

# FACT SHEET

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How **GREEN** is My Library? **G**rowing, **R**ecycling, **E**nergy **E**fficient, and **N**atural

## BACKGROUND

Is your library GREEN with envy (Environmentally Literate that is)? Everybody's going GREEN... green buildings, environmental footprints, sustainability, recycling, alternative energy, wind power, solar power, LEED (Leadership in Environmental Energy & Design) certified buildings, hybrid cars ... so much to sort out! Your library comes to the rescue: after all, libraries are the original recyclers: "hey, don't buy that book, borrow it and then let someone else read it," "why not learn how to find full-text online rather than print resources and email the article"?

This multi-faceted grant opportunity invites libraries to engage and educate their constituents to make informed decisions about the myriad of environmental issues confronting them on a daily basis using statewide licensed and other electronic resources. Grantees will promote access to statewide licensed resources, update their websites, develop collections, collaborate with faculty, staff, students and/or community members, and plan training sessions, programs and activities to improve their students' ability to locate, analyze, evaluate and apply information ethically from a variety of sources and media to support research and learning.

In Executive Order 484, Governor Deval Patrick promoted "Leading by Example" to promote "sustainable development, maximizing energy efficiency, growing the clean energy sector and reducing our environmental footprint." The renovated North Adams Public Library uses geothermal wells for heating and cooling. The new Woburn Memorial High School has space for a recycling center, an electricity solar system on its roof and plans to incorporate fuel cells. Tufts University enacted the first university environmental policy in the country and launched the Talloires Declaration, the first official statement made by university administrators of a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education. TD is a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach in colleges and universities. Massachusetts Maritime Academy built the first wind turbine on a state college campus, and is aiming to have their new college library information commons LEED platinum certified.

## MASSACHUSETTS LONG-RANGE PLAN GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

**Goal 3:** All Massachusetts residents will be better prepared to meet life's challenges at school, in the workplace, and in their daily lives through access to programs and training that foster their development of information literacy skills and communication technology skills.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This multi-faceted mini-grant opportunity provides libraries grants of \$5,000 to \$7,500. Grantees will provide resources, programming, improved access to materials and raise awareness and use of the statewide licensed databases programs to engage and educate their constituencies about environmental literacy while improving their constituents' information and communication technology literacy skills.

Outcomes: 75% of the grantee's target group will demonstrate/report

- improved information literacy skills, and/or
- improved ability to assess complex choices and be responsive to new perspectives, and/or
- that they understand the ethical/legal issues surrounding access, creation and use of information

## REQUIREMENTS

Through this grant libraries will:

- 🌱 bring statewide, regional and local electronic resources to the forefront by creating in-library and remote access links on their home pages to these valuable resources
- 🌱 upgrade collections to meet their patrons' and curriculum needs for all things green
- 🌱 for K-12 and academic institutions: collaborate with faculty and staff across a variety of disciplines and departments to select resources and promote and teach environmental literacy to constituents
- 🌱 create and/or participate in established school, campus and/or community efforts and organizations to encourage and reinforce environmental literacy and sustainability
- 🌱 start or become an advisor to an institutional or local eco-ambassador program

**Grant proposals must describe their library's efforts under this grant to:**

- 🌱 Create (or update as needed) in-library and remote access links on library home pages to bring statewide, regional and local electronic resources to the forefront
- 🌱 Promote access to statewide and regionally licensed electronic resources
- 🌱 Upgrade collections to meet patron's and curriculum needs for all things green. (K-12 and academic institutions will collaborate with faculty and staff across a variety of disciplines and departments to select resources).
- 🌱 Plan/hold minimum of four programs/training sessions, collaborating with faculty/staff to expose/train constituents using statewide electronic resources to locate, analyze, organize, synthesize, evaluate and apply GREEN information from various perspectives.
- 🌱 Initiate or partner with established school, campus and/or community efforts to encourage and reinforce environmental literacy.

Grant funds may be spent on web support, collections, speakers, supplies, stipends for students or faculty as needed, promotions, and equipment (but not computers).

## ELIGIBILITY

Open to any academic, school and public libraries that meets standard eligibility requirements for Direct Grant programs is eligible to apply. Libraries must:

- Have identified information literacy/collection development needs in their plans for grant year
- Access to the Internet and a computer to access the internet
- Project staff knowledgeable in the use of online resources
- Agree to send staff directing the project to training programs

## INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent** form with the "How Green is My Library Grant" option checked off under **TYPE**. For additional information about this program, please contact Marlene Heroux at the MBLC at 800-952-7403, ext. 250 or by e-mail at [marlene.heroux@state.ma.us](mailto:marlene.heroux@state.ma.us).