



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES
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Maura T. Healey
Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Kimberley Driscoll
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Mahony
Commissioner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), acting under statutory authority of Chapter 25A of the General Laws, and in conformance with Chapter 30A of the General Laws, is holding a public hearing on 225 CMR 25.00, Participation in the Green Communities Program for Municipalities Served by Municipal Light Plants. DOER has drafted regulations pursuant to An Act Relative To Municipal Light Plant Participation In Green Communities, signed by the Governor as Chapter 230 of the Acts of 2022 (Act) allowing municipalities served by a municipal light plant that serves multiple municipalities to qualify for DOER's Green Communities Designation and Grant Program (Green Communities Program) by adopting a renewable energy charge pursuant to the Act.

A public hearing will be conducted to receive verbal and written comments on the proposed regulations.

Location: **Virtual Hearing via Zoom**
<https://zoom.us/j/91211667376?pwd=bGdFVU1xakJXNS9VcW1Ub0cxb2NZUT09>

Date: **December 18, 2023 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM**

Verbal and written testimony will be accepted at the hearing; however, parties are requested to provide written copies of their testimony. Written comments will be accepted until 5 pm on December 18, 2023. Please submit written comments to Joanne Bissetta, via email, to joanne.bissetta@mass.gov. Copies of the proposed regulations and the registration link may be obtained from the DOER website www.mass.gov/doer or by contacting Joanne Bissetta at joanne.bissetta@mass.gov.

BY ORDER OF: Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner
Department of Energy Resources

Small Business Impact Statement

(As required by M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 2, 3 & 5)

CMR No: 225 CMR 25.00

Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: Participation in the program is voluntary at the election of the municipality or municipal lighting plant. DOER expects limited to no impacts on small businesses as a result of this regulation,

Select Yes or No and Briefly Explain

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective? (Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.) See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the regulation likely to <i>deter</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? See above statement. |
| Yes | No | Is the regulation likely to <i>encourage</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | x | See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No X <input type="checkbox"/> | Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No X <input type="checkbox"/> | Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No X <input type="checkbox"/> | Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No x | Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective? See above statement. |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No X <input type="checkbox"/> | Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses? See above statement. |