

MARCH 2023

NORTHERN MIDDLESEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



NEWSLETTER

News and Resources



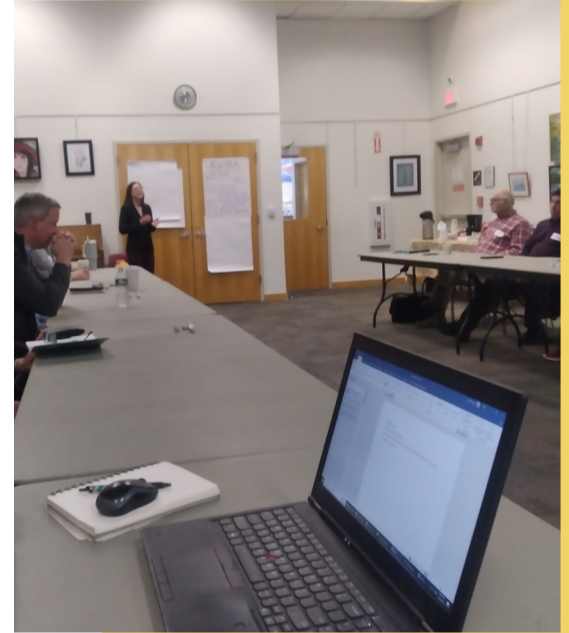
JOIN US FOR AN ENVISION 2050 FORUM!

On March 22, 2023, Northern Middlesex Council of Governments will host the Envision 2050 Public Forum 2. This event will be a hybrid event via Zoom, in-person attendees may join us at the UMASS Lowell Wannalancit Mills building from 6pm-7:30pm. During the meeting, NMCOG Transportation staff will summarize public outreach efforts with municipalities and partners, and present the latest Envision 2050 survey results helping shape the development of the Envision 2050 plan. The meeting will include a review of the plan goals and performance based planning work by the MPO, addressing these goals. We have received financial insights on federal allocations for the region, and this meeting will be an opportunity to share those numbers with the public.

This meeting will provide an update on the planning process and identify additional topics and recommendations for advancing Envision 2050. For more information on Envision 2050 or this event, please visit <https://www.nmcog.org/envision2050>.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR NMCOG AND THE REGION

NMCOG is planning for the agency's future! The NMCOG Council kicked off the process on January 28th at the Chelmsford Public Library in a session with 12 Council member and facilitated by Jennifer Raitt, Executive Director. The session included time for councilors to get to know each other, a presentation about the history and role of NMCOG as a regional planning agency, current NMCOG initiatives and staffing, and the need for a strategic plan for the organization. The group discussed the mission and values of NMCOG and group members also expressed their concerns and hopes for a strategic plan for the agency. The planning process will include focus groups and stakeholder interviews to better understand NMCOG's historic and current organizational conditions, the direction the agency should head in for the next three years, and ways that the agency can improve delivery of a range of services to the region. A second retreat will be planned in the spring of 2023 to learn about emerging themes and set the stage for discussing NMCOG's mission, statement of values, and priorities.



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

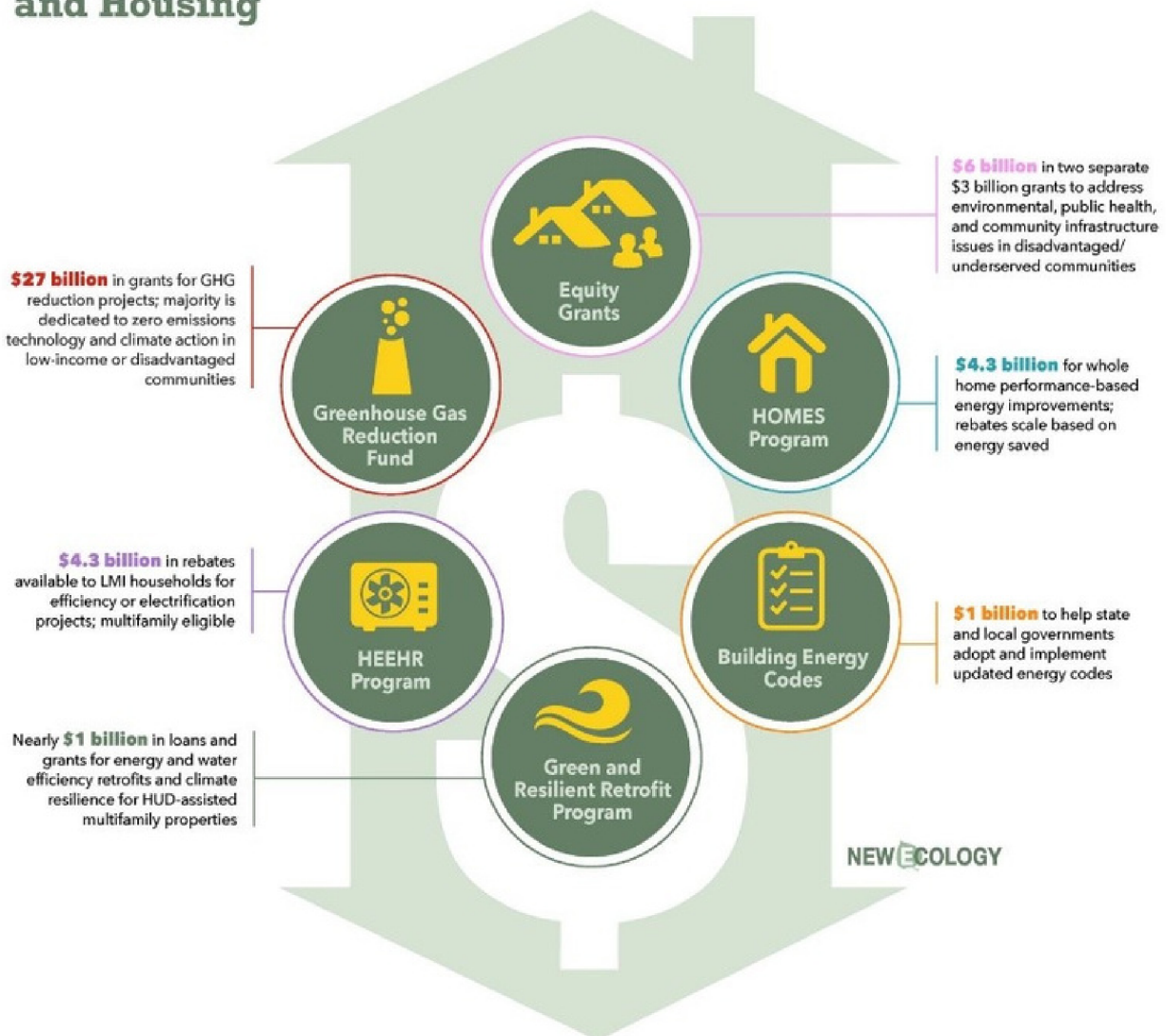
The following federal grant opportunities funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Acts (IIJA), the Inflation Reduction Act, and other federal sources were recently announced and are now available:

- [Environmental Justice Gov-2-Gov AND Cooperative Problem Solving \(EPA\)](#)
- [Lead Hazard Reduction & Housing-Related Hazards Programs \(HUD\)](#)
- [Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Program \(DHS\)](#)

Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an additional allocation of \$2 billion dollars for the Emerging Contaminants (EC) in Small or Disadvantaged Community (SDC) Grant program. This will bring an additional \$38 million dollars to the Commonwealth to support local projects addressing emerging contaminants like Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT AND HOUSING

Inflation Reduction Act and Housing



The Inflation Reduction Act is providing for billions in funding for communities across the US for a range of programs and projects that relate to all aspects of our municipalities from municipal buildings to roads to housing. There are a number of programs that will help housing, specifically in relation to climate resiliency. For example, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will provide \$27 billion in grants for reduction projects in low-income or historically disadvantaged communities and \$1 billion will help state and local governments adopt and implement updated energy codes, such as the state's new net zero stretch energy code. Learn more about the IRA and Housing programs [HERE](#).

OTHER NEWS

TRAINING ALERT

MassDOT Safe Routes to School Program Webinar

The webinar is designed to provide an overview of new tools and resources developed this school year by the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program for individual schools, school districts, and municipalities. For more details and registration details [CLICK HERE](#).



PEPPERELL NET ZERO PLAN MEETING

On March 11th, the Town of Pepperell Climate Committee is hosting a public outreach meeting to discuss the Pepperell Net Zero Carbon Plan that is being prepared by NMCOG. This meeting is intended to offer a forum for the public and other town committees to contribute ideas and refinements leading to a better Net Zero Plan for Pepperell.

Town of Pepperell

Net Zero Carbon Plan - Public Outreach



Date

March 11th 2023, 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Location

Lawrence Library 15 Main St.
Pepperell, MA

RSVP to attend [HERE](#).

NEW EMPLOYEES



LESLEY
SHAHBAZIAN

Lesley Shahbazian is the new Executive Assistant. Lesley is an enthusiastic, highly organized administrator with extensive experience in providing comprehensive support to executives at all levels of an organization. She enjoys positively impacting teams through her communication and organizational skills, as well as exploring new and effective ways to achieve common goals. Lesley holds a B.S. in Computer Information Systems from Bentley College. Shortly after graduating college, Lesley attended the Culinary Institute of America where she studied pastry and baking. She continued her successful pastry career for many years before eventually entering the business world. Lesley enjoys spending her free time with family and friends, hiking, crafting, traveling, and of course baking.



MARK
NORMANDIN

Mark Normandin is the new Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures. Mark was born and raised in Lowell and recently moved to Dracut where he lives with my wife Debra of 28 years and two children. He has been involved with different organizations on a volunteer basis for many years, including: Lowell Pop Warner, coach seven years; Highland Baseball, assistant coach four years; Lowell Lacrosse, parent assistant two years; Lowell High School Rowing Committee chair eight seasons; scout den leader Troop 25, three years; and president PTO St. Louis Elementary. Mark attended the Ste. Jeanne D'Arc elementary school, Lowell High School & Newbury Junior College, Culinary Arts. Mark spent 36 years in the hospitality industry as a chef, food and beverage director, general manager, and owner. In the last few years, he worked in transportation and logistics and is an active member of Teamsters Local 25.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NMCOG

**COME JOIN A TALENTED TEAM WORKING
ACROSS THE NMCOG REGION**

OPEN POSITIONS

- Senior Planner - Housing and Land Use
- Deputy Director
- Finance and benefits Manager (32-hours/week)
- Senior Planner – Housing and Land Use
- Transportation Mobility Specialist
- Sealer of Weights and Measures (part-time)

Visit <https://www.nmcog.org/employment-opportunities> for more information and to apply or share with your networks.