



A Newsletter for Community Planning in the Berkshire Region

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Employment Opportunities

Senior Planner or Planner, Transportation The focus of this position is developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders and the public through active outreach efforts, presentations, and preparing/administering surveys. Projects include the Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Unified Planning Work Program, electric vehicle acquisition, and charging station development.

Senior Planner or Planner, Community Planning One focus of this position is housing planning, working with municipalities to promote housing development readiness, identifying housing needs and opportunities, recommending ways to address those needs, and working to implement measures to promote housing development.

Public Health Inspector and Training Specialist

Full-time offsite Project Specialist sought to provide environmental health inspections, support the inspectional services program, and develop a new local Public Health Excellence Training Hub for Berkshire and Hampden Counties.

Follow title links for full descriptions. View BRPC Internship Opportunities [HERE](#).

Grants & Opportunities

Working with High School Interns Workshops

Tips, guidance and strategies for providing internships at your workplace. 9 - 10:30 am:

April 5, Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge

April 26, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams

May 12, Berkshire Health Systems Hillcrest Campus, Pittsfield



Contact [Kat Toomey](#), Youth Program Specialist, with questions, to register or request 1:1 session.

FREE Climate Proof Your Home Workshop - All are welcome!
Wednesday, April 19, 6 - 7:30 pm, New Marlborough Fire Department.
Learn to manage increased stormwater, reduce flooding, identify hazards, improve energy efficiency, and prepare for local climate change. Food will be provided, and attendees can win a \$100 gift card to local hardware stores. [RSVP link](#)



Massachusetts Historical Commission's Spring 2023 Workshops

- Developing an Historic Preservation Plan, Thursday, April 6, 10 am
- Adopting a Demolition Delay Bylaw or Ordinance, Friday, April 21, 10 am

Western Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition - Thursday, April 20, 10 am

Topic: We are a Historical Commission: Now What?
Presentations:

- Local Historical Commissions in Berkshire County: Issues and Opportunities
- Divide and Conquer: Recent Projects by the Ware Historical Commission
- Discovering History: Whately's Hidden History Digital Map
- Spreading the Word: Developing a Self-Guided Walking Tour (Great Barrington)

[Click here](#) to register and receive the Zoom link, or contact [Jennifer Doherty](#) at the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Hosted by BRPC.

MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference May 2 - 3

A forum for innovative transportation systems, management ideas, and initiatives with a focus on MassDOT's investment in infrastructure. DCU Center 50 Foster St., Worcester. Register at [MassDOTInnovation.com](#). A limited virtual attendance option is provided for events.

Long Island Sound Futures Fund RFP is open. Awards range from \$50k - \$1.5M with a focus on nitrogen reduction in the Housatonic and Connecticut River Watersheds. Deadline: **May 19**. [Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2022 Request for Proposals | NFWF](#)

Community One Stop FY24 Application Portal

Applicants may log into the [IGX system](#) to work on applications that may be submitted as early as May 1 and are due **June 2**. For assistance preparing a One Stop application, please [CONTACT US](#) immediately.

Massachusetts Broadband Institute [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program](#)

BRPC is a pre-qualified consultant to provide services to municipalities participating in MBI's Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program. Full program details and application [HERE](#).

Participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program will:

- Help guide decision-making related to services and infrastructure that increase access, adoption, and usage of the internet for populations most impacted by the pandemic.
- Prepare your community to submit grant proposals to existing or forthcoming state or federal opportunities related to solving the digital divide.

Economic Development

Join BRPC's Shared Economic Development Planning program

The Shared Economic Development Planner program allows each participating town to access services that fit its specific needs and budget. Communities receive assistance with creating a welcoming environment for businesses and residents through a range of tactics, as well as support in developing economic development-related grant applications or collaborations with neighboring towns. All municipalities in Berkshire County are invited to contact BRPC to learn more about enrolling in the Shared Economic Development Planner program for FY24.

Please email: [Laura Brennan](#), Economic Development Program Manager

2023-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) approved by EDA

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) identifies regional economic goals and priorities and establishes a framework for measuring progress in the region. The resulting 5-year CEDS for Berkshire County was approved by the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) in February 2023. **The full 2023-2027 CEDS can be viewed [HERE](#).**

BRPC has developed several resources to help you make the most of the new CEDS, including:

- A 2-page summary highlighting CEDS goals, objectives, and projects [HERE](#).
- An introductory video (2:50) introducing the new CEDS [HERE](#).
- A self-guided overview of CEDS components to scroll at your own pace [HERE](#).

[CEDS resources in Spanish](#)

We look forward to exploring the CEDS and how it can support economic resiliency with your community at an upcoming meeting - please [contact us](#) to schedule a visit from BRPC staff.

Environmental & Energy

Town of Lee Lights Up the Future: Joins 290+ Communities in Energy Efficiency Efforts

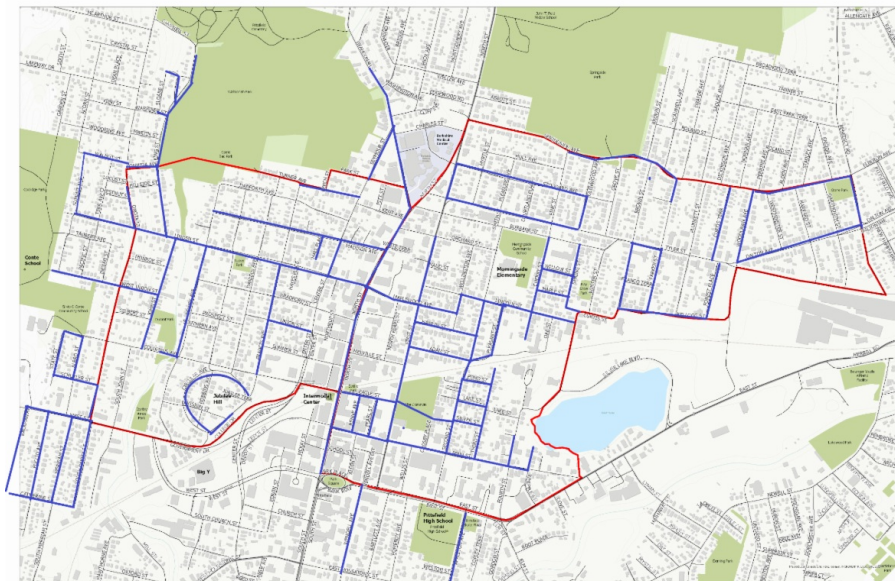
The Town of Lee is taking a bold step toward a brighter, more sustainable future as it becomes a [Designated Green Community](#). The application involves meeting five criteria, including adopting an expedited permitting process for renewable energy projects, establishing energy use benchmarks, and reducing municipal energy consumption by 20% within five years. By becoming a Green Community, the Town of Lee will access funding opportunities and technical assistance for energy efficiency projects. These projects will help reduce the town's energy consumption, costs, and greenhouse gas emissions. BRPC is providing technical assistance and support for the application process.



But wait, there's more. Lee will join the Berkshire Community First Partnership (CFP), a Mass Save program. Residents can benefit from rebates and incentives to weatherize and upgrade their heating/cooling systems, reducing their energy bills and making their homes more energy efficient. Through this partnership, residents will also have access to ongoing support and home energy assessments provided by Homeworks Energy. BRPC is the CFP program administrator, funded by Mass Save and MassCEC grants. Funding provides outreach and education support for homeowners, renters, landlords, and small business owners.

If your municipality is interested in a more sustainable future and cost savings for the town and your residents, we encourage you to email [Sherdyl Fernandez-Aubert](#), Environmental and Energy Planner. Join us in promoting energy efficiency and working towards a brighter, more sustainable future for your community.

Public Health



Gray to Green Neighborhood Audits

Gray to Green is a five-year resident-centered planning initiative in the Morningside and Westside Neighborhoods in Pittsfield, funded by the Department of Public Health (DPH). Gray to Green works with partners, including the City of Pittsfield, residents of the Morningside and Westside, Habitat for Humanity, 18 Degrees, and other Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to

bring projects focused on environmental, racial, climate, and social equity from vision to implementation.

Gray to Green operates under the principle that community residents are subject matter experts in their environments and within their lived experiences, shifting the balance of idea generation, brainstorming, and decision making equally across all project partners. Importantly, residents are paid for their contributions and expertise to Gray to Green.

Midway through the project's third year, Gray to Green launched a neighborhood audit program called Stride and Take Pride. Stride and Take Pride is a program named and developed over a year with residents, City officials, and people serving the Morningside and Westside communities to survey and assess the needs and strengths of the green and built environments in the neighborhoods. With trainings and an audit "kit" (a tablet, surveys, and scoring forms), residents set out on their commonly traveled routes through and across the neighborhoods. Stride and Take Pride is part traditional walk audit and part digital storytelling initiative. Residents participating in this program are compensated \$75 per audit and range from early teens that attend Pittsfield Public Schools to residents who have lived in the neighborhoods for 50+ years. This process allows residents to document their experience of a particular route or area in the City, sharing with us the literal roadblocks they hit along their way and their ideas for specific areas in the future.

Residents have conducted 60 audits so far, with a goal of 150 audits through summer 2023. Audit trainings and materials are available in English and Spanish. Once residents complete audits, the photos, video, and surveys are meticulously logged and transcribed by Gray to Green staff. Specific suggestions and areas of concern are pulled out and logged in categorized lists. Once the audits are complete, Gray to Green will develop a detailed report and associated, publicly available interactive map that details the findings from each audit with specific proposed projects, hotspots/areas of concern, and priorities. Gray to Green will continue to work with the City, residents, and community partners to seek funding sources and methods of fulfilling the needs of the communities. The final report and maps will be presented and available to the public in winter 2023-2024 (estimated). The final two years of Gray to Green will focus on coalition sustainability, community engagement, and seeking solutions for implementation.

Gray to Green is co-led by Principal Planner [Allison Egan](#) and Planner [Jaymie Zapata](#). Please contact either for more information!

Transportation

Mark your calendar, this May is **Bay State Bike Month**. The Berkshires will be celebrating with Berkshire Bike Month events. Highlights include Bike and Roll to School Day and Bike to Work Week. Take a ride on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and explore the newest stretch of trail in Berkshire County: the Mohawk Trail multi-use path in Williamstown. Watch for other event announcements: First Friday and Third Thursday in Pittsfield, Downtown Bike-Around in North Adams, group road rides in Great Barrington, and social rides.

Berkshire Bike Month outreach will launch soon, including an online event calendar where you can browse and bookmark events that appeal to you. Different events will be tailored to kids and families, experienced riders, and riders of all ages and abilities. Find out more at [Massbike and Bike Month](#).



April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Executive Committee 4 pm	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Transportation Advisory Committee 4 pm Commission Dev Committee & Nominating Subcommittee 5 pm	19	20 WMass Historical Commission 10 am	21	22
23	24	25 Metropolitan Planning Organization 4 pm	26 Regional Issues Committee 4 pm	27	28	29

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
www.berkshireplanning.org



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