



PRESS RELEASE

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**NANTUCKET RECEIVES GREEN COMMUNITIES DESIGNATION AND \$139,340 IN GRANT FUNDS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES.**

**NANTUCKET, MA –**

Nantucket is officially a Massachusetts Green Community. With last week's announcement from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Energy Resources, Nantucket joins the now 271 Green Communities in Massachusetts, committing to clean energy goals to reduce energy consumption and lower emissions. As a result of this designation, the Town will receive an initial grant of **\$139,340** to be used toward cleaner energy solutions for the island.

The Green Community Designation and Grant Program provides a road map and financial and technical assistance to municipalities that pledge to reduce municipal energy use by 20 percent over 5 years. In addition to the 20 percent energy use reduction, the Town fulfilled four other requirements including: designating the landfill as a solar-by-right overlay district with expedited permitting, approving a fuel-efficient vehicle purchasing policy for municipal vehicles, and adoption of a more stringent building efficiency code, achieved when the Town adopted the Stretch Energy Code at the 2019 annual town meeting

Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson stated, "receiving this designation reaffirms the Town's commitment to creating a sustainable future that reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and cuts our carbon emissions. With these grant funds we will be able to take steps towards these goals without worrying about impacts on the town budget."

"This is a huge accomplishment for Nantucket and the many stakeholders within the Town and community who've supported this effort over the years. It took a community-wide effort to make this designation possible," said Energy Coordinator Lauren Sinatra, who shepherded the Town through the designation process.

The Town's initial \$139,340 grant award amount was calculated using a base grant of \$125,000 per community, plus an amount adjusted for population and income. In order to access the grant funds, the Town is required to submit a project application proposing how these funds will be spent. Sinatra stated that the Town's initial grant will be split equally with Nantucket Public Schools and will be used to support a new boiler at the High School, high-efficiency air source heat pumps ("minisplits") at the Visitor Services Building, and additional public electric vehicle charging stations at various municipal properties.

While the initial grant award is automatic, the Town is already looking ahead to future competitive grants available through the Green Communities Program to further assist the Town in meeting its 20% Energy Reduction Plan.

"Meeting these criteria is proof of Nantucket's position as an energy leader in Massachusetts, poised to reduce its energy costs, improve the local environment and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with

funding through the Green Communities Designation and Grant Program,” according to the letter sent to the Town by the state’s Department of Energy Resources.

The Green Communities Division of the Department of Energy Resources was established through Section 10 of Chapter 25A of Massachusetts General Law. The Division is responsible for the administration of the Green Community Designation and Grant program which is able to provide up to \$20 million annually to the 85% of cities and towns within Massachusetts that have achieved Green Communities designation.

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For more information, visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-designates-31-cities-and-towns-as-green-communities>

CONTACT:

Lauren Sinatra  
Energy Coordinator  
[LSinatra@nantucket-ma.gov](mailto:LSinatra@nantucket-ma.gov)  
508-325-5379