



# 17th Annual Leading by Example Awards

## Presented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Leading by Example Awards annually recognize outstanding decarbonization, clean energy, and other environmental efforts among Commonwealth agencies, public colleges/universities, municipalities and individuals.*



### MUNICIPAL



The **City of Lowell** has been a leader in municipal decarbonization since being designated a Green Community in 2010, the first year of the program. In recent years, Lowell has advanced projects that both reduce emissions from municipal operations and benefit its diverse population. Accomplishments include implementing energy efficiency projects that have reduced electricity consumption by over 1 million kWh; deploying 66 municipally-owned EV charging ports; partnering with UMass Lowell and National Grid in launching the first networked geothermal pilot in National Grid territory; and developing an urban forest master plan to help address urban heat islands.



The **Town of Windsor**, a Green Community since 2015, has leveraged Green Communities grant funds to advance clean energy and sustainability initiatives across the Town. Accomplishments in recent years include installing a 20-kW ground-mounted solar array, upgrading town office lighting to LEDs, replacing an oil boiler in its town office with an air-source heat pump, and weatherization of the Town Offices, Town Hall, and Town Garage. These projects reduced the Town's oil use by 80% and overall greenhouse gas emissions by over 25% since 2015.

### STATE ENTITIES

The **Massachusetts Water Resources Authority** has undertaken several initiatives to decarbonize its operations and reduce energy consumption across its facilities, contributing to a 27% decline in onsite fossil fuel emissions since 2004. Recent accomplishments include electrifying 14% of its fleet, installing nine EV charging stations for fleet use, adopting an internal cost of carbon to account for greenhouse gas emission impacts of projects, and working with Eversource to deploy 250kW batteries at two facilities to demonstrate the effectiveness of battery energy storage systems in demand reduction and enhancing resiliency.



The **Department of Conservation and Recreation Net Zero Task Force** was established to turn the goals of Executive Order 594 into action across DCR facilities. Among its many efforts, the team has replaced fossil fuel systems with air-source heat pumps and heat pump water heaters in 41 facilities in FY23, deployed innovative solar film on two ice rinks, is in the process of installing over 30 charging ports across 11 locations to support fleet EVs, is actively promoting the electrification of landscaping equipment across its park system, and much more.



**MassBay Community College** is anticipating the opening of a new all-electric Health Sciences, Early Childhood, and Human Service Center building in early 2024. This building will be heated and cooled with a ground-source heating system and powered by a 442kW solar parking lot canopy and rooftop array. Three dual-port EV charging stations were installed on the Wellesley campus for public use in 2022, with another six stations to be added as part of the new Center. The campus plans to replace its small fleet of eight vehicles with electric options as they are retired, and already has two all-electric utility vehicles in use.



### INDIVIDUALS



**Hank Haff, the Town of Needham's Director of Building Design and Construction**, has gone above and beyond his job responsibilities to advance the Town's climate and sustainability goals, often volunteering beyond the scope of his job to do so. He volunteered to lead the Town's solar development committee, for example, and oversaw deployment of a 3MW facility on a former landfill. He has also been a lead advocate in electrifying the municipal fleet, assisted in managing the installation of EV chargers throughout the town, and acts as staff liaison to the Town's Climate Action Planning Committee, allowing him to provide valuable insight as the Town develops its climate goals.



**Suzanne Wood, Associate Director of Sustainability & Campus Services for UMass Chan Medical School**, has been a pivotal leader in sustainability and climate efforts at UMass Chan for the past decade. Under her leadership, UMass Chan has installed 38 dual port EV charging stations for visitor and employee use since 2019, for example, and with her guidance the campus completed a comprehensive decarbonization planning process in 2023. She ensured the right people were included in the process, working closely with UMass staff, engineers, students, and state agency partners to ensure the school has a clear pathway to decarbonizing its operations.

## 2023 Leading by Example Awards

Presented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Department of Energy Resources  
Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance

Monday, December 4, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Massachusetts State House**

### Welcome

Commissioner Mahony, Department of Energy Resources

### Speakers and Award Presentations

Secretary Tepper, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

- *Opening Remarks*
- *Award Recipient: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority*
- *Award Recipient: Department of Conservation & Recreation Net Zero Task Force*

Commissioner Mahony, Department of Energy Resources

- *Award Recipient: Town of Windsor*
- *Award Recipient: City of Lowell*

Commissioner Baacke, Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance

- *Award Recipient: MassBay Community College*
- *Award Recipient: Suzanne Wood, UMass Chan Medical School*

Joanne Bissetta, Director, Green Communities Division, DOER

- *Award Recipient: Hank Haff, Town of Needham*

Eric Friedman, Director, Leading by Example Program, DOER

- *Closing*

Group photos will be taken following the awards program.