



Helping Massachusetts Municipalities Create a Greener Energy Future

*US EPA State Climate and
Energy Program*

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The Green Communities Program – Partnering with Cities and Towns

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Green Communities Act – Ch 169 of 2008

- Created the Green Communities Division within the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
- Serving as the hub to all Massachusetts cities and towns on all matters related to energy

Green Communities Program

- Programs for Municipalities
 - Energy Audit Program (EAP) - *existing*
 - Energy Performance Contracting Technical Assistance - *existing*
 - Green Communities Grant, Loan and Technical Assistance Program - *new*
 - ARRA Stimulus Funding for Cities and Towns - *new*

Green Communities - Approach

- Direct outreach to cities and towns since October:
 - Inform about EAP and Performance Contracting programs
 - Inform and receive feedback on development of Green Communities Program
 - Public comment on draft criteria for qualification
 - Request for Information
 - Hiring Regional Coordinators
 - As stimulus has evolved, educate and inform

Green Communities Program – Education on Benefits

- Economic Benefits – save energy
- Environmental benefits – reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Recognition – Sustainability leader in the Commonwealth
- Grants and Programs - to become even greener

Green Communities – Approach on Stimulus

- Communities larger than 35,000
 - Held Webinar April 22nd; walked them through websites for various registrations
 - Powerpoint and audiofile posted at www.mass.gov/doer
 - Provide technical assistance on using federal websites
 - Field calls on potential projects
 - Highlight key issues raised on FedConnect
 - Disseminate information received from DOE

Green Communities – Approach on Stimulus

- Communities < 35,000
 - Developed sub-grant program and issued guidance May 11th ; using ~85%
 - Held webinar May 15th ; powerpoint and audiofile posted at www.mass.gov/doer
 - Sub-grant program based on
 - List of projects submitted to Lt Governor’s Office
 - US DOE Funding criteria
 - Needs of municipalities
 - MA Energy Goals
 - Other available programs

Green Communities – Approach on Stimulus

- Technical assistance on other programs
 - Alternative Fueled Vehicles Pilot Grant Program
 - Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs)
 - Energy Conservation Bonds - \$67M for MA
 - Nationwide Competitive Energy Efficiency Block Grants - \$400M

Green Communities – Lessons Learned (to date!)

- Communicate, communicate, communicate
– Collaborate with other programs
- Allow time for communities to absorb
- Flexibility
- Model documentation and key examples



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Green Communities Division

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www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities