

# News from the Green Communities Division



## Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grants Available

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division is accepting applications for a new round of **Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grants**.

These grants are for independent third parties that help municipalities, regional school districts, and water/wastewater districts negotiate, develop and manage energy projects, or who perform studies to support the development of such projects. The 2022 round of META grants is available to all Massachusetts municipalities (regardless of Green Community designation status), regional school districts, and water and wastewater districts. The application deadline is **November 18**.

Please refer to the [Program Opportunity Notice](#) for information about eligible projects and other details.

## Green Communities FY 2022 Annual Reports

**Annual reports are due to DOER by November 4, 2022**

The FY 2022 Green Communities Annual Report template is available for [download here](#).

Communities should start preparing now by making sure all municipal energy data is in the community's MassEnergyInsight account. This includes making sure all gasoline and diesel consumption is added to the account, as well as checking the "Data Loaded" report in the community's account to ensure all gas and electric utility data has been properly allocated to buildings and facilities.

The MassEnergyInsight support team will hold Annual Report Office Hours **1:30 – 2:30 pm, Tuesday, October 18th** to address data issues and questions. Please [register here](#) for Office Hours.

[The webinar from 2020](#) may be helpful to those completing the report for the first time, or for a refresher on how to successfully complete the Annual Report. Please contact your [regional coordinator](#) with any questions.

## Fall Dates and Deadlines

Mark your calendars – the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has some upcoming deadlines. Please note the following dates:

- **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
- **October 14:** Leading By Example Awards Nominations due
- **November 4:** FY22 Green Communities Annual Reports due
- **November 18:** Deadline for META grant applications

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

## Mass Save Seeks Community Partners

The Sponsors of Mass Save are seeking partners in organizations and local communities to help Massachusetts families and small businesses located in Environmental Justice communities save money and energy through their programs. Community Partner Teams are eligible for up to **\$60,000 in funding annually for two years**, as well as **in-kind marketing and technical support** from Program Sponsors. Municipalities and registered non-profit organizations (or those with a fiscal agent), as well as teams of municipalities and/or registered non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

The Community First Partnership will support these partners in implementing their energy efficiency residential and small business goals to ensure that all residents have equitable access to the benefits of energy efficiency and decarbonization of energy.

Learn from 18 existing programs covering 30 municipalities that launched Community First Partnerships earlier this year by participating in an upcoming webinar scheduled for **Thursday, September 22, 10:00 am - 11:30 am** and **Monday, October 3, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**.

Applications for the Community First Partnership will be available shortly. To receive a notice when applications become available, **sign up for updates here**.

A priority application deadline has been set at **5pm on October 24, 2022**.

## Mass Save Offers “Stakeholder Hour”

The Mass Save Three Year Energy Efficiency Plans were updated earlier this year and include ambitious energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals, as well as incentive programs to encourage residents, businesses, municipalities and school districts to upgrade their buildings and facilities.

The Sponsors of Mass Save are hosting a virtual stakeholder hour at **12:00 pm on October 11, 2022**. The Sponsors, led by the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Working Group, will **answer questions about the 2022 efficiency incentive program** (municipal and school accounts are part of the C&I program).

To register for the stakeholder hour and submit your question in advance, **please click here**.

## Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) Offers Electrification Webinar

NEEP is hosting another installment in its Ready, Set, Scale webinar series next week. On **September 27<sup>th</sup> from 11 am-12 pm**, they will host a conversation on **Community**

**Approaches to Electrification** with Dom Lempereur, Chief of Engineering at [BlocPower](#), and Gabe Shapiro, Co-Founder & Co-Executive Director of Partnerships at [All In Energy](#). This webinar will examine the spectrum of community-led policies and plans – from voluntary programs to mandatory requirements – that communities can implement to educate building owners, streamline access to financial resources, and address other critical needs for electrification. Experts will highlight exemplary initiatives and engage in dialogue about expanding these types of programs across the region in this audience driven conversation.

Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

## MAPC Offers Climate Resiliency Grants

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is offering another round of **Accelerating Climate Resilience Grants** to help municipalities advance strategies that protect people, places, and communities from the impacts of climate change.

They are offering **one- and two-year grants** for technical assistance, programs, capacity building, and capital improvement/construction projects. [The 101 cities and towns in the MAPC region](#) are eligible to apply. Multi-municipal collaboration and partnerships with non-profits and community-based organizations are strongly encouraged.

Applications are due **October 14**.

## Toot Your Horn or Honor a Team Member – Submit a Nomination for 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 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.

Find more information on the LBE Awards, including the Nomination Form for public entities and the nomination form for the Individual Category, at [www.mass.gov/lbeawards](http://www.mass.gov/lbeawards).

## Electric School Bus Assistance Available

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), under the Accelerating Clean Transportation School Bus Program (“ACT School Bus”), recently released the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the Electric School Bus Deployment Program and the Electric School Bus Advisory Services Program.

**For the Deployment Program: MassCEC is specifically seeking applications from school districts as a sole applicant and/or school districts partnered with third-party**

**school bus fleet operators.** MassCEC anticipates selecting three school districts to receive **funding and technical assistance** for electric school bus fleet implementation projects under this Program. For more information, please view the [Electric School Bus Fleet Deployment RFP](#). **The deadline for this RFP is 4 pm, Monday, October 17.**

For the **Advisory Services Program:** MassCEC is offering **free technical assistance and planning services** for an additional twenty to thirty bus fleets that serve public school districts. For more information on the Advisory Program, please see the Summary Section of this RFP. Those interested in participating in the Advisory Program, please fill out the [Electric School Bus Advisory Program Interest Form](#). **School districts and bus fleets are welcome to apply for both Programs but will not be selected for both.** MassCEC anticipates that the Advisory Program will begin formal enrollment on a rolling basis for fleets in Fall 2022. If you have any questions, contact the team at [CleanTransportation@MassCEC.com](mailto:CleanTransportation@MassCEC.com).

## Input Sought on Solar Siting

DOER is seeking feedback on how to **determine the best locations for future solar projects.** Solar energy will play an important role in achieving our state's clean energy goals, including those established in the [Clean Energy and Climate Plan](#) and the [2050 Decarbonization Roadmap](#).

There are approximately 3,000-4,000 megawatts of solar in Massachusetts today, and it is estimated that an additional 25,000 to 35,000 megawatts will need to be developed to meet Massachusetts' 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap targets. This translates to roughly 32,000 to 44,000 city blocks or 160,000 to 221,000 acres (for scale, MA has 5 million acres of land).

As DOER considers ways to meet Massachusetts' solar needs, we are interested in hearing from residents about their **preferred types of solar development and land use priorities.** Your feedback will help inform policy makers on what types of solar energy Massachusetts' residents are supportive of so that solar policy can be developed to reflect stakeholder priorities, resulting in a robust solar energy landscape supported by all. Please complete the [brief survey](#) on the DOER website and share with your community's stakeholders

[green.communities@mass.gov](mailto:green.communities@mass.gov)