

Green Communities Designation & Grant Program

The Green Communities Act requires compliance with **five** criteria to qualify as a Green Community.

- **Criterion 1:** As-of-right siting- Renewable Energy (e.g., solar)/ Alternative Energy (e.g., CHP)
- **Criterion 2:** Renewable energy development- adopting an expedited application and permitting of one year at most.
- **Criterion 3:** 1) Establish an energy use baseline inventory for municipal buildings and facilities. 2) Adopt an Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) demonstrating a reduction of 20% of the energy use after 5 years of implementation.
- **Criterion 4:** All departments within a green community to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use.
- **Criterion 5:** Minimize the life-cycle cost of all newly constructed homes and buildings by adopting Stretch Code.

Criterion 1

Provide zoning in designated locations for the as-of-right siting for:

1. Renewable or alternative energy generating facilities, or
 2. Renewable or alternative energy R&D facilities,
- or
3. Renewable or alternative energy manufacturing facilities.

Criterion 2

To adopt an expedited application and permitting process under which as-of-right energy facilities may be sited within the municipality with the deadline of one year from the date of initial application to the date of final approval.

Criterion 3

1. Establish an energy use baseline. Include all division and departments.
2. Adopt Energy Reduction Plan (ERP)- comprehensive program designed to reduce the baseline by 20% within the 5 year period.
3. Energy baseline should be provided in MMBtu.
4. Use approved tools to report the energy baseline and reduction.
5. Baseline year should be the most recent year of complete data.
6. Report annually on the ERP.

Criterion 4

1. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.
2. Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by municipal vehicles.
3. A plan for replacing non-exempt vehicles with fuel efficiency ratings must be developed and maintained.
4. Monitor miles driven and fuel consumption.

Criterion 5

All new residential construction over 3,000 sqft and all new commercial and industrial 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 by adopting Stretch Energy Code (MA State building code, 780 CMR 115.AA)