

Proposed Project for an Ash Center 2016 Summer Fellow

**The Massachusetts Clean Energy Partnership:
Assessment of Economic and Environmental Results**

Submitted by: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
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The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is the state agency responsible for ensuring clean air and water, the safe management of toxics and hazards, the recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, the timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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Description of Project

Background: Since 2007, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Partnership for Drinking Water and Wastewater Facilities includes EPA, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, and the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

A 2015 finalist in the Ash Center's *Innovation in American Government* awards program, this collaboration successfully engaged government agencies, drinking water and wastewater facilities, and energy utilities to increase energy efficiency, generate clean energy on-site, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the water sector. This collaborative model, replicated in 21 states or territories, has survived, adapted and flourished despite funding challenges and organizational “silos” between energy and water programs.

Challenge: Despite the number of highly successful clean energy projects completed, it has been a struggle to track and accurately measure all the improvements. We would like to evaluate and report changes in: energy use, dollars saved or avoided, generation of on-site renewable energy, adoption of energy audit recommendations, and operator behavior.

Student Project: Assess and evaluate the energy and environmental results of 60 facilities which had completed energy audits / evaluations. It will include data compilation from several sources to quantify results, making recommendations about ways to present results, and providing insights and recommendations about how to build in the measurement of results in similar efforts with other sectors.

Note that in addition to the MA Department of Environmental Protection, the student will also work closely with the MA Department of Energy Resources, the EPA, the MA Clean Energy Center and several drinking water and wastewater facilities.