

Nov. 1, 2024

Now available: MTA sample workable ordinances , updated sample PA 233 documents

To assist members in navigating the implementation process for [Public Act 233 of 2023](#), which shifted siting authority for utility-scale renewable energy facilities to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), MTA has updated information based on the the commission's October orders. The law, *effective Nov. 29, 2024*, contained several gray areas regarding implementation, and the MPSC order provided final application filing instructions and procedures for projects seeking a certificate.



New and updated MTA documents are now available on our ["PA 233 Sample Ordinances and Guidance" webpage](#) (member login is required). These documents include sample workable ordinances, and an updated sample compatible renewable energy ordinance and renewable energy land use application to reflect the commission's order. The documents are samples for your township to review and use in making policy decisions for your community and *are not intended to be legal advice*; consult with township legal counsel before adopting any MTA sample documents.

Additionally, a recording of the recent *MTA Q&A* webinar, with MTA Legal Counsel discussing the commission's order, will soon be available. A link for our member officials to register to watch the webinar (for free) will be posted on our [Online Learning Center](#) within the next week.

MTA will continue to provide information and updates as needed.

Final EPA Lead & Copper Rule changes released

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its [final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements \(LCRI\)](#), **effective on Dec. 30, 2024**, that outline requirements on state and local water systems, as well as \$2.6 billion in newly available drinking water infrastructure funding. The LCRI mandates state and local governments, in conjunction with water systems, to undertake several specific actions to reduce lead and copper in drinking water, aiming to protect public health. The main requirements include lead service line inventory and replacement, lowered lead trigger level, enhanced monitoring and sampling requirements, and public communication and transparency. [Join an EPA webinar on Nov. 14](#) to learn more about the changes and funding, and view a [National Association of Towns and Townships briefing](#)

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Nov. 13: [Onboarding New Officials](#)

Dec. 13: [Legislative Wrap-up](#)

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Nov. 19: [Marquette](#)

Nov. 20: [Gaylord](#)

Nov. 21: [Kalamazoo](#)

Nov. 25: [Frankenmuth](#)

[New Officials Training:](#)

Dec. 10: [Muskegon](#)

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Dec. 12: [Kalamazoo](#)

Dec. 17: [Frankenmuth](#)

Dec. 18: [Hale](#)

Dec. 19: [Thompsonville](#)

Jan. 6: [Houghton](#)

Jan. 7: [Harris](#)

Jan. 8: [Sault Ste. Marie](#)

Jan. 14: [Port Huron](#)

Jan. 15: [Gaylord](#)

Bill increases standards for water supply to mobile home parks

Legislation was approved by a Senate committee this week to require minimum requirements for supplying water to mobile homes within a mobile home park or seasonal mobile home park. [Senate Bill 920](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor), would require the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to enforce rules that set requirements and standards for drinking water for said parks. The bill will next be considered by the full Senate.

Register for Great Lakes PFAS Summit

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) continue to present some of the biggest challenges in chemical contamination. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy is hosting a [Great Lakes PFAS Summit Dec. 3-5](#), to share new methods of addressing this contamination and present innovative technical solutions developed to address these “forever” chemicals. Cost is \$35. View the [summit agenda here](#).

Reminders from BOE

Daylight savings time. Clocks fall back one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3. Clerks should ensure that tabulators and voter assist terminals are adjusted to the correct time, including as part of the opening process for early voting on Nov. 3.

Mail security. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and U.S. Postal Inspection Service have released an [Election Mail Security public service announcement and training video](#) for election officials, addressing the increasing need for secure handling of election-related mail.

Drop box vandalism. A [checklist of actions](#) is available for jurisdictions to consider to increase operational resilience in the event of an incident that compromises drop box security, as well as [best practices](#) to safeguard drop boxes against incendiary devices. For example, passive range hood fire suppressor systems can be used to reduce possible impacts of arson at a drop box.

Address confidentiality. An Address Confidentiality Program module in the Bureau of Elections (BOE) [eLearning](#) explains the process for handling voter requests that are a part of the program. Contact BOE as soon as possible with any program participant questions.



MTA QUICK LINKS

- [Answer Center](#)
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Funding available for clean energy projects

If your community is looking for funding for renewable energy projects, installing electric vehicle chargers, or purchasing clean vehicles for your fleet, a federal program is available to cover 30% - 70% of the cost for these investments through 2032. [Michigan Green Communities](#), of which MTA is a member, is co-hosting [a webinar](#) at 10 a.m. on **Nov. 19** on [Direct Pay](#)—the federal program offering local governments energy tax incentives. Learn specific steps necessary to take advantage of this program.

Community forest grants available

Townships can apply until **Jan. 13, 2025**, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [Community Forest Program](#), which provides funding to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses. Supported projects should provide community benefits, including public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs. Public access is required for all projects. Information is available on [Grants.gov](#), including application information.



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This November, MTA members can enjoy half-off nearly all our on-demand webcasts. Unlock quality training from the comfort of your home or office—simply enter discount code **thanks** at checkout. Plus, you'll have up to a year to watch (and re-watch!) each course. Don't wait—this offer ends Nov. 30! Start learning now at [learn.michigantownships.org](#).



Nov. 4 is the deadline for input on MTA legislative policy platform

Township officials have until **Nov. 4** to review and provide input on MTA's legislative policy platform. The legislative policy objectives guide the Association's government relations efforts and reflect emerging issues and goals. MTA members can review the current [2024-25 Policy Platform](#) and share any proposed revisions and

suggested additions. Member- proposed policy changes are 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 legislation@michigantownships.org with questions, comments or suggestions.

Deadline extended for Climate and Health Adaptive Planning assistance opportunity

The application deadline for a [Climate and Health Adaptation Planning technical assistance opportunity](#), from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, has been extended to **Dec. 1**. This initiative is designed to empower two Michigan communities to effectively address and mitigate local health-related climate concerns. Based on the principles outlined in the [Climate and Health Adaptation Planning Guide for Michigan Communities](#), the technical assistance offers a community engagement and graphic visioning process that provides communities with a consensus vision, planning recommendations, and a set of before/after images to guide adaptations that address climate impacts on public health.



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