

News from the Green Communities Division



Municipal Aggregation Guide Available for Review

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) seeks public comment on its draft **Municipal Aggregation Manual and Best Practices Guide**. The Guide was developed in response to municipalities' increased interest in establishing municipal aggregations. It seeks to provide information that **supports the effective and efficient formation of municipal aggregations**, equips municipalities to advocate for municipal interests when forming a municipal aggregation, and improves collaboration with DOER on municipal aggregation formation.

Comments should be submitted via email to Marian Swain, Deputy Director of Policy & Planning, at marian.swain@mass.gov by **5:00 pm, Wednesday, December 7**. Please note that all comments received will be posted publicly on this webpage following the deadline.

Making “Cents” of Incentives

Community energy leaders: Are you unsure about how **Inflation Reduction Act** renewable, electrification, and efficiency tax credits will impact your community's building and renovation projects? Do you have the feeling that Mass Save offerings have evolved but haven't heard about their **new incentives and heat pump adders**? Then this workshop is for you.

Discover the details and then learn how a Massachusetts town is actively layering them to build two net zero schools. Plus learn how utilities are upgrading the grid to meet projected demand. The workshop will be held **12:00 pm - 1:30 pm on Thursday, December 8**.

Register here for the workshop, which is free to municipal leaders, staff, and advocates.

Greentown Labs Holds Climate-Tech Pitch Session

The Resilient Energy and Infrastructure Consortium (REIC) at **Greentown Labs** will be hosting a virtual climate-tech lightning value pitch session for municipalities and communities on **Wednesday, December 7, from 2:00 – 3:30 pm**.

Hear from firms offering innovative, state-of-the-art technologies and platforms for:

- Distributed Energy Storage

- Combined Heat & Power
- Zero Emission Vehicle Charging/Refueling
- Geothermal Heating & Cooling
- Electric Vehicle Fleet Management
- Advanced Procurement Systems
- Workforce Training & Development

Join colleagues from cities, towns, and communities across the country to ask questions, get info, exchange ideas, network, and create rewarding opportunities for implementing holistic decarbonization and climate adaptive projects and programs. **Please register** to assure your slot.

ACEEE Offers Renter Energy Equity Toolkit

Local governments across the country are working to combat two crises at once: climate change and a lack of affordable housing. However, local government staff and stakeholders often tackle these issues separately. **This toolkit** offers guidance to local government staff and these stakeholder groups on how to **integrate energy efficiency and affordable housing policy**, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preserving or creating affordable housing.

The toolkit also discusses strategies for **financing and funding energy efficiency retrofits in affordable housing**; strategies to effectively engage property owners, buildings staff, and renters on energy efficiency; and, lastly, equity accountability measures that can help institutionalize equity-driven planning and program implementation. Throughout, the toolkit profiles innovative program case studies from across the country.

The free toolkit is available on the [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's \(ACEEE\) website](#).

Upcoming Better Buildings Webinars

The U.S. Department of Energy's **Better Buildings program** offers a wide array of engagement opportunities for energy and facility managers. Its [monthly webinar series](#) explores timely topics such as decarbonization, resilience, and renewable energy.

The next municipally focused webinar scheduled, "**Electrification Station: Decarbonizing City Buildings and Fleets.**" will explore technologies for public buildings and fleets to meet local greenhouse gas reduction goals. It will be held **11:00 am – 12:00 pm on Tuesday, December 13.**

Click [here to register](#).

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