities Must Choose at least one (1) from Each Category

| Clean energy and climate policy/planning | Community Engagement – Equity Consideration Required | Clean transportation & mobility |
|---|--|---|
| Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) | Community Climate Action/Net Zero Plan * | Incorporate EV charging stations in parking and/or zoning regulations |
| Tree City USA Certification | Community Choice Aggregation with 100% Class 1 renewable option * | Deploy and/or actively promote the use of publicly accessible EV charging stations within community. |
| Building benchmarking/performance ordinance | Community Clean Energy Campaign (Solarize, HeatSmart, EV promotion, etc.) * | Tier 3 Complete Streets certification PLUS implementation one policy/plan addressing bike/pedestrian safety and access |
| Streamline permitting for renewables | Youth outreach/education | Fleet electrification plan |
| Green Zoning | Targeted clean energy for historically marginalized and over-burdened populations. Can be in conjunction with MassSave Community First Partnership | Deploy and/or actively promote EV/E-Bike or “regular” bike share * |
| Land Policies promoting carbon sequestration | Climate/clean energy event * | School bus electrification plan |
| Electricity for municipal use purchased via competitive supply at least double the minimum RPS Class 1 requirements | | Development and promotion of local mobility hub OR micro-mobility |

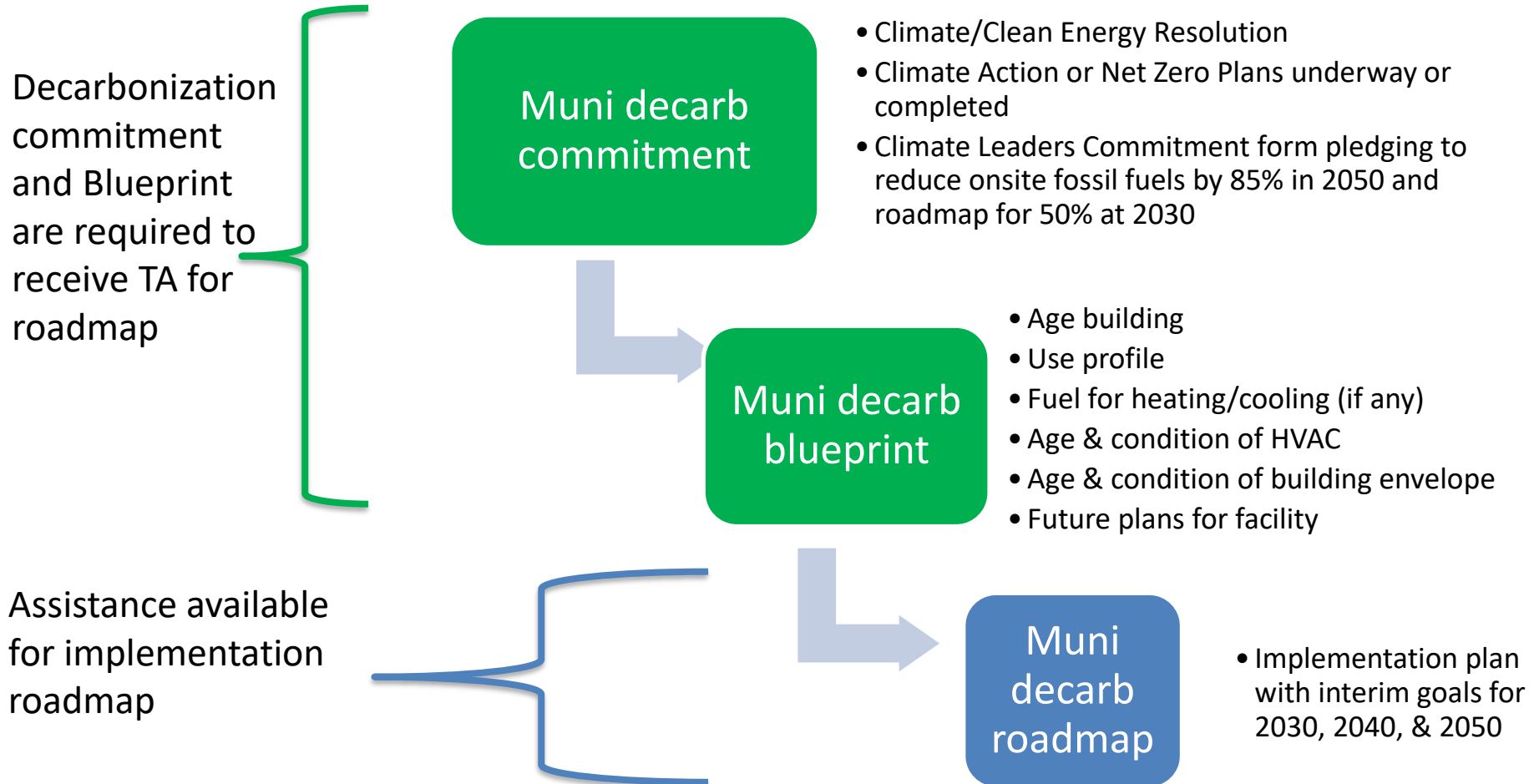
Program Requirements Details

- **Local Sustainability Team** – to leverage skills and expertise of members to develop plans, implement programs, and assist with educational opportunities to support clean energy/climate goals. Can be an existing committee.
 - Appointed by Select Board, City Council, Mayor, etc.
 - Can be volunteers or staff, or a combination
 - Other considerations – a local non-profit organization that advises community (e.g., community action group)
- **MVP status** – achieved by over 300 municipalities
- **GHG Reduction goals and plan – 2 phases**
 - Phase 1
 - Local commitment to MA decarbonization goals
 - Decarbonization blueprint
 - Phase 2 - Roadmap to decarbonization
 - Implementation plan with interim goals for 2030, 2040, 2050
 - Technical assistance available for development
- **Zero Emissions Vehicle First [policy](#)**
 - Must consider zero-emission vehicles first when acquiring new vehicle
- **Adoption of Specialized Stretch Building Code**
 - Passed by City Council, Town Council, or Town Meeting as applicable

Municipal Decarbonization Goals

- Municipal commitment to ghg reduction goals, could be:
 - Town Meeting/Town Council/City Council climate/clean energy resolution that includes next steps
 - Mayoral Commitment (e.g. Metro Mayors Climate preparedness Task Force)
 - Community Climate Action/Net Zero Plans underway or completed
 - Climate Leaders Commitment form pledging to decarbonize municipal buildings and fleets

Muni Decarbonization Plan Process



Clean energy and climate policies/planning

Draft

| Action | How Met | Tools | Exemplars |
|---|--|---|---|
| C-PACE | Municipality must adopt C-PACE | MassDevelopment PACE website | |
| Tree City USA | Municipality must be certified a “Tree City” by the National Arbor Day Foundation | Tree City USA | |
| Building benchmarking/performance ordinance | Ordinance/bylaw that requires building owners to report energy and emissions data | NEEP benchmarking dashboard | Boston BERDO South Portland benchmarking ordinance |
| Streamline permitting for renewables | Municipality must either adopt use of NREL’s SolarAPP+ or be a SolSmart-designated community | https://solarapp.nrel.gov/ https://solsmart.org/ | Solar Permitting Pepperell |
| Green Zoning | Ordinance/bylaw to address sustainability, green building, and resiliency | NEEP Green Zoning Guide NREL High Performance Districts MAPC's NZ Playbook - climate zoning | Cambridge sustainable design ordinance Northampton urban sustainable growth overlay district |
| Land Policies promoting carbon sequestration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan • Tree protection bylaw/ordinance • Other actions that increase protected open space, parks, and tree canopy | Tree protection ordinance guide EEA's open space and recreation plan resources | |
| Electricity for municipal use purchased via competitive supply at least double the minimum RPS Class 1 requirements | Provide competitive supply contract | | |

Community Engagement

Draft

| Action | How Met | Tools | Exemplars |
|---|---|---|--|
| Community Climate Action/Sustainability Plan* | Have a completed plan approved by the appropriate municipal body | MAPC ghg inventory resources ICLEI's Clearpath tool | Natick's Climate Action Plan Green Worcester Plan Resilient Salem/Beverly Plan |
| Clean Community Aggregation with 100% Class 1 renewable option * | Have a Clean Community Aggregation (Municipal Aggregation) with a 100% renewables Class 1 option AND actively promote customer adoption | MAPC NZ Playbook Clean Energy Supply Chapter | Green Energy Consumers Alliance |
| Community Clean Energy Campaign (Solarize, Community Shared Solar, HeatSmart, EV promotion, etc.) * | Have conducted a community clean energy campaign within the past 3 years. | EV Ride & Drive resources Solarize MA resources | |
| Youth climate/clean energy outreach/education | Have an established youth engagement program that addresses clean energy/climate change topics. Can be part of school curriculum, or extracurricular | Cooler Communities The Green Team Green Strides | Agawam - Cooler Communities Fairs Green Committee — Vinson-Owen Parent Association |
| Targeted clean energy for historically marginalized and overburdened populations. Can be in conjunction with MassSave Community First Partnership | Have conducted a targeted clean energy campaign in the last 3 years; OR actively promote participation in Community First Partnership with targeted outreach and/or staff support | Community first Partnership | Natick Senior Energy Grant |
| Climate/clean energy event * | Hold a public event promoted clean energy technologies, e.g., EV Ride and Drive, solar open house, sustainability fair, etc. Must have been held within the past 3 years | | Climate Summit 2022 Andover Lowell Drives Electric Earth Day Earth Day 2022 City of Framingham |

Clean Transportation and Mobility

| Action | How Met | Tools | Exemplars |
|---|---|---|--|
| Incorporate EV charging stations in parking and/or zoning regulations | Provide a copy of pertinent regulations or laws, can be a link to the information on municipal website | E 4 the Future Expedited Permitting for EV stations Sustainable Jersey's Guide for EV Ordinances | Methuen EV Charging station regulations |
| Deploy and/or actively promote the use of publicly accessible EV charging stations within community. Public/private partnerships are encouraged | Provide documentation of deployment and/or promotion of publicly accessible EV charging stations within the past 3 years. | MAPC's Net Zero Playbook - Zero Emissions Mobility Urban Sustainability Directors Network EV charging station Access to renters MassEVIP Public Charging Station Grants | Melrose EV Chargers |
| Tier 3 Complete Streets certification PLUS implementation one policy/plan addressing bike/pedestrian safety and access in the past 3 years | Provide the municipality's Tier 3 Project Agreement plus all Exhibits documenting implementation in the past 3 years | Complete Streets | |
| Fleet electrification plan | Provide a copy of municipality's plan | National Grid's fleet advisory program Power Options Clean Transportation Services | |
| Deploy and/or actively promote EV/E-Bike or "regular" bike share * | Provide documentation of deployment and or promotion. | EV Good 2 Go Blue Bikes Valley Bikeshare | Amherst transportation website Salem bike share |
| School bus electrification plan | Inclusion of E-school bus requirements in leasing bid, OR a plan to electrify 50% of fleet by 2030 | EPa clean school bus rebates | Beverly E-school bus video |
| Development and promotion of local mobility hub OR micro-mobility | Document local promotion of service through municipal website and/or by other means | Boston's Neighborhood Mobility Hubs | Everett bus lanes Salem Skipper Provincetown website |

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- Municipalities with EJ populations must use the [Environmental Justice Toolkit](#) prepared by EEA for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program when conducting community climate planning and zoning activities, and when planning and implementing community engagement activities

To Recap: Proposed Climate Leaders Framework

Key Requirements for CL Certification

- Must be an existing Green Community
- Establish/maintain a local committee to advise, coordinate, and/or lead clean energy and climate activities
- MVP Community status
- Commit to municipal decarbonization by 2050 and formulate a roadmap for implementation
- ZEV-First vehicle policy
- Specialized Stretch Code Adoption

Demonstrate energy leadership in the following categories by meeting at least one (1) action:

- Clean energy policies/planning
- Community engagement
- Clean transportation

Grant funds available for clean energy/climate initiatives beyond municipal and school facilities, including implementing Climate Leader Actions

Recertification every 3-5 years with additional Climate Leader Actions achieved

Feedback

Are the requirements too hard, too easy, or just right?

What should be tweaked?

Are there other municipal clean energy/climate actions we should consider?

What tools will municipalities need to participate?

Would your community consider participation?

What have we not thought of?

Thank you!

Please submit comments using the RFI Form on our website