

News from the Green Communities Division



Green Communities Designation Deadlines Set

Across the Commonwealth, cities and towns are reaping the benefits of clean energy leadership as designated Green Communities. DOER expects to expand this number in 2023 with two opportunities to submit designation applications. The Spring deadline is **5 pm, March 31** and the fall deadline is **5 pm, September 29**.

Guidance for aspiring Green Communities regarding how to meet the five criteria for designation specified in the Green Communities Act is posted on the Green Communities website. Prior to submitting an application, municipalities may request a preliminary consultation with the Green Communities Division to discuss their progress toward meeting any or all of the five designation criteria. To schedule a preliminary consultation, contact your Green Communities Regional Coordinator.

We're Hiring!

Join our team! Our **Northeast Regional Coordinator**, Neal Duffy, has moved on from DOER to help Salem, MA achieve its sustainability goals and we are actively recruiting a new Regional Coordinator. We're seeking energetic folks who are self-directed and excited about our mission. Applications are accepted online here.

Mass Save Electrification Incentives

Hear the latest from Mass Save program administrators on **electrification incentives** for commercial, multifamily, and single-family new construction, as well as incentives for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is hosting a webinar from **12:00 – 1:30 pm on Wednesday, March 1** to learn more about Mass Save incentives that support the Commonwealth's building and vehicle electrification goals.

Click here to register.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Offered by EPA

Through a provision of the Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is offering **Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)** to states, territories, tribes, air pollution control agencies, **and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and other harmful air pollution.

A total of \$5 billion has been allocated for this two-staged grant program. The EPA will first award \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, followed by \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants.

The CPRG seeks to provide flexible support to states, tribes and local governments regardless of where they are in their climate planning and implementation process. Potential projects could further **goals and policies for clean energy, energy efficiency,** and more.

The EPA anticipates announcing the non-competitive planning grants as soon as March 1, 2023. Visit the [CPRG website](#) to view the introductory Feb. 15 webinar and register for informational webinars on **March 2nd and 7th** on the non-competitive planning grants.

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Webinar

The U.S Department of Energy (DOE) released application materials for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL)-funded Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program for states, local governments, and Tribes.

Applications for the EECBG are now open for communities with over 35,000 residents, which will receive a [direct grant](#) from DOE. Smaller communities can apply for sub-grants that will be administered through DOER later this year. EECBG funds can be used for **implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency.**

MAPC is holding a webinar from **11 am – 12 pm on Thursday March 16** that will review program details. [Click here](#) to register.

For more information, including application instructions, visit the EECBG [Application Hub](#).

MVP Grant Updates

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program team is anticipating the release of its next Request for Response (RFR) for MVP Action Grants in late March 2023. To prepare for this release, the **MVP team will be hosting two informational sessions to give an overview of the**

program, review anticipated changes to this round's application, and answer questions.

Below are the two planned sessions that will be hosted on Zoom. To register, please use the link to the session you would like to attend. Please only register for one session, as the sessions will review the same content.

Monday, March 13, 2023, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. – [Register here](#)

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. – [Register here](#)

If you cannot make it to either webinar or you would just like to watch on your own time, recordings will be posted on [the MVP website](#) in the "Stay Up-to-Date" section after the events.

Contact Marissa Robertson at marissa.robertson2@mass.gov for more information.

green.communities@mass.gov