



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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MMWEC Participating in National Heat Pump Technology Challenge

Ludlow, MA -- December 6, 2021 -- Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), the Commonwealth's designated joint action agency for municipal utilities in the state, has been selected by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) to participate in a technology demonstration program for next generation heat pumps in support of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

United States Department of Energy Secretary, Jennifer Granholm, announced the partnership Friday at the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's Wind Turbine Technology Center in Boston. She was joined by state officials, including Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Katie Theoharides and Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, to discuss the partnership, which is part of the DOE's Residential Cold Climate Heat Pump (CCHP) Technology Challenge. Secretary Granholm noted that MMWEC would be part of a "consortium of those who will be getting us to the goals of efficiency and the deployment of heat pumps."

The national CCHP Technology Challenge has been established to accelerate the deployment of high performance CCHPs that meet consumer needs. The challenge, which was announced by the Biden Administration in May, aims to reduce the carbon footprint of cold climate heating solutions by improving the efficiency and affordability of new heat pumps. The challenge focuses on centrally-ducted, electric-only CCHPs that exceed best-in-class capacity and efficiency performance at 5 degrees Fahrenheit and below. The challenge brings the resources of the federal government to help advance a key strategic technology in the effort to reduce carbon emissions from home heating across the Commonwealth.

As a utility partner for the Challenge, MMWEC's participation will include helping to recruit sites to install a prototype heat pump in a residential unit, allowing data to be collected, facilitating testing of grid interactivity features and performing customer satisfaction surveys. Under the program, MMWEC will work on developing customer incentives and pilot programs to encourage CCHP adoption. The Department of Energy will cover costs related to equipment, installation, testing and evaluations of the pilot demonstrations.

"MMWEC's participation in this challenge highlights our leadership in bringing technology opportunities to our member municipal light departments," said MMWEC Sustainable Energy Policy and Program Senior Manager Bill Bullock. "We are committed to supporting the Commonwealth's decarbonization targets, and programs such as this one will help us get there."

MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1975 and authorized to issue debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities.

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