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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WINCHENDON DESIGNATED A GREEN COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

BOSTON – **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** and **Representative Jonathan D. Zlotnik (D-Gardner)** are happy to announce that the town of Winchendon has been designated as a Green Community by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). The town is now eligible for grant funding for investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

“Congratulations to Winchendon for receiving the Green Communities Designation,” said Senator Gobi. “Their commitment to energy conservation and clean energy alternatives will go a long way both for the environment and the bottom line now that they are eligible for Green Communities grants.”

“These grant opportunities are something we're proud to support in the legislature,” said Representative Zlotnik. “I'm glad to see Winchendon taking the initiative and making the commitment to receive this grant. This is both environmentally and bottom line friendly.”

The Green Communities Act was established to support communities interested in investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Cities and towns must meet five criteria to be designated a Green Community and receive funding, including:

1. Provide as-of-right siting in designated locations for renewable/alternative energy generation, or research and development, or manufacturing facilities.
2. Adopt an expedited application and permit process for as-of-right energy facilities.
3. Establish an energy use baseline and develop a plan to reduce municipal energy use by 20 percent after five years.
4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles.

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

Once the five criteria have been met and a community has been designated a Green Community it becomes eligible for the Designation Grant Program. Initial Designation Grants are based on a \$125,000 base for each designated Green Community, plus additional amounts tied to per capita income and population, and for municipalities that provide as-of-right siting for renewable energy generation.

There are now 185 Green Communities across the Commonwealth, with 64 percent of residents living in a Green Community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Senator Gobi's office at 617-722-1540.

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