



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Sarno, PBRM Director Sullivan and Officials Tout Springfield's Resiliency and Efficiency Updates - Celebrate Springfield's Environmental Achievements -

Springfield, MA – Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Superintendent of Schools Daniel Warwick, Executive Director of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management (PBRM) Patrick Sullivan, Director of Open Space Peter Krupczak, Assistant Director of Facilities Management Jonathan Carignan and City Forester Alex Sherman joined with officials and government partners and area business representatives to announce the vast Green Initiatives accomplishments throughout Springfield over the past twelve years. Environmental projects have included:

- Energy Upgrades in Municipal and School Buildings
- Proper Management of Energy Budgets
- Collaborations with Eversource
- \$93 million Improvements in Parks and Open Space
- \$6 million Forestry Upgrades & Tree Planting Programs
- Management and Enforcement Action of Illegal Dumping
- Organic Fertilization of Athletic Fields

Energy Management

Springfield was one of the first communities to meet the energy reduction goals of the Commonwealth's Green Communities Program. Under Mayor Sarno's Administration, Springfield has achieved a significant energy usage reduction for five (5) consecutive years, meeting its goals in advance of the 2022 target date the state had set for energy reduction. This

effort has saved the city over \$3.5 million in annual fuel costs. Through this process, Springfield modernized its facilities by replacing outdated, unreliable equipment and improving comfort for building occupants. Springfield remains focused on continuing its leadership in energy efficiency.



Sci-Tech Boiler Plant

The green achievements are a result of inter-departmental cooperation along with the local businesses that assisted in achieving a 26% energy reduction. The project started by conducting a building-by-building survey of municipal facilities. This quickly illustrated the need to facilitate improvements to municipal heating, lighting, and cooling units. Energy projects have included installing new boilers, energy management systems, domestic hot water upgrades, replacement of



Pottenger School

motors and drives, and energy efficient lighting. These improvements have resulted in removing from the atmosphere 13,309,986 lbs. of carbon dioxide, 13,546 lbs. of nitrogen oxide, and 20,785 lbs. of sulfur dioxide annually. To put this into perspective, this is equivalent to planting 35,525 acres of trees, 6,410 cars being taken off the road, and eliminating 69,880 barrels of oil over a five-year period. The continued investment of Phase 3

Energy Service Company (ESCO) into our facilities infrastructure is being funded by the school district's ESSR funds. This will decrease an additional 266 tons of carbon from the atmosphere. This will bring the total investment into energy building upgrades to \$80.5 million.



Facilities Management

Mayor Sarno expressed satisfaction with the effective working relationship that has been developed with Siemens

Technologies. Through this collaboration we can celebrate significant achievements. Siemens and the City are continuing their multi-year collaboration to improve energy efficiency, sustainability, and resilience of the community's municipal and educational infrastructure – with an exclusive focus on the city's K-12 schools. The \$34 million ESSR improvement project will be supported by a combination of energy savings, grants, and utility rebates, so there is no impact to Springfield taxpayers. The city also applied proactively for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding to improve indoor air quality (IAQ), update key building systems, and improve energy efficiency. By replacing end-of-life building systems at six (6) schools with new, more energy-efficient HVAC and energy management systems, and addressing deferred maintenance and aging infrastructure, teachers, staff, and students will benefit from improved IAQ.

“The long-term partnership with Siemens to upgrade our public buildings infrastructure is an important component of transforming Springfield. With many improvements already in place, we're creating quality environments for our students, teachers, and employees in our schools and municipal buildings,” said Mayor Sarno. “When you enhance these environments, there is a domino effect in health benefits across the board. In fact, we have seen about a four percent decrease in asthma in our schools, and test scores continue to rise among our students.”

Superintendent Dan Warwick added, “The work being completed in our school buildings has had a tremendous impact on the learning environment. Removing boilers that were in some cases over 100 years old has allowed the city to improve the operations of the facilities while at the same time improving the learning environment for teachers and students. Efficient energy measures also

have provided significant savings, allowing for a broader investment in needed improvements to our school infrastructure. I commend Mayor Sarno and his team for the impressive accomplishments that are being heralded today.”

Jonathan Carignan, Assistant Director of Facilities, stated, “We look forward to a continued partnership with Siemens as we work toward the development of subsequent phases of ESCO. The Siemens approach is a holistic one encompassing all areas of potential energy reduction and cost savings. It is via this approach that we are able to make tangible changes in the learning environments for Springfield students and school staff. We take great pride in our role in this process. Together we continue to seek additional grant opportunities to augment these ESSR funds so as to ensure the most value for the taxpayer. Even with current challenges including supply chain and long lead times, the Facilities Division of PBRM and Siemens continue to persevere by engaging in creative and aggressive project management. We are grateful to the support of Mayor Domenic Sarno, Superintendent Warwick and their respective cabinets for the opportunity to oversee this unprecedented project work.”

“The City of Springfield takes the management of its energy resources and ‘going green’ very seriously,” said PBRM Executive Director Patrick Sullivan. “Investments in our school buildings and municipal facilities are investments in the people who live, work, and learn here in Springfield. Siemens helped us realize the opportunity to make significant and long-lasting improvements that can directly impact the learning environment – without passing the tax burden onto our residents.”

The city has been working with Siemens since 2006 to create a long-term vision. To date, a combination of energy efficiency improvement measures has not only reduced the city’s carbon footprint and utility costs every year, but it has also alleviated millions of tons of carbon dioxide from the earth’s atmosphere annually.

The success of Springfield’s Green Achievements is a collaborative effort of public and private partnerships. Over a decade of working with Eversource’s Energy Efficiency team has resulted in sustainability work to benefit the community and local business. The five-year, \$3.6 million investment, has resulted in 8,944,879 kwh electrical savings, and 144,649 therms in natural gas for a combined lifetime savings of \$23,203,497.60. Their energy program has included lighting retrofits to LED, new motors and drives, incentives for new boilers and hot water heaters, installation of EV charging stations, food service equipment, and weatherization across municipal buildings.

In addition to buildings, Eversource has structured a 5-year phase approach in retrofitting the streets lights to LED. This will reduce energy consumption and result in a more sustainable and safer area lighting for streets and common areas, which will help to enhance the quality of life for residents and neighborhood businesses.

This work resulted in over 85,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This is equivalent to 9,593,001 gallons of gasoline being consumed, 95,496,441 pounds of coal being burned, and 197,185 barrels of oil being consumed.

“These improvements are tremendous for the environment and for the bottom line of the city,” stated Mayor Sarno.

Tilak Subrahmanian, Eversource Vice President of Energy Efficiency and Electric Mobility said, “We’re focused every day on our critical responsibility to provide safe, reliable service to our customers while being responsible environmental stewards, and we’re proud of our longstanding partnership with the City of Springfield to more equitably advance a sustainable future. From energy efficiency and electric vehicles to street lighting and our programs to plant the right tree in the right place, we look forward to continuing to build on our progress together to sustainably meet the future energy needs of the community.”

All of this culminated with Executive Director Patrick Sullivan receiving the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lifetime achievement award in 2020 for his “Going Green” initiatives, which include the energy and infrastructure improvement projects with Siemens.



*PBRM Executive Director Patrick Sullivan and Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
(Picture by Hoang 'Leon' Nguyen / The Republican)*

Proper Management of Energy Budgets

Mayor Sarno stated, “The City of Springfield has been engaged in the design, implementation, and continuous review of a successful, comprehensive energy master plan, as part of my administrations overall Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, that was initiated over ten years ago and continues to deliver remarkable results. Beginning with understanding our energy use in a clear and concise manner, learning to procure energy more cost effectively, and controlling our usage and costs, the city has been successful in delivering improvements not only in energy consumption, but also in creating healthier environments for our schools and municipal buildings. Springfield’s energy master plan is a culmination of years of hard work and it has allowed us to contribute to an eco-friendly sustainable future. We are thrilled that the city has been recognized for its accomplishment and we should all be proud of our efforts in these vital endeavors.”

In 2020, Tradition Energy helped the city eliminate over \$3.7 million from its budget with a similar commitment to renewable energy over the next 20 years. Recently, Tradition Energy assisted the city with a community solar agreement that will save the city an additional \$800,000 over the next 20 years. The community solar agreement continues Springfield’s dedication to renewable energy. This will have a combined saving of over \$4.5 million over the next twenty (20) years.

Since September of 2022, Springfield taxpayers have saved \$284,867 by the city partnering with Kearsarge on an offsite solar portfolio. Community solar in Massachusetts allows businesses, public entities, and residents to subscribe to an offsite solar project without placing solar directly on their property. The program enables the City of Springfield to reduce its retail electricity costs and realize immediate savings with no upfront cost while supporting clean, local energy. The city receives energy savings in a bill credit on their retail electric bill based on the amount of energy produced each month by their subscribed portion of the solar project.

Kearsarge Energy Project Site Photos



Kearsarge Turners Falls (Montague, MA) – 1.4 MW



Kearsarge Windsor (Windsor, MA) – 1.4 MW



Kearsarge Pittsfield (Pittsfield, MA) – 1.9 MW



Kearsarge Millers Falls (Montague, MA) – 1.2 MW



Kearsarge Ludlow (Ludlow, MA) – 5.0 MW



Kearsarge Montague BD (Montague, MA) – 3.0 MW

“Solar power is a vital component of the City of Springfield’s expanding energy mix,” said Mayor Sarno, “We remain committed to pursuing renewable energy projects that are right for our citizens and the environment.”

“We commend the City of Springfield for their leadership in municipal community solar and are proud to support the city as its sustainability goals evolve,” said Alan Kurzer, CEO of Tradition Energy.

In addition to the solar investment, the city engages in a highly competitive bidding process for the purpose of energy procurement. This process begins by issuing an RFP for energy broker services. The city has been very successful in this endeavor by watching the market and analyzing trends, and has had the privilege of working with both Balanced Rock and Tradition Energy on Natural Gas and Electricity, respectively. With the aid of these firms, the city is able to request bids based on its annual energy consumption forecasted out several years. This approach allows the city to lock-in pricing per therm or kilowatt hour establishing predictable cost recovery and budget certainty. By doing so, the city is safeguarded from of the volatility of the energy market. This year alone the city avoided \$6,272,753 in electrical costs when compared to the current market rate. The city has realized \$1.40 million in savings in natural gas since November 2020.

“We congratulate the City of Springfield, Mayor Sarno and his team for their extraordinary efforts with managing all aspects of energy usage and spend.” stated Dan Joyce, President of Balanced Rock Energy.

Investments into Park System



Forest Park Aquatic Garden Gazebo

Springfield is unique with its 3,000 acres of parks and open space, 27 natural ponds, and 52 parks throughout its 17 neighborhoods. It is with great pride that the Sarno Administration has overseen \$93 million in investments throughout the parks system. Our neighborhood parks, two municipal golf courses, and the Crown Jewel, Forest Park, all have had improvements during Mayor Sarno's tenure.

The Springfield Park system continues to enrich the quality of life in our neighborhoods. The revitalization of these parks was a welcome relief during the COVID-19 pandemic during which we witnessed a 75% increase in visitations to municipal parks.



Two key critical projects for our park system were recently completed: significant repairs to

Lower Van Horn Dam and Watershops Pond Dam. These two impoundments protect the North and South End of our great city. Springfield is ready to tackle future storm events with over \$6 million being invested into these two dams. Mayor Sarno stated, "Our parks are the legacy we leave for the next generation and I am so proud of the exemplary work of our Springfield Parks. I am excited for the next four years of improvements planned for additional park upgrades in all of our neighborhoods. We have only begun securing the legacy of our park system."

Investments in Tree Planting and Forestry Operations



In 2010, Mayor Sarno made an executive decision to rescind the former state imposed Financial Control Board's directive to have the Park's Forestry Operations outsourced. In rebuilding Forestry Operations, the city has implemented a comprehensive approach in the day-to-day management of its Urban Forest. This has been augmented by City Forester Alex Sherman's commendable management of this division.

During the past three years, Mayor Sarno has directed \$300,000 in CDBG funds for tree planting in neighborhoods across the city. It is the intent of these tree plantings to offset the heat island effect on key commuter routes through the city.

Over the past five years the city has had an investment of over \$1.5 million in a Greening the Gateways Tree Planting Program. The goal of this program is to decrease energy use through the strategic planting of trees that provide shade in the summer and windbreaks during the winter months. The Forestry Division was also successful with two grants from the Municipal Vulnerability Action (MVP) Grant Program. The 2019 grants



were for \$315,000 to reduce the City's vulnerability to climate change through forestry initiatives. The grant allowed for the expansion of the current nursery, construction of a propagation green house, and a comprehensive inventory of the city's urban forest. The second MVP grant for \$4.6

million enabled the construction of a Forestry Operations Center in order to better serve the residents of Springfield during key storm events. We have all seen the devastating storms currently happening through the United States and Springfield had its fair share in 2011 with the June 1 EF-3 tornado and the October freak nor'easter snow storm. The center will ensure our Forestry Division is equipped to respond immediately to residents' concerns during storm events and will also serve to improve the delivery of services on a daily basis. The Forestry Division is crucial in having power outages rectified after storm events – which is imperative for those residents who depend on electricity to power medical devices and other necessary items.

Mayor Sarno said, “We are proud of the accomplishments of our Forestry Division. I am also grateful to Sheriff Nick Cocchi as he has assisted the city in developing training in stump grinding and tree removal services under his community partnership program. Over 1,200 stumps have been removed recently and new trails are being created throughout our woodlands by his Tree Operations crew. I also want to shout out the unique and innovated partnership with Sheriff Nick Cocchi through the Forest Park patrols with his Deputy Sheriff’s working alongside our Springfield Police Department. This partnership has greatly enhanced the quality of life and public safety aspects at our historic Forest Park. These collaborations are invaluable to the city. It is by working together we can continue to deliver worthy services to the residents of our city.”



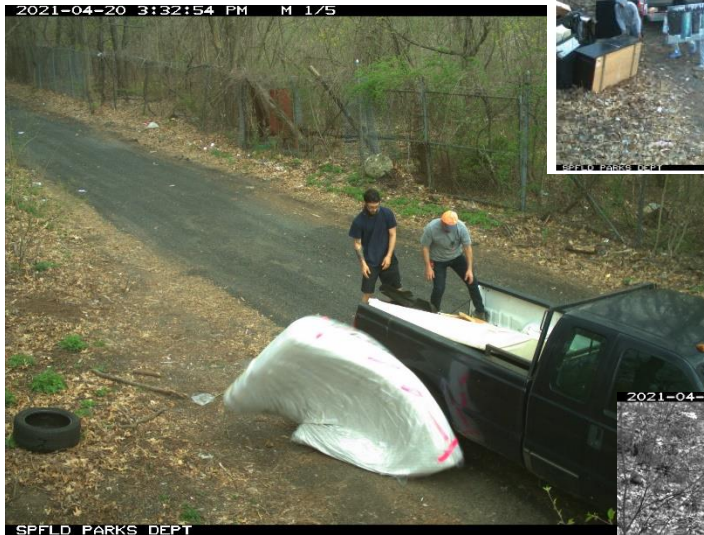
Alex Sherman, City Forester stated, “The Forestry Division is proud to contribute to the Environmental quality of our city for the past 125 years. Springfield’s trees play a vital role in reducing air pollution, shading our streets, and providing character to neighborhoods across the city. We look forward to continuing to care for and grow our urban forest to provide these benefits for generations to come.”

Illegal Dumping and Anti-Litter

Under Mayor Sarno's leadership, the city initiated a camera system to capture illegal dumping activity 8 years ago under a pilot program with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The Springfield Parks Department now has over 25 cameras strategically placed throughout the city and continues to monitor and relocate cameras to areas of repeated dumping. The results have been tremendous. The Springfield Police Department, working with Springfield Parks, has issued over 100 illegal dumping citations over the past three years — sending a strong message that illegal dumping is not tolerated in the city.

Springfield Police Department
Images Associated with 23-3855-OF



In January 2023, Mayor Sarno announced an expansion of the city's citywide anti-litter campaign and Clean City Initiative with the partnership with ROCA called the Clean Sweep Program. Residents can report chronic litter problems and municipal workers and ROCA crews are dispersed to remove the strewn trash. In addition, Mayor Sarno, as Chair of the School Committee, asked Superintendent Dan Warwick to create an anti-litter curriculum and program for our Springfield Public Schools.



“It is the goal for the city to encourage residents and businesses to understand their role to help keep our beautiful city clean and safe by upkeeping their yards and keeping their curb lines clear and free of trash,” said Mayor Sarno. “It is everyone’s responsibility to keep their respective areas clean and until that message is understood the city will continue to assist in improving the quality of life in all of our neighborhoods. I also want to thank Sheriff Nick Cocchi for his continued unique partnership not only helping with the Hampden County Sheriff patrols in Forest Park along with our brave and dedicated Springfield Police Department, but also partnering with our DPW and Parks Department with neighborhood cleanup initiatives too.”

“Our Clean City team picks up over 300 tons of trash each year. It is unfortunate that both residents and people from neighboring communities think illegal dumping is the solution to disposing of unwanted items. Well, we in the City of Springfield will not tolerate this abuse and we will continue to expand these programs and aggressively pursue offenders until everyone understands their responsibility in maintaining a clean and safe environment. I am grateful to both the Parks Division for installing and monitoring cameras, and our Clean City team and the ROCA crews for their efforts in collecting trash, litter and illegally dumped items. I am also grateful to our local neighborhood councils, the Keep Springfield Beautiful volunteers, and our Hampden County Sheriff Department crews for their continued efforts in helping to keep our neighborhoods clean. Every year they coordinate neighborhood clean-ups to improve the environmental health for our neighborhoods. Together these teams are making Springfield a city in which we can all take pride.”

Organic Fertilization and Wildlife Management

The City of Springfield takes great pride in the development of a comprehensive approach to the organic fertilization of its athletic fields. After years of witnessing green slime on area ponds it became very clear that synthetic fertilizers most homeowners use are causing the pollution of our waterways.

Having the responsibility of managing 27 lakes and ponds in the city, Springfield Parks instituted the Organic Lawn fertilization program. Since 2014, the city has reaped

the benefits of this program and now advises communities throughout the state on developing similar programs to protect their environment. Springfield's organic management of natural grass has eliminated the need for pesticides, while providing a practical playing surface that fully meets the needs of athletes and others who use the parks. Organic Fertilization ultimately protects the water quality of our groundwater and the Connecticut River as we are no longer putting synthetic chemicals into the earth.



Organic Lawn Care and wild life management go hand and hand. By removing the synthetic chemicals, we are improving the ecosystem of the soil which in turns helps develop a healthy habitat for our woodland animals. Springfield Parks has installed trail cams through Forest Park and studied the habits of animals that reside and travel through the park. We have various species such as wild turkeys, bobcats, deer, and foxes that live in the woods of Forest Park. By removing the chemicals from the soil, we are aiding the wildlife that feed on the grass or drink

the water from the streams that flow through the park. It our goal to encourage all homeowners to stop using synthetic fertilizers on their yards and go organic.

Park Environmental Specialist Adam Anulewicz stated, "It has been a rewarding experience to see our natural habitat improve over the past five years. I believe the organic management of Forest Park fields has been a contributing factor an improving the natural habitats for these beautiful woodland creatures"

In closing, Mayor Sarno stated, “This environmental overview highlights the successful collaboration between the city and the private sector in achieving significant energy reduction. When we initiated these projects, it was difficult to imagine we would be able to reach our goal by 2022. However, with everyone working together we have achieved these savings and reduced our carbon footprint four years earlier than anticipated. I have to commend PBRM and the School Department for implementing methods the city now utilizes to manage its utility accounts and for providing all city departments with the necessary resources to achieve energy reduction. It also has been rewarding to have launched other “Green Initiatives” over the past three years — and when you combine our reduction of synthetic fertilizers and increased tree plantings with our energy savings, we are making a significant impact in building a healthier environment for our city. We are grateful to our businesses and government partners as they have worked diligently with us over the past ten years. The key to the impressive 26 percent energy reduction is having all partners working together for a better Springfield.”

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