

MVRF Advisory Committee - Notes
Meeting date: 1/27/2022

Attendees: ETD Chief Nate Forster, DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, Patrick Lawlor (North Andover), Laurie Burzlaff (Andover), Evelyn Friedman, Evan Silverio, Abel Vargas, Susan Almono, Tennis Lilly.

- An Advisory Committee member mentioned that houses of worship have always had a super hard time taking advantage of Mass Save program, and we have to go back and check and see what the reasons for that are. The houses of worship have very unique profiles or energy use, because a lot of times their sanctuary is used only on Sundays, but they have other buildings
- There had been organizations that advocate or a membership organizations like Massachusetts interfaith Power and Light that were working on that issue with Mass save. So, we're going to have one sort of administration that's for low and moderate income and then we're going to have another kind of Administrator for Small Business Grant Program. We will have three kinds of administrators, we're going to have outreach, low and moderate and small business.
- We might do a separate RFP and doing a lot of outreaches to get partners on board because we think what we don't want is to do it as one and have kind of a lead vendor come in but not have a lot of community local organizations they're partnering with. So instead of relying on a vendor necessarily to do that, do a little bit more like matchmaking and then selecting the organizations that we can pay directly to work on the program.
- Outreach is kind of one thing within helping navigate taking advantage of the system is also a really big issue. So, it's one thing to recruit and bring in and help people in the community or small businesses understand what the program is, but then the whole process of taking advantage of it.
- We agreed that there are three pieces that need to be accomplished to help people take advantage of the programs. There's the administrator to process, the rebates and manage the back end. There are the outreach partners who are helping to get people into the program. And then there's facilitator concierge services that help the customer actually navigate.
- The challenges with mass Save and the program is that is not inclusive of houses of worship, like it works for a small business but probably doesn't work for the way they are the way they're doing. Like the way that they fund projects would be like there's just other barriers.
- As a reminder, we have a pot of money set aside for municipalities to actually do work within their own buildings, and we've been talking with Andover, North Andover for last couple months about ideas they have in directions they want to take with that money. We don't feel that we need an RFP for this. The towns and cities themselves will have to abide by procurement laws, but we're just doing this slightly differently than the other programs that we've already talked about. We don't need a program opportunity notice or an RFP.
- North Andover have been talking about how to best deliver the grant monies to the town and we're going to start with an evaluation and a survey of the 10

buildings to determine what is the most practical, what are the most successful programs there. They are doing some master planning within town that this will fit in nicely with. We are we're going to be funding likely a study for the town to proceed in doing that technical evaluation of their town buildings.

- About the city of Lawrence, obviously there's the new administration. We've done some outreach to try and generate some excitement from them. And we're hoping to have some conversations with Mayor Pena's office soon to hear what his thoughts are. He's had a lot to do since he was sworn in November.
- We are letting Mayor Pena to settle in and decide some of his clean energy priorities. We're really excited to help the city do some planning and spending as well. So those are just some of the things where we're headed.
- If anybody has any ideas for Lawrence and wants to throw them our way, we're happy to take them to the city. But hopefully we'll have some updates for you and can report back on some discussions and our next meeting.
- There's a big debate right now in California about their compensation for solar, and the cost effectiveness, which really goes to the point of interacting with the compensation that homeowner gets with solar policies. There is a net zero building code that is before the Department of Energy Resources to be issued by the end of this year. Solar is one aspect that we're reviewing that should be considered within that building code.
- Mayor de Pena also was asked about his opinions and his programs and how he would help advance the Fund. We had a meeting with them a month ago, but about all kinds of things, so we're in pretty close contact with him. We'd be happy to introduce him to the team.