



# City of Methuen

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William M. Manzi, III  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
April 17, 2008

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### **METHUEN TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLE ON ENERGY ISSUES** *City Joins the EPA's Energy Challenge in Time for Earth Day*

The City of Methuen has joined EPA's Community Energy Challenge, pledging to work with the environmental agency to improve its municipal energy efficiency. By joining the Challenge, Methuen has committed to assess energy use, take action to improve energy efficiency, save money and seek out renewable energy choices that reduce air pollution.

"Energy use is the largest source of air pollution in the region and the country. Through the Community Energy Challenge, municipalities can identify simple and cost-effective measures to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources," said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator of EPA's New England office. "This is an opportunity for New Englanders to come together to save energy, reduce air pollution and improve our energy independence. The payoffs for participating can be big."

In 2006, Mayor William M. Manzi, III created Mayor's Commission On Energy Efficiency and Green Government and named former State Senator, Sal Albano, as its Chairman. After meeting with EPA officials, the group unanimously recommended that Methuen join the Community Energy Challenge in time for Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mayor Manzi agreed.

"Fixed energy costs are a real budget-buster for fiscally strapped cities like Methuen," said Mayor William M. Manzi, III. "We recently committed to reducing Methuen's energy consumption by 10 percent in coming years. The EPA Community Energy Challenge provides us the tools and support we need to track our progress on this important initiative - and we're glad to participate."

Methuen will be measuring, or benchmarking, building energy use in schools and municipal buildings using the ENERGY STAR "Portfolio Manager" tool. EPA New England is collaborating with regional utilities, non-profits, businesses, and others to promote cost effective energy efficiency measures to communities participating in the Challenge. As a result, Methuen also has access to a network of resources that can help it improve energy efficiency and take advantage of renewable energy resources.

The New England Community Energy Challenge is a regional program of the ENERGY STAR Challenge, a nationwide campaign to improve energy efficiency in commercial and industrial buildings across the United States by 10 percent or more. Nationally, the ENERGY STAR, across all of its programs, saved Americans \$14 billion and prevented 37 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2006 alone.

Recently, the U.S. Conference of Mayors formally endorsed the national ENERGY STAR Challenge as a key strategy to meet the goals of the Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. As part of this resolution, the organization encourages its members to support and take the ENERGY STAR Challenge.

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