

Green School Works Implementation Grants Webinar

Presented April 8, 2025

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Agenda

1. Program overview
2. RFP overview
3. Eligibility
4. Selection criteria
5. How to apply
6. Coming soon: Enrollment in technical assistance
7. Questions & Answers

Program Overview



What: \$60 million from the state budget as part of the Fair Share Amendment to fund projects at public K-12 schools that **improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, or mitigate the impacts of climate change.**



Who: Eligible schools and school districts will serve a student population of 40% or more low-income for one or more of the last three school years.



How:

Technical services grants
Implementation grants

RFP overview

- Proposals for projects that:
 - improve energy efficiency,
 - reduce carbon emissions, or
 - mitigate impacts of climate changeat eligible public kindergarten through twelfth grade (“K-12”) schools and districts in Massachusetts.
- Flexible funding opportunity
- Designed to support a variety of project types
- Projects in early planning stages may apply
- Priority to projects that could begin within 12 months of contract signs (i.e., by summer 2026)

Eligible schools, districts, and educational collaboratives

- **Type of school:** Must be public, K-12 schools in Massachusetts.
 - Includes public K-12 charter schools, regional vocational technical schools, educational collaboratives.
- Project site must remain a public K-12 school for at least 20 years.
- **Income criteria:** Must serve student populations of 40% or more low-income for one or more of the last three school years.
- **Building ownership:** Must be publicly owned or have a lease/ground lease in place for at least 20 years and the school must have capital responsibility.

Eligible costs & award levels

Grant award levels per school district:

- Expected minimum award: \$50,000
- Expected maximum award: \$5,000,000
- Up to 15% of total awarded funds may be used for project “soft costs,” including schematic design, project management, and other non-construction costs.
- Applicants should request the amount of eligible project costs that is necessary for the project to move forward, up to the full eligible project cost.

Eligible project types

- **Grants can be used for energy efficiency, electrification, decarbonization, resilience, and clean energy projects.**
- Ground source and air source heat pumps
- Solar PV and storage
- Thermal energy storage systems
- Ventilation system upgrades, including energy recovery
- Electrification of other building systems and appliances
- Electric vehicle supply equipment (i.e., charging infrastructure) for school buses and other fleet vehicles
- Electrical service and system upgrades, building management systems, health and safety barrier mitigation and roof repair and window replacements if they are part of a broader electrification or clean energy project
 - Note: Green School Works grant funding cannot be used toward fire safety compliance or ADA compliance costs that may be triggered by these projects.
- Other energy efficiency and weatherization projects
- Other electrification, decarbonization, resilience, and clean energy projects to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis

Selection criteria

- Does the project meet the goals of Green School Works of serving low-income students, reducing energy and emissions, and providing other benefits to the school community including resilience?
- Is the relevant capacity, support, and budget in place to ensure the project's success?
- Will this project contribute to developing school decarbonization best practices by testing an innovative solution, demonstrating a highly replicable approach, and/or filling a funding gap?
- Additional criteria for award levels of more than 1 million dollars and more than 2.5 million dollars

GREEN SCHOOL WORKS IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS



Timeline

Release of RFP	April 1, 2025
<u>Informational webinar</u>	April 8, 2025
<u>Virtual office hours</u>	April 9, 2025 11:00 am – 1:00 pm April 15, 2025 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Additional slots may be posted on the RFP webpage page based on demand)
Questions accepted by MassCEC via email to greenschools@masscec.com	Through April 18, 2025 11:59 PM
Questions with answers posted to MassCEC website	Ongoing through April 23, 2025
Proposals due	April 30, 2025 11:59 PM
Interviews of Applicants, as needed	May 2025
Notification of Award	Late May to June 2025

Coming soon: Enrollment in technical assistance

- Expected release: May 2025
- Designed to support capital planning that focuses on modern, energy efficient school buildings and facilities
- Low- or no-cost technical assistance services at school- or district-level
 - Align with Mass Save technical assistance scopes
 - Services include renewable feasibility analysis and MA Class I Renewable Energy Certificate (“REC”) analysis
- First come, first serve
- Available for any eligible school regardless of Mass Save energy efficiency sponsorship
- Great opportunity for those looking to apply for GSW implementation grants of \$1M+
 - Comprehensive Building Assessments (CBAs) required for project site prior to award or applicant must commit to complete CBAs shortly following the award
- Potential first step toward Mass Save, DOER, or MSBA funding

Questions and Answers

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Green School Works**



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