

News from the Green Communities Division



Important Dates and Deadlines

Fall is right around the corner, and with the start of the school year and the advent of cooler weather comes Green Communities deadlines. Please note the following dates:

- **September 2:** Final grant reports due showing project completion and funds expended to be eligible for the [Fall Competitive Grant Block](#)
- **September 30:** Designation applications due for municipalities seeking [Green Communities Designation](#)
- **October 3 – 7:** Applications from eligible communities are accepted for the [Fall Competitive Grant Block](#)
- **November 4:** FY22 Green Communities [Annual Reports](#) due

Reach out to your Green Communities [Regional Coordinator](#) for assistance.

About those Annual Reports...

Green Communities must submit an Annual Report to demonstrate they continue to meet the Five Designation Criteria and to remain eligible for program grants. **Late or non-submittal of Annual Reports disqualifies a municipality from participating in the following year's Competitive Grants.** The annual report also includes updates on how the community is progressing toward its 20% energy reduction goal. Green Communities can prepare for the annual reporting process by reviewing and updating municipal energy data in [MassEnergyInsight](#) (MEI). Green Communities should review that all gas and electric utility data in MEI have been properly assigned to its buildings and facilities. Any delivered fuels (e.g. oil, propane, gasoline, and diesel) need to be added to the community's account by the user – it is recommended that this be done quarterly. Communities can confirm data has been added to the accounts by reviewing the “Data Loaded” report in MEI. Please note that manually entered delivered fuels can take up to 24 hours to appear in your account.

The MassEnergyInsight support team will hold Annual Report Office Hours **11 am - noon, Tuesday, September 13th** to address data issues and questions. Please [register here](#) for Office Hours.

Leading By Example Awards

The nomination period for the annual **Leading by Example (LBE) Recognition Awards** is coming soon. Held every December, the LBE Awards are given to two state entities, two public institutes of higher education, two to municipalities, and two individual staff or volunteers (one from a state entity and one from a municipality). Last year's LBE awards recognized the **City of Greenfield**, the **Town of Acton**, and **Ed Vitone from Ashburnham** in the municipal and individual categories.

LBE Award nominations will be accepted in two phases:

Phase 1 Express Interest Form: Through **September 9th**, state entities and **municipalities may fill out an "Express Interest" form**. These forms will be reviewed by DOER staff and strong candidates will be encouraged to submit a Phase 2 Full Nomination Form.

Phase 2 Full Nomination Form: Public entities that are encouraged to apply after Phase 1, or entities that opt to skip the Express Interest Form, may complete a full nomination form. These forms are due **October 14th**.

Find more information on the LBE Awards, including the Phase 2 Nomination Form for public entities and the nomination form for the Individual Category, at www.mass.gov/lbeawards.

“Ride and Drive” Battery and Electric Landscaping Equipment

The Operational Services Division (OSD), working in conjunction with DOER's Leading By Example Team, is hosting an information session and “Ride and Drive” event from **11:15 am – 1:00 pm on Tuesday, September 13** to showcase **battery-powered landscaping equipment and electric utility vehicles** offered through the FAC116 Landscaping Equipment Statewide Contract.

The information session consists of a short series of presentations on the benefits of using battery-electric landscaping equipment, including how you can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a cleaner and safer workplace. This session will also include some personal reviews of state and municipal employees – folks can attend this section in person or remotely.

Following the presentations, buyers will have the opportunity to test available equipment, which is expected to include weedwhackers, chainsaws, and leaf blowers to ride-on mowers and 2-4 passenger utility vehicles.

Please register to attend the event in person, which will be at the MA DCR Division of Water Supply Protection offices at [180 Beaman St in West Boylston](#). A remote option is available for those that wish to attend only for the presentations; [register on Zoom here](#).

Climate Leader Communities

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our Request for Information (RFI) last month on the Climate Leaders Communities proposal. We received valuable

information and thoughtful comments and suggestions to make the program more successful.

We are revising some aspects of the program and anticipate launching the initiative this fall. If you missed the RFI and program summary, it can [viewed here](#) .and A brief Click [here](#) to view the [slides only](#).

Upcoming Webinars

The US Department of Energy's [Better Buildings Webinar Series](#) takes on the most pressing topics facing energy professionals, with new experts leading the conversations on proven best practices, cost-effective strategies, and innovative new ways to approach sustainability and energy performance. The 2022-2023 series was recently announced.

The series will kick off with:

[Strategies for Achieving Zero Energy in Multifamily Buildings](#)

Tuesday, September 13 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Learn about ASHRAE's latest Advanced Energy Design Guide for Multifamily Buildings, developed with support from DOE, which, step-by-step, assists organizations and building professionals in achieving zero energy buildings.

The following webinars will explore key opportunities for cities and towns to act on climate change through clean energy investments. To learn more about these webinars—organized in conjunction by the [Sustainable States Network \(SSN\)](#) and the [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy \(ACEEE\)](#)—and register through the links below:

[Taking Advantage of Federal Funds: Local Energy Efficiency Policies and Programs to Consider](#)

Tuesday, September 20 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

This ACEEE/SSN webinar will showcase leading energy efficiency programs from across the country that communities can learn from and replicate as they prepare to leverage new federal funding opportunities.

[ACEEE's Self-Scoring Tool: Results from the Community Energy Challenge](#)

Thursday, September 29 | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm ET

This ACEEE/SSN webinar will show communities how they can use ACEEE's latest self-scoring tool to measure their energy efficiency and clean energy progress and highlight results from the most recent cohort of SSN's Community Energy Challenge.

ICYMI - MassSave Webinars for Communities and Residents

Missed the July webinars presented by the Sponsors of Mass Save? The presentation highlighting new energy efficiency opportunities for communities and organizations to help residents connect with energy efficiency services can be found [here](#). These new programs are part of the initiatives offered by the [Massachusetts 2022-2024 Energy Efficiency Plan](#).

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