



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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MMWEC Secures Two Energy and Efficiency Development Grants

Ludlow, MA – November 11, 2021- The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), the Commonwealth’s joint action agency for municipal utilities, has recently been awarded two grants by the American Public Power Association’s (APPA) Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Development (DEED) program.

The first grant, for \$25,050, helps fulfill MMWEC’s mission to provide the most efficient, innovative and equitable path to energy decarbonization for its member municipal light plant (MLP) communities. The grant, for the project “Incorporating Carbon as the Driver of MMWEC’s Energy Efficiency Program,” will help MMWEC build the tools MLPs will require to focus decarbonization efforts on measures that provide the most carbon savings for their customer end-uses and help direct resources to where they can help the most.

MMWEC is partnering with the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) to execute the study. The project will help MMWEC and its member MLPs adequately assess the decarbonization benefits of energy efficiency, building electrification, transportation electrification, renewable energy, demand response and energy storage, to shape the clean energy future. This project aligns with commitments by MMWEC’s member MLPs to reach net zero carbon emissions in energy sales by 2050, in support of the Commonwealth’s decarbonization roadmap.

Bill Bullock, MMWEC’s Sustainable Energy Policy and Program Senior Manager, said this project is an important step to assisting MLPs to help Massachusetts achieve its climate change goals.

“This project will undertake the critical steps necessary to develop the underlying assumptions, calculations and tools for quantifying carbon emissions associated with the evolving energy portfolios of MMWEC’s members, and the measures that MLPs incentivize,” Bullock said.

“This is leading-edge work for utilities and a key step toward aligning energy efficiency program design and market signals with the state’s decarbonization goals,” stated CET’s Director of Innovation Ashley Muspratt. “As a long-time partner of MMWEC, we’re thrilled to work with them and their member MLPs on this exciting project.”

The study is expected to be completed in 2022.

Earlier this year, MMWEC was awarded a DEED grant to support a research initiative called Project Groundwork to explore innovative electric distribution solutions to enhance grid resilience and support an equitable energy transition. The UMass Energy Transition Institute and Groundwork Data, a non-profit research initiative focused on public infrastructure, are partners on the project.

With this grant, Project Groundwork will evaluate the costs and benefits of undergrounding electric distribution infrastructure in an age of climate disruption and rapid electrification. The research will specifically look at the potential benefits to municipal utilities of deploying optical fiber broadband networks in combination with underground electric cabling to help bridge the digital divide. The project was awarded a DEED grant of \$123,198 from APPA to develop an initial cost-benefit model. The model being developed by the research team is expected to benefit municipal utilities across the country.

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