

Title: Clean Energy Extension

Project Leader: Dwayne Breger

Project Overview

The transition to clean energy is critical for Massachusetts to meet its greenhouse gas reduction commitments and provides an opportunity to foster new economic development in the Commonwealth. The UMass Clean Energy Extension provides a resource dedicated to reduce market barriers and accelerate the adoption of clean energy for Massachusetts cities and towns, businesses, institutions, farms, low income and other multiunit housing, and others.

The UMass Clean Energy Extension provides technical support and advice upon request, and proactively seeks opportunities to promote clean energy projects. We work with businesses eager to enter or diversify into the clean energy markets. We provide assistance in navigating through state programs that offer incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

The UMass Clean Energy Extension supports and contributes to applied research activities across UMass departments and campuses that advance technical, economic, and policy solutions that support clean energy advancement in Massachusetts.

Activity Summary – 2018

- Public Meetings, Workshops and Conferences (19)
- Meetings and other engagements with businesses and organizations (30)
- Meetings and other engagements with MA Municipalities (50)
- Technical Assistance to Green Communities for Designation Application and Annual Reporting (6)

Total Educational contacts

	Adults	Youth
Direct Contacts	306	62
Indirect Contacts (Print, Web, etc...)		

Narrative Summary and Impact

The Clean Energy Extension (CEE) has had an active and successful reporting period. We continue to provide direct assistance to MA municipalities in assessing and reporting on their energy use and targeting specific buildings for energy efficiency measures and opportunities for renewable energy installations. This work has supported the state's Green Communities program and we have been linchpins for a number of small under-resourced towns to enable them to achieve Green Communities designation.

CEE has worked with a range of business and community groups across clean energy technologies – hydropower, energy storage, microgrids, air source heat pumps, combined heat and power, modern wood heating. We have provided technical assistance, connections with industry, and review of state policies and grant programs.

CEE is providing specific support to the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership, a group of 21 towns in the northwest of the state, as they consider economic development opportunities based on their forest resources. The Clean Energy Extension partnered with a UMass environmental health researcher to complete air emissions monitoring from wood pellet facilities in central/western MA over the reporting winter season.

CEE has been engaged by the state energy and agricultural agencies to support the appropriate development of solar on farmland, and particularly the rules pertaining to "dual use" solar installations. CEE has led an initiative to establish a certification program for pollinator/wildlife friendly solar PV siting which we hope to launch in the coming year.

Collaborating Organizations

- Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership