

- **Green Communities Program**

- At its 2018 Town Meeting, Westport voted to become involved in the “Green Communities” program.
- “Green Communities” is a program of the Commonwealth’s Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Its goal is to assist municipalities’ efforts to improve the efficiency of their energy use, to lower their energy costs and increase their use of alternative energy sources.
- The program has several major components:
 - An energy “audit” of a municipality’s buildings, including its schools;
 - A requirement that the municipality ensure that its building codes adhere to the latest energy efficiency standards (the “stretch” code), the standard to which the State is currently moving;
 - Assistance in securing grants to underwrite much of the cost of renovating the municipality’s building and energy systems to maximize their efficiency;
 - Undertaking energy saving renovations in municipal buildings and schools.
- Over 150 Commonwealth cities and towns have achieved Green Community status.
- \$29 million in grant funding has already been distributed to 136 Green Communities to help them address energy efficiency needs.
- Westport is currently completing the formal application to become certified as a member of the program, and is planning to soon undertake the basic energy audit.
- For a full review of the program, Visit the Green Communities web site at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/green-communities>.