

News from the Green Communities Division



Important Message About Heating Oil Supply

As you have heard by now, **energy prices in the northeast are anticipated to be extremely challenging** this winter. Driven by global markets, we will see substantial impacts on the delivered fuels industry that are likely to include reduced regional refining capacity, historically low fuel inventories, and market backwardation, a situation where future prices for heating oil are lower than current prices.

Market backwardation is of particular concern as it discourages wholesalers from buying and storing fuels in anticipation that prices will decline in the coming weeks and months. This has resulted in **lower-than-normal stocks of heating oil** as we enter heating season.

While current heating oil stocks in New England are adequate, there is the potential for a more limited supply if these conditions continue and we enter a period of extended cold and high demand. Although we have confidence that those of you who rely on oil and diesel fuels are already aware of these circumstances, our office wants to just reiterate the importance of working with your fuel provider as soon as possible to make sure you **start the season with full tanks of fuel** and hopefully ensure an **adequate supply for this winter**.

And, it probably goes without saying, we strongly recommend that you do whatever you can **to reduce heating demand, particularly during periods of low occupancy (e.g. nights and weekends)**. Demand reduction will conserve energy, reduce emissions and costs, and result in delivered fuel inventories lasting longer as we move through what is expected to be a winter of high prices and tight supplies.

Technical Potential of Solar Regional Meeting

To reach the decarbonization mandates established by the Global Warming Solutions Act, the Massachusetts 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap identified that Massachusetts

needs to deploy between 25 and 35 gigawatts (GW) of solar energy by 2050. To better understand how Massachusetts can meet these targets, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has undertaken a Technical Potential of Solar Study (Study) to assess the **potential for solar development** throughout the Commonwealth.

DOER will hold a **regionally focused virtual meeting** as an opportunity for the public to engage in the ongoing Technical Potential of Solar Study. Regionally focused breakout discussions will offer attendees the chance to share unique perspectives and concerns related to solar siting from different geographic regions of the Commonwealth. The meeting will be held on **November 15 from 12-2 PM**; [Register here](#) to attend.

Bentley University Seeks Municipal Partners

Bentley University is seeking municipalities for a pilot program working with student teams to complete a greenhouse gas inventory. Bentley students will use MAPC's Greenhouse Gas Inventory tool to build an **community-wide GHG inventory for participating communities** during the spring 2023 semester. Partner municipalities will meet with student teams 2-3 times throughout the semester to provide data and feedback on student work. Time permitting, students may also generate additional materials for climate action planning or implementation.

Please contact [Dr. Zana Cranmer](#) for more information and to express your interest.

Call for Letters of Interest to Participate in the Thriving Communities Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) invites Letters of Interest (LOIs) from eligible organizations seeking technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support through the new **Thriving Communities Program**. LOIs must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM EST on **December 6, 2022**, through a fillable web-based form available on DOT's [Thriving Communities Program page](#).

The Thriving Communities Program (TCP) is designed to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to advance a pipeline of transportation and community revitalization activities that **increase mobility, reduce**

pollution from transportation sources, expand affordable transportation and housing options, improve health outcomes, facilitate efficient land use, preserve or expand jobs, and enhance connections to health care, education, and food security to benefit disadvantaged populations and communities. The TCP will also support and build local capacity to improve project acceleration, access to and management of Federal funding, and deployment of local hiring, workforce development and inclusive community engagement practices.

green.communities@mass.gov