



*Western MA Solar
Forum*

September 19, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

*Maura Healy, Governor
Kim Driscoll, Lt Governor
Rebecca Tepper, Secretary
Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner*

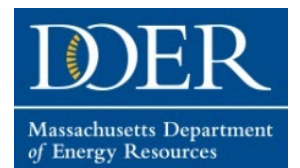
**Update from Green
Communities**

Agenda

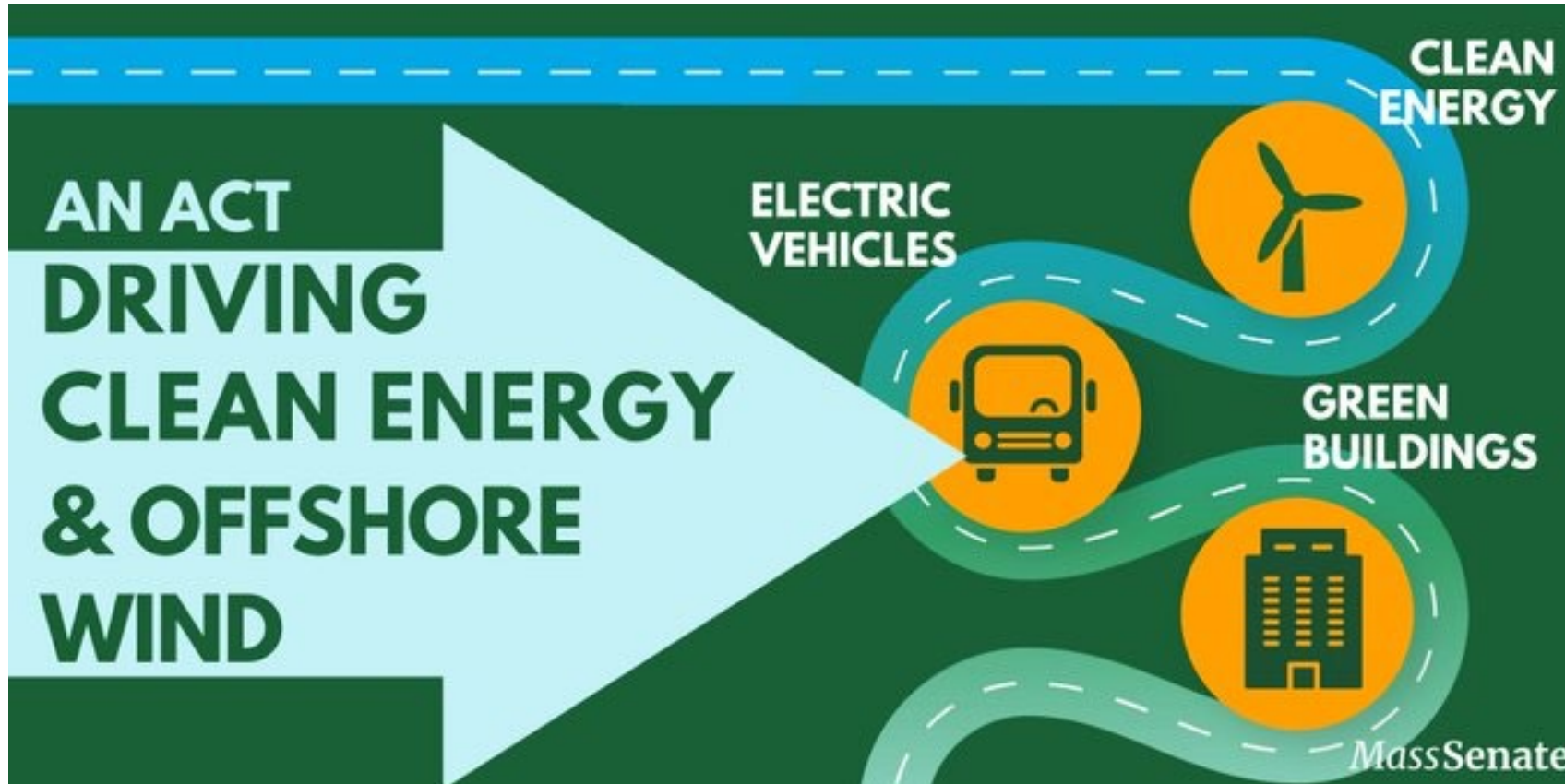
- What's new
- Current Opportunities
- Deadlines, etc.
- Federal \$\$



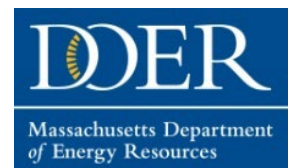
Helping Massachusetts Municipalities Create A Greener Energy Future



An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind – August 2022



Helping Massachusetts Municipalities Create A Greener Energy Future



MASSACHUSETTS 2050 DECARBONIZATION ROADMAP



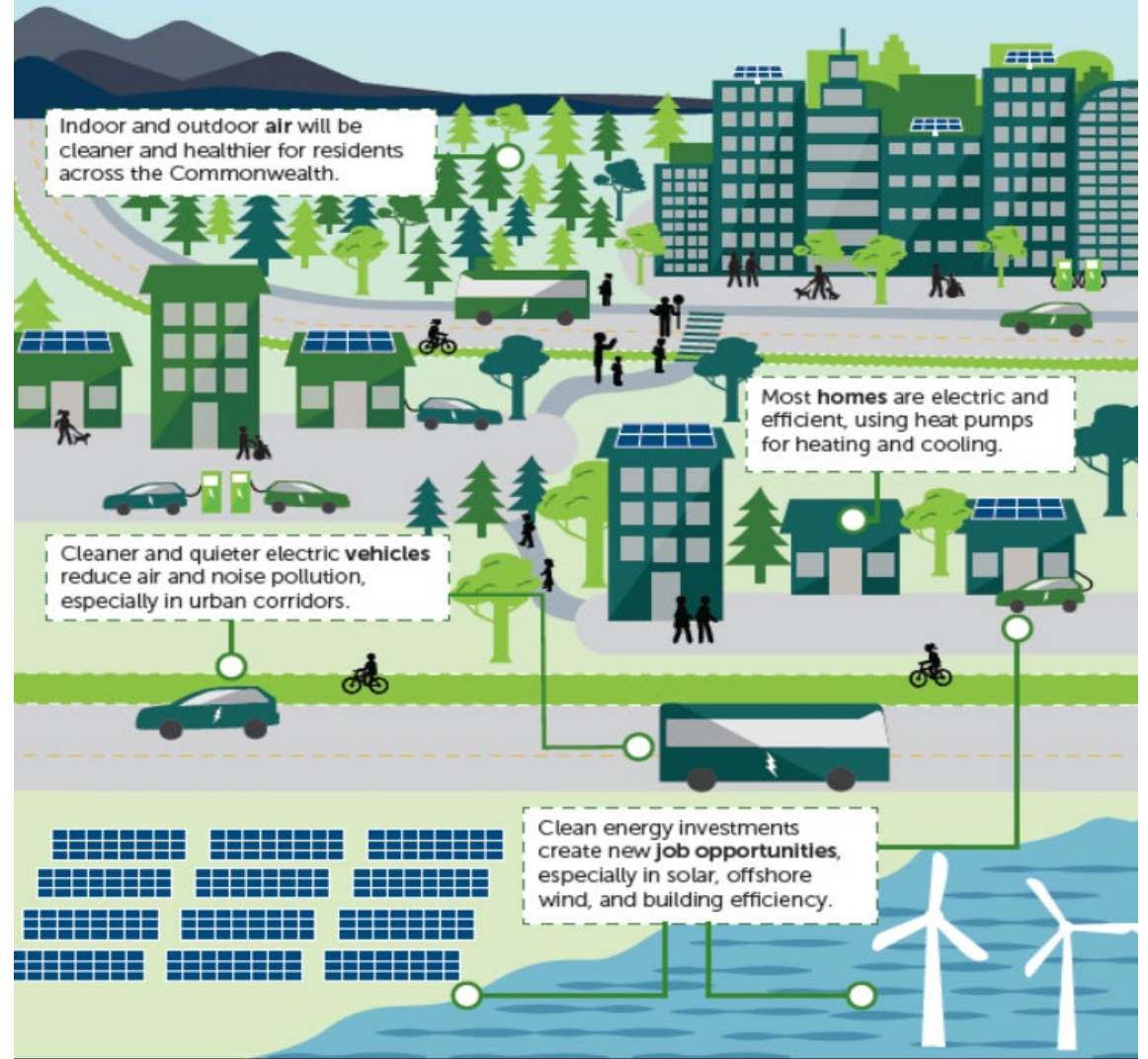
A report commissioned by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to identify cost-effective and equitable strategies to ensure Massachusetts achieves net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



December 2020

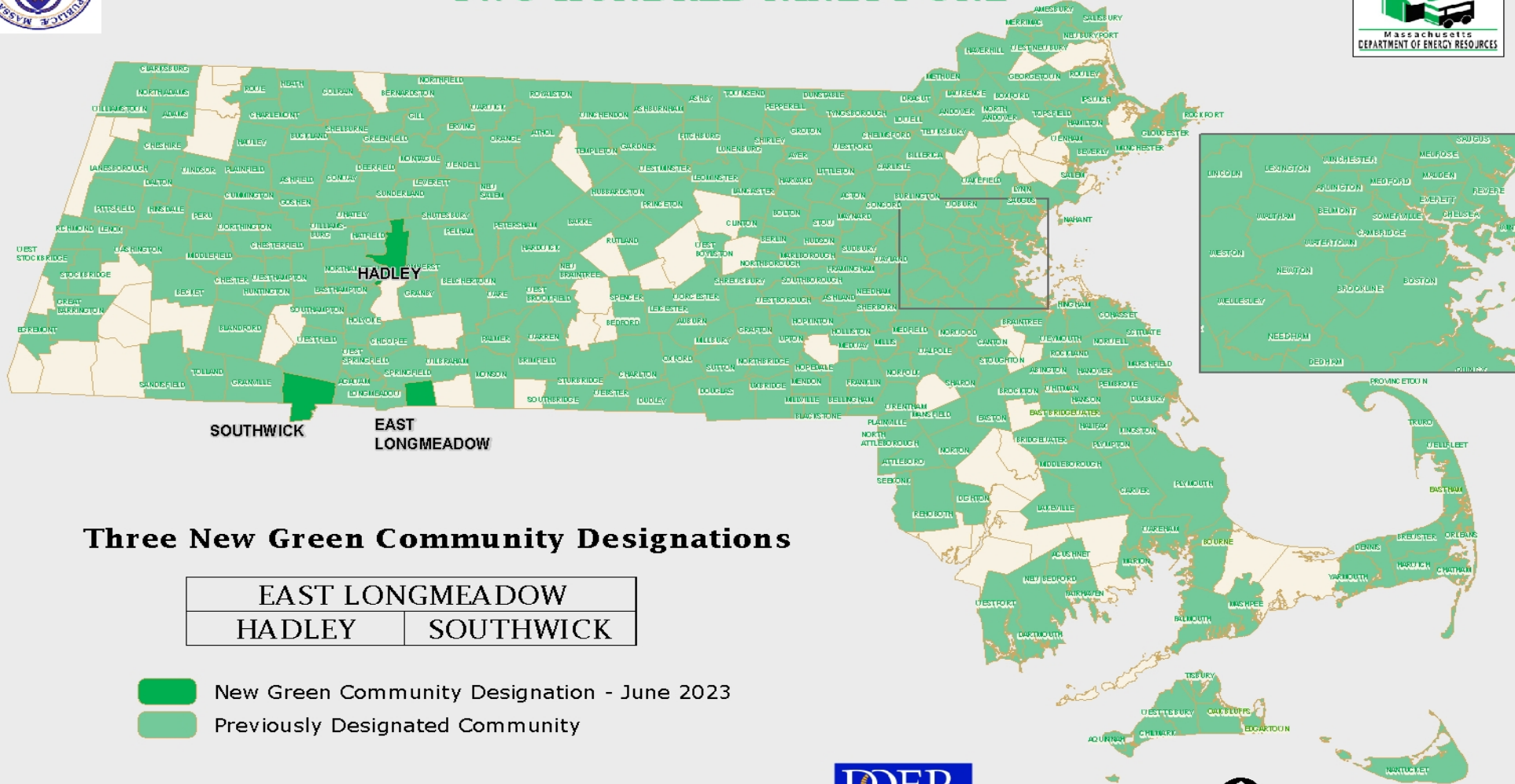
SEE YOURSELF IN 2050

The transition to Net Zero has benefits across all aspects of society. Massachusetts will become cleaner, healthier, and more resilient.





GREEN COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS REACH TWO HUNDRED NINETY-ONE



Three New Green Community Designations

EAST LONGMEADOW	
HADLEY	SOUTHWICK

- New Green Community Designation - June 2023
- Previously Designated Community



J. Pfister, 5-25-23



20

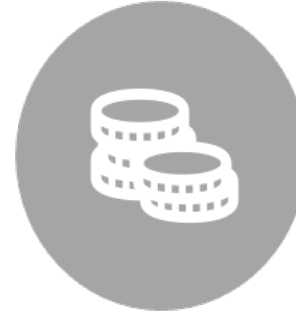
NOT TO SCALE

Miles

Green Community Grant Results



Nearly \$160M clean energy grant awards since 2010



Leveraging \$36M Mass Save efficiency incentives



Estimated \$26M annual cost savings



Estimated ghg reduction 66,000 metric tonnes



Helping Massachusetts Municipalities Create A Greener Energy Future

**Coming
soon!**

Green Communities 2.0

(aka Climate Leader Communities)



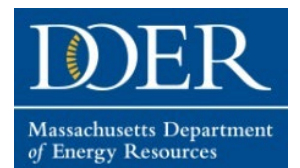
Align resources for municipalities with EEA climate and energy goals



Provide framework for municipalities seeking higher climate ambition



Enhance engagement and forward progress with municipalities

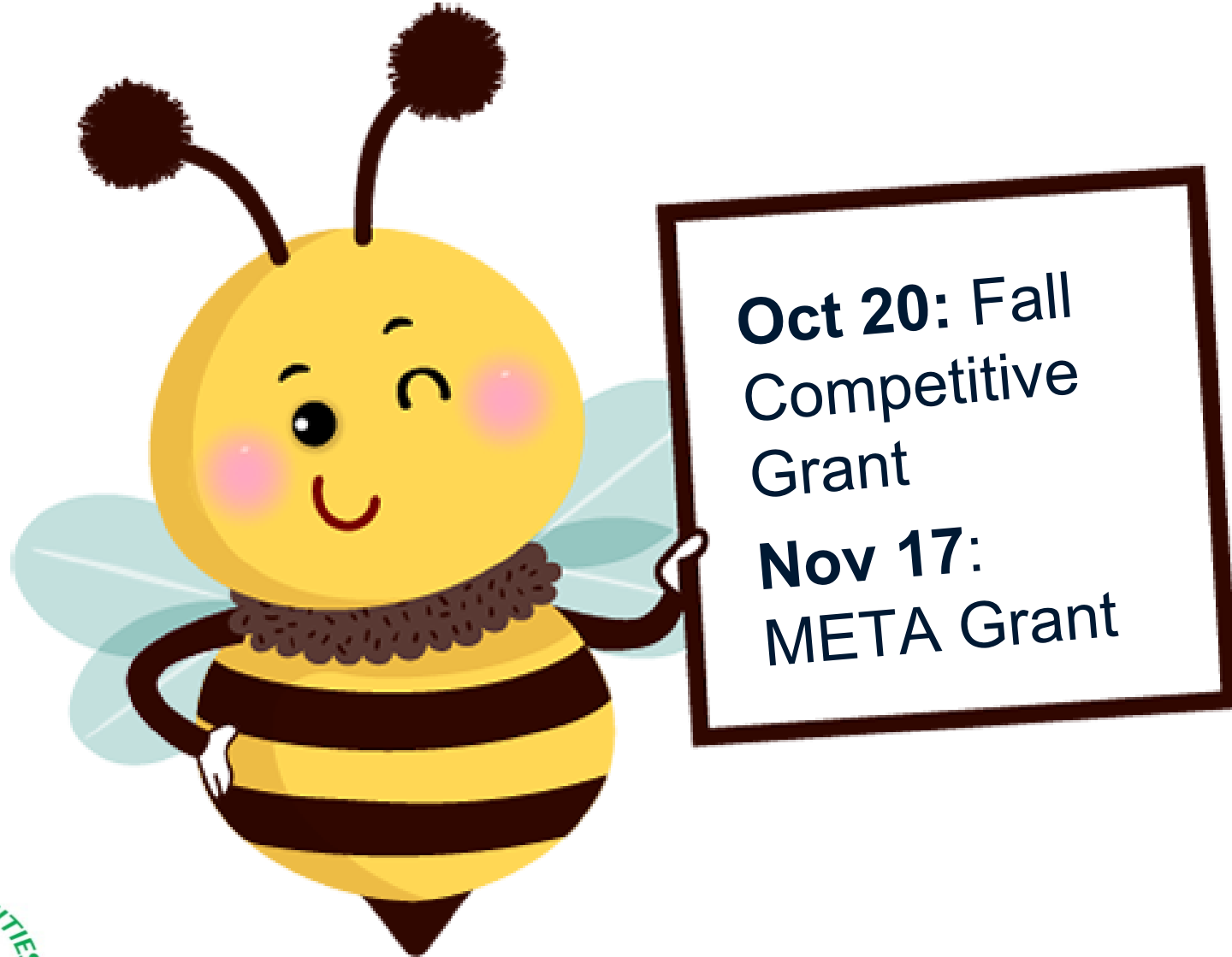


Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META)



- Engineering/feasibility studies for clean energy technologies
- Investigation of resiliency opportunities at critical municipal facilities
- Evaluation of storage opportunities for public facilities
- Design of solar + storage on municipal property
- Up to \$15,000 award available
- Available to any municipality, regional school district, water/wastewater district

Upcoming Deadlines

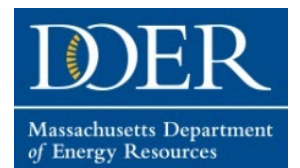


Upcoming Federal Opportunities

- EPA - Solar For All
- DOE - Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP)
- DOE- Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (EPA)
 - Implementation grants FOA released later this year (\$4.6 bill)
- Renew America's Schools (DOE)
 - 2024 FOA released later this year



Helping Massachusetts Municipalities Create A Greener Energy Future



What Is Solar For All – Key Parameters

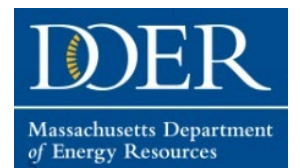
- The Commonwealth intends to apply for up to \$250M
- Funding should be used to expand existing low-income solar programs or design and deploy new Solar for All programs
 - Intended to enable low-income households access to affordable, resilient and clean solar energy
 - deliver ‘meaningful benefits’ to eligible residents.
- Funds must be deployed within 5 years, with 1 year planning period allowed



See appendix

for details on eligibility requirements.

Helping Massachusetts Municipalities Create A Greener Energy Future



R-STEP

Objectives:

1. Improve renewable energy siting in the Commonwealth while engaging local governments and host communities, especially disadvantaged communities
2. Engaging with local governments and communities to identify renewable energy siting and planning priorities,

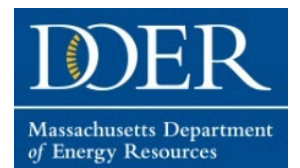


EECBG Sub-grant Program

- MA allocation = \$2,494,680
- State Energy Offices to disburse at least 60% of allocation as sub-grants to municipalities <35,000
- DOER's goal: *maximize* grant \$ by leveraging existing tools and resources AND *minimize* reporting burden
 - Create sub-grant program that meets local needs
 - Targeting awards \$30-\$60k range
- MA Direct grants to >35,000 communities = \$76k - \$690k (Boston)
 - Average = \$114k
 - **Deadline for submitting application to DOE extended to January 31, 2024**



Helping Massachusetts Municipalities Create A Greener Energy Future



Green Communities Contacts

Regional Coordinators act as direct liaisons with cities and towns on energy efficiency and renewable energy activities

Northeastern MA: Mark Rabinsky
(interim)
Mark.Rabinsky@mass.gov
617-823-4588 - cell



Western MA: Chris Mason
Christopher.Mason2@mass.gov
857-753-2159 - cell

Central MA: Kelly Brown
Kelly.Brown@mass.gov
617-780-8144 - cell



Southeastern MA: Lisa Sullivan
Lisa.M.Sullivan@mass.gov
617-312-4018 - cell

Joanne Bissetta, Director - Joanne.Bissetta@mass.gov

Mark Rabinsky, Deputy Director - Mark.Rabinsky@mass.gov