

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

July 19, 2024

MTA sample CREO now available

[Public Act 233 of 2023](#) generally preempted local siting control of certain utility-scale renewable energy facilities (solar, wind and battery storage facilities), and shifted it to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). Under PA 233, which goes into effect Nov. 29, 2024, an applicant must first contact the local government to verify if it has adopted a compatible renewable energy ordinance (CREO). A CREO is an ordinance that provides for the development of utility-scale energy facilities within the local unit of government that is no more restrictive than provisions included in Section 226(8) of PA 233. If the local government has adopted a CREO, the applicant must go through the municipality for approval and bypass the commission. Working with our legal counsel, MTA now has available [a sample CREO](#), as well as [a sample application](#), [escrow policy](#) and [escrow affidavit](#). The sample documents are available for MTA members on our ["Sample MTA CREO and Documents" webpage](#) (*member login is required*). The escrow documents are extremely important to help ensure the applicant is paying the full cost of processing their application, rather than the township absorbing the costs.



Note that an applicant may also *choose* to work with a township that has a "workable ordinance," rather than going through the MPSC. (There are numerous reasons an applicant may choose to work with a township, such as timing and costs). MTA will provide a draft "workable ordinance" within the next several weeks.

Additionally, this week, MTA, with our legal counsel, [submitted comments](#) on the [draft PA 233 implementation guidance](#) released by the MPSC in June. We believe there are many areas of the new law that require additional clarification before its implementation (for example, it remains unclear if a CREO can **only** be adopted by

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a municipality that exercises zoning authority, or if a CREO can be adopted through a police power ordinance. Therefore, at this time, MTA's sample CREO applies to townships that zone). The MPSC is in the process of reviewing all comments submitted as part of the docket. It is anticipated that the earliest the final guidance will be released by MPSC is in September. A separate eblast with additional details and information was sent to all elected MTA-member township officials as well as planning commission chairs and members, and is also on our new "CREO" member webpage. We will continue to update our sample documents once final guidance and further clarification is released.

Note: This is not intended to be legal advice. Members should consult with their legal counsel before adopting any of these sample documents.

Democracy MVP program seeks to recruit more poll workers

A state program aims to make it easier for residents to [learn more about and share their interest](#) in becoming election workers for early voting days and Election Day for the upcoming August and November elections. Townships can learn about individuals interested in working elections through the state's [Democracy MVP](#) program. Help spread the word by sharing program details with individuals in your township and help attract more election workers to assist in your local elections (there is even a [toolkit](#) to help you share program information). On the program website, individuals can [complete an interest form](#), explore an [election inspector resource library](#) and review [frequently asked questions](#) about this important role. After individuals apply through the Democracy MVP program, the local clerk is notified, allowing them to contact the new potential election worker to complete the application and hiring process. The program also encourages individuals to apply directly with local clerk's offices.

Webinar explores EGLE Organics Infrastructure grant

A [July 24 webinar](#) will explore a state grant program seeking to expand food waste reduction infrastructure in Michigan. Townships are among the eligible entities for the [Organics Infrastructure Grant program](#), through the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), to increase access

Aug. 7: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar:

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to food waste diversion projects and grow the statewide food waste composting and recycling rate. The grant application deadline is Aug. 28.

Members can provide input for 2025 MTA legislative policy platform



MTA is asking members to review and provide input on its legislative policy platform. Reviewed and updated annually, the legislative policy objectives guide MTA's government relations efforts and reflect emerging issues and goals. MTA members are encouraged to review our [2024-25 Policy Platform](#) and share any proposed revisions and suggested additions by Monday, Nov. 4. Member-proposed policy changes will be reviewed by MTA committees for word selection and legality, and to ensure they conform with the Association's overall goals and objectives. The proposed policies will be presented at the 2025 MTA Annual Meeting in conjunction with our Annual Educational Conference in April. Contact MTA's Government Relations Department at legislation@michigantownships.org or (517) 321-6467 with questions, comments or suggestions.

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Polish up your township's policies at MTA's August webinar, *Prudent Policies*

Were you handed a nice set of township policies when you began your career as a township official? Is your township prepared to provide them to incoming officials? Spend your lunch hour online with MTA at noon on **Aug. 7** for our next *Now You Know* webinar offer insights into effective policies and procedures. From

what's *most* important to the true value in providing them for incoming officials, whenever the transition may be. You can join live, watch a recording later, or both! [Click here to register now.](#)

Michigan Infrastructure Council to host Integrated Infrastructure Conference

Township officials looking to learn more about infrastructure asset management can attend the first-ever [Integrated Infrastructure Conference](#) in Grand Rapids on Aug. 13 and 14 at L.V. Eberhard Center, Grand Valley State University's Grand Rapids campus. The conference, is hosted by the Michigan Infrastructure Council in partnership with the Transportation Asset Management Council and the Water Asset Management Council. The conference theme is "Creating a Culture of Asset Management for a Brighter Future" and will feature the 30-Year Integrated Infrastructure Strategy, which will serve as a comprehensive infrastructure framework for the state. Educational opportunities for those in any infrastructure asset class (transportation, drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, energy, communications) are available, as well as dedicated networking time. Registration is \$100 and the deadline to [register](#) is Aug. 4.

Federal update for week of July 15

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships [Weekly Legislative Update](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.
