



*Helping Massachusetts Municipalities Create a Greener Energy Future*

## **Planning Assistance for Becoming a Green Community**



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# Green Communities Program

Serving as the hub to all Massachusetts cities and towns on all matters related to energy



# Green Communities Grant Program

- Provides up to \$10M annually in grants and loans to ***qualifying*** communities.
  - 5 Criteria
  - FY10 GC designation application deadline: May 14, 2010
  - FY10 Grant application deadline: May 28, 2010
- Funds generated annually from fees paid to northeast RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative)
- Subsequent grant rounds: TBD

# Becoming a Green Community

## Why Do it?

- Economic Benefits – save energy, attract new business
- Environmental benefits – reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Recognition – Sustainability leader in the Commonwealth
  - Recognized on DOER website, printed materials
  - Recognition sign placed in each community
- Grants - to become even greener

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## **Green Communities Grant Program Planning Assistance**

- Planning Assistance awarded to 72 individual municipal applicants and 6 regional applicants (representing 31 more municipalities)
- Communities are large and small and are spread across the Commonwealth
- 6 teams of Consultants providing Planning Assistance on behalf of DOER to communities
- The Horsley Witten Group/ICF team is serving your community

## **Green Communities Planning Assistance – What does it include?**

- Up to 100 hours of services over 3 months, dependant on community's needs
- Development of an Action Plan with a timeline for Completion that includes the following:
  - A breakdown of each of the qualification criteria
  - Identify what has been accomplished to date
  - Identify specific tasks to be completed to meet the criteria
  - Identify the person(s) responsible for those tasks
  - Develop objectives and milestones for completing the identified tasks that will lead to the community meeting each outstanding qualification criteria
- The Horsley Witten Group/ICF Team is not authorized under this grant to complete actual steps for meeting criteria – municipality must be responsible

## Qualification Criteria

1. Adopt as-of-right siting, in designated locations, for:
  - Renewable/alternative energy generation,
  - Renewable/alternative energy R&D, or
  - Renewable/alternative energy manufacturing facilities.
  
2. Adopt expedited (12 month) application/permitting process.
  - Chapter 43D or
  - Alternative local equivalent

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**250 kW Solar Array**  
**Mauna Lani Resort in Hawaii**  
Source: <http://www.thesolarplan.com/articles/mlb3-fromlift.jpg>



**660 kW Wind Turbine**  
**MMA in Bourne, MA**  
Source: <https://reich-chemistry.wikispaces.com/Gels.Gendrolis.Doyle.MMA.Spring2009.EnergyandWater>

## Qualification Criteria

3. Establish an energy use baseline inventory with a program to reduce baseline by 20% in 5 years.
  - Various tools (Portfolio Manager, ICLEI, Clean Air Cool Planet Small Town Carbon Calculator)
  - DOER's MassEnergyInsight Tool now available with trainings 2/18 and 2/19
  - Municipal buildings, municipal facilities (wastewater, water, other), street/traffic lights and vehicles.
  - Regional schools: not required, unless you plan to apply for a grant related to those facilities.

## Qualification Criteria

### 4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles

- Exemptions: Ambulances, fire trucks, DPW trucks and other heavy-weight vehicles.
- Police cruisers: Town must commit to replace as needed when fuel-efficient cruisers available.
- Vehicle fleet inventory required.

## Qualification Criteria

5. Require all new residential construction > 3000 ft<sup>2</sup>, and new commercial and industrial construction to minimize life-cycle energy costs.
  - Adopt the Stretch Energy Code via Town Meeting (any reference to BoS approval is outdated).
  - 6 month concurrency period once adopted, starting July 1 or Jan 1.
  - Building Inspector must be trained. DOER/ BBRS training available now.

## Green Communities Planning Assistance – What does it include?

- In reviewing with the municipality the path for meeting each criteria, Horsley Witten Group/ICF Team will assist with the following as appropriate:
  - Identification of the appropriate method/technology for meeting the as-of-right criteria, and identification of appropriate designated locations
  - Identification of and review of appropriate model documents
  - Identification of building, vehicle and streetlight information for performing energy baseline inventory
  - Education on the Stretch Code
  - Up to 2 presentations to Town Officials

# Goals for Today's Meeting

- Status Report from you
  - Walk through all criteria & identify priority assistance need
    - Criteria that are closest to completion
    - Criteria that are seen as most challenging
- Think about “point person” for each Criteria
- Develop basic schedule for this work
- Action Plan will be submitted to you within 90 days of today, by May 17, 2010.

# Questions to Consider

- **As-of-Right Zoning & Expedited Permitting:**
  - Have you considered generation? If not, why?
  - Have you already received any alternative energy siting applications?
  - Do you already allow as-of-right manufacturing or R&D?
  - Are you able to apply Chapter 43D or equivalent?
  - Space, Feasibility?
- **Energy Baseline & Reduction Strategy:**
  - Have you conducted an inventory? What program are you using? Does it include street lights and vehicles?
- **Vehicle Fleet:**
  - Do you have a policy already?
- **Stretch Code:**
  - Are you and your Building Inspector familiar with it?
  - Are local builders familiar with it? Are any local builders already building Energy Star Homes?
- **What is your highest priority for Assistance?**

## Contact Information

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