



## MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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### **Northampton Receives \$250,000 Green Communities Grant for LED Lighting Upgrades at Seven Facilities**

NORTHAMPTON – Today Mayor David J. Narkewicz attended a ceremony in Southborough to accept a \$250,000 Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division grant awarded to the City of Northampton. This grant is part of the Green Communities Competitive Grant Program, available to cities and towns in the Commonwealth with a Green Community designation – which Northampton has had since May 2010.

Northampton will use the Green Communities grant to support lighting upgrades to LED technology at seven Northampton facilities: Northampton High School, Police and Fire headquarters, Florence Fire Substation, Northampton's Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants and the Northampton Public Works Campus.

National Grid is expected to contribute an additional \$135,000 in energy incentive payments to these projects and the City's Energy and Sustainability Revolving fund will be used to cover another \$183,000 in project costs. The sale of solar renewable energy certificates from city-owned solar-electric arrays, not tax-payer dollars, supports the revolving fund. The lighting upgrade projects are expected to save the city \$70,000 a year in electricity costs.

In receiving the grant, Mayor Narkewicz said, "This grant will allow Northampton to reduce energy use for lighting at these facilities by 66%, saving enough electricity to power 64 homes and taking another step toward the city's commitment to become carbon-neutral by 2050." Beginning in 2016, Northampton has steadily upgraded city infrastructure to LED lighting and has already replaced streetlights and lighting at all elementary schools and the middle school. The city expects to finish this transition in all other city buildings by 2021. Once completed, the city expects to have reduced its electricity use enough to power 241 homes.

The DOER reported that more communities applied for a Green Community Competitive Grant in 2019 than in any previous year of the program. They received over \$17 million in grant requests and had to make hard decisions on which projects to fund. Chris Mason, Northampton's Energy & Sustainability Officer, attributes Northampton's success in receiving the grant to the fact that lighting projects produce high energy savings for dollars spent, the city is ready to implement work immediately, and the city's Energy and Sustainability Revolving fund allowed the city to contribute a solid match to each project.

The city is ready to ink contracts with a National Grid Program Expediter, a pre-vetted electrical contractor that specializes in energy efficiency work, for the six city facilities, and expects to release an invitation to bid within a month for work at the High School.