



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

Governor Deval L. Patrick
Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett

Press Release Contact: Mary-Leah Assad – 617-626-1809 or mary-leah.assad@state.ma.us

Patrick Administration Awards Second Public School Renewable Thermal Grant

Estimated savings of at least \$46,000 annually for The Southern Berkshire Regional School District

BOSTON – December 11, 2014 – The Patrick Administration today announced grant funding for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to convert to a highly efficient biomass boiler from an oil heating system. The \$350,000 grant is the second to be awarded for implementation from the Schools and Public Housing Integrating Renewables and Efficiency (SAPHIRE) Program.

"This project reduces use of heating oil, which will help reduce greenhouse gases from fossil fuels and save thousands in municipal dollars each year," said Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Maeve Valley Bartlett. "The Sheffield project showcases new technology in action, which can stimulate the market for renewable heating and cooling throughout the Commonwealth."

This investment will save at least an estimated \$46,000 annually by using a cheaper and less polluting fuel source. The project is also receiving support through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Repair program, which will reimburse approximately 39 percent of costs related to the boiler upgrade. Furthermore, the roof will be replaced and further insulated through the MSBA program which will provide additional energy savings.

"This school improvement project will deploy innovative technology that will reduce costs for Sheffield residents," said Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Acting Commissioner Meg Lusardi. "We are pleased the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is moving ahead with design and construction."

The [SAPHIRE Program](#) helps Massachusetts public schools combine renewable heating and cooling with energy efficiency improvements to achieve deeper cuts in their energy costs. SAPHIRE offers feasibility studies, design and engineering studies and construction funding assistance to K-12 public school buildings pursuing renewable thermal technology, including biomass heating, solar thermal, and/or heat pumps. The program is administered by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and is enhanced by collaboration with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), which collaborates with municipalities to equitably invest up to \$2.5 billion annually in schools across the Commonwealth

The program is funded by an allocation of approximately \$1.7 million in Alternative Compliance Payments (ACP) and a \$715,000 U.S. Department of Energy grant. ACP funds are paid by electric retail suppliers if they have insufficient Renewable or Alternative Energy Certificates to meet their compliance obligations under the Renewable and Alternative Portfolio Standard programs. The U.S. DOE grant provides staffing support.

The Administration's aggressive clean energy initiatives have made Massachusetts a leader in energy efficiency, renewable energy and emissions reductions. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) recently named Massachusetts number one for energy efficiency for the fourth consecutive year. In 2007, Massachusetts had just over 3 megawatts each of solar and wind capacity installed. Today there are 699 megawatts of solar installed, with a goal of 1,600 megawatts by 2020. The Commonwealth has installed 107 megawatts of land-based wind and is poised to be home to the nation's first offshore wind farm.

###

- Follow Secretary Bartlett on Twitter.....twitter.com/massEEA
- View videos on You Tube.....www.youtube.com/MassEEA
- View downloadable photographs on Flickr.....www.flickr.com/photos/masseea/sets/
- Visit the Energy Smarts blog:.....www.mass.gov/blog/energy
- Visit The Great Outdoors blog:.....www.mass.gov/blog/environment
- Visit our website:.....www.mass.gov/eea