APPENDIX B: RESULTS OF SURVEY OF GREEN COMMUNITIES

As part of the research for this report, we conducted an electronic survey of municipal officials from the 86 communities that have been certified as Green Communities by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. We received 77 responses, representing 78 of the communities, which represents a very high response rate of 91 percent.

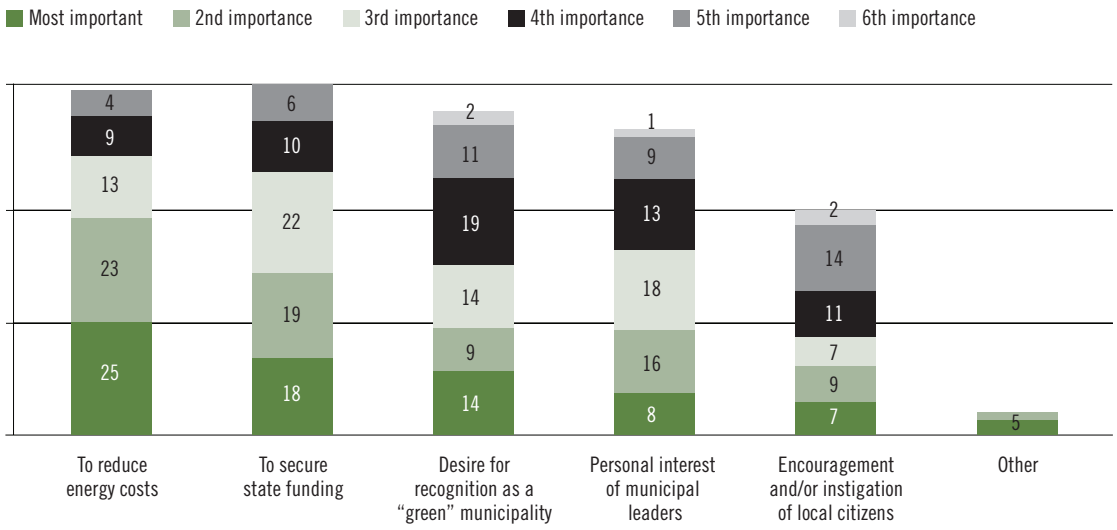
The responses to the survey are included below. To protect the confidentiality of the individual responses, we have deleted the names of specific municipalities, individuals, and organizations.

Question 1

City or town?

Question 2

Why did your community apply to be a Green Community?
(Rank all relevant factors in order of importance)



Question 3

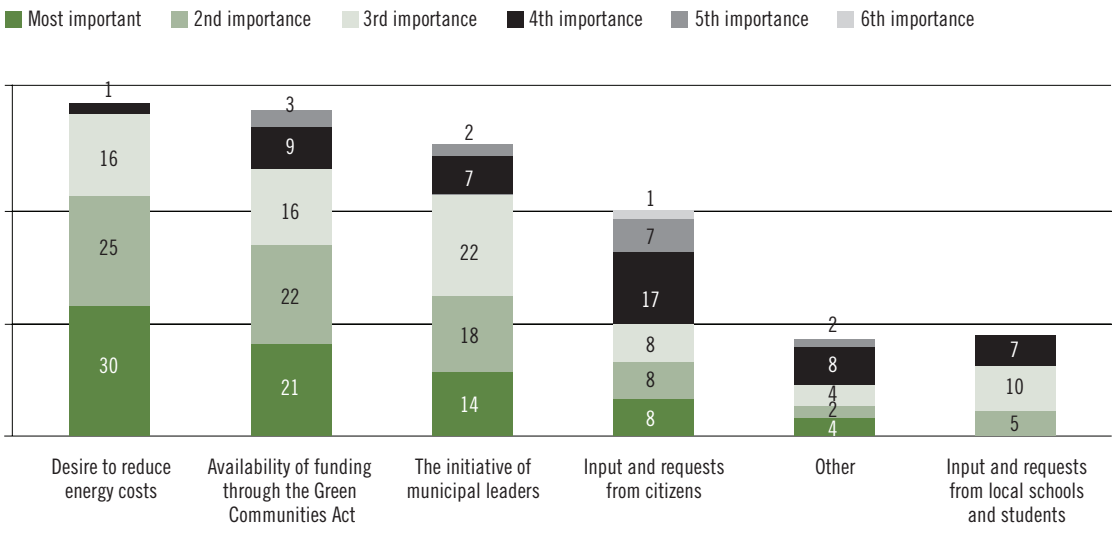
If you indicated "other" in the previous question, please explain.

1. Extremely active volunteer Renewable Energy Committee, made up of residents.
2. Desire to reduce financial risks stemming from unstable energy prices
3. The initiative of the [municipality] Energy Commission
4. Input from Sustainability Advisory Committee
5. Planning Board initiatives in conjunction with the [organization].
6. Desire to reduce the rate of climate change.
7. Advocacy from Town's Energy Committee
8. The help in existing town-wide effort to manage energy use/cost and GHG emissions in schools and general government by 20 percent in 10 years starting in 2005.
9. Influence of internal leadership - me and my superior.
10. The initiative of volunteers in the Land Use/Energy Committee.

11. Other refers to City staff advocating for action related to climate change. It should be noted advocacy for action was framed in outcomes related to energy efficiency, cost savings, and opening up grant opportunities (specifically Green Community program). If climate change mitigation would have been the primary outcome in moving advocacy I don't think we would have been as successful.
12. n/a
13. meet the Mayor's greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan, including Kyoto Protocol milestone and 25 percent by 2020 commitment
14. Just to qualify our response, the decision to take action was driven by municipal leaders and citizens. If you change question slightly to "which of the following factors influenced our ability to take action?" then we would move funding through the *Green Communities Ac*t and System Benefit Charge (SBC) Municipal program funding to the top of the list. The Town had already decided to take action before the *Green Communities Act*. However, the *Green Community Act* funding leveraged with SBC funding has been the two major drivers for our community to physically take action.
15. Do our part to work toward a more sustainable community . . .
16. Desire to reduce greenhouse gasses
17. Available funding through EECBG, MassCEC and other grants
18. [municipality] joined ICLEI in 1999. We were looking for a broader approach to sustainability issues. This was largely a staff initiative at the time.
19. Volunteers willing to collect and input data
20. DOER sponsored day-long workshop on Guaranteed Savings Performance Contracting in [municipality] in the spring of 1997 which introduced [municipality] to a budget neutral way to make major conservation advances in municipal buildings.
21. There are several active and helpful green groups in town that were very pro-Green Communities. Especially [organization] and [organization]. These groups also helped get the word out at Town Meeting time about the Act and the steps to achieve GC status.

Question 4

Which of the following factors influenced your municipality's decision to take action to address climate?
(Rank all relevant factors in order of importance)



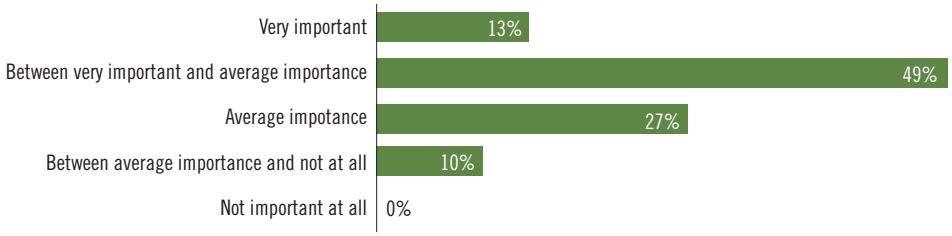
Question 5

If you indicated "other" in the previous question, please explain.

1. Again, the [municipality] Renewable Energy Committee drove the initiative.
2. The Green Community criteria were in-line with goals and actions already underway or being considered by the municipality
3. Same as 3
4. Same as above
5. This note applies to question 6. Climate change is a very polarizing issue in Town. The correct answer to this question is 1 and 5 but the survey won't allow me to click on both of them at the same time. Our community is essentially split 50/50 between residents who believe that climate change is not important at all (or skeptical) and very important.
6. To be a leader in working toward greater sustainability
7. Desire to reduce greenhouse gasses
8. [Municipality] Energy Committee's sense of responsibility to at least offer [municipality] the opportunities of Green Communities funding and support of this range of green actions (learned about this in the DOER announcements of the program that were sent to all municipalities)
9. Reduce fuel consumption. Reduce carbon footprint

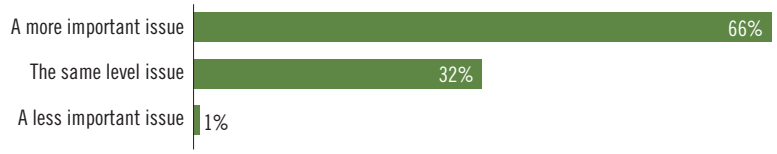
Question 6

How important is the issue of climate change to the people of your community?



Question 7

For the people of your community, compared to five years ago, climate change is:



Question 8

What have been the benefits to your community of the climate change and energy-saving actions that it has taken so far?

1. Large reduction in heating oil use
2. Raising awareness of the issue and leveraging local investments in energy efficiency

3. Received a grant for a Wind Feasibility Study from MassCEC, signed a $1M ESCo contract for energy efficiency upgrades to town buildings, installed solar panels on High School and Middle School through a third party agreement. Savings period is just beginning, so we don't have any $$ savings data yet.
4. We are just getting started; however, reduction in energy costs, understanding impact on sea level rise and intangible benefits of a proactive approach.
5. Reduced energy costs; increased energy efficiencies; increased awareness
6. Money saved by energy conservation and efficiency measures.
7. A percentage of funds previously spent on municipal energy purchases have instead been used to finance capital improvements of municipal facilities. Municipal government has launched programs that will make it easier for private property owners to implement energy efficiency improvements. Potential benefits from these programs include: - Increased Customer/Owner Comfort - Reduced Energy Bills - Marketing advantage as a "Green" Business - Increased Level of utility rebates flowing into the community - Expenditures Shifted from Energy to Building Improvements The city is now more accurately tracking it's municipal energy use (via the Mass Energy Insight database). Reduced energy use and on-site production of electricity through a PV array reduces the operating costs of a municipal building that houses non-profit organizations that support the education of disadvantaged (income-eligible) adults, making it easier for these organizations to provide these important services. A 106 kW PV array is being used for vocational education at the local vo-tech high school.
8. Increased awareness and actions taken to reduce residential and individual energy usage and energy savings city-wide in municipal buildings.
9. The Town became a Green Community in December of 2010 and received $179,800, which we used to buy down the cost of the solar installation at Town Hall and our High School. We have both solar arrays up on the Town's website via an application called SolRenView for the public to learn about solar and how it is helping the Town save money and reduce our carbon footprint. Of the 5 criteria to becoming a Green Community the community is probably most aware of the Energy Action Plan and the stretch code.
10. Reduced energy costs and reduced energy usage. Better constructed high school.
11. Leading by example, Cost reduction, positive feedback.
12. Too early in the process
13. Receipt of grants. More solar production, both private and commercial.
14. The City has been able to reduce its carbon footprint through the Green Communities grant program by updating outdated equipment that was inefficient. Also, the City has been able to raise awareness for the importance of greener technology.
15. As the changes are recent, impact will not be realized for some months.
16. Greater awareness of green issues. Energy savings.
17. Some reduction in energy costs. Greater awareness and willingness to consider future projects.
18. Saving energy, and saving the money that we spend on the energy. Building more energy efficient buildings and renovations of existing buildings
19. reduced energy costs (in total) and increased awareness

20. An increased amount of citizens are taking advantages of programs that can assist them with enhancing their own sustainable practices. Also, the Town's energy budget is being reduced through both proven and innovative energy conservation measures.
21. Lower green house gases used, exchange of "dirty energy" for "clean energy", and reduction of energy use and cost through the assistance with an energy management company, 3 solar panel systems and street light retrofits with LED lights.
22. As a newly-designated Green Community we are still in process of taking energy-saving actions.
23. Mostly symbolic so far. The energy committee has reconstituted around this issue and has sponsored a few seminars and created some promotional materials.
24. Compared to 2005, we've reduced our fuel use by 15 percent saving money and reduced our GHG emissions by 850 metric tons annually.
25. Monetary Savings
26. Reduced operating cost. Increased comfort in retrofitted buildings. More reliable heating with new boilers. Traffic signals were retrofitted to LED lights (cost savings). More awareness through education from Earthday fairs held by [organization].
27. Increased public awareness; lower municipal energy costs; more interest exhibited by student population
28. Funding for capital improvements that improve energy efficiency in town buildings.
29. We have been able to analyze where [municipality] is using/wasting energy and make improvements in energy efficiency to reduce energy use and save money. This was not looked at before the Green Communities designation.
30. Most immediately has been municipal energy and cost savings, as well as associated reduction in GHG emissions.
31. Climate change — none Energy savings is a huge benefit. So far we have solar panels on Town Hall and every school building (6) all lessening the current electrical bills. The town has been updating municipal light fixtures & changing out incandescent bulbs to LED all in an attempt to reduce electric bills.
32. Reduced costs. Upgraded infrastructure. Good public relations. Relationship building with State officials.
33. Several municipal buildings renovated, raised awareness of energy consumption/costs, increased cooperation among town departments
34. The beginnings at reducing energy costs for the city is the most important benefit of actions so far.
35. Reduced energy costs
36. Reduced operating expenses; community pride in reducing environmental footprint; cachet associated with being a Green Community and local climate leader
37. Cost savings
38. Just getting started.
39. Reduced energy cost.
40. Use of EECBG funds have insulated a fire station and brought it up to code thus enhancing the facility.
41. Reduction in energy operating costs for Town buildings.
42. Saving taxpayer money on operational costs education for resident cost reduction movement toward sustainability

43. Lower GHG other air pollution emissions from power plants, buildings and transportation sources. Lower energy bills through conservation and efficiency. Local job creation in efficiency and clean tech. Branding for the city and recruitment of businesses and employees. Clean tech start up recruitment in Innovation District and beyond. Greater awareness of public around the cities climate strategies and the benefits of action and preparedness (resilient cities work). Buy in from city agencies for broader policy agenda when they realize direct benefits of efficiency. Improved comfort, indoor air quality, and productivity from better buildings. Reduced pollution, including stormwater pollution, from green building standards. Beautification of neighborhoods and increased real estate values from urban forestry efforts that are also helping cool neighborhoods, capture stormwater (adaptation) and reduce heat strain on energy systems
44. Cost savings, more educated on the subject, gets issue "out there," encourages citizens to take part as well
45 Cost savings of between $100K and $200K, mostly in school energy costs.
46. Town facilities — Benefits for this sector include a baseline and target savings plan for all town facilities, initial technology investments, and an aggressive low-carbon new construction/ major rehab bylaw. School facilities - Benefits for this sector include a baseline and target savings plan for all school facilities, initial technology investments, an aggressive low-carbon new construction/ major rehab bylaw, technical support for the schools proposed MSBA-funded school renovation project, purchase energy data acquisition equipment to support engineering and science curriculum development. Residential - Benefits for this sector include a series of green forums to identify and support resident climate change and related sustainable community priorities and interests, a 100-home pilot initiative (about 10 percent of the town's homeowners) to help these residents reduce their energy consumption 20 percent and more recently a 4-home prototype pilot project to fill in the gaps that we identified in the MASS SAVE standard services and the support services we offered during the 100-home pilot project.
47. Reduction in energy costs
48. Not yet realized
49. Reduced energy/fuel usage - Reduced energy/fuel costs - Greater awareness of the town's role in reducing climate change — Price in our role of being a green energy leader
50. Cost savings of municipal operations as well as helping residents and businesses lower their costs as well. Creating a community dialog on sustainability issues.
51. It has initiated an "anti-idling campaign.' We have participated in a regional solicitation for an ESCO. We have gotten a preliminary evaluation of our landfill site as photovoltaic site. We have completed preliminary lighting audits of Town buildings with recommendations for improvements. We have received funding for energy efficiency improvements through the Green Communities program.
52. Energy and cost savings for the town. Upgraded buildings.
53. Reduced energy costs through lower bills for the schools.
54. Reduced/avoided municipal costs. Stretch Energy Code adoption raises standard for new construction.
55. Lower energy costs
56. Education regarding issues has increased, and interest in reducing energy consumption has grown significantly.

57. Reduced energy costs
58. Lower energy costs. A comprehensive plan to continue reduction. A fundamental increase in awareness of green issues within town government. Increased awareness of energy use and programs in the population.
59. For the community, the most important benefit has been raising awareness and increasing support. On municipal side, the greatest benefit has been a measured shift in thinking about energy conservation when considering new projects.
60. We are going to reduce energy costs, saving funds used for energy for other more important issues, Police, Fire etc.
61. We are saving significant amounts of electricity at our school
62. Awareness, cost savings
63. We have just been awarded GC status, but even participating in the certification process has raised awareness.
64. People are better informed about climate change, what it means to them and how it affects them both personally and the community as a whole.
65. The growing sense that we are actually doing something that stops waste and protects the climate (better to be in action mode than in "isn't it awful" mode) A gradually diminishing of the fears of the DOER as an arm of industry forcing large industrial wind down our throats (a small but loud group of residents had and continue to hold that fear). The Energy Committee has had a policy of not moving forward until enough information was understood and until the general sense of the community was in favor of any action.
66. Energy reduction is the major factor.
67. Education about real costs of energy use in town, return on investment for reduction actions. Excitement about saving money for the town.
68. Reduced energy costs and improved efficiencies. Made more residents and employees aware of the issues.
69. Reduced electric bills. Homeowners installing photovoltaic systems.
70. Cost saving and energy conservation
71. Awareness of conservation a common goal in our community of energy reduction measures
72. Money saved in energy costs greater awareness of the issues
73. Our Energy Management Committee (EMC) started work in 2005. Energy savings, rather than climate change, drives this town's efforts. The benefits have been cumulatively over $2million in avoided energy costs in municipal buildings. Climate change continues to gain traction in town, though we are still in the early part of the bell curve here.

Question 9

In terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which of your city or town's activities have been most effective so far?

1. Greater energy efficiency of buildings
2. Retrofitting Town facilities
3. Performance Contract on three municipal buildings
4. I am anticipating the solar project will be the most effective, but we will see once the system is commissioned.

5. Expected installations of wind turbine and solar field.
6. Implementation of some of the energy reduction plan projects; adoption of fuel efficiency vehicle policy
7. Designation as a Green Community and the 20 percent energy reduction plan.
8. An energy services performance contract with guaranteed energy reductions of more than 20 percent.
9. Renewable energy (solar PV) installations and conversion to LED post-top streetlights.
10. The adoption of the stretch code has been the most widely implemented criteria from the Green Communities program. Since we only recently became a Green Community we have not had time to implement many of the other reductions. However, we have made some progress in terms of the goals outlined in the Energy Reduction Plan.
11. Installation of LED streetlights
12. Behavioral changes, efficient lighting, timers and sensors as well as boiler upgrades.
13. Recycling
14. Increase in PV production. Newer vehicles. Conservation in buildings.
15. The replacement of old boilers with high-efficiency units.
16. Systematic reduction of energy use at the wastewater treatment plants.
17. Installation of energy efficient windows, roofs, solar panels, and purchase of green vehicles.
18. Solar PV system on the roof of the school building.
19. Not sure
20. ESCO project in town buildings and residential thermal imaging
21. Replacement of aging boilers with more energy efficient systems.
22. Installation of 3 separate solar panel systems, one 52kW, one 24kW and one 6kW system for educational purposes. These have reduced the cost and use of energy close to $40,000 per year.
23. NA
24. Anti-idling policy. Passing the stretch energy code.
25. Energy Conservation, Lighting improvements and next year we will have a 1 MW system generating electricity from a renewable source (solar.
26. Buildings & Traffic Lights
27. We don't have the data yet to make this comparison
28. Replacing steam traps = reduced consumption; big belly compactors reduced trash removal costs; monitoring usage alone has heightened awareness
29. Lighting efficiency upgrades in Town buildings.
30. We are just at the beginning of making changes, but changing lighting to energy efficient bulbs, reducing wattage in the street lights, improving building weatherproofing and upgrading HVAC systems.
31. Energy Conservation Measures implemented under a performance contract (and supplemented by GC funds).
32. Photovoltaic and updated light fixtures efforts have shown an immediate benefit
33. Solar project installations
34. Reduced energy consumption in municipal buildings, Commitment to Power Purchase Agreement for reduced costs, higher level of citizen participation
35. Converting all traffic lights to LED & the development of 2 solar facilities.
36. Installation of solar array at the WWTP

37. Energy conservation program in the schools, consisting of a combination of infrastructure improvements AND modification of operating procedures (e.g. HVAC set points)
38. Lighting
39. Just getting started.
40. Management of building HVAC systems using the building management system.
41. Switching from an oil fired boiler to one that used propane has helped considerably.
42. Installing a more efficient boiler at the Police Station and Library. Installation of more energy efficient light at the Town Hall.
43. Energy efficiency programs reducing use: Street lights, building lighting retrofits, Building Envelope projects/Facilities Manager, vehicle policy/electric charging stations
44. We have converted the total municipal electrical load to renewable energy rather than fossil fuel based energy
45. Renew [municipality] energy efficiency program - 1 year: 10,000+ residents engaged, 4,000+ home energy audits conducted, 700 home air sealing and insulation jobs installed
46. Improvements to our school complex
47. Focus on HVAC and lighting in schools.
48. Our gut sense is that our residential sector initiative has reduced the most greenhouse gas emissions to date (assuming that this is what the question is looking for). [Municipality] is a bedroom community and 80 percent or more of our building stock is single and multifamily homes. According the reports that we've received from NSTAR as part our participation in its community program initiative we have saved a significant amount of energy in our 100-home pilot project. Town and School greenhouse gas emissions are longer term projects that will see significant greenhouse gas emissions in the future. In addition, the Town needs to show its commitment to greenhouse reduction to remain credible in the eyes of residents that commit to significant energy use reductions. However, municipal greenhouse gas reductions will pale in comparison to potential residential sector savings.
49. The three public schools repair of roofs and replacement of boilers.
50. Installation of energy controller systems for the public water supply well pumps - Installation of energy-efficient light bulbs and fixtures — Installation of more energy-efficient propane-based heating systems at the Police and Fire Stations — Understanding the energy-reducing work that needs to be completed by completing energy audits on all of our town facilities
51. Improving building energy efficiency; adoption of the stretch code; more fuel efficient police cruisers; planned construction of solar arrays (3+ megawatts)
52. Probably the anti-idling campaign and adoption of the stretch code since most of the others have not yet been implemented.
53. Reduction of fuel burning emissions through reduced use of fuels due to upgraded energy efficiency.
54. Oil to gas conversions before this program; better control of school HVAC systems by facilities staff; lighting upgrades
55. Transportation planning & infrastructure improvements.
56. More energy efficient boilers
57. Residential solar, and GCA funded energy reduction programs.
58. Window replacement
59. More efficient lighting, ventilation, temperature management and improved insulation.

60. The most effective activities have been consolidation of energy consumption information and monitoring through Mass Energy Insight. MEI is a great tool, but could benefit from additional enhancements such as data normalization and ability to integrate 'live' monitoring (5 minute interval data) per building.
61. We are in the initial phases, getting a full energy audit of town buildings and then reducing energy use seems to be the most important at this time
62. Lighting upgrade at the elementary school, building envelope work in several buildings
63. Anti-idling campaign, residential energy use reduction
64. Working on solar installations and also looking at energy efficient vehicles.
65. The Siemens Performance contract on our five major municipal buildings (Elementary School, Town Hall, Library, Fire Station, and Town Garage) completed January, 2011.
66. The future purchase of fuel efficient vehicles and overall energy reduction.
67. Nothing significant implemented yet.
68. Lighting improvements.
69. Reduced electrical usage.
70. Replacement of lighting in various Town buildings and energy improvements related to boiler and mechanical systems at the Middle School
71. We are really just beginning...
72. Alternative energy projects (wind and solar), decrease in automotive use-bike lanes, rail trails and energy efficiency.
73. Probably [organization]'s Eco Teams and [organization]'s energy audit campaign have had the biggest carbon impact. The town's biggest impact would be the overtime efficiencies (new boilers, lighting, EMS) and switches to natural gas that all add up to a lot of carbon reduction.

Question 10

Are there any climate change or energy actions that your municipality has taken that you think should be emulated by other communities? If so, what are they and why would it be desirable for others to adopt them?

1. Improving energy efficiency of buildings through additional insulation and installation of more efficient heating units will help decrease use of heating oil. We also plan to install a solar photovoltaic system to reduce electrical usage.
2. Budgeting for energy efficiency improvements in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan allows the Town to receive a steady flow of funds for ongoing improvements.
3. Investigate third-party arrangements; get municipal buy-in of ESCo projects and their benefits.
4. See # 9
5. Adoption of a standing Energy Committee. It allows for a continued focus and commitment by local officials and the Town to energy reduction efforts.
6. Power Purchase Agreement with [organization] for the installation of a 2 MW Solar Array System on the Town's capped landfill.
7. Hopefully, our efforts to make it easier for private property owners to implement energy efficiency improvements.
8. Not yet, but we hope so in the future.

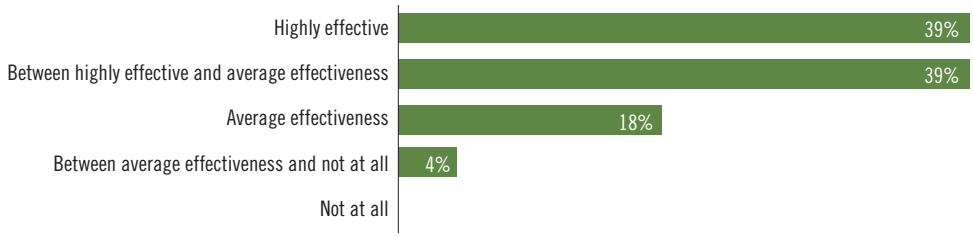
9. Solar landfill — desirable as a re-use for vacant land and for reduction of energy costs. LED streetlights desirable as a reduction of energy use.
10. Municipal and school system wide initiatives.
11. Encourage PV. Modernize buildings.
12. Energy management systems.
13. Smaller communities banded together to RFP energy management and conservation services.
14. Adopt the stretch energy building code, because the opportunity when building a new building is only available the first time
15. Residential Thermal Imaging -it is really a conversation and awareness issue.
16. Our exploration of a changeover to LED streetlights is about to be implemented, and this action stands to greatly reduce electricity usage and reduce energy costs. This project is one that any community should explore with their streetlights.
17. Installation of solar panels has shown to be the winner in [municipality]. All three systems installed during the past 18 months have proved to reduce costs, and green house gases.
18. NA
19. Anti-idling policy — reduces fuel consumption and is better for environment. Beautification grant to plant trees — more attractive community and encourage green activities.
20. "What gets counted gets managed." We have an internal Energy Task Force made up or key town department heads chaired by the Town Administrator. We track energy use town wide on an annual bases.
21. Renewable energy purchase, stretch code adoption.
22. Not sure yet — we are still in the initial phases of our projects
23. Purchasing hybrid vehicles
24. Analysis of baseline energy consumption patterns; lighting audits and upgrades. They reduce energy consumption and save money.
25. Changing to energy efficient lights is an easy one.
26. Although the implementation phase of the performance contract is yet to be completed I would recommend this funding mechanism. We have been able to leverage quick payback enhancements to funds larger, capital intensive projects, for an immediate and significant impact on energy reduction. We have also used power purchase agreements successfully to install a number of solar arrays - this works well as the partnering firm can take advantage of federal tax incentives that municipalities are not able to. The tax savings are typically passed onto the municipality in the cost of electricity.
27. The Town of [municipality] has a municipal Wind Turbine project in process of being built. This one project could provide 1/2 of the Town's municipal electricity usage. Town land, turbine owned & managed by the Town, all benefits are 100 percent to Town
28. Using PPAs to install solar projects is no upfront cost, green way to save money and reduce energy use. Always consider energy saving solutions to infrastructure upgrades when new projects are considered.
29. At the State level, higher level of oversight on Utilities Companies with respect to support of alternative energy sources, improved technology to allow higher quantities of alternative power over utility lines.
30. Solar at the WWTP, as well as the combined heat and power project at the WWTP

31. Bike sharing program; weatherization program; LED streetlight program. All high-visibility projects with important public education value, the first two also provide a direct benefit to the private sector, and all have the potential to provide significant climate benefits in their fully-realized forms.
32. No unusual of special activities have been initiated.
33. Working on insulating fire stations which were never considered as facilities that needed to be insulated.
34. We haven't started this project, but we intend to expend some of the funds we expect to get from Green Communities on educating people in Town on how to take advantage of utility energy audit services and financial incentive program to invest in home efficiency. We also want to educate folks in Town about opportunities to install renewable energy such as solar and possibly low wind speed turbines.
35. Townwide survey of buildings to establish status of energy efficiency needs Hiring a Facilities Manager Implementing vehicle policy
36. Green Building Zoning. Renew Boston community aggregation efforts of energy efficiency. LED streetlighting retrofits - 67 percent reduction in energy costs
37. A community solar garden effort that is an outgrowth of Solarize Mass
38. We would be happy to compare notes with other communities working on these issues. Our experience with NSTAR's efforts to support communication and collaboration with small groups of communities working on similar initiatives has been very positive.
39. Since becoming a Green Community the Town has adopted (Jan 2011) a Large-Scale, Ground-Mounted Photovoltaic Ordinance which not only encourages green energy but also helps solar developers better understand the town's goals and desires for such projects.
40. ESCO project and solar panel installations
41. Converting the capped landfill into a solar array facility to produce electricity for use by the Town's municipal facilities — Replacement of aging, inefficient heating systems with newer, much more efficient models — Adoption of the Stretch Energy Code
42. Take Charge campaign to get people to complete their MassSaves energy audits; solar mini-grant program — both get residents engaged in reducing their fossil fuel use
43. Getting the "Green Communities" grant to add "solar" to town buildings. Getting grants to upgrade town hall energy efficiency.
44. Using National Grid's small business program to help finance lighting upgrades. Tighter control of HVAC controls — no cost other than acquiring and training competent staff.
45. Parking & Transportation Demand Management Ordinance; it requires major employers to set mode split targets, develop and implement a plan, and monitor and report.
46. Solar paneled roof
47. Window quilts for the schools. Cheap, and very effective, winter and summer.
48. A large scale awareness of our energy goals that influence our strategy for future capital projects. Also a crossover knowledge base that is helping to better asses and budget for current and long term capitol maintenance.
49. [Municipality] has pursued the installation of solar PV panels on top of four schools and a landfill, energy efficiency projects through an ESCO type construction, and energy efficiency projects through the preferred vendor program under MGL Ch. 25 procurement method. Each of these approaches are different and overall have demonstrated a benefit to the City.

50. Once they are running smoothly, the installation of high efficiency (94 percent) condensing oil furnaces.
51. Establish a baseline and creating an energy use reduction plan
52. Not at this time.
53. Well, we have really focused on building energy efficiency which was good for the Town in the long run, in that now the tight buildings will qualify for renewable projects. (This may have been a factor in the award of the EECBG funding for an 18 kW solar PV array at the Elementary School completed in January last year.)
54. Installing Energy Management Systems within the municipal buildings and schools. Solar field also installed on the high school roof.
55. No
56. Lighting improvements; low lying fruit.
57. The Board of Selectmen has directed the Permanent Building Committee and Facilities Department to build, replace, and repair all Town buildings using energy reduction as the main goal.
58. Educational programs at our library, newspaper articles, town events, school presentations...
59. Alternative energy for sure is key and community walking or biking trails.
60. We fund our EMCs in large part through an energy revolving fund. The deposits to this fund come from an energy rental fee that for profit organizations pay when they rent a town or school facility. The fee is based on actual costs. This goes into the revolving fund. I work with AECom to implement ECMs with utility incentives.

Question 11

How effective has the Commonwealth Green Communities Program been in helping communties address climate change and energy use?



Question 12

Which have been the most important ways in which the Commonwealth has helped communities to address global warming and energy use?

1. Providing funding for towns to become more energy efficient, thereby reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
2. Green Communities funding and technical assistance
3. Green Community Grant Program
4. Making grant funds available, and making MassEnergyInsight available to communities to easily look at real energy data and savings resulting from energy efforts.
5. Providing energy and leadership; encouraging towns to take comprehensive view of their energy use.
6. The Green Communities Initiative.

7. The adoption of the *Green Communities Act*, technical assistance provided by DOER, recognition and grant programs for municipalities.
8. Motivating a large number of communities to establish 20 percent energy use reduction plans and adopt the stretch code. Hopefully, following this up with funds to help communities implement these plans.
9. The Green Community grant program has allowed us to take on energy reduction projects that we wouldn't otherwise be able to fund. Also allowed the city to hire a part-time Energy Efficiency Manager to initiate and coordinate grant-funded and other projects city-wide.
10. The Green Communities program was a carrot rather than a stick approach, with the promise of funding and recognition as a Green Community if all 5 criteria were met. This approach encouraged the Town to move much faster on these initiatives, passing all 5 within approximately one year that otherwise would have taken multiple years to accomplish. Technical assistance to communities has been essential to the Town's ability to become a Green Community and to address global warming and energy issues.
11. The money carrot.
12. Technical assistance and information through various media as well as financial assistance through grants.
13. Fund energy saving mechanisms
14. Grants. Education.
15. Public outreach, education, and funding. Without funding municipalities would likely not be able to do the work that must be done.
16. Incentives — both finance and recognition
17. Financial incentives and education/information.
18. By providing leadership and resources through grant funding.
19. Funding, let's hope it continues, as promised
20. Dollars and statewide programs
21. Green Communities grant money and mandating the utilities provide such robust rebate levels for energy conservation measures.
22. Recognizing that global warming and energy use is a huge problem and finding ways to combat the issues through education and funding.
23. Providing funding for energy-saving projects.
24. Policy changes — stretch code, fuel efficient cars.
25. Providing the town with technical assistance (owner reps) for the development of renewable energy with ESCO
26. *Green Communities Act* of 2008 and subsequent Green Communities Program.
27. Stretch Energy Code
28. The establishment of the Green Communities Program was huge. It helped us adopt the stretch code and provided incentives to develop an energy reduction plan, and the requirement to monitor energy use. Funding for these initiatives was a huge incentive.
29. Making funding available to implement conservation and energy saving measures where there was no funding

30. I think the two aspects of the Green Communities program that make it effective are the requirement to complete a baseline energy use analysis and making funding available to implement energy conservation measures.
31. Encouraging the sequence of improving energy efficiency and then moving to renewable energy as the next step. Providing funding to the towns is a huge help with encouraging the towns to make sound long range planning decisions by purchasing energy efficient HVAC systems and cars, which most towns would otherwise not purchase, because of budget restraints. This funding also helps towns to fund renewable energy systems.
32. Grant funds have helped us expand the scope of our performance contract, and seek additional capital projects on municipal buildings that will further reduce energy consumption. It has also helped by providing an incentive to adopt a building code with higher energy standards. In Lowell's context this is likely to provide incremental improvements but over time I suspect that energy savings will be significant.
33. Currently Commonwealth funding is paramount to energy savings projects since doing these projects with no dedicated funding source would have placed them on a list that may never have come to being implemented.
34. Funding through Green Communities designation *Green Communities Act* Solar carve-out legislation
35. The DOER has promoted higher participation in Green Issues through the use of incentives and through Public Forums, actions which have led to community involvement and support
36. The funding.
37. Technical support, as well as the financial support
38. In helping to create a general culture of sustainability.
39. Lighting cost savings
40. Energy Reduction Plan has assisted in making municipality aware of consumption and opportunities to reduce consumption.
41. Establishing an energy reduction plan and polices on fuel efficient vehicles and building operations.
42. I think that the availability of programs has opened our eyes to the various ways to save energy.
43. The Green Communities Program is a great incentive and motivator to get the discussion going in Massachusetts communities because it gets talked about on cable TV and in the local newspapers. Continuing to raise energy efficiency standards such as the stretch code also raises awareness and encourages people to learn about what they can do to increase the efficiency of their homes.
44. Providing funding for energy efficiency projects
45. The Commonwealth is rewarding energy conservation well
46. Funding support for energy efficiency projects
47. Funding source, initiative, program with lots of (or good?) staff support and fairly straight forward application process
48. The community must develop a plan to reduce energy usage by 20 percent over 5 years. The act of reviewing energy usage and planning how to carry out a reduction plan is very effective in instituting a coordinate set of activities and policies.
49. There are so many moving parts to global warming energy use issues. It's impossible to single out a few "most important" ways the Commonwealth has helped communities, they all tie together.

50. Certainly offering competitive grant funding is an effective way for municipalities to address energy use as often upgrades to existing HVAC systems, installation of green energy systems or other energy related capital improvements are not cost effective or are continually put on the budget's back burner. Other helpful support has been in the way of offering model bylaws and having access to the smart growth tool box.
51. Progressive legislation
52. Raising awareness—- Providing incentives to reduce through the Green Communities Program — Providing the Mass Energy Insight product for easy energy tracking
53. Promoting the new stretch code; grant funds to communities
54. The funding creates a powerful incentive, but the process of getting designated also results in increased education among Town officials and citizens of the need for addressing global warming and energy use as well means of achieving it.
55. In our case, in conjunction with the PVPC and DOER, municipal leaders were educated about the energy savings possibilities and avenues for funding and the municipal leaders were then able to convey that information to the townspeople for town acceptance, which, of course, has been successful, or I wouldn't be filling in this box.
56. Providing money for consulting and implementation of projects. Chapter 25, Section 14 to streamline procurement of energy saving measures
57. Policies to promote renewables. Stretch Energy Code. MassEnergyInsight.
58. Encouraging communities through Green Communities Grant
59. Public awareness is probably the single biggest factor. And making grants and access to funding available has made many projects possible that would otherwise not been undertaken.
60. Funding
61. Giving municipalities the training and tools to begin to understand and evaluate energy consumption. The first step is awareness of the problem, then understanding, then action.
62. The Commonwealth has helped [municipality] address global warming through financial incentives and raising awareness.
63. It would be advisable to use words like reduction in energy use/energy consumption and eliminate reference to Climate change/global warming, not all parties are believers in the "science"
64. Support solar, wind and hydro energy generation installations
65. Establishment of the green communities program
66. Increased fuel efficiency in municipal vehicles
67. It has aided in the helping Cities and Towns come to understand their energy use. Mass Energy Insight has been an amazing tool to use for assessing energy use and cost.
68. I think it was very important to challenge each community to adopt the five criteria as a condition for receiving state energy monies. Also the regional representative system worked superbly out here in [region]. [Individual] was at every important GC hearing or information meeting in [municipality], invited or not, and that was a big lift to those of us working to meet the goals and deadlines. The flexibility granted the designated communities in choosing how to spend the GC funding demonstrated that this is not a "do it my (the state's)way" but more "do what you know works and is needed." Very welcome approach.
69. Through the Green Communities Program allowing funding available to tackle energy reduction projects. Also through DOER's informational seminars, studies and programs.

70. The structuring of the Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) program, and Green Communities act.
71. Adoption of the stretch code and educating employees and residents on energy usage.
72. Having audits done to see where energy usage could be reduced. Identifying areas of improvement. Providing funding through the Green Communities Grant to help achieve the identified improvements.
73. Incentive of Green Communities designation and grant funds
74. information, education, awareness & patience!
75. It forces you to baseline usage and take notice of usage on a municipal level. It also has provided resources and incentives to become more efficient.
76. The Green Communities initiative that makes the RFP process for ECMs more efficient is great and has led to our town ramping up the pace of change by a factor of 4 or 5. Very effective, so we don't have to issue a separate RFP for every project. Love this! Our town was a Solarize Mass town. The increase in profile of solar has been crucial to moving forward smoothly with two roof top arrays that we will install in spring 2012. Also, I am getting no push back on a solar ready roof on a new school. The PR value is hard to quantify, but it's there.

Question 13

In what ways can the Commonwealth better help communities address climate change and energy use?

1. I also work for a town that has been 'green' long before it was fashionable; because they have been reducing their energy use for years, it is difficult to qualify as a Green Community. I think the Commonwealth should find a way to help communities such as this one to fund other energy projects even if they don't qualify as a Green Community.
2. The Commonwealth's Green Communities program should not view improvements made to Town facilities prior to recent times as a "baseline" for future energy use. Our community has been investing in energy efficiency for years but would actually be better off under Green Communities if we had done nothing. Similarly, Green Communities should recognize that per capita energy use is the real issue, not overall energy use. So if school enrollment goes up and we are forced to add new classrooms, for example, they should not be seen as increasing energy use if they are actually more energy efficient per user than the facility was before.
3. Refund the grant Program, create/retain incentives for municipal renewable energy projects.
4. Be more clear about the future of the Green Communities Program and grant opportunities. Grant timelines have been extremely tight, making it difficult to develop and rally around ideas for grant projects in time to apply. Also be mindful of the municipal budget calendar and Town Meetings, etc.
5. Increased funding/grant opportunities for communities to effectively implement their energy reduction projects.
6. Communities need greater technical assistance and specialized training in order to comprehend and deal with the issues associated with climate change. Particularly inland communities that will not be directly impacted by sea level rise. These communities need to understand how climate change will directly and indirectly affect them and how to plan for those eventualities.
7. Broaden the energy plans and available financing to support community-wide GHG reductions, not just municipal GHG reductions. Provide leadership and guidance needed to significantly increase the level of investment of private capital in energy efficiency investments.

8. Funding for energy manager positions because energy reduction projects wouldn't happen otherwise, continued funding of energy savings initiatives, and more opportunities to share information and best practices.
9. Additional funding and technical assistance to help communities address issues within their Town's that could have substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but without the financial resources they remain on the "to do" list.
10. Adopt the Stretch code state-wide as part of the building code. Then there will not be a discrepancy in building costs, whether perceived or real.
11. Technical assistance within the realm of renewable energy generation. With this being a new and developing area Cities and Towns could benefit from knowledge gained through more seminars, workshops, and technical assistance similar to that offered during the Green Community designation process.
12. Additional funding
13. Provide more incentives for energy efficiency and conservation. Provide for electric vehicles. Incentives (more) for PV installations.
14. Provide more funding or zero/low interest loans to communities to replace outdated equipment and/or install energy management systems. These changes will lead to energy / utility savings that can be used to pay back the loans.
15. Set benchmarks and reinforce use of the Energy Insight reporting. Recognize that there may be capacity issues in the 49 percent of MA towns with less than 10K population -- keep things simple in terms of grants, incentives.
16. Additional grant funding.
17. Continue on with the same message, and provide follow on resources and funding for projects.
18. Funding
19. Increased awareness and educational programs
20. Providing technical assistance funding along with implementation funding would help to further energy conservation planning.
21. Create programs for home and business owners to reduce energy use and cost that are available on an equal playing ground and that are realistically affordable.
22. More outreach and education to citizens as to benefits of program. Continued funding for energy-saving projects.
23. More technical help with by-law creation and adoption on wind turbine siting or solar installation siting.
24. Continue with the TA service and reduce the reporting requirements of the GC program
25. Continue the Green Communities Program and provide additional funding to expand the program to help replace the gap left by the Federal EECBG program.
26. Continued funding to implement projects and planning. Providing leadership and forums to share what everyone else is doing would be helpful.
27. Continue Green Communities Program and grants, in addition to support provided by MEI and Regional Coordinators

28. I suspect that the municipalities that have not chosen to participate in the Green Communities program would benefit most from (1) help collecting and analyzing their energy consumption patterns through the Mass Energy Insight tool or similar; and (2) preliminary audits that would give towns some ideas about where the "low hanging fruit" lies, and how to pay for it (such as through utility rebate programs).
29. I think you are doing a good job. Just having articles in the media, so that people understand this fantastic program!
30. Climate Change mitigation is more than building or vehicle energy efficiency. It would be great to see the program expanded to include multi-modal transportation & smart growth policies to reduce the number and distance of vehicle trips, preserve open space, and create/implement green infrastructure (carbon sink). Allowing funds to be used for climate planning (including mitigation and adaptation strategies) would help move beyond energy efficiency as the primary driver behind climate change mitigation.
31. Continue to provide funding sources. Provide State assistance during appeal process such as the Town is going through with its wind turbine project
32. Extend the solar carve-out legislation. Provide additional money for Green Communities. Clearly, and in an un-biased manner, provide information (facts) that cities and towns can use to counter opposition claims surrounding adoption of the energy stretch code.
33. See #10 above; increased cooperation and innovation from utilities with respect to promoting use of alternative energy sources.
34. Help in amending Chapter 70 to make it easier for municipalities with significant local aid to be able to take advantage of an ESCO.
35. Provide better/ easier to use carbon/ energy tracking tools; provide comprehensive training for same; create comprehensive "play books" for increasingly popular programs, like solar PPA's, community choice aggregation, energy procurement, streetlight purchasing, community-scale renewable energy, etc.; continue to provide funding resources; facilitate peer exchange.
36. Provide more assistance with defining the scope of energy efficiency or renewable energy projects or consolidation of multiple smaller projects in order to provide the information towns need to seek funding (bonds, grants and utility incentives) for the project. Another way to look at this is how can you assist a community implement its energy reduction plan rather than have it sit on the shelf.
37. I do not know if they could do anything else.
38. The Commonwealth could provide articles, press releases for local newspapers about climate change, efficiency, renewables. Perhaps a format for articles to be submitted by local Energy Task Force members.
39. Provide funding for continuation of ongoing projects and initiatives and for new projects
40. Needs to reward energy conversion to renewables.
41. Promote municipally lead energy efficiency outreach for small residential projects and aggregation under DPU required efficiency programs assist communities in navigating procurement of energy efficiency services for municipal building retrofits and performance contracting assist in engaging state agencies in adaptation planning, particularly major state infrastructure managers

42. More funding and assistance to develop rail and other alternative transportation systems, collaborative/reduced cost buying for things like energy efficient boilers, etc., consider MAJOR cost increases that are a result of prevailing wage requirements and how much more could be accomplished in climate change, energy use and a myriad of other areas if prevailing wage wasn't required on nearly every government project.
43. Help with implementation of projects funded by the grants — some towns are unable to devote planning and administrative resources to the effort.
44. Continue to provide modest financial support for communities to leverage local and SBC resources. In addition, please try to keep the funding reasonably unstructured or tied to specific investment requirements. The Green Community Grant funding our community received has been the glue for our efforts to deploy a comprehensive, multi-sector climate change and energy use initiative in our small community.
45. Continue to keep green energy technologies at the forefront of discussion and maintain funding opportunities for municipalities to participate in.
46. Fund and assist in the creation of regional energy plans -- renewable energy production should be developed on a regional basis
47. Additional educational efforts for the general population as well as publicity about local success stories (with monetary savings as a key component).
48. Send more money!
49. Public outreach, raise resident awareness to the problem and why they should care. Make it personal and help us reach the residents so they understand how important this work is.
50. Support for MBTA; PACE energy financing; green leases; mandatory energy use disclosure; coordinate and lead on adaptation planning and implementation. Make utility EE programs effective for multifamily housing and supportive of deeper retrofits.
51. Provide even greater financial incentives
52. Lower the barriers to implementation through building code simplification, construction education programs, and broad availability of public funds.
53. Continued funding
54. Follow up. It needs to become part of local government culture that inefficiency is not acceptable. Learn, adapt, improve, innovate, learn!
55. The Commonwealth can better help [municipality] address climate change by creating a locale for sharing lessons learned. Ideally this would be an online exchange of information with monthly (or bi-monthly) conferences to attend presentations and to exchange information and suggestions. Help could be useful in better understanding the numerous processes available to municipalities to procure energy efficiency projects and to see examples of successes (and failures).
56. See above
57. More grant funds for energy saving or renewable energy production activities. More education on how to install renewable devices.
58. Develop outreach campaign template
59. Provide additional funds for energy efficiency.
60. More grant money to aid Cities and Towns in implementing programs and projects.

61. Well, it's a fact that buildings continue to lose enormous amounts of energy, and that private residences outweigh municipal building enormously in total MMBtu's out the window. Local rural people are inventive and hard working and have a source that could replace fuel oil literally falling down all around them. Wood particulate matter release is dangerous; but there must be a way. A program requiring audits and efficiency measures, followed up with financial incentives for excellent wood burning stoves and furnaces (the oil system remaining for backup) that matched the age and life style of the residents of each household might really knock a hole in the carbon footprint, and sustain and create jobs in rural regions such as [region].
62. Continue improving the Green Communities Program, community outreach programs/informational seminars. From a municipal standpoint improving the functionality of the Mass Energy Insight Website.
63. Streamlining permitting process for large renewable generation projects and incentivizing utilities to upgrade grid infrastructure to accommodate them.
64. Have more incentive programs that encourage energy efficient projects.
65. Assisting each community in these audits and understanding how improvements can be made (not just communities applying for Green Communities designation).
66. Serve as clearinghouse to share ideas and best practices
67. Would love to see an on-line interactive program that allows people to input details of their own residence — sq ft, total window area, insulation — by type & quantity, energy use — to show the cost effectiveness of insulating & payback.
68. Produce material (media) that shows specific data of savings to the non-believers. We have a group in town who believes that Green Communities is part of the UN Agenda 21 and that it is all a scam to promote the UN and leftist agendas.
69. The next level of building efficiencies for us will be, I think, to use an IR camera and pinpoint worst heat leaks in municipal buildings. Getting and using IR technology I think may be a wealth of savings. Also, food practices and temp set points, though small are very wide spread. Model town policies on no mini-moos, no single water bottles, take the stairs (helps health too!), no separate fridges hidden under desks, blah blah blah. Death by a thousand cuts. I fight bigger battles and don't want to make enemies of everyone by taking away their pet X. Instead, if the big bad state issued a model code.... maybe? Our temp set points are great: 66 for heat and 76 for AC. Also, we have a no AC in new school buildings policy. This is all well and good, enforcement is always a struggle. Again, if the state issued a guideline? With savings per degree??? Could help make the case.

Question 14

Other comments?

1. The application process to become a Green Community needs to be improved, especially the methodology used to calculate the 20 percent energy reduction benchmark in the energy reduction plan.
2. Smaller communities with little or no professional staff have difficulty dealing with everyday activities and applications, let alone dealing with the large and complicated topic of climate change and how to deal with it at the local level. Such communities need technical assistance in order to deal with this issue.

3. The Green Communities Division has been tasked by MA state law to assist MA communities in establishing Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs. We look forward to working with the DOER to advance this important energy efficiency financing tool in MA.
4. Thanks
5. Seminars and workshops have been good points of reference and have been good resources for initial information from which municipalities can learn and work from when considering future energy projects.
6. This is a good step for Mass. to take the lead and show others things that can be done.
7. Thanks for all you do for the state and the help you give our town!
8. Good luck!
9. Bravo to Massachusetts for recognizing the need for energy conservation and taking a proactive approach to dealing with the issues. It is my hope that members of the Green Communities and others will be become self sustaining so that more focus can be placed on bringing energy reductions to residences.
10. The GC program does not work well with communities that have existing energy reduction programs.
11. To the extent possible have Green Communities be clearer about what's coming up in the future for funding so we have time to plan.
12. Green Communities is an important step in the direction that the world must take in order to ensure long term planet health and sustainability
13. I would qualify my answers to #6 and #7 by saying that we don't really have a way of measuring community concern and interest as a whole. This has not been a particularly community-driven process.
14. We expect to continue to address energy efficiency in municipal buildings and its fleet. However we have been attempting to provide incentive to [municipality] residents, property owners, and businesses to take on energy efficiency enhancements. Particularly retrofits of existing buildings. We've had some successes, but have not been able to engender a rapid increase in energy efficiency activity in the private sector. Our strategy has to been to build off of existing utility programs because they potentially provide significant benefit, however we have found working with the utility challenging and makes for a somewhat confusing process for people taking part in the programs. It would be helpful if utility programs were more flexible or adaptable to communities who wish to partner with them or mechanisms that allow communities to utilize a portion of the energy efficiency charges paid by residents and businesses in the community for adapted and targeted programming relevant to the community.
15. Good job so far, I would like to make sure that the Green Communities program does not go too far when enticing new participants by offering higher percentages of the available funds while de-emphasizing the needs of the pre-existing Green Communities.
16. With appreciation from the residents of the Town of [municipality].
17. Although climate change is important, reducing energy cost by reducing use is the greater driving force for most towns. If helping communities understand the long term savings say over 10 years rather than one year would make projects look more appealing. A standard methodology using EIA data for increased in energy cost might be helpful.
18. None that I can think of.

19. Raise the bar for transportation efficiency on the State level and pushing the Federal Government to set higher national standards. Transportation is the largest contributor to natural gas in many communities. Changing fuels to hydrogen like California program will have the largest impact on reducing greenhouse gases. Higher gas taxes like Europe will also have an impact on lower use and finally raising taxes on heating oil will encourage more investment in efficiency and conversion to natural gas.
20. Often state funding can make a big difference- for example, in our street light acquisition program- we will have to do a conservation retrofit rather than install LED lighting due to cost. It would really make a difference to be able to have the best and most efficient actions feasible with respect to cost. Also — utility rebates and incentives do not always follow through on expectations. The Green Communities Program is one of the best programs the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has ever implemented.
21. We are grateful for the States help and the extremely helpful staff and consultants on the green communities initiative
22. Some of the most effective elements of the Green Communities Division's approach revolve around gathering feedback from people on the ground - a desire to try new ideas and refine them, and the programs have been well thought out to begin with. There are some very intelligent and committed people working for the division. Keep up the great work!
23. Specifically, [individual], of the PVPC was instrumental in guiding the Town of [municipality] through the Green Communities grant process, and [individual] of HCOG and HRMC has been instrumental in the procurement of additional grants as well as assisting with the Green Communities initiative. The town would not have been able to follow through without their assistance.
24. Assistance with quality audits, prioritization of projects and community outreach is what we need next.
25. The Green Communities Program is a model initiative that should be rolled out nationwide. I am proud to live in a Green Community. It is imperative that we keep the momentum and continue to progress.
26. Overall, this is a great program, but there are places where there is room for improvement. The dissemination of information such as: available technologies, available procurement methods, available funding sources, examples of success and failure stories would be very beneficial.
27. The Town of [municipality] did not get into Green Communities based on the flawed science that is "global warming" or "climate change". We desired to reduce our energy consumption by 20 percent or greater and in doing so help the environment, but more importantly reduce energy related cost, in order to use those funds to better serve the citizens of our community, by saving them tax dollars, or increasing services that impact them directly. Our community has cut to the bone, every other related cost and are now addressing energy costs as they are a controllable expense by making smart choices. We are also exploring solar, and if contract talks (ongoing) are successful we will be the largest solar energy provider in Massachusetts, we are doing this and viewing it as a profit center for our community, if another positive by product is less environmental damage, all the better, We are also exploring wind, hydro and geo thermal for the same reasons and potential benefits.

28. I am continually impressed with the wonderful network of quasi-municipal and private agencies here in [municipality] and [municipality] that stands ready to assist towns in the challenges of completing applications, preparing RFQ's, advertising on time, preparing communities for each new step (like Stretch Code), reporting, and many other needs. The [organization] staff have helped [municipality] apply for local assistance grants, prepare our Green Communities Action Plan, prepare bids, deliver application documents to Boston, and assist our planning board with solar bylaws - the list goes on. They also sponsor a county-wide coalition of Energy Committees that meets every 2 or 3 months, is an effective support group and keeps everyone aware of new possibilities. For instance, [municipality] literally could not have completed the Criterion 3 Energy Reduction Plan on tine without the assistance of a [organization] staff member who came forward at one of the Coalition meetings and said "I can help you learn the Energy Insight Program." Also, [organization] in [municipality] was critical in presenting the Stretch Code at our hearing. [Municipality] Health Care Corporation trains benefits counselors to work with residents in the towns to connect seniors and disabled with available state and federal home repair programs. DOER coordinates adeptly with these and others resources in this network that is so important to success of energy programs in the region.
29. We have not yet started implementing measures outlined in our energy plan, but we are very optimistic about the positive effects these measures will have on our town both economically and in terms of building comfort and healthfulness.
30. How can we make sure that Climate Change action and energy issues don't fad into the background as they have in the past? How can we ensure that this is market driven and not driven by politics or ones political beliefs?