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August 1, 2019

Sean R. Cronin  
Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services  
Division of Local Services  
PO Box 9569  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Cronin:

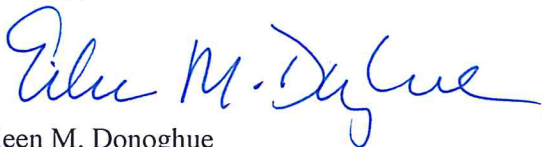
Per your request, Lowell is sending an update on implementing the Best Practice of Maximizing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Opportunities. A summary of major projects Lowell has implemented since we signed our Community Compact agreement on March 31, 2016 are found below:

- Community Compact Funding
  - Lowell received a \$30,000 grant to procure a data management/analytics platform to help document energy use reduction goals. We used this grant to competitively procure a software-as-a-service system that allows for viewing, tracking, and analyzing energy data taken directly from utility bills. The City signed a contract with Ameresco in November 2016 to achieve this goal. The system allows for visualization and comparison of energy-related use and cost data which is being utilized in multiple applications.
- Energy Efficiency
  - By June 2017, the Parking Department completed LED retrofits at all of its major garage facilities. Over the past two years, this has resulted in savings of 825,000kWh and almost \$123,000.
  - As part of the FY 18 Capital Plan, the City of Lowell committed to retrofitting over 6000 streetlights and decorative lights throughout the City. The retrofit began in December 2017 and is 98% complete. Once completed, the project is anticipated to save the City 2.3 million kWh and \$390,000 annually. For our metered accounts, energy savings of 70-80% are already being realized.
  - In July 2018, the City received a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to implement wireless thermostats and interior LED lighting at 5 schools. These projects are anticipated to be complete by February 2019 and are projected to result in savings of 96,902 kWh, 7636 therms, and \$24,000 annually.
  - In May 2019, through a pilot program with National Grid, Lowell installed 16 new electric vehicle charging stations, with 32 charging ports. Most of these are publicly accessible and located in Environmental Justice communities.

- Renewable Energy
  - On August 22, 2017, the City Council unanimously passed a non-binding resolution to go on record supporting a goal of using 100% clean and renewable energy in Lowell by 2035. This resolution included specific concrete steps the City is exploring to reduce fossil fuel usage and promote renewable energy.
  - In January 2018, Lowell was designated as a Gold level SolSmart community (<http://www.solsmart.org/our-communities/designee-map/> ). This designation recognized the City for its commitment to making it faster, cheaper and easier to go solar. As part of the designation process, the consultant working with the City helped identify additional facilities that might be feasible for solar energy production. In the next quarter, the City plans to release a Request For Proposals to further evaluate and potentially develop these sites.
  - In July 2018, the City, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and DOER, launched the Solarize Mass Plus campaign to help increase adoption of solar energy and air source heat pumps through discounted pricing (<https://solarindustrymag.com/city-of-lowell-joins-massachusetts-solarize-mass-plus-program/> ).
  - In October 2018, the City received a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance grant from DOER to study the feasibility of integrating energy storage at the Stoklosa Middle School.
  - In July 2019, Lowell City Council voted to purchase 45% additional Renewable Energy Certificates for our community choice aggregation plan. This commitment will not only encourage development of renewable energy in the Commonwealth, but should save the average customer money compared to the aggregation's existing supply rate.

These are some of our high level achievements for implementing our Best Practice commitment of Maximizing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Opportunities. If you would like any additional information on specific items, please let me know. Lowell appreciates the support provided through the Best Practices program.

Sincerely,



Eileen M. Donoghue  
City Manager