



TO: Shaun Suhoski, Town Manager
Department Heads

FROM: Andrea Buglione, Director of Community & Economic Development; Energy
Committee Member

DATE: February 18, 2015

RE: **Green Communities Report, Future Projects, MassEVIP**

CC: Doug Walsh, DPW Superintendent
Tim Anderson, Police Chief
John Duguay, Fire Chief

Green Communities Program -- FY14 Annual Report

This year's report was very manageable thanks in great part to departments who diligently uploaded fuel/electric data to the Mass Energy Insight online portal, and our volunteer-extraordinaire Hal Gillam. Our energy use decreased by 10% over 5 years. We did not meet the 14% energy reduction we aspired to back in 2009. However, a number of positive trends were observed.

Table 2: Timeline of Annual Municipal Energy Use							
	Baseline MMBtu	Year 1 MMBtu	Year 2 MMBtu	Year 3 MMBtu	Year 4 MMBtu	Year 5 MMBtu	For Most Recent Year: Change vs. Baseline (%)
	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	
Buildings	7,270	5,912	6,728	5,584	6,548	5,936	82%
Water/Sewer & Pumping	7,806	7,792	7,599	7,316	6,868	7,094	91%
Open Space (optional)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vehicles	6,014	5,569	5,869	5,146	5,324	6,027	100%
Street Lights	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION	21,090	19,273	20,196	18,046	18,740	19,057	10%

Positive Trends

The Town of Athol has **reduced municipal energy use by 10% since FY2010**. The highest performing category is **Buildings, which reduced energy use by 18% in the past five years**. We have implemented numerous energy conservation measures successfully and made significant progress toward the energy use reduction and renewable energy development goals that were the basis for Green Community designation.. The Town of Athol remains determined to achieve its goals as demonstrated by our historic library renovation and expansion project, the first of its kind in the United States to attain Platinum-level certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Needs Improvement

We have not completely met our goals primarily because of (a) **an increase in vehicle fleet fuel use** (which had trended downward for four years, then spiked in FY2014 exceeding the FY2009 baseline year) and (b) unforeseen delays in renewable energy project development (but the Harwick PPA and Library solar project are now well underway).

Town Hall will soon need a new heating system, which will be costly. We will need to look into the cost of a sustainable VRF system (which the library now has) versus replacement of the furnace. Until then, more conscious energy use among employees (lower heating, turning off appliances and lights, etc.) will help bring costs down.



Please remind your employees to refrain from idling their vehicles!!

Green Communities Competitive Grant Report

Thank you Hal (& Deb Blanchard, Doug Walsh, and others) for preparing the Report submitted this February. The purpose was to report on two projects funded by Green Communities:

The Energy Management System @ the DPW Garage/Water Treatment (\$62,349), and,
Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system to heat and cool the renovated Library (\$170,000)

MassEVIP program

On February 17, MassDEP presented a webinar on the Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP). At this point we're all aware that volatility in gas prices makes electric-powered vehicles the logical choice for the future. In the two years since starting the program, 111 vehicles were subsidized by EVIP. This is year three.

What you should know

First come, first serve program

All municipalities and universities are eligible

Awards: **\$7,500** for "full electric" BEVs (Battery Electric Vehicle)

\$5,000 for "hybrid" PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle)

Can use the award to buy OR lease

Must use vendors on state contract OVM-10



Is there a vehicle in your department's fleet that's up for replacement?

Green Communities FY15 Grant

The next round of grant applications for up to \$250,000 are due March 20. Based on the list put forth by The Energy Committee and recommendations from Hal Gillam and others, here are some possible energy conservation projects that could be part of this “package approach” to a grant for the Town of Athol:

<i>Location/Facility</i>	<i>Type of Project</i>	<i>Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Notes</i>
DPW Barn	Replace old boiler		Duane looking into this
Police Station	All new LED lights		Will talk with Tim?
MREC	Exterior Weatherization		Dave Small getting quotes
Animal Shelter	Misc.		Meeting with Jenn A., FRCOG, involved with Community Challenge Grant

Any other ideas? Please let me know.

-Andrea