**Green Communities Summit 2024**

Meeting Address: Devens Commons Center 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens, MA 01434

**9:00 – 9:30:** **Arrival and Check In**

Meeting Location: *Grand Ballroom, coffee and baked goods*

Get settled, greet old friends and colleagues and meet new ones

**9:30** **Welcome** –

We kick off our first summit with an official welcome from DOER Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony and Green Communities Director Joanne Bissetta. Thank the planning committee, review the day’s agenda, logistics, etc. introductions.

**9:45: Plenary: Tools Your City and Town can Use**

Municipalities often lead in ideas and initiatives, but sometimes lack the capacity to develop and execute projects. Learn about these two resources that can assist with taking your community’s clean energy and climate projects to the next level.

**Clean Energy and Environmental Legacy Transition (CELT) Initiative**

Presenters: *Ruari O’Mahony, Director Rist Institute of Sustainability and Energy University of Massachusetts – Lowell: Emily Ryan, Associate Director of the Institute for Global Sustainability (IGS) at Boston University.*

Ruari O’Mahony and Emily Ryan will provide a high-level overview of the CELT initiative, which includes a collaboration with Boston University’s Institute for Global Sustainability to advance state and municipal initiatives on equitable decarbonization through data-driven decision support, as well as placing graduate clean energy fellows in under-resourced municipalities.

**Using the Federal Funds Infrastructure Office to Unlock Federal Dollars**

Presenter: *Bob LaRocca, Deputy Director the Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office (FFIO)*

Bob LaRocca will provide an overview of the recently enacted *Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund* (aka “Match Fund”) that includes up to $12 million for technical assistance and $50 million for financing assistance for municipalities and tribes. He will also discuss ways in which FFIO can assist with accessing tax credits available to municipalities for the first time through the Inflation Reduction Act.

**10:45: Break**

**11:00-12:15** **Concurrent Break-out Session #1**

Choose one break-out session to attend

1. **Building Decarbonization – Lessons Learned**

**Location: Salon A**

**Moderator: *Martha Grover, MA EEA Policy Advisor for Building Decarbonization***

1. **Zero Over Time at the Morse Institute Library** – Jillian Wilson Martin, Sustainability Director, Town of Natick
2. **From the Ground-Up – Designing and Building a New School with Geothermal Heating** – Max Kasper, Facilities Director for the Town of Swampscott/Swampscott Public Schools
3. **Warwick Community School – an Incremental Approach to Decarbonization** - Janice Kurkoski, Chair, Warwick Buildings & Energy Committee
4. **Building Codes and Sustainable Zoning: Latest Updates and Tips on Successful Adoption and Implementation**

**Location: Salon B**

**Moderator: *Dillan Patel, Northeast Regional Green Communities Coordinator***

Attendees will learn about the current tiers of building codes, proposed code changes under consideration, and other means to promote sustainable development in their communities; why and how to educate local decision-makers and development community about adopting more stringent codes and guidelines

1. **Hot Off the Press – Regulatory Changes Proposed for Stretch Code** – DOER Codes Team
2. **Getting to Yes: Strategies for Successful Adoption** – Julie Gagen, Weston Sustainability Manager
3. **Using Building Codes, Zoning, Incentives, and Guidelines to Foster Sustainable Development** – Neil Angus, Director & Land Use Director Administrator, Devens Enterprise Commission

1. **Engaging with Your School Community**

**Location: Executive Club A & B**

**Moderator: *Joyce Losick-Yang, Town of Andover***

Youth make up more than 20% of the Massachusetts population. Attendees will learn from the panelists about how innovations in sustainability, education and youth engagement intersect- from electric school buses, to an environmental course that pairs youth and community mentors, and new paradigms for how students work across community boundaries to join forces on climate solutions

1. **Getting to School: Everything You Need to Know About Electrifying School Bus Fleets –** Erina Keefe, City of Beverly
2. **During the School Day: Pairing Youth and Community Mentors to Practice Environmental Sustainability -** Melanie Cutler, Andover High School
3. **After the School Day and into School Committees: How Youths Are Breaking Boundaries and Shaping Climate Resilient Schools -**Sara Karp, Acton Boxborough Regional High School and Mass Audubon

**12:30** **LUNCH – Grand Ballroom**

**1:15** **Recognition of Municipalities that Reached 20% Energy Reduction**

**1:40** **Celebration of Seven New Green Communities**

**2:15** **Keynote: Climate Leader Community Grant Launch**

**2:30** **BREAK and photo op**

**2:45 – 4:00PM** **Concurrent Break-out Session #2**

Choose one break-out session to attend

1. **Municipal Fleet Electrification**

**Location: Salon A**

**Moderator: *Zach Jenkins, DOER Clean Cities Coalition Program Director***

1. **Electrifying Fleets in Municipal Light Plant Communities:** Katelyn Leah, Manager, Transportation Electrification, Energy New England
2. **How National Grid is Supporting the Transition to Clean Transportation:** Hugh Reece, Senior Project Manager, National Grid Fleet EV Program
3. **Implementing Cambridge’s Clean Fleet Policy –** Irina Sidorenko, Project Manager for Energy and Sustainability, Cambridge DPW
4. **Acton: How to Move Towards a More Efficient Fleet** – Andrea Becerra, Sustainability Director, Town of Acton
5. **Small-Town Roundtable – Doing a Lot with a Little**

**Location: Executive Club A & B**

**Moderator: *Allison Gage, Senior Land Use and Natural Resource Planner, Franklin County Regional Council of Governments***

1. **Small Town Strategies for Climate Action** **–** Mary Quigley, Ashfield Energy Committee
2. **Stow: A Small Town’s Green Journey -** Arnie Epstein, Town of Stow
3. **Efficiency First: Municipal Building Decarbonization Support –** Amanda Formica,Municipal Energy Efficiency and Climate Action Planning,National Grid
4. **Running Successful Community Outreach Programs**

**Location: Salon B**

**Moderator: *Oleander Stone, MA EEA Deputy Director of Climate Equity and Environmental Justice***

Attendees will learn about different strategies deployed in several community clean energy campaigns and how to measure success. Speakers will discuss funding available to support such campaigns, recruiting and training community members, and leveraging support from community groups.

1. **Weatherize Middleborough –** Kimberly French, Sustainable Middleborough Chair
2. **Solar Para Todos** – **Reaching Difficult to Reach Populations** – Nathan Scott, and Fabiane Goncalves, MassEnergize
3. **Spreading the Word in the Berkshires on Residential Efficiency and Heat Pumps** – Sherdyl Fernandez-Aubert, Planner, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission