

**Lincoln Public Schools
Lincoln, Massachusetts**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 5, 2025

6.0 TIME SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

AGENDA ITEM:

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| 6.1 Green Energy Committee: Climate Leader Community Application, 1st Reading |
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Supporting Documents: ☒ Enclosed ☐ N/A ☐ Forthcoming

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

☐

Information Only

☒

Discussion/Review

☒

First Reading

☐

Second Reading

☐

VOTE to:

BACKGROUND:

Paul Shorb, Chair of the Green Energy Committee, will present information on the Climate Leader Community Application. This is a first reading. The information will come back for second reading and potential vote to approve at the June 11, 2025 School Committee meeting.

FACILITATOR AND INVITED GUESTS:

- Paul Shorb – Green Energy Committee

TO: Matina Madrick (Chair, Lincoln School Committee)
FROM: Paul Shorb (Chair, Lincoln Green Energy Committee)
RE: Requests for action by the School Committee
DATE: May 30, 2025

To support Lincoln's application to become certified as a "[Climate Leader Community](#)", the Green Energy Committee asks that the School Committee formally approve prior to June 30:

1. [this](#) Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap ("the Roadmap");
2. [this](#) Zero Emissions First vehicle policy ("ZEV Policy"); and
3. [this](#) 2050 decarbonization goal.¹

The main reason for Lincoln² to seek this certification is to become eligible for substantial amounts of grant money from the state to help Lincoln gradually eliminate on-site combustion of fossil fuels by Lincoln's municipal facilities and vehicles by 2050. Moving in that direction also would be consistent with the resolution adopted at the 2020 Town Meeting that directed "*Town departments, boards, and committees to collaborate on and otherwise take expeditious action to adopt and implement appropriate measures to reduce the carbon footprint in Lincoln to the extent reasonably possible....*"

Approving these three documents will not impose any binding commitments on the Lincoln Schools. Instead, these documents state only present plans and intentions; Lincoln would remain free to leave the Climate Leader Community program at any time. Further, even if Lincoln does not explicitly leave the program and instead simply stops keeping up with the targets stated in the Roadmap and ZEV Policy, the only sanction would be that the state would eventually remove Lincoln's certification as a Climate Leader, and thus our eligibility for the extra state funding. The Green Energy Committee would take the lead in preparing any reports required to the state and other coordination duties. In short, there is substantial upside and essentially no downside for the Committee to approve these requests.

¹ In addition, separate from the Climate Leader Community process, I understand that Doherty's Garage would like to apply for Mass CEC funding to support the planned acquisition of some EV school buses with USEPA funding, and for that Doherty's will need some sort of letter confirming that it is authorized by the School Committee to do so. I understand that (1) Mike Callender (who is with a firm that is helping Doherty's pull all this together) has already been talking with Angela about that and (2) Angela is sorting out how to style that letter, whether it needs a School Committee briefing and/or vote, and if so when to schedule that. (The application deadline is June 13, so the June 11 Committee meeting would be just in time.) So my impression is that you don't need or expect me to address that issue at the June 5 Committee meeting. However, please let me know if you do.

² These same requests are being made to the Select Board and I understand are scheduled to be discussed at its June 16 meeting.