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Request for Proposals: Green School Works FY26 Funding

Date of issue: December 1, 2025

Proposals due: February 13, 2026, 11:59 PM

Total funding available: Up to approximately \$19,000,000

All proposals must be submitted through:

<https://form.jotform.com/MassCECForms/green-school-works-grants-app>
<mailto:greenschools@masscec.com>

1. SUMMARY

Through this Request for Proposals (“RFP”), the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center (“MassCEC”) seeks proposals for projects that improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, or mitigate impacts of climate change at eligible public kindergarten through twelfth grade (“K-12”) schools in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts is home to approximately 1,800 public K-12 school buildings responsible for 880,000 metric tons of carbon emissions every year. The electrification and decarbonization of school buildings represents a significant opportunity for the state to reach its goal of net zero emissions by 2050 while creating healthier, more resilient learning environments for our students.

As a part of the Green School Works program, up to nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000) in funding is available through this RFP for school building modernization projects that improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, or mitigate the impacts of climate change. Awards could range from a minimum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to a maximum anticipated award of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for most projects. However, the maximum total potential grant amount is five million dollars (\$5,000,000) when including a recoverable grant of at least two million dollars (\$2,000,000). See Section 8 (Budget & Award Limits) for details on recoverable grants.

Projects will be selected based on the criteria outlined in Section 7. As detailed in Section 7, schools and districts that serve a higher percentage of students from low-income families will be prioritized. Applicants testing cost-effective approaches to school decarbonization and/or using Green School Works funding to leverage other funds are encouraged to apply. MassCEC is also looking to fund innovative technical solutions and projects that seek to leverage the federal Investment Tax Credit (“ITC”). See Section 4 (Eligibility: Eligible Project Technologies) for a full list of eligible projects and Section 7 (Selection Criteria) for additional guidance on what would make a strong application.

2. ABOUT MASSCEC

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center (MassCEC) is a quasi-state economic development agency dedicated to accelerating the growth of the clean energy sector across the Commonwealth to spur job creation, deliver statewide environmental benefits and to secure long-term economic growth for the people of Massachusetts. MassCEC works to increase the

adoption of clean energy while driving down costs and delivering financial, environmental, and economic development benefits to energy users and utility customers across the state.

MassCEC's mission is to accelerate the clean energy and climate solution innovation that is critical to meeting the Commonwealth's climate goals, advancing Massachusetts' position as an international climate leader while growing the state's clean energy economy. MassCEC is committed to creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization where everyone is welcomed, supported, respected, and valued. We are committed to incorporating principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice in all aspects of our work in order to promote the equitable distribution of the health and economic benefits of clean energy and support a diverse and inclusive clean energy industry. MassCEC strives to lead and innovate in equitable clean energy and climate solutions.

3. PROGRAM GOALS AND DESCRIPTION

The [Green School Works](#) program was created as part of the state's 2024 Fiscal Year budget using revenue established by the Fair Share Amendment to provide financial support to public K-12 schools or districts to install or maintain clean energy infrastructure. Green School Works funding is allocated to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ("[DESE](#)") in consultation with MassCEC, and DESE contracts with MassCEC to administer the Program on its behalf.

The goals of the Green School Works program, as stated in the enabling legislation, are to:

- "provide financial support to eligible public K-12 schools or districts for projects to install or maintain clean energy infrastructure;"
- "address the costs of installation, operation or upgrades of clean energy infrastructure that improves energy efficiency, reduces carbon emissions or mitigates impacts of climate change, including school rooftop construction or repair costs necessary for a clean energy infrastructure project to be safely installed;" and
- accelerate the adoption of energy efficiency and decarbonization measures by "schools serving low-income and environmental justice populations."

Additional goals, based on stakeholder feedback and decarbonization goals for schools across the Commonwealth, are to:

- Serve as a source of gap funding for technical assistance and implementation of electrification and/or decarbonization projects;

- Leverage other sources of school decarbonization funding to the greatest extent possible and seed innovative financing approaches;
- Enable Massachusetts to take advantage of existing federal clean energy tax incentives;
- Provide building-specific assessments and plans, as well as high-level, district-wide decarbonization planning; and
- Support districts in meeting 2050 and interim emissions targets.

4. ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants to this RFP can be public schools, educational collaboratives, public school districts, or municipalities (“Applicants”) proposing eligible projects at eligible schools and/or school districts or collaboratives as described below.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT SITES

For this funding, the project site must be a public K-12 school, or multiple public K-12 schools, in Massachusetts. Applicants must affirm that the project site will remain in use as a public K-12 school facility for at least 20 years. In addition to traditional public K-12 schools, Applicants/project sites eligible for this funding include:

- Charter schools owning their buildings or with long-term ground leases of at least 20 years.
- Educational collaboratives owning their buildings or with long-term ground leases of at least 20 years. Note: Educational collaboratives within larger public schools are also eligible to receive funding. In this case, the application should be for the building as a whole.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT STAGE

Projects at various stages of planning, design, and construction are eligible to receive funding. MassCEC is seeking implementation projects that can begin construction within twelve months of contract signing and achieve project completion within thirty-six (36) months of contract signing. MassCEC can be flexible with this timeline on a case-by-case basis. MassCEC recognizes that without an identified source of funding, it is not always possible to fully develop a project scope, team, and budget. MassCEC welcomes projects that are in the early planning stages.

All Applicants pursuing awards of \$1 million or more will be required to submit a Mass Save® comprehensive building assessment (“CBA”), investment-level audit, or equivalent building study as part of the Green School Works application to ensure that the proposed project is part of a thoughtful decarbonization strategy. Applicants pursuing awards of \$1 million or more with CBAs, or equivalent technical assistance studies in progress but not yet completed, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Eligible non-Mass Save Applicants can access equivalent technical assistance through the [Green School Works technical assistance program](#). MassCEC recommends the completion of a CBA or equivalent building study for all projects, regardless of budget.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT TECHNOLOGIES

Funding will be awarded for energy efficiency, electrification, decarbonization, resilience, and clean energy projects.

Among these eligible technologies, MassCEC will prioritize projects that seek to leverage the federal ITC (e.g., for ground-source heat pumps and storage). MassCEC requires any Awardee whose Project includes a technology eligible for federal tax credits to register for and file the appropriate paperwork to claim the federal tax credit once the project is placed into service and to structure the federal tax credit portion of the Green School Works grant as a recoverable grant (see Section 8 for more details on recoverable grants). MassCEC is also looking to fund innovative technical solutions, such as solar and storage projects supporting resilience hubs, testing flexible interconnection, and participating in demand response programs, especially in grid-constrained areas. Further details about the selection criteria are available in Section 7 (Selection Criteria).

All eligible project types are listed below.

- Heat pumps (including distribution conversion costs)
 - Ground-source heat pumps, especially projects:
 - retrofitting an existing school building
 - Air-source heat pumps
 - Note: Any applicants for air-source heat pump projects must demonstrate that they have evaluated ground-source heat pumps as an option and provide an explanation for why ground-source heat pumps were ruled out.
 - Note: MassCEC strongly encourages applicants for heating electrification projects to implement weatherization measures, either as part of the proposed Green School Works project or beforehand.

- Solar photovoltaics (Especially when offsetting recent electrification costs and/or paired with electric battery storage systems that support resilience hubs or enable flexible interconnection or demand response in grid-constrained areas)
 - Rooftop
 - Ground mount
 - Parking canopy
- Electric battery energy storage systems, especially projects:
 - supporting resilience hubs
 - enabling [flexible interconnection](#)
 - participating in demand response programs such as [Connected Solutions](#), especially in grid-constrained areas where they can serve as [non-wires alternatives](#)
- Thermal energy storage systems
- Electrification of other building systems and appliances (e.g., domestic hot water, kitchen equipment, laundry equipment, landscaping equipment)
- Energy efficiency and weatherization projects (e.g., high-performance building envelope improvements)
 - Note: It is unlikely that projects where window replacement or roof repair are the majority of the project budget will be competitive applications, since there are funding opportunities for those upgrades through the Massachusetts School Building Authority.
 - Note: MassCEC strongly encourages applicants for heating electrification projects to implement weatherization measures, either as part of the proposed Green School Works project or beforehand.
- Ventilation system upgrades, including energy recovery ventilation
- If a part of a larger electrification or clean energy project:
 - Electrical service and system upgrades
 - Building management systems
 - Other health and safety barrier mitigation
 - Note: Green School Works funding cannot be used toward fire safety compliance or ADA compliance costs that may be triggered by these projects
- Other electrification, decarbonization, resilience, and clean energy projects will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis

5. ESTIMATED TIMELINE

This timeline is subject to change at MassCEC's discretion.

Release of RFP	December 1, 2025
Informational webinar	December 9, 2025 at 3:30 PM
Virtual office hours	Sign up via this form or request additional times by emailing greenschools@masscec.com
Questions due to MassCEC via email to greenschools@masscec.com	December 1, 2025 through January 30, 2026, 11:59 PM
Questions with answers posted to MassCEC website	Rolling through February 6, 2026
Proposals due	February 13, 2026 11:59 PM
Review of applications and interviews of top applicants, as needed	February through April 2026
Notification of Award	Late April/May 2026

TIMELINE INTERACTION WITH OTHER RELATED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

MassCEC is aware of several other sources of school decarbonization funding from the state. MassCEC encourages applicants to stack multiple sources of funding if they are necessary to advance the project. MassCEC recognizes that pursuing multiple sources of funding with different deadlines can be difficult to navigate. The text below explains how MassCEC envisions Green School Works interacting with other state sources of school decarbonization funding. **If Applicants have any questions about how Green School Works funding could interact with other sources of funding, MassCEC encourages Applicants to submit a question (see Section 9) and/or attend [virtual office hours](#).**

- **Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”)**: On October 29th, 2025, the MSBA invited 25 schools to participate in the inaugural cohort of their [Heat Pump Accelerated Repair Program](#) (“ARP”). For schools considering ground-source heat pumps, MassCEC encourages these invited schools to apply to Green School Works for a recoverable grant to facilitate use of the federal ITC (as described in Section 8) with the goal of ensuring they can confidently take advantage of the federal ITC with pre-payment of its value and assurance of its availability from the state.
- **Mass Save**: MassCEC encourages all Applicants in Mass Save territory to engage with their energy efficiency representative as early as possible to understand Mass Save funding opportunities, and to begin technical assistance like a CBA with Mass Save.
- **Department of Energy Resources’ (“DOER’s”) [Transforming Energy in School Initiative](#) (“TESI”)**: TESI is meant to support the full or substantial decarbonization of schools located in low-income communities. Applications for TESI are due on December 5, 2025, with award announced three months later. Applicants to TESI are also invited to apply to GSW. Applicants to GSW may indicate that the overall project will only move forward if

they also get TESI funding or else provide two separate scopes (one with TESI funding and one without TESI funding). MassCEC and DOER have coordinated to make the applications for GSW and TESI similar for simplicity. MassCEC and DOER also expect to coordinate when reviewing TESI and GSW applications to understand any potential overlap.

- **DOER's Green Communities:** Green Communities offers several relevant [grant opportunities](#) for all Green Communities, as well as additional grants for [Climate Leader Communities](#). The next funding opportunity for the Climate Leader Communities' Decarbonization Accelerator Grants is due in February 2026, and the next funding opportunity for the general Green Communities Competitive Grants is due in April 2026. GSW Applicants are welcome to also apply to upcoming Green Communities grant funding. Applicants to GSW may indicate that the overall project will only move forward if they also get Green Communities funding or else provide two separate scopes (one with Green Communities funding and one without that funding).
- **Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office ("FFIO") [Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance \("MTTA"\)](#) discretionary grant program** is now open through June 30, 2027, and all Massachusetts' public schools, including regional school districts, are eligible to apply now through their local municipal/regional government office. The MTTA program dollars can be used for covering expenses related to filing for Direct Pay ITC. FFIO will be making decisions and awarding monies on a rolling basis. Please refer to [this guidance page](#) for more specifics. MassCEC encourages applicants considering pursuing the federal ITC to apply for this support through FFIO.

6. HOW TO APPLY

Responses to this RFP must be received by MassCEC no later than **February 13, 2026 11:59 PM**. The response to the RFP should be submitted [via JotForm](#). A PDF version of the JotForm application will be posted under application materials on the website for reference. If you need assistance filling out the JotForm application, please email greenschools@masscec.com. "Green School Works RFP Application – [[Applicant (i.e., school district or municipality) name] – [School name]]" should appear in the email subject line.

For projects involving multiple schools:

- If a project is a connected and/or coordinated, multi-school effort, please submit one application.
- If there are separate projects at multiple schools or sites in your district, please submit separate applications for each project.

Please include in your application [via Jotform](#):

- **All the required information in the Jotform application, including:**
 - Applicant contact information
 - Project site information
 - Project description
 - Project goals and impact
 - Project team
 - Project budget & milestones. The project budget should specify the amount budgeted for clean energy technologies and potential associated costs eligible for tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act.
 - Confirmation that the Applicant has reviewed Attachment C – Sample Agreement (Note: Template agreement would be modified to include language for Applicants receiving a recoverable grant.)
- **Attachment A:** Authorized Applicant Signature and Acceptance Form
- **Other Attachments:**
 - Team member resumes
 - Optional (as available)
 - Energy use data for the project site building(s) for the past 2 years. If the project is awarded, MassCEC will require awardees to provide detailed energy records for the last 2 years as well as after project implementation.
 - Mass Save CBA, investment-level audit, or equivalent building study to ensure that the proposed approaches are the best for decarbonization
 - Project plans, narratives, drawings, and/or other project documents

MassCEC encourages projects at various stages of planning or construction to respond to this RFP. Applicants with projects in earlier stages should provide as much information as available in Attachment B (Application Form).

Please disclose to MassCEC in your application any use of, or planned use of, generative AI either in responding to this RFP or in carrying out the scope of work required for the project or services, if awarded. MassCEC reserves the right to discount our assessment of the quality of the proposal if relevant content or proposal quality is AI generated and not fully representative of the project or project team. MassCEC reserves the right to review submitted materials to determine whether generative AI was likely used, including using detection tools, linguistic analysis, or verification methods as appropriate, and to penalize or reject applications if MassCEC expects generative AI was likely used without disclosure. MassCEC further reserves the right to accept or reject any proposed uses of generative AI, or request supplemental non-AI generative materials from applicants, or cancel or rescind an award where generative AI has been used without MassCEC approval.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following selection criteria:

Student population served

- What percentage of the students' families where the project is taking place qualify as low-income based on [DESE enrollment data](#) from the past three school years? (Applicants with a higher percentage of students from low-income families will score higher.)

Funding impact

- Is the applicant requesting a recoverable grant (as described in Section 8) so that the funding can potentially be recycled into other school decarbonization efforts?
- Would Green School Works funding enable the applicant to leverage additional funds (e.g. associated federal tax credits) for the project?
- Would MassCEC's funding fill a gap that other funding sources (e.g., municipal funds, other incentives, grants, tax credits) cannot currently cover?
- Does the funding deliver decarbonization, energy efficiency, clean energy, and/or resiliency benefits beyond business-as-usual actions? In other words, would the Green School Works funding change the outcome for the school?

Project Feasibility: Capacity, Scope, and Budget

- Is there project management capacity at the school, district, or municipality that has successfully completed projects similar or relevant to the proposed project?
- Is there an experienced and qualified project team assembled? If not, is there a credible path to assembling an experienced and qualified project team?
- Does the project have strong local support?
 - What local approval steps are required for the project to go forward, and what is their status?
- Does the project timeline align with the program timeline targets of beginning construction within twelve (12) months of contract signing and achieving project completion within thirty-six (36) months of contract signing?
- Is the project likely to meet projected timelines and are risks limited?
- Is the project scope well thought out?
- Has a comprehensive building assessment and/or investment-level audit been completed for the proposed site(s)? If not, is one underway?

- Have the relevant utilities been contacted to assess electrical capacity? What are their findings?
- Are other sources of funding reasonably likely to move forward if the Green School Works funding is awarded?
- Is the budget reasonable?
- Is this project likely to trigger code and other upgrades? To what extent? And is there an understanding of and a plan for these potential added costs?

Innovation

- Does the project propose a prioritized technology as described in Section 4 (Eligibility: Eligible Project Technologies) (i.e., ground-source heat pumps and storage, especially storage projects supporting resilience hubs, testing flexible interconnection, and participating in demand response programs, especially in grid-constrained areas)?
- Is the project helping test or prove out a new approach to school decarbonization?
- Does the project include innovative technology that is relatively untested in Massachusetts where an additional demonstration would be impactful?
- Does the project propose an innovative financial approach to school decarbonization, such as a recoverable grant structure?

In addition to the criteria listed above, MassCEC may give consideration towards awarding a diverse set of projects, including those representing:

- Communities across Massachusetts,
- A variety of technologies, and
- Schools and districts of different sizes.

8. BUDGET & AWARD DETAILS

The total budget for this round of Green School Works funding is up to approximately \$19 million.

Funding is contingent upon availability. All dollar amounts listed are estimated/approximate and are subject to change. MassCEC at its sole discretion may make no awards or award less or more funding. If more funding is to become available, it will be distributed under the same guidelines as listed in this RFP document.

AWARD LIMITS

The minimum award request is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). The maximum award per school district is for projects requesting traditional (i.e., non-recoverable) grants is expected to be three million dollars (\$3,000,000). The maximum total potential grant amount is five million dollars (\$5,000,000) when including a recoverable grant of at least two million dollars (\$2,000,000). Applicants may request that up to the maximum (\$5,000,000) as a recoverable grant. Applicants with a higher percentage of their request as a recoverable grant will be more competitive based on the selection criteria in Section 7.

For Applicants requesting awards equal to or greater than one million dollars (\$1,000,000), MassCEC expects a plan for full school decarbonization has been or will be created (e.g., the Applicant has or will complete a Mass Save CBA or equivalent). Applicants requesting awards less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) are also encouraged, although not required to complete a full school decarbonization plan such as a Mass Save CBA.

RECOVERABLE GRANTS

Applicants may choose to request some or all of the grant as a recoverable grant that will be returned to MassCEC upon receipt of another anticipated funding sources (e.g., federal ITC payment) or, with MassCEC approval, funds may be applied to another eligible school decarbonization project by the awardee.

MassCEC recognizes that recent changes to the federal Investment Tax Credit may have created uncertainty about that source of funding for some Applicants. As of the date of this RFP, ground source heat pump projects and battery storage are currently eligible for investment tax credit into the 2030s, including the elective or direct pay option relevant to public facilities like schools, which in most cases will be 30% of the project investment.¹

To help school districts and municipalities take advantage of the federal tax credit, MassCEC is offering a recoverable grant option, with the following terms:

- Any Awardee whose Project includes a technology eligible for federal tax credits register for and file the appropriate paperwork to claim the federal tax credit once the project is placed into service.
- If the Awardee is ultimately successful in receiving the tax credit from the federal government, the amount received by the Awardee from the federal government will be

¹ For more information see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/direct-pay-information>

returned to MassCEC (not to exceed the total Award amount), or, with MassCEC approval, funds may be applied to another eligible school decarbonization project by the Awardee. However, Awardee may retain, and not return to MassCEC, an amount equal to its reasonable costs of applying for the tax credit, up to 20% of the total Award amount.

- If the federal ITC program is cancelled post-award and before the project is placed into service, MassCEC will pay project costs not exceeding the MassCEC recoverable grant amount. This is intended to mitigate the risk to municipalities when considering pursuing the ITC option. .
- Note: Projects that include a technology eligible for federal tax credits do not have to apply for a recoverable grant from Green School Works, if they would prefer to seek traditional (i.e., non-recoverable) grant funding for another portion of their Project budget. In that case, the maximum award from Green School Works would be \$3 million, and such a Projects would still be required to register for and file the appropriate paperwork to claim the federal tax credit.

Additional detailed terms will be issued as part of the contracting process post award.

Hypothetical recoverable grant scenario: An elementary school installs a \$10 million ground-source heat pump system. The school applies for and is awarded a \$4 million Green School Works grant. The school successfully applies for and receives \$3 million in direct pay federal tax credit funding. The school returns \$3 million to MassCEC less the school's reasonable costs of applying to the tax credit.

Note: This hypothetical scenario is for illustrative purposes only. Additional detailed terms will be issued as part of the contracting process post award.

MassCEC expects applicants requesting a recoverable grant to be more competitive based on the “Funding Impact” and “Innovation” selection criteria described in Section 7. Additionally, as described above, Applicants requesting at least part of the grant as a recoverable grant may request a higher award amount.

If Applicants have any questions about how a recoverable grant could work with their project, MassCEC encourages Applicants to submit a question (see Section 9) and/or attend [virtual office hours](#).

9. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS

Please email questions to greenschools@masscec.com and include “GSW funding question(s)” in the subject line. Questions will be accepted until January 30, 2026, 11:59 PM and posted, with answers, on the [Green School Works webpage](#) on a rolling basis through February 6, 2026.

10. GENERAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CONDITIONS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

As a public entity, MassCEC is subject to Massachusetts’ Public Records Law, codified at Chapter 66 of the Massachusetts General Laws (“Public Records Law”). Applicant acknowledges and agrees that any documentary material, data, or other information submitted to MassCEC is presumed to be public records. An exemption to the Public Records Law may apply to certain records, including materials that fall under certain categories under a statutory or common law exemption, including the limited exemption at Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 23J, Section 2(k) regarding certain types of confidential information submitted to MassCEC by an applicant for any form of assistance. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that MassCEC, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether any particular document, material, data or other information is exempt from or subject to public disclosure. Thus, MassCEC urges applicant to carefully consider what documents, materials, data and other information is submitted to MassCEC in connection with this RFP. If confidential information is submitted as part of the application and not clearly marked as confidential, such information may be made publicly available by MassCEC without further notice to the Applicant.

In line with Public Records Law requirements, MassCEC generally considers the following types of information as confidential:

- Blueprints, plans, policies, procedures and schematic drawings, which relate to internal layout and structural elements, security measures, emergency preparedness, threat or vulnerability assessments, or any other records relating to the security or safety of persons or buildings, structures, facilities, utilities, transportation, cyber security or other infrastructure located within the commonwealth, the disclosure of which, in the reasonable judgment of the record custodian, subject to review by the supervisor of public records under subsection (c) of section 10 of chapter 66, is likely to jeopardize public safety or cyber security.

DISCLAIMER & WAIVER AUTHORITY

This RFP does not commit MassCEC to award any funds, pay any costs incurred in preparing an application, or procure or contract for services or supplies. MassCEC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, waive minor irregularities in submittal requirements, modify the anticipated timeline, request modification of the application, negotiate with all qualified Applicants, cancel or modify the RFP in part or in its entirety, or change the application guidelines, when it is in MassCEC's best interests.

This RFP has been distributed electronically using MassCEC's website. It is the responsibility of Applicants to check the website for any addenda or modifications to an RFP to which they intend to respond. MassCEC accepts no liability and will provide no accommodation to Applicants who submit an application based on an out-of-date RFP document.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Upon MassCEC's authorization to proceed with the proposal, MassCEC and the awarded applicant(s) will execute a contract, substantially in the form of the template agreement attached hereto as Attachment C which will set forth the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties. (Note: Template agreement would be modified to include language for Applicants receiving a recoverable grant.)