

## **Green Communities**

The purpose of Rockport's Green Community Committee is to become a Massachusetts recognized Green Community; we will join all the other Cape Ann communities with the Green designation.

The Green Communities Designation and Grant Program have helped 136 cities and towns earn Green Community designation. As energy leaders in Massachusetts, Green Communities are eligible for state grants. More than \$28 million from those Green Community grants is already at work in 110 communities, with more than \$2 million in additional grants for energy projects in the newest 13 designated communities. The Green Communities Division staff continues to work with scores of other local government entities on an array of energy activities: from reducing energy use in municipal and school buildings to establishing power purchase agreements that enable financially attractive renewable energy generation, adopting the latest building codes, and much more.

Listed below is what this committee will be working on to attain the Green Community designation.

- **A city or town must meet these five criteria to be designated a Green Community**

- **[Criterion 1](#)**

Provide as-of-right siting in designated locations for renewable/alternative energy generation, research & development, or manufacturing facilities.

- **[Criterion 2](#)**

Adopt an expedited application and permit process for as-of-right energy facilities.

- **[Criterion 3](#)**

Establish an energy use baseline and develop a plan to reduce energy use by twenty percent (20%) within five (5) years.

- **[Criterion 4](#)**

Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles.

- **[Criterion 5](#)**

Set requirements to minimize life-cycle energy costs for new construction; one way to meet these requirements is to adopt the new Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Code.