

Mendon is a Green Community!

The Land Use Committee submitted an application for Mendon to be designated a **Green Community**. On July 2011, Mendon was selected and designated a Green Community! **From 2011 – 2017, Mendon has received \$538,051 in grant funding for energy conservation and renewable energy projects.** Mendon also received an electric car valued at \$33,500. The Green Communities program has used no town funds, only the generous time of volunteers who worked to make Mendon a Green Community. As long as the Town of Mendon continues to reduce their energy consumption through energy efficiency measures, Mendon will be able to take advantage of the program for at a minimum of five years. The energy efficiency and renewable energy programs will save the town money, as well as reduce greenhouse gases.

Besides saving Mendon from purchasing new energy efficient furnaces, boilers, water heater and more, It is projected that **Mendon will save over \$50,000 annually from all the energy efficiency projects** implemented with the Green Communities grant funding. In 2013, the Land Use Committee hopes to add the schools and the new library building into the Green Communities program for further energy savings to help the environment and the town budget.

The Selectmen have appointed the Mendon Land Use Committee to serve in the capacity of the Energy Committee for the purposes of working on the Green Community program. **Bill McHenry is the Green Communities Program Coordinator.**

Below are the five criteria that must be met to be a **Green Community**.

- 1.As-of-Right Siting for Renewable Energy Facilities (R&D, Manufacturing and/or Generation)
- 2.Expedited Permitting for Renewable Energy Facilities (R&D, Manufacturing and/or Generation)
- 3.Energy Use Baseline Inventory and Reduction Plan
- 4.Fuel Efficient Vehicles Purchasing Policy
- 5.Energy Efficient Building Code/Stretch Code Adoption

Since Mendon is a Green Community, Mendon was eligible to apply to the 2012 **Solarize Massachusetts** program. The Land Use Committee submitted an application and was selected. Approximately 22 residents took advantage of this program and installed solar PV systems.

To learn more about the Massachusetts Green Communities program visit:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/green-communities/>