

Lori Conroy

From: MassEcon <coordinator+massecon.com@ccsend.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 9:40 AM
To: Lori Conroy
Subject: March InBrief: Massachusetts is #1 of Top 10 LEED States, Encore is expanding, and more!

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March 2023



IN BRIEF

MAKING MOVES IN MASSACHUSETTS

19th Annual Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards

[Save the Date and Register Today!](#)

When: April 6, 2023; 4:30-7 p.m.

Where: Gillette Stadium

This signature event celebrates companies throughout the Commonwealth for their contributions to the state's economy since January 1, 2022. Companies have located a new operation in Massachusetts or expanded operations here resulting in added jobs and facility investment; social impact with community involvement and philanthropic efforts; internal/external equity, diversity & inclusion practices.

[Read more here.](#)

A huge thank you to our current sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor



Notes on the economy

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced its top 10 states for LEED-certified buildings, and Massachusetts was coming in at number one for 2022. The top 10 LEED States include: Massachusetts, 3.76 certified gross square footage per capita and 96 green building projects. [Read more here.](#)

To help boost affordable housing for the Cape Cod and Islands region, **Housing Assistance Corporation and Leadership Cape Cod** are starting an educational program on how residents can get involved with their local governments. [Read more here.](#)

2023 MassEcon *Impact Award Finalist* Chris Jones, Environmental Solutions Business Development Manager at Edwards Vacuum, explained how climate impacts are generated across the semiconductor supply chain, which is – as he put it – an immensely complex system. On its own account, Edwards is taking impressive actions such as creating a roadmap to reduce the power consumption

of its vacuum pumps by 50%. [Read more here.](#)

Springfield CRRC Massachusetts' success is crucial to the regional economy. It is essential to Greater Springfield's economic health that the Chinese-owned CRRC restore a strong relationship with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, its biggest client, and within its industry in general. [Read more here.](#)

2023 MassEcon *Impact Award Finalist* As part of its efforts to support emerging biotechnology companies with addressing key challenges of bringing new therapies to market, **Thermo Fisher Scientific announced it has become a founding sponsor of Momentum Labs in Alachua, FL.** Momentum Labs will serve as a collaborative laboratory and office space for growing biotech businesses in the greater Gainesville region. [Read more here.](#)

Coastal lawmakers presented several pieces of legislation that would advance Massachusetts' marine industries while also focusing on wildlife conservation and habitat protection. [Read more here.](#)

Springfield at-large City Councilor Sean F. Curran asked the city Office of Planning and Economic Development to study the potential creation of a food hall to the city's downtown area. [Read more here.](#)

Expanding in MASS

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) has given Wynn Resorts its blessing to expand gaming operations off of Encore Boston Harbor property's original property. [Read more here.](#)

2023 MassEcon *Impact Award Finalist* Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. added 600 jobs in Massachusetts last year as the company works to expand beyond its cystic fibrosis portfolio and into cell and gene therapy. [Read more here.](#)

Massachusetts has been a central hub for life sciences and tech companies for decades, with neighborhoods like Cambridge's Kendall Square acting as the epicenter for innovation. In 2021, the number of people employed in the biopharma industry in Massachusetts grew by 13.2%. [Read more here.](#)

NEW Products & funding



Big Y Foods Inc. has formed an educational corporate partnership with the Fisher College Graduate Professional Studies (GPS) department. Through its Corporate Advantage Program (CAP), Boston-based Fisher College will offer online

courses to Big Y Foods employees. The program will also offer discounted tuition rates for Big Y employees and their immediate family members, and identify courses and develop programs that fit the grocer's needs. [Read more here.](#)

To demonstrate how existing affordable housing can become more sustainable, **MassHousing and the Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP) are announcing the first two awards from the state's Climate Ready Housing Program.** [Read more here.](#)

Latde Diagnostics won \$50,000 and Quaesar Therapeutics won \$25,000 in Lever Innovation Grant funding after competing in Lever's Western Mass Health Tech Challenge on Friday, March 3rd at the Institute for Applied Life Sciences at UMass Amherst. The two startups were selected from among five finalists by a panel of expert judges. [Read more here.](#)

Partners @work



This year was filled with success, excitement and growth for businesses across Western Massachusetts. "I was honored to step into my new role as president of the Springfield Regional Chamber in July, eager to build upon the strong reputation and success this organization has enjoyed," writes Diana Szydal, president of Springfield Regional Chamber. She continues, "we're thrilled to have revived the chamber's Rise & Shine Business Breakfast series, which provides

MassDevelopment has awarded \$1.52 million in grants to 13 organizations for small-business support programs in Gateway Cities that will fund projects such as storefront improvement efforts, technical assistance, equipment upgrades, district-wide branding and marketing plans, placemaking and public events, and more. [Read more here.](#)

an avenue for education and spotlights our members and their impact." [Read more here.](#)



Since employers are struggling to find skilled labor, the **North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce** this year published a study focusing on workforce growth barriers, especially those related to geography, skills, and work-life balance. In commissioning the study, we were particularly interested in identifying potential solutions to help with the labor challenges. [Read more here.](#)

BOWDITCH

ATTORNEYS

Join Neal Pandozzi and Andrew Stern from **Bowditch's Public Finance team** as they offer a practical guide for complying with the increasing disclosure requirements and SEC scrutiny.

Full Disclosure - Tips, Tricks and Traps for the Unwary in Navigating Public Finance Disclosure

Obligations Part I – The Current Disclosure Landscape in Public Finance

March 16 from 2 - 3pm, [click here to register](#)

Part II – The Financial Data Transparency Act and the Evolution of Financial Disclosures in Public Finance

March 30 from 2 - 3pm, [click here to register](#)

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