



## MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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### City Awarded \$75,000 Community Choice Energy Grant

Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced today that the City of Northampton received a \$75,000 grant to explore **Community Choice Energy PLUS (CCE PLUS)**. **CCEs** allow municipalities to procure electric power on behalf of their residents, businesses, and institutions while moving towards greener energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Many communities in Massachusetts and in the eight states which authorize **Community Choice Energy** are purchasing power and greening the energy supply," said Mayor Narkewicz. "We are exploring a much more aggressive approach, with our partners in Amherst, Pelham, and elsewhere, hence the **PLUS**, that will move us towards our goal of being carbon neutral by 2050."

The Urban Sustainability Directors Network, using funding from its foundation partners, awarded the grant because the **CCE PLUS** model is a new innovation that builds on experience of **CCEs** in California. **CCE PLUS** can potentially do more to encourage distributed energy production and storage locally, to reduce peak power demand, and include other measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions than most of the existing **CCEs** in Massachusetts and elsewhere.

The grant will be administered by the Northampton Office of Planning & Sustainability, which obtained the grant. Planning will work closely with Northampton's Central Services Department, Amherst, Pelham, Cambridge, Somerville, Jersey City and three other communities to plan and oversee the project. The effort will both help Northampton, Amherst, and Pelham create a **CCE PLUS** if they so choose and create models that can be used around the country.

Creating a Community Choice Energy PLUS program is one of the recommendations of Northampton's draft **Climate Resiliency and Regeneration Plan**, and is one of many strategies that the city is exploring as it moves towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

