



PRESS RELEASE

The Town of Truro joins 18 communities in receiving the Climate Leader Community Designation and is now eligible to apply for more than \$1M to support building decarbonization.



Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, Energy Committee Co-Chair Bob Higgins-Steele, Climate Action Coordinator Chris Palmer, Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony at the Net Zero Watertown High School

June 13, 2025 – Truro, Massachusetts – On Friday, May 2, 2025, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) announced the first cohort of certified Climate Leader Communities, which includes Truro! Truro becomes the first and only town on the Cape and in the Southeast region of Massachusetts to receive Climate Leader designation, as well as being one of the smallest towns in the state to be certified.

“Congratulations to Massachusetts’ first-ever group of Climate Leader Communities,” said **Governor Maura Healey**. “We are working together on all fronts to lower energy costs, and these 19 municipalities have done the hard work to cut their municipal energy costs and lower local air pollution. This new program is a triple win that strengthens communities, local economies and our environment, and we are excited to watch it grow.”

The new Climate Leaders’ program creates a voluntary framework for communities to demonstrate their commitment to acting on climate through electrification and energy efficiency. It builds off the Green Communities program that started over 15 years ago under a similar model.

Truro became a Green Community in 2011, and has since received seven grants totaling over \$500,000, supporting municipal buildings such as Truro Central School conserving energy by replacing windows, weatherization, and upgrading to zero carbon heating systems.

To be certified as a Climate Leader Community, cities and towns must meet five criteria:

- Have a local committee to advise on and support clean energy and climate activities (We have two! [Energy Committee](#) and [Climate Action Committee](#))
- Have a stated commitment to eliminate on-site fossil fuel use by the municipality by 2050 ([Select Board 2023 Goals & Objectives](#))
- Adopt a roadmap for decarbonizing municipal operations ([Truro Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap](#))
- Have a zero-emissions-vehicle first policy for the municipal fleet ([Fleet Electrification Policy](#))
- Adopt the Specialized Stretch Energy Code ([in effect since January 2023 in Truro](#)).

This certification is more than just a plaque on a wall. As a Climate Leader Community, Truro will be eligible for much more sizable grants than through the Green Communities program, including:

- Decarbonization Technical Support Grants of up to \$150,000 for design support for clean energy projects at municipal facilities
- Decarbonization Accelerator Grants of up to \$1,000,000 for projects that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations, including solar, heat pumps, energy storage, and more.

This certification is largely thanks to the two great committees we have in Truro: the Energy Committee and its co-chairs Bob Higgins-Steele and Brian Boyle and the Climate Action Committee and its chair Lili Flanders. Their tireless years of work and enthusiasm have led to this exciting recognition of Truro’s leadership on climate change.