

# Baker-Polito Administration Awards Clean Energy Grant to Petersham School

*Estimated annual savings of more than \$15,000 for the Petersham Center School*

PETERSHAM – July 20, 2015– The Baker-Polito Administration today announced grant funding for the Petersham Center Elementary School to convert to highly efficient biomass boilers from their existing oil heating systems. The \$234,195 grant from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is the fifth award to be implemented from the Schools and Public Housing Integrating Renewables and Efficiency (SAPHIRE) Program.

“The SAPHIRE program helps municipalities more efficiently manage their energy use and save funds they can use for vital services for their residents,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “We are committed to partnering with the Commonwealth’s towns and cities to reduce energy use and costs, all while working to meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals.”

“The Petersham Center School conversion project reduces heating oil use, which will help reduce greenhouse gases from fossil fuels and save thousands in municipal dollars each year,” said Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew Beaton. “This grant highlights the administration’s commitment to working with municipalities, supporting our vibrant clean energy industry, and investing in clean energy.”

This investment will save the Town of Petersham at least an estimated \$15,000 annually by using a less expensive fuel source with a lower environmental impact. This school building recently completed air sealing and insulation work supported by DOER’s Green Communities designation and grant program.

“This school project represents an opportunity to deploy innovative technology that will reduce costs for the residents of Petersham,” said DOER Commissioner Judith Judson. “It’s also an opportunity to teach students about the many benefits of local, clean, renewable fuel and technology.”

The [SAPHIRE Program](#) helps Massachusetts public schools combine renewable heating and cooling with energy efficiency improvements to achieve deeper cuts in their energy costs. The program is administered by the DOER in collaboration with the Massachusetts School Buildings Authority (MSBA). SAPHIRE offers feasibility studies, design and engineering studies and construction funding assistance to K-12 public school buildings pursuing renewable thermal technology, including biomass heating, solar thermal, and/or heat pumps.

“Petersham is home to the Quabbin Reservoir, Harvard Forest and the Swift River Reservation. They are no stranger to preserving our planet,” said State Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer). “These funds will go a long way in implementing new technology that will provide cleaner energy while saving the Town money long term. I want to commend the Baker-Polito Administration for their dedication to renewable resources.”

“I would like to thank the Governor and Secretary Beaton for continuing to aid our communities through initiatives such as this,” said State Representative Susannah Whipps Lee (R-Athol). “Any project which delivers cost savings to our communities while being environmentally friendly is a win for all of us.”

The program is funded by an allocation of Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) funds and a \$715,000 United States Department of Energy (DOE) grant. ACP funds are paid by electric retail suppliers if they have insufficient Renewable or Alternative Energy Certificates to meet their compliance obligations under the Renewable and Alternative Portfolio Standard programs. The U.S. DOE grant provides staffing support.

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