Advancing Clean Energy through Municipal Planning

Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Community Shared Solar: Chapter Roundtable
09 December 2015
The MAPC Region

- 101 municipalities
- 1,440 square miles
- Nearly 3.2 million residents
- 1.8 million jobs (2010 census)
MAPC Clean Energy

Regional Energy Projects
- Regional Procurements: ESCO, LED Streetlights, Community Aggregation, Solar
- Hybrid Conversion
- Energy Resiliency

Local Energy Action Program
- Connecting municipalities with incentives + plug-and-play programs
- Community energy and climate baselining, planning, and strategizing
- Outreach programming and education

Energy Technical Assistance
- Grant Writing
- Solar Permitting and Zoning
- Green Communities Designation
- State and Local Policy
- Methane Leaks
MAPC: By the Numbers

- **$7 Million**: Deep municipal building retrofits will result in over $7 million in cost savings annually.
- **15–20 MW New Capacity**: Municipal solar projects in design that could produce 15-20 MW of new capacity.
- **$1 Million**: Over $1 million in funding from Green Communities.
- **$125,000**: Over $125,000 identified in funding to create new energy manager positions in 7 communities.
- **27 Million kWh**: Over 70,000 streetlights retrofitted or in design will generate annual savings of over 27 million kWh and $4.1 million.
- **$750,000**: Over $750,000 awarded for clean energy resiliency projects.
Solar Initiatives at MAPC

• Regional Solar Initiative
  • Administered a procurement on behalf of 17 communities in the MAPC region to select a solar vendor for municipal solar projects
  • 15-20 MW of total potential capacity being explored

• Solar for Residents and Businesses
  • Assisted communities to apply for and successfully run a Solarize Mass campaign (MassCEC program)
  • Implemented innovative pilots to evaluate solar models like EnergySage

• Outreach and Education
  • Organized webinars and workshops on a variety of solar topics like bylaws, permitting, community shared solar

• Policy Work
  • Advocated for increasing the net-metering cap
MAPC Solar Projects: Applicability to CSS

• **Lessons Learned**
  • Procuring any kind of energy service is a significant administrative undertaking for a municipality
  • Critical to have state agencies looped in, and have the oversight and expertise of an owner’s agent
  • A municipal champion can play a key role in moving projects along

• **Municipality as a Partner**
  • A CSS project on municipal property can be explored
  • Timeframe – rooftop projects could be completed in a year, but at least 1.5 years for ground-mount/landfill etc.
  • Model could vary – e.g. municipality as the majority off-taker and the rest being sold as CSS shares
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