



FY23

IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Information Session, April 19, 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

- Program seeks to accelerate urban tree planting in Gateway Cities to bring the benefits of the GGCP to more residents.
- Soliciting proposals from Gateway Cities and qualified non-profits working in Gateway Cities for tree planting work. This can include tree planting outside DCR planting zones.
- Grantees receive reimbursement for eligible tree planting expenses.
- Seeks projects with a measurable impact to future canopy in residential neighborhoods; we anticipate funding projects with costs between \$20,000-\$100,000.

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 of urban canopy will be advanced.
 - Purchase of trees 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)

Eligible Project Costs, Continued

- Plantings must follow “**right tree, right place**” principles
 - Tree species (or cultivars) prohibited for purchase in MA are **not** eligible
 - Restrictions on host species of emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle
 - Plantings in proximity to utility wires must reflect low-growing species
- 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)
 - Measurable 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, species and size of trees to be planted.
 - Plan should be reviewed with municipal Planning Department
 - Coordinate with DCR Forester if plan overlaps DCR Planting Zone
- Project Budget
 - Total estimated costs, itemized where possible
 - Project costs contributed in-kind or other funding matches

Additional Required Documents

- 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-profit applicants:

Letter of endorsement from the municipality

Articles of Incorporation and IRS 501(c)(3) letter

Application Evaluation

- Overall project quality (35%)
 - Achieves strategic plantings that increase tree canopy in residential areas with minimal cover
 - Reflects “right tree, right place” principles
 - Achievable timeline with strong project deliverables
 - Provides training and/or employment to community members
- Applicant capacity (25%)
 - Demonstrated capacity to carry out the project
 - Experience planting trees
 - Resources to steward newly planted trees for a minimum of 2 years

Application Evaluation, Cont'd

- Community Engagement & Support (20%)
 - Reflects input and/or participation from the neighborhoods served
 - Reflects municipal & community partner collaboration
 - Communicates project goals and benefits via diverse communication channels.
- Environmental Justice Goals (20%)
 - Staff fluent in applicable languages or reliable translational services
 - Targets EJ population areas
 - Contributes to other EJ community goals

Grant Timeline

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, June 6 at 3:00pm

Submit PDF application electronically – do not exceed 20 MB

- **June:** EEA & DCR conduct application review, schedule site visits
- **July:** Awards announced (July).
- **August/September:** Contracts executed.
- **Fall, 2022 & Spring, 2023:** Projects executed

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

- **June 30, 2023:** Deadline for grant reimbursement requests and final project report.

Final project report should indicate whether project deliverables identified in proposal were achieved

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