



## Massachusetts Clean Cities Coalition Update

July 8, 2022

Dear Massachusetts Clean Cities Stakeholders,  
We at the MA Clean Cities (MACC) and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) hope you all are staying healthy and safe during these challenging times. We have some important information to share with you that we hope will be of interest.

### **Newsletter Highlights:**

- EPA Clean School Bus Rebate **Now Available**
- MassDEP DERA Grants **Now Available**
- ACT School Bus
- Massachusetts Fleet Electrification Advisory Service
- Mass Save Webinar
- Mass Save Grants **Now Available**
- Weigh in on FERC Transmission NOPR
- Stakeholder Resources: National and local funding opportunities are available and aimed at reducing Green House Gas (GHG), accelerating Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption, and Environmental Justice

We hope you have a great start to your weekend!

## News & Updates

### **EPA Clean School Bus Rebate (How to Apply W/ Live Q&A) Webinar**

*Date and Time:*  
**Wednesday, July 27, 1:00 PM ET**  
[Register Here](#)

The [program guidance and a list of eligible/prioritized applicants are now](#) posted on the Clean School Bus Program website. Once you have completed the recommended steps to prepare, please begin filling out your [rebate application](#).

Authorized by the recently signed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA's Clean School Bus Program provides \$5 billion over the next five years to replace school buses with low- and zero-emission school buses. The first funding opportunity under this program will be the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates. EPA will offer \$500 million for zero-emission and clean school bus rebates.

[Sign up](#) for the webinar to learn:

- Who is eligible?
- What school districts are prioritized?
- What is the selection process?
- Which school buses are eligible for rebates?

Every applicant organization must have an active System for Award Management (SAM) entity registration. An entity registration is different from an individual user account on [SAM.gov](#). Please check to ensure your organization is registered in [SAM.gov](#) and that the registration has not expired. Note: Only Electronic Business (and alternates) and Government Business (and alternates) Points of Contacts (POC) listed under an active [SAM.gov](#) entity registration will be able to create, edit, save, and submit online Clean School Bus Rebate applications.

We encourage stakeholders to sign-up for the [Clean School Bus News newsletter](#) to stay up to date on program efforts.

## **Mass DEP Offers Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grants**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is issuing a [grant opportunity for diesel emissions reduction projects](#) under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program.

MassDEP's implementation of **this program is designed to accelerate the retirement of less efficient and more polluting vehicles, engines, and equipment, and replace them with zero-emission vehicles and equipment.** Diesel emissions can result in serious health conditions like asthma and respiratory illnesses and exacerbate global climate change, and often disproportionately affect environmental justice communities that already are impacted by environmental hazards. Replacement with fully electric vehicles and equipment will maximize emissions reductions and will best help the State reach its climate action goals.

**The application deadline is August 24, 2022**

Please email [cayla.paulding@mass.gov](mailto:cayla.paulding@mass.gov) if you need assistance. [Subscribe here](#) to be placed on a mailing list for future funding opportunities.

**ACT School Bus**

[MassCEC](#) is developing a complementary electric school bus funding program, [Accelerating Clean Transportation \(ACT\) School Bus](#). The program will offer electrification planning services to school districts and deploy electric school buses as demonstration projects across major fleet operational models. We are currently seeking stakeholder input to make the program as accessible and effective as possible. Please see the funding [Notice of Intent](#) for more detail and reach out to [cleantransportation@masscec.com](mailto:cleantransportation@masscec.com) with any comments or questions.

## Massachusetts Fleet Electrification Advisory Services

[Mass Fleet Advisor \(MFA\)](#), which offers electrification advisory services to qualified truck fleets. MFA offers free-of-charge support to help fleets big and small plan for a clean and cost-effective future with zero-emission trucks.

Launched by the [Massachusetts Clean Energy Center \(MassCEC\)](#), the Program offers personalized guidance to fleets looking to electrify their vehicles. Up to 65 participating fleets will receive the following benefits:

- Cost savings and emission savings modeling.
- Guidance on data collection to evaluate the best options for your fleet.
- A virtual site assessment to help you understand your infrastructure needs.
- A personalized Fleet Electrification Report that summarizes vehicle options, projected costs, site infrastructure and support needs, and recommendations for next steps.

Mass Fleet Advisor will work with you to better understand how electric trucks can benefit and fit into your fleet operations, as well as plan concrete steps to make it a reality. The number of fleets that can participate is limited, so we encourage you to [apply soon](#).

Please visit the [Mass Fleet Advisor website](#) to learn more about the program and to take advantage of additional educational [resources](#) on zero-emission trucks. Reach out to [MACC](#) or [massfleetadvisor@calstart.org](mailto:massfleetadvisor@calstart.org) with any comments or questions.

## Mass Save Webinars for Communities and Residents

Saving money on energy is a growing priority for all Massachusetts communities. The Sponsors of Mass Save are working to enhance access to and knowledge of energy efficiency products and services and are offering two webinars to share updates on the [Massachusetts 2022-2024 Energy Efficiency Plan](#). The 90-minute webinar will highlight new energy efficiency opportunities for communities and organizations to help residents connect with energy efficiency services.

**Click on the date to register for a webinar, which will be held 11:30 am – 1:00 pm on [Thursday, July 14](#); and 6:00 – 7:30 pm on [Tuesday, July 19](#).**

## MassSave Offers Community Education Grant

Through the new [MassSave Community Education Grant](#), the Sponsors of Mass Save are supporting Environmental Justice Communities to bring energy efficiency education programs to their residents.

Grant funding and support to increase awareness and access to the energy efficiency programs, as well as engage with community-based organizations to promote energy efficiency-focused educational and culturally relevant opportunities.

The Sponsors of Mass Save are prioritizing increased engagement with local communities through energy efficiency education and literacy to help equitably reduce the energy burden and carbon footprint across Massachusetts Environmental Justice Communities.

Interested applicants are encouraged to attend an informational webinar to learn more.

[Register here](#) for the 6 pm July 13 webinar, and [register here](#) for the 10 am July 14 webinar.

## Weigh in on FERC Transmission NOPR

There is an opportunity for state organizations to provide comments on a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission NOPR (notice of proposed rulemaking) related to regional transmission planning and cost allocation.

**FERC's summary of the proposal from the [complete document on its website](#):** "The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) proposes to reform both the pro forma Open Access Transmission Tariff and the pro forma Large Generator Interconnection Agreement to remedy deficiencies in the Commission's existing regional transmission planning and cost allocation requirements. Specifically, the proposal would require public utility transmission providers to; conduct long-term regional transmission planning on a sufficiently forward-looking basis to meet transmission needs driven by changes in the resource mix and demand; more fully consider dynamic line ratings and advanced power flow control devices in regional transmission planning processes; seek the agreement of relevant state entities within the transmission planning region regarding the cost allocation method or methods that will apply to transmission facilities selected in the regional transmission plan for purposes of cost allocation through long-term regional transmission planning; adopt enhanced transparency requirements for local transmission planning processes and improve coordination between regional and local transmission planning with the aim of identifying potential opportunities to "right-size" replacement transmission facilities; and revise their existing interregional transmission coordination procedures to reflect the long-term regional transmission planning reforms proposed in this NOPR. In addition, the proposal would not permit public utility transmission providers to take advantage of the construction-work-in-progress incentive for regional transmission facilities selected for purposes of cost allocation through long-term regional transmission planning and would permit the exercise of federal rights of first refusal for transmission facilities selected in a regional transmission plan for purposes of cost allocation, conditioned on the incumbent transmission provider with the federal right of first refusal for such regional transmission facilities establishing joint ownership of the transmission facilities."

**Why Your Organization Might Want to File Comments:** NARUC and public utility commissions in many states will almost certainly file comments. But, it is good for FERC

to see that state energy policymaking agencies and program administrators are paying attention to FERC's activities. It is also good for FERC to hear that those state agencies want FERC to consider the views of state policymakers and to implement rules that make it possible for states to achieve their clean energy goals.

**Timing of Comments:** Comments were initially going to be due on July 18th, but FERC extended the comment period to **August 18th**.

**How to File Comments:** Comments can be [filed online](#). Your organization will need to register online if it has not previously registered.

## Resources

### Available Funding Opportunities

#### National Funding:

**U.S. Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), etc.**

You can find EERE, DOE, EPA, and other Federal funding opportunities on the [EERE Exchange](#), [Fedconnect.net](#), or [GRANTS.gov](#) websites. Carefully review each FOA's eligibility section to determine if you can apply. Eligible applicants include educational institutions, non-profits, for-profit businesses, and research organizations.

#### U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean School Bus Program

The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#) provides **\$5 billion over five years nationally for the replacement of existing school buses with low and zero-emission school buses**. With this school bus program, EPA has an exciting opportunity to make significant investments in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities. EPA expects to release details on the specifics of the program over the coming weeks. In the meantime, **we want to focus on making sure that communities are aware that this funding opportunity is coming later this spring** and let them know what they should be doing now to prepare.

**The rebate program is now open.**

A [fact sheet](#) and [presentation slides](#) with an overview of the BIL Clean School Bus program can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus>.

#### State Funding:

**DOER Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles (MOREV) & MOREV Trucks Program**

**The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is offering rebates of up to \$2,500 for the purchase or lease of battery electric vehicles and fuel-cell electric**

vehicles and up to \$1,500 for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles with a sales price, of not more than \$50,000.

**For more information, and to apply for a rebate, please visit the program website at [www.MOR-EV.org](http://www.MOR-EV.org)**

**The MOR-EV Trucks Program aims** to provide air pollution emission reductions for the Commonwealth by increasing the use of electric trucks (incl. buses, vans, etc.) through the offering of rebates to purchasers who register their medium duty/heavy duty on-road vehicles in the Commonwealth.

Purchases or leases of battery-electric and fuel-cell electric vehicles with a sales price of more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) and having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 8,500 pounds made on or after February 16, 2021, are eligible for a rebate in the MOR-EV Trucks Program. Parties can apply for a rebate following purchase and registration of the medium/heavy-duty vehicle(s) in Massachusetts. The amount of the rebates under the MOR-EV Trucks Program is determined by the vehicle GVWR and applicable Block that the purchaser qualifies for under the program.

**For more information, and to apply for a rebate, please visit the [program website](#).**

### **MassEVIP Fleets Incentives**

MassEVIP Fleets is a MassDEP rolling grant program aimed at making EVs more widely available across Massachusetts. The program provides incentives for public entities to buy or lease EVs. Maximum funding amounts depend on vehicle type and means of acquisition. Learn more about MassEVIP [here](#).

**MassDEP accepts applications on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funding is spent. APPLY ONLINE: [MassEVIP Fleets Incentives](#).**

### **MassEVIP Multi-Unit Dwelling & Educational Campus Charging Incentives**

MassEVIP Multi-Unit Dwelling (MUD) & Educational Campus Charging is one of several MassDEP rolling grant programs aimed at making electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging stations more widely available across Massachusetts.

The Multi-Unit Dwelling & Educational Campus Charging Program provides incentives for property owners or managers to acquire and install Level 1 and Level 2 EV charging stations. Multi-unit dwellings with five or more residential units and educational campuses with at least 15 students on-site are eligible. MassDEP funds up to 60 percent of the hardware and installation costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per street address.

**MassDEP accepts applications on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funding is spent. APPLY ONLINE: [MassEVIP MUD & Educational Campus Charging Incentives](#).**

### **MassEVIP Public Access Charging Incentives**

MassEVIP Public Access Charging is one of several MassDEP rolling grant programs aimed at making electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging stations more widely available across Massachusetts.

The MassEVIP Public Access Charging Program provides incentives for property owners or managers with publicly accessible parking to acquire and install Level 1 and Level 2

EV charging stations. Non-residential locations with publicly accessible parking are eligible.

- Government-owned locations: MassDEP funds up to 100 percent of the hardware and installation costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per street address.
- All other locations: The agency funds up to 80 percent of the hardware and installation costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per street address.

**MassDEP accepts applications on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funding is spent. APPLY ONLINE: [MassEVIP Public Access Charging Incentives](#).**

### **MassEVIP Workplace & Fleet Charging Incentives**

MassEVIP Workplace & Fleet Charging is one of several MassDEP rolling grant programs aimed at making electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging stations more widely available across Massachusetts.

The Workplace & Fleet Charging Program provides incentives for employers and fleet operators to acquire and install Level 1 and Level 2 EV charging stations. Applicants with 15 or more employees in non-residential places of business are eligible.

MassDEP provides up to 60 percent of the funding to a maximum of \$50,000 per street address for hardware and installation costs.

**MassDEP accepts applications on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funding is spent. APPLY ONLINE: [MassEVIP Workplace & Fleet Charging Incentives](#).**

### **MassDEP DERA Grant Opportunities**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is accepting applications for approximately \$1.88 million in funding for projects that will reduce diesel emissions from vehicles and equipment across the state.

MassDEP is committed to advancing equity, diversity, and environmental justice (EJ) through its public investments. The agency seeks to prioritize the direction of these resources to benefit EJ communities and address environmental inequities. To that end, MassDEP grant and funding programs include criteria and evaluation parameters that emphasize equity, diversity, and environmental justice, consistent with each program's statutory authority and source of funding.

**[Click Here](#) to learn how to apply**

**[Click Here](#) to apply online**

**MassDEP will accept applications for these competitive awards through August 24, 2022.**

### **Leading By Example Grant Opportunities**

In support of aggressive clean energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Leading by Example Program (LBE) provides grant funding to state entities through various grant programs targeting a host of clean energy technologies. Funding for these programs is from the Alternative Compliance

Payments from the state's Renewable and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard programs administered by DOER.

**You can view available Grants and information on how to [Apply Here](#).**

### **Mass Save Rebates and Incentives**

Mass Save rebates and incentives may be available to help you save energy. You can put money in your pocket by reducing your monthly energy costs. Mass Save offers a full lineup of rebates, incentives, and special offers to help you become more energy-efficient and save money.

Mass Save rebates and incentives may be available to homeowners, renters, and landlords. Being more energy efficient will pay off with lower energy costs and improved home comfort.

**Check out their residential offerings and how to apply: [Mass Save Residential Rebates & Incentives](#)**

**Check out their Business offerings and how to apply: [Mass Save Business Rebates & Incentives](#)**

[Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources](#)

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Visit the Clean Cities website to [contact us](#).