



17th Annual Leading by Example Awards December 4th, 2023

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance



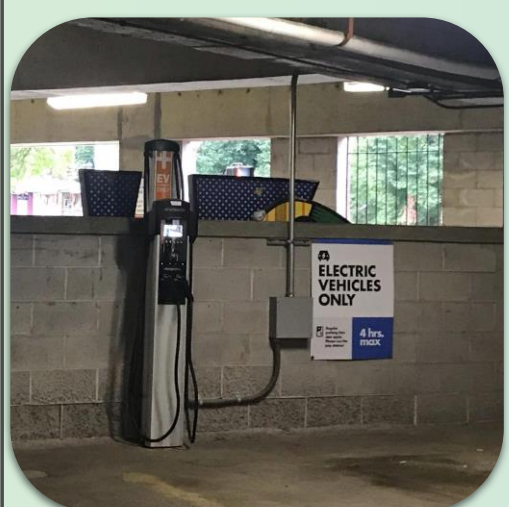
Recognizing outstanding decarbonization, clean energy and environmental efforts among agencies, public higher education institutions, municipalities, and individuals in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

City of Lowell

The City of Lowell was designated one of 35 inaugural Green Communities in 2010 and has maintained its position as a leader in clean energy and sustainability since. The City has reduced greenhouse gas emissions from city operations by 45% and energy use by 17% from 2010. In recent years, the City has led by example through its deployment of publicly-accessible EV charging stations, construction of highly efficient buildings, and completion of extensive energy projects to make existing buildings 'decarbonization-ready.' Coupled with strategic partnerships with community-based organizations, the City is working to ensure the benefits of the clean energy transition reach the diverse population of the City.



Lowell Accomplishments



Since 2019, Lowell has installed 66 municipally-owned EV charging ports across the city for both public and municipal fleet use. The city is building on this momentum and launching a public engagement strategy to allow residents to inform future EV charging deployment.



The City has 935kW of behind-the-meter solar PV and is working to more than double this number in the next year. A study completed in 2023 identified 4.6 MW of solar potential across 14 City properties, 1.7 MW of which is on solar-ready roof structures. The City has secured SMART blocks and filed interconnection agreements for these sites.



Lowell worked with National Grid to complete efficiency projects across the city with the goal to reduce electricity use by over 1.3 million kWh and natural gas use by 60,000 therms over three years. The City achieved these targets within 1.5 years. Lowell is now working with National Grid to host the first networked geothermal system in the utility's territory.



In 2022, with support from MassCEC and Mass Save, Lowell created a new Energy Advocate position that provides residents with services to ensure they understand their energy bills, learn about strategies to reduce energy costs, and can access programs that reduce their energy burden.