



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE

CHRISTINE BLAIS
DIRECTOR

Date: August 20, 2025
To: Honorable Somerville City Council
From: Christine Blais, Director
RE: Request to accept a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Dear Honorable City Council,

The Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) respectfully requests approval from the Honorable Somerville City Council to accept a technical assistance grant of \$50,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). The grant will partially fund an ongoing project that is currently budgeted in the general fund in OSE's professional and technical line.

The project is a first of its kind study investigating possible zoning incentives to increase the ability to comply with the Fossil Fuel Free Ordinance, in addition to exploring mechanisms to encourage property owners to oversize transformers to facilitate cost-effective, space-efficient electrification in Somerville's densely populated neighborhoods. The funds will be applied to work completed in Fiscal Year 2026. The goal of the project is to deliver recommendations for zoning incentives for city staff to use to develop new ordinance language.

Thank you,

Christine Blaise
Director