



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

Contact: David Tuohey, Director of Communications & External Affairs
413-308-1392 (w); 413-426-8859 (c)
dtuohey@mmwec.org

MMWEC, municipal utilities receive state energy efficiency grant

LUDLOW, Mass. – July 11, 2014 – Grants totaling \$1.8 million from the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER) will enable 11 municipal utilities and the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) to expand energy efficiency programs serving their customers.

Using the MMWEC energy efficiency program model and other measures, the MMWEC member utilities in Ashburnham, Chicopee, Groton, Holyoke, South Hadley, Sterling and Westfield received grants totaling \$1 million. The grants will be used primarily to help fund customer rebate programs that offset the cost of energy efficiency improvements and for conversions to high-efficiency LED streetlights in many communities. Grants also were awarded to municipal utilities based in the communities of Belmont, Concord, Reading and Taunton.

“These energy efficiency programs deliver multiple benefits to municipal utility customers and augment the state’s energy efficiency initiatives,” said Sandra Annis, MMWEC’s Energy Efficiency Program Manager. “The DOER grants represent an exciting opportunity to reach more customers and achieve even greater energy and dollar savings,” she said.

This is the second set of energy efficiency grants to municipal utilities funded with proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auctions. In 2012, DOER awarded RGGI-funded grants totaling \$200,000 to four municipal utilities and MMWEC. Before 2012, only investor-owned utilities received RGGI auction proceeds to fund energy efficiency programs.

more

Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, 327 Moody Street, Ludlow, MA 01056
www.mmwec.org

“We are hoping the allocation of RGGI funds to municipal utility energy efficiency programs will continue to grow in the future,” said MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ronald C. DeCurzio. “Ideally, the success of existing programs will be a springboard for program development by other municipal utilities, leading to the allocation of additional RGGI funds to benefit municipal utility customers, who consume approximately 14% of the electricity used in Massachusetts,” DeCurzio said.

The grants will leverage more than \$1.8 million in municipal utility-funded programs, save participants more than \$1.2 million in energy costs and reduce energy use by nearly 8.3 million kilowatt hours. That’s enough electricity to power nearly 1,100 Massachusetts homes, and to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 705 cars from the road.

“These grants will help ensure that more Massachusetts residents and businesses served by municipal utilities can improve their homes and worksites, use less energy and save money while also protecting our environment,” said DOER Acting Commissioner Meg Lusardi.

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett said the grants are a reflection of the state’s leadership role in energy efficiency and emissions reduction. “Energy efficiency is our first fuel for a reason; it provides energy, environmental and economic benefits,” she said.

The MMWEC energy efficiency program model is embodied in the organization’s Green Opportunity or GO Program for commercial, industrial and institutional customers of municipal utilities. MMWEC uses the model in working with municipal utilities to develop comprehensive efficiency programs that deliver measurable benefits to their customers and reflect the criteria used by DOER for awarding RGGI grants to investor-owned utilities.

MMWEC also operates its Home Energy Loss Prevention Services (HELPS) Program that provides energy efficiency and other services to the residential customers of municipal utilities.

MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state’s consumer-owned, municipal utilities.