

# News from the Green Communities Division



## Important Dates and Deadlines

Fall is right around the corner, and with the start of the school year and the advent of cooler weather comes Green Communities deadlines. Please note the following dates:

- **August 31:** Final grant reports due showing project completion and funds expended to be eligible for the Fall Competitive Grant Block
- **October 16-20 :** Applications from eligible communities are accepted for the Fall Competitive Grant Block
- **December 1:** FY23 Green Communities Annual Reports due
- **December 29:** Designation applications due for municipalities seeking Green Communities Designation

Reach out to your Green Communities [Regional Coordinator](#) for assistance.

## About those Annual Reports...

Green Communities must submit an Annual Report to demonstrate they continue to meet the Five Designation Criteria and to remain eligible for program grants. **Late or non-submittal of Annual Reports disqualifies a municipality from participating in the following year's Competitive Grants.** The annual report also includes updates on how the community is progressing toward its 20% energy reduction goal. Green Communities can prepare for the annual reporting process by reviewing and updating municipal energy data in [MassEnergyInsight](#) (MEI). **Green Communities should review that all gas and electric utility data in MEI have been properly assigned to its buildings and facilities.** Any delivered fuels (e.g., oil, propane, gasoline, and diesel) need to be added to the community's account by the user – it is recommended that this be done quarterly. Communities can confirm data has been

added to the accounts by reviewing the “Data Loaded” report in MEI. Please note that manually entered delivered fuels can take up to 24 hours to appear in your account. **The Green Communities Division is currently developing a web-based form for communities to complete the FY23 Annual Report. Communities will no longer use a spreadsheet for annual reporting. We anticipate the form to be available through MassEnergyInsight in late-September 2023.**

## Leading By Example Awards

The nomination period for the annual **Leading by Example (LBE) Recognition Awards** is coming soon. Held every December, the LBE Awards are given to two state entities, two public institutes of higher education, two to municipalities, and two individual staff or volunteers (one from a state entity and one from a municipality). Last year’s LBE awards recognized the **City of Beverly**, the **Ashburnham Municipal Light Department**, and **Framingham Sustainability Coordinator Shawn Luz** in the municipal and individual categories.

LBE Award nominations will be accepted in two phases:

Phase 1 Express Interest Form: Through **September 15th**, state entities and **municipalities may fill out an "Express Interest" form**. These forms will be reviewed by DOER staff and strong candidates will be encouraged to submit a Phase 2 Full Nomination Form.

Phase 2 Full Nomination Form: Public entities that are encouraged to apply after Phase 1, or entities that opt to skip the Express Interest Form, may complete a full nomination form. These forms are due October 13th.

Find more information on the LBE Awards at [www.mass.gov/lbeawards](http://www.mass.gov/lbeawards).

## Save the Date: AltWheels is October 2

AltWheels Fleet Day is an annual **sustainable transportation event** that brings together corporate and municipal fleet managers and clean-fleet stakeholders working to reduce emissions and lower costs for tomorrow’s transportation needs. Fleet Day will be held on **October 2** at Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm and will showcase the latest vehicle and fuel technologies, educate passenger and fleet consumers on best practices, promote choices that exist in the marketplace, and stimulates the demand for clean vehicles

The event will include workshops on a variety of sustainable transportation topics, including “Fleet Managers Managing the Energy Transition” and “Creating Resilient Fleets: Medium and Heavy-Duty Electrification,” as well as a vehicle showcase and **ride-and-drive opportunities**.

Visit [www.altwheels.org](http://www.altwheels.org) for more information and to register.

## DOE Offers Clean Energy Fellows

Attention cities and towns with over 35,000 population: Need more clean energy staffing capacity? Apply today for the chance to host a full-time, DOE-sponsored fellow in your community. **EECBG direct-grant eligible local governments** opting for grants (not vouchers) and all tribes may apply to host a Fellow to support their EECBG Program efforts for up to 18 months.

**Fellowships are fully funded by the DOE** and coordinated through Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Sponsored by DOE's Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP), the Community Energy Fellowship will match recent graduates and mid-career clean energy professionals with Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program formula-eligible local and Tribal governments.

By hosting a Fellow, local and Tribal governments will bolster their EECBG Program Projects, gain new perspectives, and accelerate the national transition to resilient and affordable clean energy. **Fellows** will build experience in public sector clean energy deployment at the community level. They may work on projects in areas including energy efficiency, electric vehicle technology, renewable energy, and more!

SCEP may also financially support other expert community stakeholders to act as **Clean Energy Coaches** for Fellows. Coaches would serve as advisors and help build partnerships on the ground.

DOE is **now accepting applications** for the first round of eligible host institutions by **October 4, 2023**. Applications received after this date will be considered in the second-round selection, due **March 5, 2024**. Interested Fellows must apply by **October 8, 2023**, for the first round, and **March 16, 2023**, for the second round.

As a reminder, EECBG applications from formula-eligible local governments are due **January 31, 2024**. Visit the [EECBG application hub](#) for more information.

## EmPower Grants are Available

The Mass Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) [EmPower Massachusetts](#) program offers multiple stages of investment in communities and community-based organizations so that they can **explore, develop, and implement program models or projects** that provide access to the **benefits of clean energy for previously underserved populations**. This MassCEC program crowd-sources new and innovative ideas, then helps put them into action. EmPower offers funding to meet the following goals:

- Build organizational capacity & explore innovative solutions (\$5,000 to \$50,000 grants)
- Implement solutions (\$50,000 to \$300,000 grants)

Applicants will have several opportunities to submit proposals in the coming year – the next deadline is **October 18, 2023**.

The EmPower team will be hosting virtual **Participant Workshops** on **August 30th** and **September 6th** where potential applicants can attend to learn more about the program,

network and meet other potential applicants or partners, and share project or program ideas for discussion and feedback. [Register on the EmPower website.](#)

## Mass Save Energy Code Training

**Trainings for Massachusetts code officials, design professionals, builders, subcontractors, suppliers of materials and equipment, and others**

Mass Save® Energy Code Technical Support is delivered by Performance Systems Development (PSD). Support services are offered as part of the Mass Save Codes and Standards Compliance and Support Initiative. Sponsors of Mass Save are providing virtual energy code training throughout the summer. These training sessions are approved for MA code officials CEC, AIA LUs, CSL and BPI CEUs.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Registration link</b>
Residential - (R2.3) Residential Alterations	8/30/2023	1:00 - 2:00 pm	<a href="#">Residential Alterations</a>
Commercial - (C1.3) Commercial Solar & EV Ready	8/30/2023	2:05 - 3:05 pm	<a href="#">Commercial Solar &amp; EV Ready</a>
Encore Presentation Residential Stretch Code Overview Part 1	10/25/2023	1:00 – 2:00 pm	<a href="#">Residential Overview Part 1</a>
Encore Presentation Commercial Stretch Code Overview Part 1	10/25/2023	2:05 – 3:05 PM	<a href="#">Commercial Overview Part 1</a>

To learn more about code training, access checklists for code officials, and to sign up for the email list, visit [MassSave Code Training](#).