

# Supporting New England Communities: Resource Guide to Programs of the Sustainable Communities Partnership

1/16/13

In June 2009, a Sustainable Communities Partnership was formed by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), US Department of Transportation (DOT), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These three agencies have pledged to ensure that housing and transportation goals are met while simultaneously protecting the environment, promoting equitable development, and helping to address the challenges of climate change. The following Livability Principles are guiding their work:

- Provide more transportation choices.
- Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- Enhance economic competitiveness.
- Support existing communities.
- Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment.
- Value communities and neighborhoods.

Building upon this national effort, the New England offices of HUD, EPA, and DOT came together to discuss opportunities for partnering at the regional level, and were then joined by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This regional partnership is focusing on places in New England where our agencies have invested in the past (often independently), and where we could collaborate more intentionally in the future, achieving even greater results through synergy. This guide to our programs is intended to help communities identify resources available to support their sustainability efforts. Programs are organized by the six Livability Principles:

## **Livability Principle: *Provide More Transportation Choices***

### **Federal Transit Administration Programs:**

- **Metropolitan & Statewide Planning (5303, 5304, 5305):** These programs provide funding to support cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive planning for making transportation investment decisions in metropolitan areas and statewide. Eligible recipients include State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Eligible for funding are planning activities that: (A) support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency; (B) increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users; (C) increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users; (D) increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight; (E) protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns; (F) enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight; (G) promote efficient system management and operation; and (H) emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.  
[http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_3563.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3563.html)
- **Urbanized Areas (5307):** This program makes Federal resources available to urbanized areas (places with a population of 50,000 or more) and to Governors for transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation-related planning. Eligible purposes include planning, engineering design and evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies; capital investments in bus and bus-related activities such as replacement of buses, overhaul of buses, rebuilding of buses, crime prevention and security equipment and construction of maintenance and passenger facilities; and capital investments in new and existing fixed guideway systems. For urbanized areas with populations of 200,000 or more, at least one percent of the funding apportioned to each area must be used for transit enhancement activities such as historic

- preservation, landscaping, public art, pedestrian access, bicycle access, and enhanced access for persons with disabilities. [http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_3561.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3561.html)
- **Rail and Fixed Guideway Modernization (5309):** A “fixed guideway” refers to any transit service that uses exclusive or controlled rights-of-way or rails, entirely or in part. The term includes heavy rail, commuter rail, light rail, monorail, trolleybus, aerial tramway, inclined plane, cable car, automated guideway transit, ferryboats, that portion of motor bus service operated on exclusive or controlled rights-of-way, and high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes. Eligible purposes are capital projects to modernize or improve existing fixed guideway systems. [http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_3558.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3558.html)
  - **Bus and Bus Facilities (5309):** This program provides capital assistance for new and replacement buses, related equipment, and facilities, as well as intermodal transit centers. [http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_3557.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3557.html) **Bus and Bus Facilities**
  - **Livability Initiative Program Grants (5309): The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability** of discretionary funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 for two programs in support of the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Livability Initiative: the Bus and Bus Facilities grant funds (49 U.S.C. 5309(b)) (“Bus Livability Program”) and the Alternatives Analysis Program (49 U.S.C. 5339), both authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU), Pub. L. 109–59, August 10, 2005. The Bus Livability Program will be funded using at least \$150 million in available FY 2011 Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities Program funds. The Alternatives Analysis program will be funded using up to \$25 million in FY 2010 and FY2011 discretionary funds. These discretionary program funds will be distributed in accordance with the mission of each program and in support of the U.S. DOT’s Livability Initiative and the Partnership for Sustainable Communities between the U.S. DOT, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This announcement is available on the FTA Web site at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov>. Additionally, a synopsis of each funding opportunity will be posted in the FIND module of the government-wide electronic grants Web site at <http://www.grants.gov>. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-27/pdf/2011-16015.pdf>

**TIGGER Program Grants** (Sections 5308 and 5309(b))

- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of discretionary funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 for the Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) program and Clean Fuels Grant program, augmented with Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities program funds. These discretionary program funds will be distributed in accordance with the mission of each program and in support of the U. S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) environmental sustainability efforts. This announcement is available on the FTA Web site at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov>. Additionally, a synopsis of each funding opportunity will be posted in the FIND module of the government-wide electronic grants Web site at <http://www.grants.gov>. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-24/pdf/2011-15913.pdf>
- **Transit: New Starts (5309):** The New Starts program provides funds for construction of new fixed guideway systems or extensions to existing fixed guideway systems. Eligible purposes are light rail, rapid rail (heavy rail), commuter rail, monorail, automated fixed guideway system (such as a “people mover”), or a busway/high occupancy vehicle (HOV) facility, or an extension of any of these. Projects become candidates for funding under this program by successfully completing the appropriate steps in the major capital investment planning and project development process. [http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_3559.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3559.html)
- **Transit: Rural and Small Urban Areas (5311):** This program provides funding to states for the purpose of supporting public transportation in areas of less than 50,000 population. Funds may be used for capital, operating, and administrative assistance to state agencies, local public bodies, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations, and operators of public transportation services. [http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_3555.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3555.html)

- **Rural Transit Assistance Program (5311(b)(3)):** The Rural Transit Assistance Program provides a source of funding to assist in the design and implementation of training and technical assistance projects and other support services tailored to meet the needs of transit operators in nonurbanized areas. [http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_3554.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3554.html)
- **Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (5311(c)):** Based upon an annual national competitive selection process, FTA awards Tribal Transit grants directly to Federally-recognized Indian tribes. Recipients of Tribal Transit Program may use these funds for purposes including planning, capital and operating assistance for rural public transit services, and support for rural intercity bus service. [http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_3553.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3553.html)

Federal Transit Administration Contacts:

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- **Flexible Funding For Transit and Highway Improvements:** Many Federal-aid Highway programs have specific eligible transit activities identified in legislation. In addition, funds from other programs that do not have specific transit eligibility may be transferred by states to other Federal-aid Highway programs that do have such eligibility. If funds are transferred from one Federal-aid Highway program to another, those funds then have the same eligibility as the program that they are transferred to. For example, Interstate Maintenance (IM) funds transferred to the Surface Transportation Program (STP) would have the same eligibility as STP funds.

To transfer funds from FHWA to FTA, the state department of transportation must request that the funds be transferred, with the concurrence of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) if the project is within a metropolitan planning area, in a letter to the FHWA Division Office. Funding transfers are permitted only for projects contained in an approved metropolitan transportation improvement program (TIP) and/or statewide transportation improvement program (STIP).  
[http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants\\_financing\\_3545.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3545.html)

**Towns and cities should contact the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for their area for prospective projects. A list of MPOs can be found at: <http://www.ampo.org/directory/index.php>.**

### **Federal Highway Administration Programs: MAP-21**

- **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program.** This program is continued under MAP-21. The purpose of the CMAQ program is to support transportation projects or programs that will improve air quality and relieve congestion. CMAQ funds may be used to establish new or expanded transportation projects or programs that reduce emissions, including capital investments in transportation infrastructure, congestion relief efforts and diesel engine retrofits. Other CMAQ projects include operating assistance for new transit services, travel demand management strategies, traffic flow improvement programs that reduce emissions and bicycle/pedestrian paths.  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaqpgs/>.
- **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).** This program is continued under MAP-21. This is a data-driven program to address safety issues. A non-exclusive list of examples of highway safety improvement projects is included in 23 U.S.C. 148(a)(4). Eligibility of specific projects, strategies and activities generally are based on:
  - consistency with a State's SHSP;
  - crash experience, crash potential, crash rate, or other data-supported means;
  - compliance with title 23 requirements; and

- State's strategic or performance based safety goals to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.
- **Surface Transportation Program (STP).** The Surface Transportation Program (STP) provides flexible funding that may be used by States and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidestp.cfm>.
- **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).** This is a new program under MAP-21 and replaces the former Transportation Enhancements Program (TEP); however, many eligible project types are retained from the former TEP (see: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>).
  - **Safe Routes To School.** Eligible under TAP. For infrastructure-related projects, eligible activities are the planning, design, and construction of projects that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school. <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/>.
- **Recreational Trails Program (RTP).** This program continues under MAP-21, funded by a set-aside of TAP funds, and provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses including hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles. . [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/index.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/index.cfm). State resource agencies administer the RTP and are as follows:

Massachusetts: Amanda Lewis, Recreational Trails Program Coordinator,  
[amanda.lewis@state.ma.us](mailto:amanda.lewis@state.ma.us), (413) 586-8706 ext. 19  
<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/greenway/educationgrants.htm>

New Hampshire:  
 Chris Gamache, Chief, NH Bureau of Trails, [Chris.Gamache@dred.state.nh](mailto:Chris.Gamache@dred.state.nh), 603-271-3254

Connecticut: Laurie Giannotti, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
[Laurie.giannotti@ct.gov](mailto:Laurie.giannotti@ct.gov), (860) 424-3578

FHWA New England Sustainable Communities contacts:

- Connecticut Division: Ken Shooshan-Stoller (860-494-7567) [kenneth.shooshan-stoller@dot.gov](mailto:kenneth.shooshan-stoller@dot.gov)
- Maine Division: Carlos Pena (207-512-4914) [carlos.pena@dot.gov](mailto:carlos.pena@dot.gov)
- Massachusetts Division: Michael Chong (617-494-3275) [michael.chong@dot.gov](mailto:michael.chong@dot.gov)
- New Hampshire Division: Leigh Levine (603-410-4844) [leigh.levine@dot.gov](mailto:leigh.levine@dot.gov)
- Rhode Island Division: Corey Bobba (401-528-4577) [corey.bobba@dot.gov](mailto:corey.bobba@dot.gov)
- Vermont Division: Chris Jolly (802-828-4572) [Christopher.jolly@dot.gov](mailto:Christopher.jolly@dot.gov)

The first step in applying for funding often starts at the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) level. To find the MPO for your community try this link: <http://www.planning.dot.gov/mpo.asp>. Your state Department of Transportation is another good place to start.

#### **Federal Highway Administration Resources:**

- **Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS).** CSS is a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and

mobility. CSS is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/context/>.

- **FHWA Livability Website** provides information about FHWA’s livability activities, resources, case studies and field office’s points of contact. [www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability)
- **Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program (TPCBP) Website** provides information on the TPCBP, peer exchange reports, planning resources and training and education opportunities. [www.planning.dot.gov](http://www.planning.dot.gov)
- **FHWA’s Integrating Land Use and Transportation Website** describes and provides access to resources and tools to assist in improving the coordination of land use and transportation planning, including the Tool Kit for Integrating Land Use and Transportation Decision-Making which demonstrates recent and current linkages between land use and transportation via examples and case studies from around the country. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/landuse>
- **ITE’s Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach: An ITE Recommended Practice** - This report was developed in response to widespread interest for improving both mobility choices and community character through a commitment to creating and enhancing walkable communities. <http://www.ite.org/css>, [http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org/content/reading/designing\\_walkable\\_urban\\_thorou/](http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org/content/reading/designing_walkable_urban_thorou/)
- **Street Design: Part 1 – Complete Streets** - Is an article in the July/August 2010 issue of Public Roads magazine that describes what “complete streets” are and how US DOT supports the design and implementation of complete streets through existing policies and programs. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/10julaug/03.cfm>
- **Model Street Design Manual:** <http://www.modelstreetdesignmanual.com/index.html> - This manual focuses on all users and all modes, seeking to achieve balanced street design that accommodates cars while ensuring that pedestrians, cyclists and transit users can travel safely and comfortably.
- **Livability Guidebook:** [https://one.dot.gov/fhwa/EnvironmentDSS/Context%20Sensitive%20Solutions%20CSS/Livability\\_in\\_Transportation\\_Guide\\_072910\\_lowres.pdf](https://one.dot.gov/fhwa/EnvironmentDSS/Context%20Sensitive%20Solutions%20CSS/Livability_in_Transportation_Guide_072910_lowres.pdf) - The *Livability in Transportation Guidebook*’s primary purpose is to illustrate how livability principles have been incorporated into transportation planning, programming, and project design, using examples from State, regional, and local sponsors.
- **Creating Livable Communities:** [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/creating\\_livable\\_communities/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/creating_livable_communities/) - This booklet provides strategies on how to effectively consider and incorporate livability objectives in transportation investment decisions.
- **Community Facilities Program (USDA Rural Development).** This program provide loans and in some cases grants to rural communities for capital asset acquisition which can include public transportation garages and buses. For more information go to: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF\\_CF.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html)

### **Livability Principle: *Promote Equitable, Affordable Housing***

HUD has a number of programs that can be used for development in connection with mass transit, although none is limited to use for transit-oriented development. Most of the grant programs are allocated by formula to local or state governments or housing authorities who can choose whether to allocate any of their funds to transit-oriented development. Some programs require the grantees to develop funding plans and to solicit comments from citizens on the priorities and projects contained in them. HUD staff work with these local

grantees and are available to explain how the programs work, which local or state government officials to contact and how the funding process works.

HUD also has programs to provide funding for private developers to build affordable housing for low and moderate-income people. At the moment, grants are available for new developments only for housing for the elderly, housing for people with disabilities and housing for people with AIDS. However, there are existing developments for family housing, and HUD staff have continuing relationships with the owners and managers of this housing and are available to explain what that relationship entails and answer questions about the possibility of making those developments more oriented to transit. In addition, mortgage insurance programs are available for a variety of different kinds of developments and can be accessed through FHA-approved lenders.

- **Community Development Block Grants.** Provides formula funding directly to larger cities and towns and through state governments for smaller communities. Funds can be used for most kinds of development as long as it benefits low and moderate-income residents. HUD contact number: Community Planning and Development – 617-994-8350.  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs>
- **HOME investment partnership.** Provides formula funding directly to larger cities, to consortiums of communities, and to state governments. Funds can be used for most kinds of housing development and rehabilitation as long as it benefits low and moderate-income residents. HUD contact number: Community Planning and Development , 617-994-8350.  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/programs/home>
- **Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS.** Provides some formula funding to larger cities and some competitive grants. Funds can be used to develop and support housing for people with AIDS. HUD contact number: Community Planning and Development , 617-994-8350.  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/aidshousing/index.cfm>
- **Neighborhood Stabilization Program.** Provides some formula funding and some competitive grants. Funds can be used to acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed properties in neighborhoods in which foreclosures are common. HUD contact number: Community Planning and Development, 617-994-8350.  
[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/RECOVERY/programs/NEIGHBORHOOD\\_STABILIZATION](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/RECOVERY/programs/NEIGHBORHOOD_STABILIZATION)
- **Homeless programs.** Provides competitive funding to public and private agencies in designated consortiums that plan for and provide services to homeless people. Funds can be used for services and for development of emergency shelters and transitional and permanent housing to serve the homeless. HUD contact number: Community Planning and Development, 617-994-8350.  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/index.cfm>
- **Public Housing.** Provides funding to local housing authorities for operating expenses and repairs to public housing developments. Funds are allocated based on the continuing needs of the authorities, especially the number of units they own. HUD contact number: Public and Indian Housing, 617-994-8400. <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph>
- **HOPE VI.** Provides competitive funding for the eradication of severely distressed public housing developments. Funds can be used for demolition, major rehabilitation and new construction of public housing; acquisition of sites in other locations for private new construction and supportive services for those relocated by the program. HUD contact number: Public and Indian Housing, 617-994-8400. <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/hope6/index.cfm>
- **Supportive Housing for the Elderly (Section 202) and Supportive Housing for People with Disabilities (Section 811).** Provides competitive funding to non-profit agencies developing such housing. Funds consist of capital grants to assist in the original construction and annual project rental assistance to support operating and maintenance costs to ensure that rents remain affordable to

very low income people. HUD contact number: Office of Housing, 617-994-8500.  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/progdesc/eld202.cfm> and  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/progdesc/disab811.cfm>

- **Mortgage Insurance for Rental Housing.** HUD has several FHA mortgage insurance programs that can be used to facilitate the new construction and substantial rehabilitation of multifamily rental projects. HUD also has FHA programs that can be used to refinance and acquire existing multifamily projects not requiring substantial rehabilitation. These programs include:

Mortgage insurance pursuant to Section 220 may be used to insure loans for multifamily housing projects in designated urban renewal areas, code enforcement areas, and other areas where local governments have undertaken designated revitalization areas.  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/progdesc/renturbanhsg220.cfm>

Mortgage insurance pursuant to Section 221(d)(4) and Section 221(d)(3) may be used to insure mortgages used to construct or substantially rehabilitate multifamily rental housing. The former program may be used by profit-motivated sponsors and the latter by non-profit sponsors.  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/progdesc/rentcoophsg221d3n4.cfm>

Mortgage insurance pursuant to Section 223(f) may be used to insure mortgages made for the purpose of acquiring or refinancing existing rental projects. Projects requiring substantial rehabilitation are not eligible for the program.  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/progdesc/purchrefi223f.cfm>

Eligible owners and purchasers utilizing the above programs apply for the FHA insurance through HUD-approved lenders. Each of the programs has differing maximum mortgage limitations and requirements. HUD contact number: Office of Housing: 617-994-8500.

- **Housing Finance Agency Risk Sharing Program.** Under this program HUD provides credit enhancement on loans underwritten and closed by a state Housing Finance Agency. Loans made pursuant to Section 542(c) are for affordable housing which includes new construction, substantial rehabilitation, elderly housing and refinancing. Eligible owners and purchasers apply for the program through the appropriate state HFA or HUD at 617-994-8500.  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/progdesc/riskshare542b.cfm>

- **Healthy Homes.** EPA New England has developed a healthy homes brochure that describes how to prevent and address problems such as radon, asbestos, lead, drinking water contaminants, pesticides, and toxic household products (see <http://www.epa.gov/region1/healthyhomes/index.html>). A number of nonprofit organizations are developing training programs in support of a holistic healthy homes approach. Included among these are the National Center for Healthy Housing that was established by EPA, HUD, and the Centers for Disease Control, and the New England Asthma Regional Council, supported by EPA, HUD, and the Department of Health and Human Services (see <http://asthmaregionalcouncil.org/healthy-homes>). Contact: Mary Beth Smuts, 617-918-1512, [smuts.marybeth@epa.gov](mailto:smuts.marybeth@epa.gov)

- **USDA Rural Development: Rural Housing and Community Facilities (Selected Programs):**  
[www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)

Program	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Population	Loan/Grant	Terms/Conditions
Single Family Home Ownership Direct Loans	Safe, well-built, affordable homes for rural Americans.	Families and individuals.	Buy, build, improve, repair, or rehabilitate rural home as the applicant's permanent	Rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less and under certain conditions, towns and cities between	Direct loan.	Up to 100% of market value or cost. Loan term of 33/38 years. Applicant may be eligible for payment assistance

			residence.	10,000 and 20,000 population.		(subsidy) on the loan.
Single Family Home Ownership Direct Repair Loans and Grant	To help very-low-income applicants remove health and Safety Hazards or Repair their homes.	Families and individuals who currently own their home.	Repair/replace roof, winterizing, purchase or repair of heating system, structural repair, water/sewage connect fees, etc.	Same as above.	Direct Loan and Grant.	Loans up to \$20,000 up to 20 years at 1 Percent. Grants available to very-low-income applicants 62 years or older unable to pay 1 percent loan.
Single Family Home Ownership Guaranteed Loans	To assist moderate income applicants(s)/household(s) in buying their homes by guaranteeing loans made by private lenders.	Families and individuals.	Purchase new or existing home and refinance existing Rural Development guaranteed loan.	Same as above.	Loan guarantee.	30-year, fixed rate. Interest rate is negotiated between lender and borrower. Loans up to 100 percent of market value plus the amount of the guarantee fee being financed.
Mutual Self-Help Home Ownership Loans	Individual homes built by a group of applicants, with construction guidance of a non-profit organization.	Families and individuals. Individual applications for each participating individual/family.	Construction of a new home, in part, by the applicant under supervision.	Same as above.	Direct loan.	Individuals/families receive direct loan from Rural Development. Nonprofit housing organization receive grants for project supervision.
Mutual Self-Help Housing Grants	Assist lower income families in building their own homes.	Non-profits and public bodies.	Technical assistance to assist small groups of families to build each other's homes.	Same as above.	Grant.	Grant agreement.
Rental Housing for Families and Elderly Direct Loans and Loan Guarantees	Safe, well-built, affordable rental housing for very-low-income individuals and families.	Individuals, trusts, associations, limited partnerships, for-profit and non-profit entities, tribes, public bodies.	New construction or substantial rehabilitation of rental housing.	Same as above.	Direct loan or Loan guarantee.	Up to 100 percent of total development cost (non-profits); 97 percent (for-profits); 95 percent (for-profits with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits). 30-year term with up to 50 year amortization.
Housing Preservation Grants	Repair and rehabilitate housing owned or occupied by very-low- and low-income rural families.	Public bodies and non-profit organizations.	Operation of a program which finances repair and rehabilitation activities for single family and small rental properties.	Same as above.	Grant.	Grant agreement.



Farm Labor Housing	Safe, well-built affordable rental housing for farm workers.	Individuals, public and private non-profit organizations.	New construction or substantial rehabilitation of rental housing.	N/A	Direct loan and grant.	Up to 102 percent of total development cost. Up to 33 years to repay at 1 percent interest.
<i>Direct Loans and Grants: Apply to Rural Development. Loan Guarantees: Apply to intermediary (approved banks, mortgage companies.)</i>						

**Livability Principle: *Enhance Economic Competitiveness***

- **USDA Rural Business (Selected Programs) [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)**

Program	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Population	Loan/Grant	Terms/Conditions
Business and Industry Guarantee Loans	Create jobs/stimulate rural economies by providing financial backing for rural businesses.	Businesses.	Real estate, buildings, equipment, supplies, working capital, and some debt refinancing.	All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Loan guarantee.	Lender and borrower negotiate terms. Up to 30 years for real estate, 15 years for machinery and equipment, and 7 years for working capital.
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	Finance and facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprises.	Public bodies, private non-profit corporations, and tribes.	Refinancing, land acquisition, revolving funds, construction, equipment, access streets and roads, utility and service extensions, and rural distance learning networks.	All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Grant.	Amount based on funding availability, funding priority, and national goals.
Intermediary Relending Program Loans (IRP)	Establish revolving funds for business facilities and community development projects	Public bodies, non-profit corporations, Native American tribes, and cooperatives.	Community development projects, establishment or expansion of businesses, creation or saving of rural jobs.	Rural areas and incorporated places with populations of less than 25,000.	Direct loan.	The intermediary makes loans to businesses from its revolving loan fund on terms consistent with security offered. Intermediary pays 1 percent for 30 years.
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)	Establish revolving funds to target assistance to small rural enterprises.	Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDO)	Loans, technical, and capacity building assistance to businesses with 10 or fewer employees and sole proprietorships'.	All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Loans, grants.	Rural microenterprises apply directly to the intermediary.

Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants (REDLG)	Finance economic development and job creation in rural areas.	Rural Utilities Service-financed electric and telephone utilities.	Business startups or expansion projects that create rural jobs.	Rural areas with priority to places with populations of 2,500 or less.	Direct loan and Revolving loan fund grant.	Intermediary makes loans to profit or non-profit business and public bodies. Loans are 0 percent for 10 years.
Rural Cooperative Development Grants	Establish/operate centers for cooperative development	Non-profits and institutions of higher education.	Establish operating centers for development of rural cooperatives.	All areas.	Grant.	Minimum 25 percent fund match. Grants competitively awarded.
Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program	Assist independent agricultural producers to enter into activities that add value to their crops.	Independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, producer groups, majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.	Feasibility studies, business plans; working capital	All areas.	Grant	Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Funds cannot be used to build facilities or purchase equipment. Funds must be matched on a dollar-for dollar basis.
Rural Business Opportunity Grant	Finance technical assistance for business development planning in rural areas.	Public bodies, non-profit corporations, Indian tribes on Federal or State reservations, cooperatives with members that are primarily rural residents.	Technical assistance, leadership training, establishment of business support centers, economic development plans.	All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Grant	Must be completed within 2 years after project has begun.
Rural Energy for America (REAP)	Finance the purchase of renewable energy systems, and make energy improvements; energy audits.	Feasibility studies/regular REAPs: agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Energy audits and renewable energy development assistance: local governments, tribes, land grant colleges, rural electric coops, public power entities.	Construction or improvements, purchase and installation of equipment, energy audits, permit fees, professional service fees, business plans, feasibility studies.	All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.	Guaranteed loans and grants.	Funding is awarded on a competitive basis; grant funding cannot exceed 25% of eligible project costs and combined loan guarantees and grants cannot exceed 75% of eligible project costs.
<i>Direct Loans and Grants: Apply to Rural Development.</i>				<i>Loan Guarantees: Apply to intermediary (eligible banks,</i>		

etc.)

*Revolving Funds (RMAP, IRP, REDLG): Intermediaries apply to Rural Development; others apply to intermediary*

- **Greenscaper Residential Rain Garden training.** This training is being developed in Environmental Justice urban areas and will train small landscapers and city employees to install Low Impact Development (LID) technologies such as rain gardens. The training will provide a general introduction to hydrologic principles and controlled runoff on site; and hands-on training in how to construct a rain garden. If your community would like to be considered as a future training site workshop participant, please contact: Myra Schwartz 617-918-1696; [Schwartz.myra@epa.gov](mailto:Schwartz.myra@epa.gov)
- **Brownfields Job Training Grant Program.** These grants provide funding to eligible entities and non-profit organizations to help communities take advantage of jobs created by the assessment and cleanup of brownfields. The Job Training Grant Program's goals are to prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field and to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites contaminated with hazardous substances. Grants are for up to \$200,000 (<http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/programs/jobtrain/index.html>). Contact: Kathleen Castagna, 617-918-1429, [castagna.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:castagna.kathleen@epa.gov).
- **"G.R.E.E.N" Curriculum.** "Growing Responsible Environmental Employees Now" is a unique 8-hour job training that combines 4 hours of classroom learning with equal time for fun and interesting hands-on activities that was designed jointly by EPA New England and the Region 1 Department of Labor Job Corps. The curriculum introduces young learners to the principles of sustainability and can be adopted for use by other entities (<http://www.epa.gov/region1/education/>). Contact: Sheryl Rosner, 617-918-1865, [rosner.sheryl@epa.gov](mailto:rosner.sheryl@epa.gov).

### **Livability Principle: *Support Existing Communities***

The EPA website offers a calendar of upcoming grant opportunities in to help communities address environmental challenges. This page will be updated periodically to reflect upcoming EPA grant opportunities. In addition, EPA is offering a [Grants 101 Tutorial](#) to assist communities in understanding the grant process. To access EPA's community-based grant resources, visit: [http://www.epa.gov/ogd/training/resources\\_for\\_communities/community\\_grants\\_table.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/training/resources_for_communities/community_grants_table.htm).

**Brownfields.** EPA has a variety of programs to help eligible entities assess, remediate, and restore brownfields sites to productive use and revitalize impacted neighborhoods, including the following:

- **Assessment Grant Program.** These grants provide funding to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites. Grants are for up to \$200,000 to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances and up to \$200,000 to address sites contaminated by petroleum (<http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/programs/assessment/index.html>). Contact: Chris Lombard, 617-918-1305, [lombard.chris@epa.gov](mailto:lombard.chris@epa.gov).
- **Revolving Loan Fund Grant Program.** These grants of up to \$1,000,000 provide funding to capitalize a revolving loan fund. Revolving loan funds can be used to provide no-interest or low-interest loans and subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites (<http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/programs/revolving/index.html>). Contact: Joe Ferrari, 617-918-1105, [ferrari.joe@epa.gov](mailto:ferrari.joe@epa.gov).
- **Cleanup Grant Program.** These grants provide funding for a recipient to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites that they own. Sites may be contaminated by hazardous substances and/or petroleum. Grants are up to \$200,000 per site and require a 20% cost share (<http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/programs/cleanup/index.html>). Contact: Contact: James Byrne, 617-918-1389, [byrne.james@epa.gov](mailto:byrne.james@epa.gov).
- **Targeted Brownfields Assessments.** These assessments are conducted by an EPA contractor, and services include site assessments, cleanup options and cost estimates, and community outreach. Sites for this program are selected regionally once a year. Services are for an average of \$100,000

(<http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/programs/targeted.htm>). Contact: Alan Peterson, 617-918-1022, [peterson.alan@epa.gov](mailto:peterson.alan@epa.gov).

- **Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program.** TAB services are provided to communities, regional entities and nonprofits interested in obtaining EPA brownfields grants, and to those who are already EPA grantees. ([http://epa.gov/brownfields/tools/tab\\_bifold.pdf](http://epa.gov/brownfields/tools/tab_bifold.pdf)) New Jersey Institute of Technology's (NJIT) TAB program provides services to communities in New England. (<http://www.njit.edu/tab/>) Contact: Diane Kelley, 617-918-1424, [kelly.diane@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.diane@epa.gov).

Additional information about EPA's Brownfields program can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/index.html>. Contact: Carol Tucker, 617-918-1221, [tucker.carol@epa.gov](mailto:tucker.carol@epa.gov).

**Smart Growth.** EPA has a number of smart growth publications and other tools available on-line ([www.epa.gov/smartgrowth](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth)), including the recently-published *Essential Smart Growth Fixes for Urban and Suburban Zoning Codes*. Contact: Rosemary Monahan, 617-918-1087, [monahan.rosemary@epa.gov](mailto:monahan.rosemary@epa.gov).

- **Smart Growth Implementation Assistance** awards are selected through an annual, competitive solicitation that is open to state, local, regional, and tribal governments (and non-profits that have partnered with a governmental entity) that want to incorporate smart growth techniques into their future development. The Request for Applications will be posted at <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/>.

**Reducing Stormwater Runoff.** If you manage stormwater for a municipality, development, or industry, you may be regulated under a federal or state stormwater permit. Make sure you are aware of all applicable regulations. (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swbasicinfo.cfm>) Contacts: **Municipal permits in MA:** **Thelma Murphy**, 617-918-1615, [murphy.thelma@epa.gov](mailto:murphy.thelma@epa.gov).

- Industrial Permits in MA: David Gray, 617- 918-1577, [gray.davidj@epa.gov](mailto:gray.davidj@epa.gov)
- Construction/Development Permits in MA: Newton Tedder, 617-918-1038, [tedder.newton@epa.gov](mailto:tedder.newton@epa.gov)

State agency contacts:

- Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection, Christopher Stone, 860-424-3850
- Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land and Water Quality: David Ladd, 207-287-5404, [david.ladd@state.me.us](mailto:david.ladd@state.me.us) and James Cassida, 207-592-1864, [james.cassida@maine.gov](mailto:james.cassida@maine.gov)
- Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection, Division of Watershed Management, Frederick Civian, 617-292-5821, [Frederick.Civian@state.ma.us](mailto:Frederick.Civian@state.ma.us)
- New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services, Jeff Andrews, 603-271-2984, [Jeff.Andrews@des.nh.gov](mailto:Jeff.Andrews@des.nh.gov)
- Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management, Office of Water Resources – Permitting, Margarita Chatterton, 401-222-4700, x. 7605, [margarita.chatterton@dem.ri.gov](mailto:margarita.chatterton@dem.ri.gov) and Brian Lafaille, 401-222-4700, ext. 7731.
- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Water Quality Division, Christy Witters, 802-241-4582, [Christy.witters@state.vt.us](mailto:Christy.witters@state.vt.us) and Padraic Monks, 802-241-1453.

- **Low Impact Development (LID)** is an approach to land development (or redevelopment) that manages stormwater as close to its source as possible. LID employs principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features, minimizing effective imperviousness to create functional and appealing site drainage that treats stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product. Information about LID practices, costs, and benefits can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/nps/lid/>. Contact: Johanna Hunter, 617-918-1041, [hunter.johanna@epa.gov](mailto:hunter.johanna@epa.gov)
- **Nonpoint Source Grants:** Under section 319 of the Clean Water Act, States receive grant money to support a wide variety of activities to reduce nonpoint source pollution. States provide grants to local organizations, municipalities, and governments to carry out projects that reduce sources of nonpoint pollution through using best management practices, providing outreach and education, and demonstrating new approaches to improve water quality. These grant monies may not be used to fund activities currently required in a permit. Annually, each state publishes a request for proposals to solicit local projects. Contact: Johanna Hunter, 617-918-1041, [hunter.johanna@epa.gov](mailto:hunter.johanna@epa.gov)

- **State Revolving Loan Funds:** Stormwater infrastructure projects may be eligible for loans under the state revolving loan fund program. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program was created in 1987 as a federal/state partnership to serve as a long-term funding source for projects that clean and protect the nation's waters. It funds a broad range of projects from traditional wastewater systems and nonpoint source pollution control to estuary management and a range of projects focusing on water quality. Each year since 1988, the federal government has appropriated funds to EPA for the CWSRF program. These funds are distributed to states, based on a formula set in the enabling legislation, from EPA along with state matching funds (equal to 20% of the federal capitalization grants).

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funding in 2009, and now incorporated into the base CWSRF Program for 2010 and 2011, 20% of the capitalization grants must be used towards the "green project reserve (GPR)." Eligible projects can fall into four different types: energy efficiency, water efficiency, green infrastructure, or environmentally innovative projects. Beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, the required percentage of the capitalization grant that must be used towards the GPR was changed to 10%.

The Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended in 1996, established the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to make funds available to drinking water systems to finance infrastructure improvements. The program also emphasizes providing funds to small and disadvantaged communities and to programs that encourage pollution prevention as a tool for ensuring safe drinking water. The DWSRF may also fund GPR type projects that entirely or in part focus on energy efficiency, water efficiency, green infrastructure, or environmentally innovative projects. Starting with the FY 2012 DWSRF appropriation, State's participation in funding GPR projects has become voluntary and is no longer a required element of the program.

**Regional EPA contacts:**

James Bourne, Regional CWSRF Program Coordinator, 617-918-1610  
 Mark Spinale, Regional DWSRF Program Coordinator, 617-918-1547  
 Katie Marrese, EPA Regional GPR Coordinator, 617-918-1658

**State CWSRF contacts:**

Connecticut DEP Contacts: Paul Stacey, 860-424-3728 and Dennis Greci, 860-424-3751  
 Maine DEP Contact: John True, 207-287-7808  
 Massachusetts DEP Contacts: Steven McCurdy, 617-292-5779 and Joseph Delaney, 617-292-5808  
 New Hampshire DES Contact: Paul Heirtzler, 603-271-2001  
 Rhode Island DEM Contact: Jay Manning, 401-222-3961 ext. 7254  
 Vermont DEC Contacts: Winslow Ladue, 802-654-8953 and Allyn Lewis, 802-654-8989

**State DWSRF contacts:**

Connecticut DPH Contacts: Cam Walden, 860-509-7333  
 Maine DHHS Contact: Norm Lamie, 207-287-2647  
 Massachusetts DEP Contacts: Steven McCurdy, 617-292-5779 and Joseph Delaney, 617-292-5808  
 New Hampshire DES Contact: Dan Dudley, 603-271-2953  
 Rhode Island DOH Contact: Gary Chobanian, 401-222-6867  
 Vermont DEC Contact: Eric Blatt, 802-654-8963

- **Sustainable Infrastructure for Water and Wastewater.** New England's sewer and drinking water infrastructure is aging, and EPA is promoting sustainable practices that will help to address the funding needed to rehabilitate and replace these facilities. Information is available at <http://www.epa.gov/region01/topics/water/swi.html> on best practices for:
  - Better Management and Asset Management
  - Full Cost Pricing
  - Water and Energy Efficiency
  - Watershed Approaches
 Contact: Jackie Leclair, 617-918-1549, [leclair.jackie@epa.gov](mailto:leclair.jackie@epa.gov)

EPA can provide assistance in energy benchmarking a municipality’s facility and assess alternative energy options. Contact: Jason Turgeon, 617-918-1637, [turgeon.jason@epa.gov](mailto:turgeon.jason@epa.gov)

- **Effective Utility Management.** Water-sector utilities across the country are facing the same challenges of rising costs, aging infrastructure, increasingly stringent regulatory requirements, population changes, and a rapidly changing workforce. While many utility managers find themselves turning from one urgent priority to the next, others have used effective utility management to improve their products and services, increase community support, and ensure a strong and viable utility long into the future. The use of effective utility management (EUM) principles in the water sector represents a comprehensive planning approach to meeting utility goals. This means looking beyond the usual financial and operational goals to other aspects of utility functions.

Leaders in the water sector have identified ten attributes (in no particular order) that describe desired outcomes for all water-sector utilities. They provide a clear set of reference points and can help a utility maintain a balanced focus on all of the important operational areas, as well as set priorities for improvement based on their own strategic objectives and the needs of the community it serves. The ten attributes of effectively-managed utilities are:

- product quality
- customer satisfaction
- employee leadership and development
- operational optimization
- financial viability
- infrastructure stability
- operational resiliency
- community sustainability
- water resource adequacy
- stakeholder understanding and support

Utilities can expect to have more balanced and cost-effective performances when they aspire to these goals. Information about these attributes and how to measure them can be found in *Effective Utility Management: A Primer for Water and Wastewater Utilities*. In addition, EPA New England has developed companion resources for doing a streamlined self-assessment and putting together an improvement plan. This streamlined self-assessment involves 30 questions with a 1 to 5 answer scale and can help a utility quickly identify potential improvement areas. The user can then go to the Region 1 EUM Resource Guide to select strategies for making improvements and learn about tools that are available to help with implementation. Here are a few examples:

Attributes	Improvement Strategy	Implementation Tools
Infrastructure Stability, Financial Viability, Stakeholder Understanding and Support	Asset Management	<p><b><u>Check Up Program for Small Systems</u></b>  <a href="http://epa.gov/safewater/cupss/">http://epa.gov/safewater/cupss/</a>            CUPSS is a free, easy-to-use, asset management tool for small drinking water and wastewater utilities. Use CUPSS to help you develop: a record of your assets, a schedule of required tasks, an understanding of your financial situation, and a tailored asset management plan.</p> <p><b><u>Asset Management Guide for Wastewater Utilities Including Total Electronic Asset Management System (TEAMS) Software and Train-The-Trainer Toolkit</u></b>  <a href="http://www.mcet.org/am/am%20toolkit.html">http://www.mcet.org/am/am%20toolkit.html</a>            This toolkit includes modules on the principles of asset management and how they relate to the various sections in the TEAMS software.</p>
Operational Optimization, Community Sustainability	Energy Management	<p><b><u>Energy Use Assessment Tool</u></b>  <a href="http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/energy_use.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/energy_use.cfm</a>            This is an excel-based tool that can be used by small- to medium-sized systems to conduct a utility bill and equipment analysis to assess individual baseline energy use and costs. The website contains links</p>

		<p>for other tools &amp; guidance for benchmarking and energy audits.</p> <p><b><u>Energy Management Handbook for Wastewater and Water Utilities</u></b>  <a href="http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/cut_energy.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/cut_energy.cfm</a>  This website lists a number of resources to help manage and cut energy usage and costs, including EPA's <i>Ensuring a Sustainable Future: An Energy Management Guidebook for Wastewater and Water Utilities</i>.</p>
Operational Resiliency	Emergency Planning	<p><b><u>Climate Resilience Evaluation &amp; Awareness Tool (CREAT)</u></b>  <a href="http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/creat.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/creat.cfm</a>  This tool guides users through identifying threats based on regional differences in climate change projections and designing adaptation plans based on the types of threats being considered. Following assessment, CREAT provides a series of risk reduction and cost reports that will allow the user to evaluate various adaptation options as part of long-term planning.</p>
Product Quality, Infrastructure Stability	Using Green Infrastructure	<p><b><u>System for Urban Stormwater Treatment and Analysis Integration Model (SUSTAIN)</u></b>  <a href="http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/wswrd/wq/models/sustain/">http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/wswrd/wq/models/sustain/</a>  SUSTAIN is a decision support system to facilitate selection and placement of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Low Impact Development (LID) techniques at strategic locations in urban watersheds. SUSTAIN is a tool for answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How effective are BMPs in reducing runoff and pollutant loadings?</li> <li>• What are the most cost-effective solutions for meeting water quality and quality objectives?</li> <li>• Where, what type, and how big should BMPs be?</li> </ul>

Assistance with Effective Utility Management and associated tools can be provided by EPA staff.  
Contact: Carolyn Hayek, 617-918-1596, [hayek.carolyn@epa.gov](mailto:hayek.carolyn@epa.gov)

- **Community-Based Water Resiliency Initiative.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a new tool to support the Agency's Community-Based Water Resiliency Initiative. The tool will raise awareness of drinking water and wastewater (water sector) interdependencies with other community services to support emergency preparedness and response efforts. Critical infrastructure sectors have interdependencies with drinking water and/or wastewater services. Many community services fall under these sectors (such as hospitals and power plants), and their operations could be severely affected by a water service disruption.

The tool will assist water utilities and all community stakeholders in increasing their preparedness for all-hazards impacting the water sector and their ability to respond to and recover from water service interruptions. The electronic tool has a self-assessment feature which enables stakeholders to assess the strengths and weaknesses of current resiliency efforts, and provides a summary report with tailored recommendations for using resources within the tool that would aid in enhancing resiliency. Individual modules have been developed for water utility owners and operators; the healthcare and public health sector; the emergency services sector; state or tribal drinking water primacy agencies; elected officials; community members, and other non-water sector entities.

To access more information about the initiative and to download the new tool, go to:  
<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/communities/index.cfm>

- **The STAR Community Index** is a national, consensus-based framework for gauging the sustainability and livability of U.S. communities. STAR will be launched by 2010, and is currently being developed through a partnership between ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), and the Center for American Progress (CAP). Much as LEED™ transformed the building industry, STAR will transform the way local governments set priorities and

implement policies and practices to improve their sustainability performance. It will become the definitive means by which local governments measure and “certify” their achievements. For more information visit: <http://www.icleiusa.org/star>

- **Energy Efficiency in Municipal Buildings:** EPA Region 1 encourages New England cities and towns to join the Community Energy Challenge, a municipal energy efficiency program that uses ENERGY STAR tools. Communities that participate in the Community Energy Challenge receive technical assistance and recognition as well as a monthly email update with information on activities, trainings, financing, and other topics. For more information on the Community Energy Challenge, see <http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/energy-challenge.html>

Information on renewable energy financing incentives in each New England state can be found at: [http://epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/renewable\\_energy.html](http://epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/renewable_energy.html) .

EPA has set up a website to provide local governments with information on energy efficiency and clean energy and conducts websites on a variety of subjects. To learn more go to: <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/>

A guide for local governments on energy efficiency and renewable energy financing districts can be found at <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=44262>. Contact: Linda Darveau, 617-918-1718, [darveau.linda@epa.gov](mailto:darveau.linda@epa.gov).

- **Green Codes Toolkit:** EPA developed the "Sustainable Design and Green Building Toolkit for Local Governments (Toolkit)" which is designed to assist local governments in identifying and removing permitting barriers to sustainable design and green building practices. It provides a resource for communities interested in conducting their own internal evaluation of how local codes/ordinances either facilitate or impede a sustainable built environment, including the design, construction, renovation, and operation and maintenance of a building and its immediate site. The Toolkit is free and can be downloaded at: [www.epa.gov/region4/recycle/green-building-toolkit.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region4/recycle/green-building-toolkit.pdf) Contact: [rosner.sheryl@epa.gov](mailto:rosner.sheryl@epa.gov)
- **Building codes:** The Commonwealth of MA has zero net energy building guidance for new construction. The report on this guidance is at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/energy-efficiency/zero-net-energy-bldgs/>
- **Wastewater treatment:** As described above, EPA can provide assistance in energy benchmarking a municipality’s facility and assess alternative energy options. EPA is also offering periodic energy management workshops and roundtables for water and waste water utilities. Contact: Jason Turgeon, 617-918-1637, [turgeon.jason@epa.gov](mailto:turgeon.jason@epa.gov)
- **Purchasing:** Quantity Quotes is a program that allows organizations to bid on bulk lots of ENERGY STAR products (<http://www.quantityquotes.net/> ). In addition, MA has an extensive statewide program for environmental preferable purchasing that is a model for consideration: [http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=osdsubtopic&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Buy+from+a+Contract&L2=Environmentally+Preferable+Products+\(EPP\)+Procurement+Program&sid=Aosd](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=osdsubtopic&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Buy+from+a+Contract&L2=Environmentally+Preferable+Products+(EPP)+Procurement+Program&sid=Aosd) . Contact: Linda Darveau, 617-918-1718, [darveau.linda@epa.gov](mailto:darveau.linda@epa.gov)

**Revolving loan fund:** Some municipalities, including Nashua, NH and Cambridge, MA have established Revolving Loan Funds for energy projects that may serve as models for other communities. [http://www.nashuanh.gov/Portals/0/Economic Development/Revolving Loan Fund for Businesses.pdf](http://www.nashuanh.gov/Portals/0/Economic%20Development/Revolving%20Loan%20Fund%20for%20Businesses.pdf)

- **Renewable Energy Production:** EPA has a green remediation program that may be of assistance in siting renewable energy production facilities on a community’s landfill. Contact: John Podgurski, 617-918-1296, [podgurski.john@epa.gov](mailto:podgurski.john@epa.gov). A similar project was done in Brockton, MA called Brightfields <http://www.brockton.ma.us/docs/BrightfieldBrochure.pdf>



- **Combined Heat and Power** Combined heat and power (CHP), also known as cogeneration, is the simultaneous production of electricity and heat from a single fuel source such as: natural gas, biomass, biogas, coal, waste heat, or oil. CHP can greatly increase the facility's operational efficiency and decrease energy costs. EPA's Combined Heat and Power Partnership works closely with energy users, the CHP industry, state and local governments, and other clean energy stakeholders to facilitate the development of new projects and to promote their environmental and economic benefits. Contact: John Moskal, 617-918-1826, [moskal.john@epa.gov](mailto:moskal.john@epa.gov)
- **Renewable Energy and Green Remediation on Potentially Contaminated Lands:** Through its RE-Power America Initiative, EPA promotes the siting of renewable energy production on potentially contaminated lands and mines, including municipal landfills. Resource documents, tools, and potential support services are available on the RE-Power America Initiative website (<http://www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland/index.htm>). EPA also encourages green remediation practices to maximize the environmental benefit of cleanup activities (e.g., by reducing green house gas emissions and the use/degradation of water and other natural resources). Green remediation principles, best management practices, and other useful information can be found at EPA's Green Remediation Focus website (<http://clu.in.org/greenremediation/index.cfm>). Contact: John Podgurski, 617-918-1296, [podgurski.john@epa.gov](mailto:podgurski.john@epa.gov) or Ginny Lombardo, 617-918-1754, [lombardo.ginny@epa.gov](mailto:lombardo.ginny@epa.gov).
- EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) is a voluntary assistance program that helps to reduce methane emissions from landfills by encouraging the recovery and beneficial use of landfill gas as an energy resource (<http://www.epa.gov/lmop/>).
- **Reducing diesel pollution.** Contacts: Gary Rennie, 617-918-1525, [rennie.gary@epa.gov](mailto:rennie.gary@epa.gov); and John Rogan, 617-918-1645, [rogan.john@epa.gov](mailto:rogan.john@epa.gov), Abby Swaine (Freight), 617-918-1841, [swaine.abby@epa.gov](mailto:swaine.abby@epa.gov).

Reducing diesel emissions is one of the most important air quality challenges facing the country today. The fine particles in diesel exhaust can aggravate asthma, cause lung damage, and even lead to premature death. The good news is that there are cost effective strategies for reducing diesel emissions.

A community can adopt specifications to limit idling and require emission controls on construction vehicles engaged in public works projects and/or private development. Model contract specifications are available at: [www.northeastdiesel.org/pdf/NEDC-Construction-Contract-Spec.pdf](http://www.northeastdiesel.org/pdf/NEDC-Construction-Contract-Spec.pdf) Communities can also adopt more broadly applicable idle limits where authorized by state law. Resources include a compendium of truck idling regulations maintained by the American Transportation Research Institute <http://atri-online.org/2012/07/20/idling-regulations-compendium> ; idle reduction technologies, laws and incentives compiled by the US Dept of Energy [http://www.afdc.energy.gov/conservation/idle\\_reduction\\_basics.html](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/conservation/idle_reduction_basics.html); and links to New England state idling rules <http://www.epa.gov/ne/eco/diesel/idling.html>.

- **National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program:** To help meet the challenge of reducing exhaust from diesel engines, EPA awards competitive grants to public agencies and eligible nonprofits through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA). Funds can be used to reduce diesel emissions from heavy-duty diesel engines through the following eligible diesel emissions reduction strategies: verified retrofit technologies (exhaust controls, engine upgrades, and cleaner fuels), verified idle reduction technologies, certified engine repowers, and vehicle and equipment replacement. City governments are directly eligible to apply for funding and private entities such as school bus contractors, business associations, and others can benefit through a public-private partnership. To see announcements and information on current and past competitions, see EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign website <http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/> or the Northeast Diesel Collaborative website: [www.northeastdiesel.org](http://www.northeastdiesel.org)
- **State Clean Diesel Grant Program:** EPA also allocates funds directly to the states to implement grant and loan programs for clean diesel projects. For more information see: <http://epa.gov/otaq/diesel/prgstate.htm>.

- The **Northeast Diesel Collaborative (NEDC)** is a public-private partnership among EPA Regions 1 and 2, the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), the eight northeastern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to significantly reduce diesel emissions throughout the Northeast and U.S. Territories. NEDC has two active working groups, the NEDC Ports Workgroup and the NEDC Construction Workgroup, that host regular calls for working group members and interested others. For more information and to participate in one of the working groups, please see the ports and construction pages of the NEDC website at: [www.northeastdiesel.org](http://www.northeastdiesel.org).
- In EPA's **SmartWay Transport Partnership**, 3000 freight shippers and carriers are learning how to shrink their carbon footprints and reduce emissions of air pollutants while saving fuel and growing their businesses. Shipper partners get help choosing efficient carriers and rethinking their facilities and distribution systems; carrier partners get help identifying technologies and strategies to save fuel through reducing idling, friction, and wasted movement. SmartWay offers information, analytic tools, financing programs, and personalized assistance. Cities may want to consider partnering with EPA New England to recruit city-based freight shippers and carriers into the program; organize events or pilot tools/resources for the local business community; use idle-reduction strategies as part of a "build it right" program for new development and redevelopment within the city; and/or join SmartWay as an affiliate partner. SmartWay also certifies efficient light duty vehicles to help consumers and fleet operators (like cities) make fuel-efficient vehicle choices. For more information, see: [www.epa.gov/smartway](http://www.epa.gov/smartway). Contact: Abby Swaine, 617-918-1841, [swaine.abby@epa.gov](mailto:swaine.abby@epa.gov).

**Sustainable Materials Management.** EPA has a number of programs to help communities become more sustainable through reducing, reusing, recycling and purchasing products that are environmentally preferable. Contact: Jeri Weiss, 617-918-1568, [weiss.jeri@epa.gov](mailto:weiss.jeri@epa.gov).

- **Recycling and source reduction** offers an effective, yet simple way for communities to reduce the effects of climate change. Resources on the connection between materials management and greenhouse gas emissions can be found (see <http://epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/publications.html>) A resource guide for communities can be found at (<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/rcra/mgtoolkit/index.html>) Contact: Jeri Weiss at 617-918-1568 [weiss.jeri@epa.gov](mailto:weiss.jeri@epa.gov)
- **WasteWise** is a free EPA program to assist municipal solid waste reduction. Communities can join as an endorser or partner or both. Partners use a free online data tracking tool called the **WasteWise Data Management System** to measure their waste reduction efforts, identify climate benefits from recycling; and create a climate profile. Contact: Janet Bowen at 617-918-1795, [bowen.janet@epa.gov](mailto:bowen.janet@epa.gov)
- EPA encourages communities to consider **Pay as You Throw** (also known as unit pricing or variable-rate pricing), where residents are charged for the collection of municipal solid waste—ordinary household trash—based on the amount they throw away. This creates a direct economic incentive to recycle more and to generate less waste. EPA's SMART BET (Saving Money and Reducing Trash Benefit Evaluation Tool) is designed to help community waste managers decide whether this is the right model for their town or city. (see [www.epa.gov/payt](http://www.epa.gov/payt)) Contact: Jeri Weiss 617-918-1568 [weiss.jeri@epa.gov](mailto:weiss.jeri@epa.gov)
- **Material Reuse** EPA has a number of resources for communities to promote reuse of materials that still have "use" rather than disposing or recycling. Information includes material exchanges, guides for donations and building material reuse stores. (see <http://www.epa.gov/region1/assistance/reuse/index.html>) Contact: Christine Beling 617-918-1792 [beling.christine@epa.gov](mailto:beling.christine@epa.gov)

The **Electronic Challenge Program** provides resources for purchasing efficient equipment, reducing the impacts during use, and recycling electronics at the end of its life. See: <http://www.stateelectronicschallenge.net>. Contact: Christine Beling 617-918-1792 [beling.christine@epa.gov](mailto:beling.christine@epa.gov)

- **USDA Community Facilities Programs** provide loan and grant financing to communities and non-profit agencies to purchase, expand or renovate capital facilities and equipment for all types essential community facilities in rural (20,000 population or less) areas. Facilities include but are

not limited to health care, education, public safety, cultural, adult/child care, and libraries. For more information: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF\\_CF.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html)

- **USDA Rural Utilities (Selected Programs): [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)**

Program	Objective	Applicant	Uses	Population	Loan/Grant	Terms/Conditions
Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants	Fund facilities in rural areas.	Public entities, Indian tribes, and non-profit corporations.	Build, repair, and improve public water, waste collection and treatment systems.	Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population.	Direct loan and grant.	Repayment period is a maximum of 40 years. Grant funds may be available.
Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees	Fund facilities in rural areas.	Public entities, Indian tribes, and non-profit corporations.	Construct, repair, improve water supply and distribution and waste collection and treatment systems.	Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population.	Loan guarantee.	Eligible lenders obtain up to a 90 percent guarantee on loans they make and service.
Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grants	Provide technical assistance and training	Public, private, and non-profit organizations	Technical assistance and training for management of water and waste projects.	Rural areas and towns with up to 10,000 population.	Grant	
Rural Broadband Loan and Loan Guarantee	Deploy broadband service to rural communities .	Entities seeking to provide broadband services in rural areas. Individuals/partnerships not eligible.	Finance the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service in eligible rural communities; refinance Telecommunications Program debt.	Areas not located within: (1) a city, town, or incorporated area over 20,000 inhabitants; or (2) an urbanized area contiguous to a city or town of over 50,000 inhabitants.	Direct loans and loan guarantees .	Loans are made at the Treasury rate; loan term is the expected composite economic life of the assets financed; guarantees cannot exceed 80 % of the project amount.
Electric and Telecommunications Programs	Assist rural communities with affordable, reliable electric and telecommunications services.	Non-profit and cooperative associations, public bodies, and other utilities.	Electric generation, transmission, and distribution facilities, including alternative, renewable, conservation and energy efficiency programs. Enhanced 911 emergency service, digital switching equipment, fiber	Electric: areas served by an existing rural electric borrower, or rural areas other than a city or town of more than 20,000. Telecommunications: areas not located	Direct loan or loan guarantee.	Interest rates are established in accordance with 7CFR 17145.

			optic cable, and traditional main system telecommunications service.	within cities with population over 5,000		
Distance Learning and Telemedicine	Deployment of advanced telecommunication services in rural areas to improve education and health care.	Incorporated entities, including municipalities, for-profit, and not-for-profit corporations, rural libraries, educational or health care facilities.	To provide end-user equipment and programming that delivers distance learning and telemedicine services into eligible areas.	Rural areas outside incorporated or unincorporated cities with population over 20,000.	Direct loan and/or Grant.	Matching funds are required.
Community Connect	Provide public access to broadband in otherwise un-served communities.	Public bodies, tribes, cooperatives, nonprofits, limited dividend or mutual associations, corporations and other legally organized entities.	To build broadband infrastructure and establish a community center which offers free public access to broadband for two years.	A single community outside incorporated or unincorporated cities with population over 20,000 which does not have broadband	Grant	Min \$50,000; Max \$1,000,000. Amounts are published in NOFAs and may vary
High energy Cost Grants	Funding for energy facilities in areas with high energy costs.	Individuals, businesses, governments, and Indian Tribes & Tribal entities.	Energy facilities.	Areas with avg. residential energy cost 275% of national average.	Grant	Minimum Per Grant \$75,000; Maximum Per Grant \$5 Million. Admin costs may not exceed 4%.
<p><i>Telecommunication and Electric Programs: contact USDA RUS Administrator      All others, contact Rural Development State or local office</i></p>						

**Livability Principle:**

***Coordinate and Leverage Federal Policies and Investment***

- Sustainable Communities Initiative.** HUD’s Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities provides competitive grant awards to regional consortia to undertake coordinated planning and to municipal government agencies to address local challenges to sustainable planning and development solutions. Grantees receive multiple year funding to design policies and development strategies that promote affordable housing and transportation options as well as economic competitiveness while preserving and enhancing natural and cultural resources. For more information see: [portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program/offices/sustainable\\_housing\\_communities](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program/offices/sustainable_housing_communities)
- Choice Neighborhoods Program.** HUD’s Division of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) provides competitive grants to local housing authorities to transform extremely poor neighborhoods with public and HUD-assisted housing into mixed income communities with transportation options, employment, and educational opportunity. Grantees receive multiple year funding to produce Transformation Plans and to implement Transformation Plans primarily to preserve and rehabilitate

public and HUD-assisted multifamily housing. For more information see:  
[portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing).

### **Livability Principle: *Value Communities and Neighborhoods***

- **Environmental Justice Program.** EPA's Environmental Justice Program makes funding available annually through the EJ Small Grants Program. The grant program provides financial assistance to eligible organizations to build collaborative partnerships, to identify the local environmental and/or public health issues, and to envision solutions and empower the community through education, training, and outreach. For more information see:  
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html> Contact: Heather Ross, 617-918-1073, [ross.heather@epa.gov](mailto:ross.heather@epa.gov)
- **Urban Environmental Programs.** EPA's Urban Environmental Program makes funding available annually through the Healthy Communities Grant Program to address issues such as lead poisoning prevention; indoor air quality; ambient air quality; asthma prevention; Tools for Schools; urban rivers; vacant lots; and open/green space. For more information see:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/hcgp.html> Contact: Stacey Johnson-Pridgeon, 617-918-1552, [johnson.stacey@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.stacey@epa.gov).
- **Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE).** CARE is a competitive grant program run by EPA that offers an innovative way for a community to organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in its local environment. Through CARE, a community creates a partnership that implements solutions to reduce releases of toxic pollutants and minimize people's exposure to them. By providing financial and technical assistance, EPA helps CARE communities get on the path to a renewed environment. In 2010 EPA plans to award approximately \$2 million in grants; applications are due by March 9, 2010. See information at <http://www.epa.gov/care/> Contact: Kathleen Castagna, 617-918-1429, [castagna.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:castagna.kathleen@epa.gov)