

2014 Status Report on the Town of Millbury Energy Reduction Plan

The Green Communities 2014 Annual Report was submitted to the Massachusetts' Green Communities Division on December 3, 2014 and constituted a comparative analysis of the total energy consumption for the Town of Millbury based on a 2009 baseline.

In 2011, the Town received a \$167,025 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources to complete a number of energy efficiency projects.

All projects were completed as of December 2013 and therefore some of the Town's energy savings as of 2009 are owing to these initiatives. As one can see from the 2014 Annual Report, the Town of Millbury did not achieve 20% savings within 5 years that was the goal of the 2011 Town of Millbury Energy Baseline & Energy Reduction Plan. Despite the implementation of the efforts identified above, the Town enjoyed an overall energy reduction of only 3% between 2014 and 2009. One of the reasons for this may be owing to the fact that the Town of Millbury is growing. For example, the Sewer Expansion Project yielded many new users with 376 new hook ups since 2009 and 4 new pump stations. This growth caused electrical consumption to increase by 10 percent between 2009-2014. In addition, the Town accepted new public roadways meaning that street lighting consumption increased. An unusually cold winter and hot summer in 2014 also resulted in increases in natural gas and oil consumption.

In summer 2014, the Town was awarded a second grant from the MA Department of Energy Resources totaling \$247,596. Projects that are slated for completion or planned for this fiscal year include:

1. Insulation project for the Asa Waters Mansion
2. Retro commissioning project at the Elwood Street School
3. HVAC Municipal Office building upgrade
4. Shaw Middle School exterior LED project
5. DPW Exterior LED lighting project

In addition to completing the projects financed with grant funds, the Town is looking at several different behavioral changes that can result in an overall reduction in energy consumption in all municipal buildings. Opportunities that both municipal employees and the general public can implement to improve energy efficiency include:

- Allowing unrestricted airflow from unit ventilators so that the heating system can run more efficiently and effectively.
- Shutting down computers and printers at the end of every day.
- Setting thermostats below 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Installing occupancy sensors or manually turning off lights when rooms are not in use.
- Fixing areas with poor insulation such as windows with air conditioning units.
- Using air conditioners in occupied rooms only.
- Replacing standard bulbs and fixtures with LED lights.

The key message is that all municipal employees are part of the solution and can play a key part in reducing the Town's energy consumption and carbon footprint. Given that the Town is growing, the Town will have to adopt a variety of strategies, including behavioral changes, to achieve the 20% reduction goal articulated in the *2011 Energy Baseline & Energy Reduction Plan*. By increasing energy efficiency, we reduce the burden on taxpayers.