



FY24

IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Information Session, December 1, 2022

The GGCP is designed to bring the energy efficiency and environmental benefits of a healthy tree canopy to Gateway Cities.

Executive Office of Environment & Energy Affairs (EEA)

Department of Conservation & Recreation Urban &
Community Forestry Program (DCR)

Department of Energy Resources (DOER)

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Implementation Grant Program Overview & Goals

- Accelerate urban tree planting in Gateway Cities.
- Seeking proposals from Gateway Cities and qualified non-profits with extensive tree planting experience to expand tree planting work **beyond** DCR planting zones.
- Grant is a reimbursement program for costs up to \$100,000.
- Projects should have a measurable impact on urban canopy in residential neighborhoods.

Funding Availability

- Maximum grant award is \$100,000.
- Reimbursement grant program; applicant must be prepared to incur costs up front.
- Costs incurred prior to award contract are not eligible for reimbursement.

Eligible Applicants

- Gateway City municipalities and non-profit 501 (c)(3) organizations with demonstrated experience in tree planting and stewardship.
- Municipalities & non-profits are encouraged to explore partnership opportunities where it will achieve greater impact.

Eligible Project Costs

- High visibility **tree plantings** where climate resilience, environmental justice goals and energy efficiency benefits will be advanced.
 - Purchase of trees (>1.5" dbh) and planting materials (clean loam, mulch)
 - Excavating and planting trees
 - Removal of impervious surfaces
 - Stump removal if necessitated by planting site preparation
 - City-owned vacant lot restoration with tree planting in coordination with DCR and with a site plan approved by EEA.
- Outreach activities that strengthen **community engagement** with tree care and tree planting.
 - Community outreach events
 - Training or educational programs that will empower residents to participate in tree planting and stewardship
 - Costs to distribute information (mailers, staff calls to residents)

Additional Eligibility Considerations

- Follow “**Right tree, right place**” principles
- Sub-contracts for planting or other work is acceptable. An MCA or ISA certified arborist is required to manage day-to-day tree plantings. Please see **Attachment C in Bid Document** for additional contractual specifications for tree planting & care

PLEASE READ BID DOCUMENT CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS.

Application Requirements

- Application form
- Project description (see application form for details)
 - Goals, project deliverables & timeline
 - Strategy for watering and tree stewardship in the first 2 years
- Planting plan (see application form for details)
 - Identify planting locations and species to be planted. All trees must be >1.5" dbh.
 - Plan should be reviewed with municipal Planning Department
 - Coordinate with DCR Forester as appropriate.
- Project Budget
 - Total estimated costs, itemized where possible
 - Project costs contributed in-kind or other funding matches

Additional Required Documents

Cities:

- Letter from CEO authorizing application and identifying the project manager
- Letter of support from Tree Warden or appropriate commission
- Documentation that planting plan has been reviewed by planning board
- Letters of endorsement from any partners if tree planting is proposed on lands that are not owned by applicant

Non-profits:

- Letter of endorsement from the City
- Articles of Incorporation and IRS 501(c)(3) letter

Application Evaluation

- Overall project quality (40%)
- Applicant capacity (30%)
- Environmental Justice (15%)
- Community Engagement & Support (15%)

See Grant Document for full scoring criteria.

Example Projects

City of Chelsea – Conducting outreach to residents and planting ~200 trees. A certified arborist will conduct DPW staff training in tree planting and care.

City of Taunton – Purchase & installation of a 500-gallon spray tank for watering trees to be planted by DCR in 2022/23. Planting 15 trees in priority neighborhoods.

Groundwork Lawrence – Planting 100 trees in the South Lawrence West neighborhood, as well as 50+ trees at Campagnone North Common that has lost trees to deterioration and age.

New England Botanic Garden – Outreach to residents and businesses in several EJ neighborhoods in Worcester to plant 100 trees on residential/commercial properties.

Grant Timeline

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, February 23 at 3:00pm

Submit PDF application via email – do not exceed 20 MB

- **March:** EEA & DCR conduct application review.
- **April/May:** Awards announced.
- **July 1, 2023:** Intended contract effective date
- **Fall, 2023 & Spring, 2024:** Projects executed

DCR Forester will meet with project manager to inspect trees and confirm plantings are acceptable.

- **June 30, 2024:** Deadline for grant reimbursement requests and final project report.

Contact Information

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<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/greening-the-gateway-cities-program>