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Northampton Receives \$247,507 Green Communities Grant Award

Yesterday Mayor David J. Narkewicz attended a ceremony at the State House in Boston to accept a \$247,507 Green Communities grant awarded to the City of Northampton. This award was 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 upgrade indoor and outdoor lighting to energy efficient LED technology at six city schools. These upgrades will reduce electric use by 160 MWh per year - enough to power 23 homes - and save the city \$26,000 annually.

Northampton recently upgraded over 2000 city streetlights to LED technology. This reduced the city's annual street lighting electric bill by 75% (a \$180,000 annual savings) saved 850 MWh (megawatt-hours) of electricity use annually - enough to power 120 homes reduced our annual greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 300 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

In receiving the award Mayor Narkewicz said, "I'm extremely pleased that the City has received this award, these lighting upgrades in our city schools will not only help us reduce our energy cost but it will also continue our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change."

The Green Communities Competitive Grant Program awarded over \$14 million to 72 communities for various energy saving measures from ventilation system upgrades and high efficiency lighting to installation of insulation and energy management systems at municipal buildings and facilities. Also included are projects to install LED streetlights, oil-to-gas heating system conversions, electric vehicles, and electric vehicles charging stations.

"The efforts of the 72 communities receiving over \$14 million today are important as we work to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals set forth under the Global Warming Solutions Act," said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Judith Judson. "These grants represent another milestone for both the communities and the Commonwealth as we continue to work collaboratively to build a clean, resilient, and affordable energy future."

Northampton's award will fund eight projects consisting of indoor lighting at one school, outdoor lighting at two schools and one for outdoor lighting at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (SVAHS) where the lighting installations will be done by SVAHS students with instructor supervision.