

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

Anne M. Gobi
STATE SENATOR
Worcester, Hampden,
Hampshire & Middlesex

Tel. (617) 722-1540
Fax (617) 722-1078
E-Mail: Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Brian Ferrarese
PHONE: 617-722-1540

Senator Gobi Announces Streetlight Grants for Paxton and Templeton

BOSTON – **Senators Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** has announced that Paxton and Templeton have been awarded grant funding through the Department of Energy Resources' LED Streetlight Rapid Conversion Plant Program.

Both communities applied for grants through the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC). Grant funding will be dispersed on a reimbursement basis.

"I want to congratulate both Paxton and Templeton on being awarded these grants," said Senator Gobi. "It takes a lot of hard work and organization to be designated a Green Community and they are now reaping the benefits."

Both communities are eligible for the grants through the Green Communities Designation. The Green Communities Division was created to assist Massachusetts cities and towns in finding clean energy solutions that reduce long-term energy costs and strengthen local economies. Communities designated as Green Communities are provided with technical assistance and financial support in achieving these goals.

In order to become a Green Community, cities and towns must meet five criteria:

- Provide as-of-right siting in designated locations for renewable/alternative energy generation, research & development, or manufacturing facilities.
- Adopt an expedited application and permit process for as-of-right energy facilities.
- Establish an energy use baseline and develop a plan to reduce energy use by twenty percent (20%) within five (5) years.
- Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles.

- Set requirements to minimize life-cycle energy costs for new construction; one way to meet these requirements is to adopt the new Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Code.

More information on Green Communities can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/green-communities/>.

For more information on these grant awards, contact Senator Gobi's office at 617-722-1540.

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