

Green Communities Program

Benefits to the Town of Oak Bluffs and its Residents

- **Cut municipal energy costs which will save the Town money**
- **Reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions**
- **Promote energy-efficient construction**
- **Foster renewable energy / clean energy technology**
- **Gain access to grants for clean, affordable and resilient energy projects –** when replacing HVAC systems (furnaces, zone controls, thermostats, heat pumps), hot water heating and pumping, lighting, water flow regulators, weatherization, etc. for many Town buildings
- **Act on OB Master Plan, Section 6.2, Becoming a “Greener” Community**

Green Communities Designation and Grant Program

- The initial Designation Grant for Oak Bluffs is estimated to be **\$140,000**
- Subsequent competitive grants available, up to **\$200,000** annually, for Green Communities that have expended all prior grant funds
- No expense to residents, no appropriation of tax dollars – just the opportunity for Town to RECEIVE grant funds from State for clean, affordable, resilient energy projects

Next steps . . . Please vote YES at Town Meeting for

- **Vote Yes** for As-of-Right Zoning Bylaw to establish Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems (designated site is at the Town landfill)
- **Vote Yes** to adopt the “Stretch Code” (new construction only)

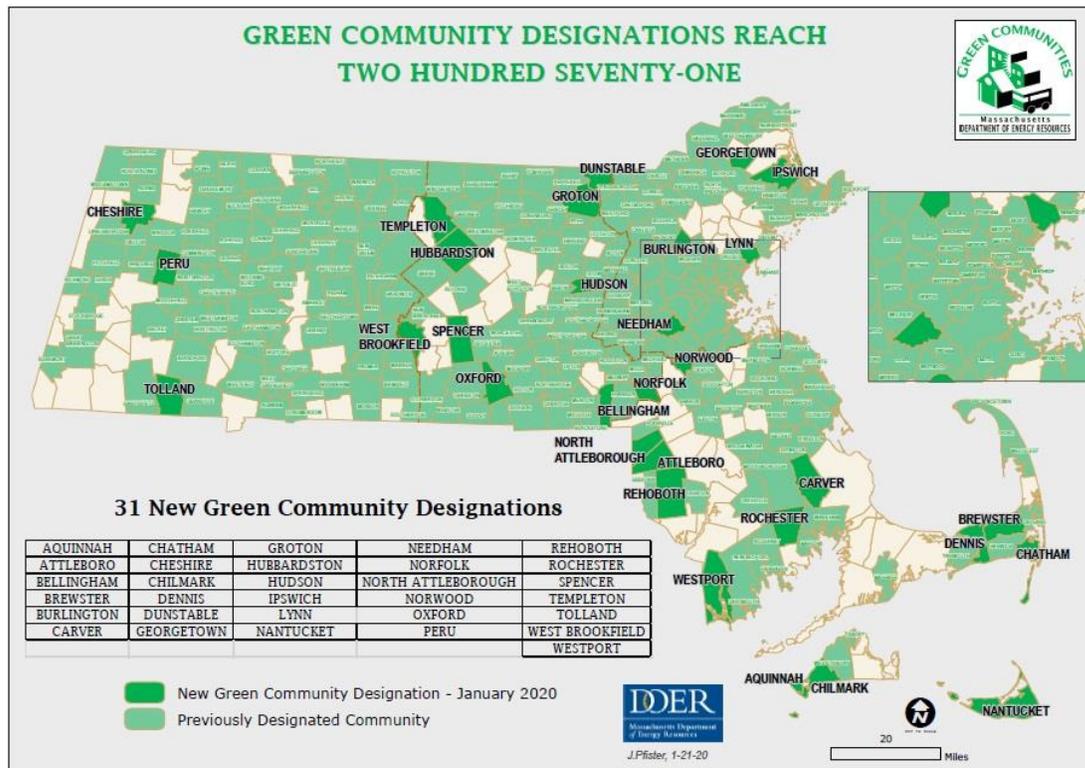
Thank you

For more information: <https://www.oakbluffsma.gov/182/Planning-Board>

Green Communities Program

Oak Bluffs Energy Committee & PB Green Communities Designation Subcommittee

In 2008, Massachusetts committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, as compared to a 1990 baseline. As part of the effort to achieve this goal, the Commonwealth established the Green Communities program to foster energy efficiency programs across all 351 municipalities in the state. We ask you to vote for two Oak Bluffs town meeting warrant articles, allowing us to complete our application for the Green Communities designation. This will move us toward fulfilling Section 6.2 “Becoming a ‘Greener’ Community” of the adopted Master Plan.



As of January 2020, 271 Massachusetts towns have become Green Communities, including West Tisbury and Tisbury in 2012, plus Aquinnah and Chilmark in January 2020. Oak Bluffs and Edgartown are working now on the five Criteria to become a Green Community.

Becoming a Green Community – meet these five (5) Criteria

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/becoming-a-designated-green-community>

1. Designate a limited site in Town that is available for renewable energy projects
Please VOTE Yes at Town Meeting – new “As-of-Right” Zoning Bylaw at Town landfill
2. Adopt expedited permitting for renewable energy projects at designated landfill zone.
3. Create a municipal energy baseline and plan, to reduce energy use by 20% in 5 years.
4. Purchase fuel-efficient municipal vehicles whenever practicable.
5. Adopt the MA Stretch Building Code for energy efficiency and to minimize life cycle cost in new construction. *(new construction only; not renovations, additions or repairs)*
Please VOTE Yes at Town Meeting – adopt the state “Stretch Code”