

**TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 18, 2013**

Dean V. Cronin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present: Dean V. Cronin, Thomas J. Pires and Patrick W. Menges

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Honoring a Hero

A Proclamation was presented to Aggie the St. Bernard, a Dighton-born canine named after Bristol Agricultural High School in Town. Aggie, who now resides in New Hampshire, saved the lives of Dighton resident Ruth Leonard and her family members over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. At Aggie's new home in Lyman, N.H., where Mrs. Leonard was visiting family, the house caught fire in the middle of the night. Aggie stood by Mrs. Leonard's bed and began barking incessantly to wake her up. Mrs. Leonard woke up and then she woke up everyone inside the home, evacuating safely in a timely manner. After being treated for smoke inhalation, Aggie is home resting.

Green Community/Energy Conservation Grant Initiative

The Town of Dighton is actively pursuing a Green Community Designation and Energy Efficiency Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, to support reduction of total municipal energy consumption in the Town of 20% in five years. This initiative requires participation from Dighton's municipalities including the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District, Dighton Water District, Dighton Electric Light District, Bristol County Agricultural High School and North Dighton Fire District. Representatives were present, with the exception of the North Dighton Fire District.

A power point presentation from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (Attachment A) was made by Mark Pritchard, Bachelor of Science of Environmental Science, Norwich University

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges VOTED to approve the meeting minutes of December 11, 2013 – Regular Meeting.

Approve Warrants

Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges, VOTED to approve the following warrants:

Warrant #025A-14	Payroll	\$	68,157.41
Warrant #025B-14	Vendor bills	\$	18,416.83
Warrant #025C-14	Vendor bills	\$	133,167.22

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Expenditure Detail

NONE

Correspondence

On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, Columbia Gas of Massachusetts opened a new Mobile Operations Deployment (MOD) at 81 Charles F. Colton Road in the Myles Standish Industrial Park. This new operations center will provide quicker emergency response, more efficiently serve customers, and provide a visible presence in the community.

Announcements were read.

Review/Discuss/Act: 911 Regionalization Initiative Process

The Board sent letters to town/city officials of Bristol County seeking support that Dighton host a 911 Communications Center for Bristol County. Discussions regarding pros and cons are ongoing with the Director of Communications, Paul Reed. It was noted that currently, 90% of the 911 calls made by cell phone users are sent to two state barracks in Bristol County, so the demand for a Regional 911 Communications Center for Bristol County exists.

Tiffany Bartholomew, Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District re: MSBA Grant Program for Roof Replacement Projects

Tiffany Bartholomew appeared before the Board to officially request a Special Town Meeting in March for townspeople to vote on a debt exclusion article to be placed on the April ballot. Bond counsel for the Regional School District will provide the proper language for the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

The Board requested clarification of two reports relative to the inspection of the roofs. It was noted that the May 2012 report was a visual inspection of the roofs, while the December 2013 report provided a more accurate analysis of the condition of the roofs. Further, the roof problems are not a result of lack of maintenance, but due to age. The Board noted that it anticipates seeing a plan strategy for future maintenance so that replacement of all roofs can be staggered vs. all at once.

Motion: Patrick W. Menges, seconded: Thomas J. Pires VOTED to hold a Special Town Meeting the week of March 10, 2014.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

On February 11, 2014, 6:30PM at the Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium a presentation will be made, wherein, the School Committee will vote on each roofing project.

Review/Discuss/Act: Industrial Development Finance Authority

Karen M. Capelo appeared before the Board seeking to be appointed to the Industrial Development Finance Authority. Ms. Capelo is the Retail Sales Manager at Mechanics Bank. The Board thanked Ms. Capelo's willingness to serve. Motion: Patrick W. Menges, seconded: Thomas J. Pires VOTED to appoint Karen M. Capelo as member to the Industrial Development Finance Committee.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Status Update of New Police Station

Request for Qualifications for Architectural/Design Services was posted on the Central Register today and should be received no later than Wed., January 8, 2014 at 2:00PM. A note of thanks for efforts was made to the Police Station Committee, Dean Cronin, Jennifer Luiz, and Richard Pomroy.

Review/Discuss/Act: Chapter Land Release Request

The Board received notification from Bruce Kingsley seeking to sell his property located at Map 24, Lot 25C Elm Street. However, said land is in Chapter 61A status, therefore, the Town has the first option to buy. Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Dean V. Cronin VOTED to waive its first option to purchase Map 24, Lot 25C Elm Street, and to remove said land from Chapter 61A status.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Ambulance Write Off Request

The Board received a request to write off ambulance accounts due to hardship. Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges VOTED to approve the request to write off \$2,364.45 due to hardship(s).

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Projected Annual Report Items or Draft

The Board has requested all Department Heads to have their annual report and preliminary budget estimates submitted no later than December 31, 2013. Motion: Patrick W. Menges, seconded: Thomas J. Pires VOTED to arrange a meeting with Department Heads to discuss proposed budgets.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Persons, Placing of Chapter 60, Section 3D Proposal on Town Meeting Warrant

A citizen is requesting that the Town adopt tax relief for elderly and disabled persons. Motion: Patrick W. Menges, seconded: Thomas J. Pires VOTED to place Chapter 60, Section 3D Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Persons on the next Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

The Vacant Chair Initiative – Remember our Armed Forces Personnel at the Holidays

The Board, in conjunction with the Veterans Agent, is seeking to institute a Vacant Chair Initiative. Said Initiative recognizes Service men and/or women who dedicated their lives to preserving and protecting our freedom and whose fate is still unknown and are listed as Missing In Action and Prisoners of War. It is anticipated that a Vacant Chair will be placed at Town Hall and the new Police Station.

Public Input

Nancy Goulart appeared before Board to recognize Ron O'Connor's contribution to the Tri-Centennial book. Mr. O'Connor provided numerous photographs for the book that captured the heart of Dighton. Further, Mrs. Goulart would like to extend gratitude to Bristol-Plymouth Regional High School for the publication of the Tri-Centennial Book. Anyone who has reserved a book may pick one up at Town Hall tomorrow from 1:45-3:00 PM. The Board, as well as, Ron O'Connor would like to commend Nancy Goulart for comprising a true masterpiece.

The Board would like to note that this is the last meeting for the 2013 year and would like to wish everyone a happy, safe Christmas and New Year.

Adjournment

Motion: Patrick W. Menges, seconded: Thomas J. Pires VOTED to adjourn at 10:04 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

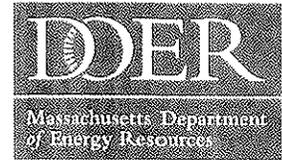
Respectfully submitted,
Boards of Selectmen/Health
Kerrie J Easterday, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:


01-08-14



GREEN COMMUNITIES DESIGNATION AND GRANT PROGRAM



PROGRAM GUIDANCE

INTRODUCTION

The following guidance describes the Green Communities Designation and Grant Program process (pursuant to M.G.L.c. 25A §10).

Becoming designated as a Green Community provides grant funding to a municipality to support all or a portion of the cost of:

- studying, designing, constructing and implementing energy efficiency activities including, but not limited to, energy efficiency measures and projects;
- procuring energy management services;
- adopting energy efficiency policies; and,
- siting activities related to and construction of renewable energy generating facilities on municipally-owned land.

The Green Communities Designation and Grant process requires a sequence of steps:

- 1) **Prior to applying for designation, it is important for a municipality to review the Criteria Guidance documents to make sure that it is complying with the most recent guidance available.** To fully understand all five criteria, it is important to review all of the detailed guidance for each criterion. Links to the web pages containing all Criteria Guidance documents are available in this document and at the [Green Communities Designation and Grant Program](#) page of DOER's website.
- 2) A municipality applies to DOER's Green Communities Division (the Division) for designation to demonstrate that it meets the five specific designation criteria. These criteria, along with documentation submission requirements, are outlined in this document. **Please note: if all of the required documents listed are not included as part of the submission, the Division reserves the right to reject the application in its entirety.**
- 3) The Division reviews the application and determines whether a municipality meets the five criteria. The Division then informs the municipality of its decision. If designated a Green Community, the municipality then will be informed of the amount of its grant award.
- 4) The designated municipality submits a project proposal in the amount of its grant award.
- 5) The Division reviews the designated municipality's grant application and determines if the proposed projects are eligible for funding and are effective in terms of cost and energy savings.

This Program Guidance document is available at www.comm-PASS.com as PON-ENE-2012-011 and at the [Green Communities Designation and Grant Program](#) page of DOER's website.

INSTRUCTIONS

Designation Application (Required)

To receive grant funding, the applicant first must be designated as a Green Community. To receive official designation as a Green Community, the applicant must complete the Designation Application and submit it to the Division for review. Once the Division has completed its review, it will notify the applicant whether or not it has been designated a Green Community.

Preliminary Consultation (Optional)

Those municipalities that wish to have their designation criteria reviewed prior to formally submitting a Designation Application to the Division may request a preliminary consultation with the Division. To receive a preliminary consultation, an applicant must submit an electronic request via email to its Regional Coordinator. The request must specify which of the five criteria for which the applicant is seeking consultation, and include draft supporting documents. Preliminary consultation requests may be submitted between August 5 and October 1. Requesting a preliminary consultation early in this timeframe is recommended in order to allow time for review and consultation by the Division, and potential revision by the municipality before documents are to be voted upon at a Town Meeting. Requests received after October 1 at 5 p.m. will not be considered.

Please note that a preliminary consultation does not represent designation approval.

Deadline for Designation Application

Designation Application Deadline: October 30 by 5 pm.

To apply: Application is an entirely online process; no hard copies of any documents are to be submitted. Instructions for applying online are contained in this document. Contact your Regional Coordinator for access to the Green Communities Online Designation Application system. Instructions are contained in this document.

Grant Application (Required for funding)

Once designated and informed of its grant amount, each Green Community is eligible to submit a proposal for the use of its grant award. Designated Green Communities must fill out a grant application and submit it by the deadline of 5 pm on January 21. Amount of awards will be based on available funds, the number of applicants, and a predetermined grant allocation formula.

Grant awards resulting from this process will be governed by 815 CMR 2.0.

DESIGNATION AND GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
August 5 through 5 pm October 1	Accepting requests for designation application preliminary consultations
October 30 by 5pm	Deadline for designation applications
January 21 by 5pm	Deadline for grant applications

Please note: An annual Fall designation round will apply indefinitely going forward, replacing the previous annual Spring schedule.



Requirements for Becoming Designated as a Green Community

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEETING THE CRITERIA TO BE DESIGNATED AS A GREEN COMMUNITY

As outlined in MGL c. 25A §10(c), a municipality must do ALL of the following:

NOTE: One or more municipalities may submit an application together to qualify as a regional Green Community. Each municipality in a regional application must meet each of the requirements with one exception: the 20 percent reduction from the energy baseline can be applied in the aggregate across all of the municipalities.

Participation by Municipalities Served by Municipal Light Plants

The Green Communities Act requires a specific path forward in order for municipalities served by municipal light plants that adopt the renewable energy charge to participate in the Green Communities Designation and Grant program. However, some municipalities are in the unique situation of being served by multiple load serving entities, by an MLP as well as an investor-owned utility. A municipality in this situation does not clearly fit into the provisions of the statutory requirement to adopt the renewable energy charge when served by an MLP. DOER issued the following Guideline in May 2012: **Municipalities served by BOTH a municipal light plant and an investor-owned utility ARE eligible to apply for and become a designated Green Community.**

Please note that any community in this category must submit to DOER materials (such as letters from its utility and the board of its municipal light plant) documenting that the community receives service from both entities.

CRITERION 1: AS-OF-RIGHT SITING – RENEWABLE ENERGY / ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

A municipality must provide zoning in designated locations for the as-of-right siting of:

1. renewable or alternative energy generating facilities,
OR
2. renewable or alternative energy research and development (R&D) facilities,
OR
3. renewable or alternative energy manufacturing facilities

IMPORTANT LINK:

[Criterion 1 Guidance Documents](#)

Documentation Required to Meet Criterion 1

The following documentation must be provided as evidence that the municipality has met this criterion.

- Brief description of the qualifying section of the bylaw or ordinance that identifies designated locations
- Color copy of the zoning map that shows area zoned
- Applicable sections of the zoning bylaw or ordinance
- Important zoning definitions
- Relevant section of the use table and any key that will help DOER interpret the use table
- Any related local regulations applicable to facilities sited under the bylaw/ordinance—such as site plan review regulations—so that DOER can confirm that the related local regulations are non-discretionary; and
- For RE/AE R&D and/or Manufacturing Facilities only, yield calculations, either in the text of the letter provided by municipal legal counsel or attached.
- For RE/AE R&D and/or Manufacturing Facilities only, if meeting the criterion through *existing* bylaws or ordinances, applicants must provide a letter from municipal legal counsel certifying that the existing zoning complies with the RE/AE Facilities criterion. In terms of specific contents, the letter must cite and summarize the pertinent section of the zoning ordinance/bylaw.

NOTE: Dependent upon the funds available at the time grants are made, a bonus amount **may** be provided to designated Green Communities that have met the as-of-right siting requirement through renewable and alternative energy generation.

CRITERION 2: EXPEDITED PERMITTING

A municipality must adopt an expedited application and permitting process under which Criterion 1 facilities may be sited within the municipality, and the permitting process shall not exceed one (1) year from the date of initial application to the date of final approval.

- The expedited application and permitting process applies only to proposed facilities that are subject to the Criterion 1 as-of-right siting provision.
- An applicant can meet this requirement by applying the expedited permitting process of MGL c 43D to these zoning districts
- Having a 43D site is NOT a requirement. See below for “Local Expedited Permitting Process.”

IMPORTANT LINK:

[Criterion 2 Guidance Document](#)

Documentation Required to Meet Criterion 2

The following documentation must be provided as evidence that an expedited application and permitting process has been fully adopted for the Criterion 1 as-of-right zoned parcels.

Local Expedited Permitting Process

- Municipalities must provide DOER with a letter from municipal legal counsel affirming that nothing within the municipality's rules and regulations precludes issuance of a permitting decision within one year, along with the language addressing approval procedures and associated timing of any applicable bylaws/ordinances or regulations.
- The applicant should also include a color copy of the applicable map(s) showing that the areas where the expedited permitting applies coincides with the as-of-right zoned areas for Criterion 1. If appropriate, this map may be the same as the map provided for Criterion 1.

MGL c43D

- Municipalities must provide DOER with a certified copy of their City Council or Town Meeting vote designating the as-of-right zoned parcel(s) as a Priority Development Site.
- The applicant should also include a color copy of the applicable map(s) showing the areas where the expedited permitting applies.

CRITERION 3: ENERGY BASELINE / 20 PERCENT ENERGY REDUCTION PLAN

A municipality must establish an energy use baseline inventory for all municipal buildings (which includes school buildings, drinking water and wastewater treatment plants, pumping stations and open spaces), vehicles, and street and traffic lighting, and put in place a comprehensive program designed to reduce this baseline by 20 percent within five (5) years of the baseline year

IMPORTANT LINK:

[Criteria 3 Guidance Documents](#)

Documentation Required to Meet Criterion 3

The municipality must provide a copy of the Energy Reduction Plan for reducing energy consumption by 20 percent in five years across all municipal buildings, school buildings, municipal and school vehicles, street and traffic lighting, drinking water and wastewater treatment plants, pumping stations and open spaces owned by the municipality. At a minimum, the Plan must include the following information:

- Identification of the inventory tool used
- Identification of the baseline year used
- The energy baseline, broken down by buildings, vehicles, water/sewer and streetlights.
- *Specific energy conservation measures* to be implemented to achieve reductions of at least 15 percent, the energy reductions to be achieved, the basis for the projected energy reductions, and a timeline with milestones to implement measures and achieve required energy reductions.
- *General strategies* to achieve 5 percent or less in energy reductions.
- Documentation that both the municipal government and local school district have adopted the energy reduction plan. If a regional school district is included as part of the designation, documentation that the regional school district has adopted the plan must be included. See Criterion 3 Guidance, "Energy Reduction Plan Guidance," for more details.

CRITERION 4: PURCHASE ONLY FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLES

All Departments in the municipality must purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

IMPORTANT LINK

[Criterion 4 Guidance Documents](#)

Documentation Required to Meet Criterion 4:

The following documentation must be provided as evidence that the municipality has met this criterion:

- Copy of the policy or other mechanism adopted for purchasing only fuel efficient vehicles
- Inventory of all vehicles (model, year, estimated MPG) including local school district vehicles, with exempt/non-exempt status indicated.
- Replacement plan for non-exempt vehicles with fuel efficient vehicles
- Documentation that both the municipality and the local school district have adopted the fuel efficient vehicle policy. If a regional school district is included as part of the designation, documentation that the regional school district has adopted the fuel efficient vehicle policy must be included. See Criterion 4 Guidance, "Guidance and Model Policy for Purchasing Fuel Efficient Vehicles," for more details.

CRITERION 5: MINIMIZE LIFE-CYCLE COSTS

A municipality must require all new residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the life cycle cost of the facility by utilizing energy efficiency, water conservation and other renewable or alternative energy technologies.

The recommended way for cities and towns to meet this requirement is by adopting the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Code (780 CMR 115.AA), an appendix to the MA State Building Code. **Note:** *There is no minimum 3,000 square foot threshold for new residential construction if your municipality adopts the Stretch Code. All new residential construction, irrespective of size/square footage, will be subject to the Stretch Code.*

Towns are advised to adopt the Stretch Code as a general bylaw at Town Meeting. Cities are advised to adopt the Stretch Code by general ordinance voted by City Council.

Should a community chose to not adopt the Stretch Code and choose to use another standard, the community must provide evidence that this alternative standard minimizes the life cycle energy costs for new construction and is enforceable by the community.

IMPORTANT LINKS

[Criteria 5 Guidance Documents](#)

Documentation Required to Meet Criterion 5

The following documentation must be provided as evidence to verify that the municipality has met this criterion:

Stretch Energy Code

The municipality must provide documentation of the city council or town meeting vote adopting 780 CMR 115.AA, the MA Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Energy Code. **The vote must include the effective date of the Stretch Energy Code.**

PLEASE NOTE: 780 CMR 120.AA is no longer in effect. **The municipality MUST adopt 780 CMR 115.AA.**

Alternative Local Process

The municipality must provide documentation of the standard adopted, the mechanism in place for requiring this criterion for new construction, and documentation of how this standard provides reduced life cycle energy costs.

NOTE: Municipalities planning to meet this criterion through a local process are encouraged to submit a description of the process, with supporting documentation, in advance of applying for designation. In this way, the Green Communities Division can provide feedback on the acceptability of the identified process for meeting this criterion.

MUNICIPALITIES SERVED BY MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANTS (MLP)

In order to be designated a Green Community, for municipalities served by MLPs one of the following must apply:

- The MLP must have adopted the renewable energy charge
- The municipality must be served by an investor-owned utility in addition to the MLP.

Documentation Required

The municipality must provide evidence that one of the above apply. This can include:

- Documentation from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust or Massachusetts Clean Energy Center verifying that the MLP has adopted the renewable energy charge
- Documentation from an investor-owned utility that it serves customers within the towns borders.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

[Criterion 1 Guidance Documents](#)

[Criterion 2 Guidance Document](#)

[Criteria 3 Guidance Documents](#)

[Criterion 4 Guidance Documents](#)

[Criteria 5 Guidance Documents](#)



Online Instructions for Designation Application Process

First Step—The city or town designates a single Point of Contact and provides the name, title, phone, email address, and legal address of city or town including zipcode to its Regional Coordinator. The single Point of Contact receives an email invitation to the online application system. Follow the link provided in that email, and create a member profile and password.

When the Point of Contact logs back into the system with his username and password, he/she be directed to the Online Designation Application System. He/she will see a welcome message and navigation links in the left hand column— “Instructions” and “Proceed to Fill Out Forms.”, as well as some Tabs along the top. Click on either to expand the navigation menu, and click on any title to view information or alternatively click on a Tab.

Second Step—Log in to become familiar with the online system and the five (5) criterion forms. Click on “Instructions” and “Proceed to Fill Out Forms” to expand the navigation menu or use the Tabs along the top. Click any titles to see more information.

If you want to practice using the system, you can do so, without using the <Submit> button, and nothing will be saved. **Please submit each form only once.**

Third Step—Have ready in electronic form all the information and supporting files for each criterion. If possible, use a high speed (broadband) Internet connection rather than a dial-up connection, which could be frustratingly slow for uploading files.

If you do not see your city / town name on any of the forms or have any other problems or questions, please contact Jane Pfister (jane.pfister@state.ma.us / 617-626-1194).

You do not have to submit all the criteria forms in the same online session but must submit them one by one. You cannot return to a partially completed form to change or add files. Each time you login you will see blank forms even if you have submitted them previously. Do not worry as the information and files are saved to the online system when you saw the confirmation page after each successful submission of a form.

For each form, choose your city / town name from the drop-down list; the first field in each form. Usually multiple documents support a Criterion, please submit them as separate PDF's, rather than combined into a single file. For each file begin the file name with city / town name, followed by criterion abbreviation (CR1, CR2, CR3, CR4, CR5), then wording that makes the content of the file clear.

For each designation criterion, you will upload one or more supporting files. You will see six (6) green "File Upload" lines on the bottom of each form.

To attach a file, click on <Browse> button to browse on your computer, select the file, then double click on it. You can repeat the process on each green line. If you have more than six (6) files for a criterion form, create a Compressed (zipped) file. Upload and name the compressed files the same way you named and uploaded single files.

When submitting a form, you may receive the following message: "This form is non-secure - do you still want to send it?" This is just informational and nothing to worry about. Answer <Yes>. You go to a confirmation page if the submission was successful.

Each time you submit a Form, you will get redirected to confirmation page that your submission was successful. You will also get an email message confirming that DOER's Green Communities Division has received the submission and the number of files uploaded with it.

Creating a Compressed (zip) file

1. Put the all files (e.g. more than six) you want to attach somewhere on your computer where you can see all of them at the same time (e.g. in one folder).
2. Select all the files you wish to include by holding down the <Ctrl> key as you click each one. They will all be highlighted in blue.
3. Right click any of the highlighted files (put your cursor over one of the files and click the right button on your mouse or other pointing device).
4. Select <Send To> (about half way down the pop-up menu).
5. Select <Compressed (zipped) Folder/File> from the next pop-up menu.
6. Find the new file. It will have the name of one of the files you selected (in step 3), but with a .zip extension (e.g. Energy Reduction Plan.zip).
7. Rename the file to conform to DOER requirements. Right click the file name and select <Rename> (near the bottom of the menu).
8. Change only the name to the left of the period (i.e. keep the .zip extension). Begin with city/town name, followed by criterion code (CR1, CR2, CR3, CR4, CR5), then working that makes the content clear.

Fourth Step—Review the Form and upload files listed there. If everything looks good, use the <Submit> button to submit the form. You will see a confirmation page if successful. You can then choose another criterion form to work on or log out and return later. If you are only practicing, do not use the <Submit> button and nothing will be saved to the online system. **Please submit only ONE form per criterion.**

If you need to submit additional files, make a change, or have any other problems or questions, please contact Jane Pfister (jane.pfister@state.ma.us / 617-626-1194). Each time DOER receives a criterion Form, you will receive an email within one business day confirming a successful submission and the number of files uploaded with it.