



Green Communities Grant Program

Town of Lincoln
March 8, 2010

Introduction: Green Communities Program

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



Green Communities Grant Program

- Must meet all 5 qualification criteria
- Provides annual grants and loans to **qualifying** communities
 - Funds allocated for Green Communities from RGGI auctions – *roughly \$7 million for FY 2010*
 - Communities must meet all 5 criteria in order to be eligible to receive a grant
- FY 2010, 1st round: Up to \$1 million per community
 - Can apply for various projects
 - Used to fund all or a portion of the costs of *studying, designing, constructing and implementing* energy efficiency activities, including by not limited to:
 - Energy conservation measures and projects
 - Procurement of energy management services (ESCO)
 - Installation of energy management systems
 - Adoption of demand side reduction initiatives
 - Adoption of energy efficiency policies. Financing the siting and construction of renewable and alternative energy projects on municipally-owned land

Overview of the Criteria

1. Adopt as-of-right siting, in designated locations, for RE/AE generation, or RE/AE R&D or manufacturing
2. Adopt expedited (12 month) application/permitting process and enforcement mechanism
3. Establish an energy use baseline inventory with a plan to reduce baseline by 20% in 5 years
4. Adopt fuel-efficient vehicle policy
5. Passage of the Stretch Code

Meeting Criterion 1: Where Lincoln Stands

“provide for the as-of-right siting of renewable or alternative energy generating facilities, renewable or alternative energy research and development (R&D) facilities, or renewable or alternative energy manufacturing facilities in designated locations.”

- Lincoln’s Approach:
 - Solar generation on the parking lot at Minuteman Technical
- Actions Taken/Underway:
 - Creation of Green Tech Group to determine feasibility of site and build support (Public Meeting)
 - Warrant language for Solar Zoning Overlay and Bylaw submitted
 - Presentations at Planning Board and Selectmen’s meetings

Meeting Criterion 2: Where Lincoln Stands

“adopt an expedited application and permitting process under which these energy facilities may be sited within the municipality and which shall not exceed 1 year from the date of initial application to the date of final approval”

- **Lincoln’s Approach:**
 - Identify all permitting processes relevant to solar generation at the site
 - Document that no process exists that will hinder expedited, as-of-right permitting
 - Include constructive approval language in the Solar Bylaw
- **Actions Taken/Underway:**
 - Identified relevant permitting processes
 - Warrant language for Solar Zoning Overlay and Bylaw submitted
 - Presentations at Planning Board and Selectmen’s meetings

Meeting Criterion 3: Where Lincoln Stands

“establish an energy use baseline inventory for municipal buildings, vehicles, street and traffic lighting, and put in place a comprehensive program designed to reduce this baseline by 20 percent within 5 years of initial participation in the program”

- **Lincoln’s Approach:**
 - Use the Mass Energy Insight (MEI) Tool to benchmark energy use
 - Use MEI and NSTAR audit findings to identify target buildings for Energy Reduction Strategy
- **Actions Taken/Underway:**
 - Attended MEI training
 - Preliminary inventory complete
 - Developed a process to identify reduction approaches

Meeting Criterion 4: Where Lincoln Stands

“purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable”

- Lincoln’s Approach:
 - Create Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Purchase Policy
 - Conduct vehicle inventory and replacement plan
- Actions Taken/Underway:
 - Updated existing policy to include language regarding purchasing of fuel-efficient vehicles
 - Inventory and Plan are underway

Meeting Criterion 5: Where Lincoln Stands

“require all new residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the life-cycle cost of the facility by utilizing energy efficiency, water conservation and other renewable or alternative energy technologies”

- Lincoln’s Approach:
 - Passage of Stretch Code at Town Meeting
- Actions Taken/Underway:
 - Green Tech Group hosted public meeting
 - Internal meeting with Department heads
 - Presentation at Selectmen meeting

Next Steps for each Criteria

- Criterion 1: Passage of Solar Zoning Overlay District and Bylaw at Town Meeting
- Criterion 2:
 - Document relevant permitting processes and file, if necessary file relevant notices.
 - Passage of Solar Zoning Overlay District
- Criterion 3: Use MEI tool to complete baseline inventory and reduction strategy
- Criterion 4: Submit documentation
- Criterion 5: Passage of the Stretch Code at Town Meeting

What Other Communities are Doing...

- No communities have been designated
 - Applications are accepted starting March 19th
- Communities that have passed the Stretch Code:
 - Newton (2009 - City Council)
 - Cambridge (2009 - City Council)
 - Mashpee (February - Special Process)
 - Springfield (March 1 – City Council)
 - Tyngsboro (March 2 – Special Town Meeting) – in addition to passage of zoning amendments
 - Lowell will vote on Stretch Code on March 23rd – City has met all other criteria

Next Steps to Becoming Eligible for Funding

- Designation Application
 - Must complete designation prior to grant submittal
 - Begin accepting March 19, 2010
 - Deadline: May 14, 2010
- Grant Application
 - Deadline for FY10 grant: May 28, 2010
 - Most likely two rounds in FY 2011

Becoming a Green Community – Why Do it?

- Economic Benefits – save energy
- 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!