

Ashby Business Assistance Resources

Town of Ashby – Land Use Agent

- For local business assistance information contact Chris Ryan, AICP at christopher@relocalizations.com

Mt. Wachusett Community College

- Entrepreneurial Resource Center – www.erc.mwcc.edu (offers conference, research, computer assistance)
- Contact Lisa Derby Oden, Business & Professional Development Specialist, at 978-630-9548 or email: l_oden@mwcc.mass.edu

MassDevelopment

MassDevelopment is the state's finance and development authority. Both a lender and developer, the Agency works with private- and public-sector clients to stimulate economic growth by eliminating blight, preparing key sites for development, creating jobs, and increasing the state's housing supply. Programs and services include:

- Bond financing, loans and guarantees, Brownfields redevelopment funds, community service loans, emerging technology funds, MA cultural facilities funds, small farm loan program and others.
- Real estate development services including expedited permitting, planning and development, and real estate marketing.
- Contact is Kelly Arvidson, VP Business Devel. at 978-784-2901 or karvidson@massdevelopment.com
- Also check out their web sites: <http://www.devenscommunity.com/> and <http://www.massdevelopment.com/>

Massachusetts Office of Business Development

The Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD), which falls under the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, facilitates access to governmental and non-governmental business resources and incentive programs that help businesses thrive in Massachusetts. Housed within MOBD, the Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) is a tax incentive program designed to foster full-time job creation and stimulate business growth throughout the Commonwealth. Participating companies may receive state and local tax incentives in exchange for full-time job creation, retention, and private investment commitments.

- Check out their regional profile for the North Central region which includes Ashby where they provide useful links to area chambers of commerce and economic development agencies, industry clusters, and other useful information.
- The Economic Development Incentive Program for large and small firms.
- Contact Rosemary Scrivens, Regional Director for Central/North Central at 508-792-7506 or rosemary.scrivens@state.ma.us

Small Business Development Center Network

- Contact them at <http://www.msbdcenter.org/> for a variety of services and training for small businesses.

Office of Small Business & Entrepreneurship (OSBE)

The mission is to create policies and programs to support small businesses & entrepreneurs across the Commonwealth of MA. OSBE is the most valuable resource for Small Business Community, and utilizes the following business development tools:

- Small Business Assistance Advisory Council
- FY 2008 Governor's Budget:
- Technical Assistance Grants & Office
- MA Small Business Development Centers

Contact Andre Porter, Executive Director of OSBE at 617-973-8543 or andre.porter@state.ma.us

Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce

- Access to free Small Business Planning Assistance by Michael Holbrook of Clark University
- Other membership benefits, networking, etc.
- Townsend is a member. Ashby is eligible.
- Contact Chamber Staff at 978-772-6976 or director@nvcoc.com

North Central Massachusetts Development Council (NCMDC)

- Regional Revolving Micro-loan Fund
- Access to Small Business Administration (SBA) Financing
- Contact Bruce Larson, Loan Officer, at 978-840-4300 or Larson@massweb.org

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA)

Green business development resources including:

- Contact for environmental technology developers: Linda Benevides at 617-626-1197 or Linda.Benevides@state.ma.us
- Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust provides funding for renewable energy projects. Call 617-315-9355 or visit <http://www.masscec.com>
- Some other green business and community development links below:
 - *Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center* (UMass-Dartmouth) - The goal of the ATMC is to provide advanced technology and manufacturing solutions, through industry and university partnerships, to meet current and future business needs. Go here: <http://www.atmc.umassd.edu/>
 - *Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy* (UMass-Amherst) - The Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (CEERE) provides technological and economic solutions to environmental problems resulting from energy production, industrial, manufacturing, and commercial activities, and land use practices. Go here: <http://www.ceere.org/>
 - *Massachusetts Clean Energy Center*: <http://www.masscec.com/>
 - *National Environmental Technology Institute* (UMass-Amherst) - NETI promotes and funds long-term research to minimize or eliminate pollution from industrial processes. Go here: <http://www.umass.edu/tei/neti/index.html>
 - *Smart Communities Network, Green Development Resources*. Resources found here: <http://www.smartcommunities.ncat.org/greendev/gdintro.shtml>
 - *The Natural Step for Business* here: <http://www.naturalstep.org/en/the-natural-step-business>
 - *Devens Eco-Efficiency Center* helps businesses reduce operating costs and increase efficiency: http://www.ecostardevens.com/index_files/Page2800.htm

Farmland Preservation Programs and Tools

- Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program <http://www.mass.gov/agr/landuse/APR/index.htm>
- Farm Viability Enhancement Program <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/farmviability/index.htm>
- Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B
- EO 193 and Agricultural Lands Mitigation Policy <http://www.mass.gov/agr/landuse/mepa.htm>

State Office of Minority & Women Business Assistance

- Promotes development of business enterprises and non-profit organizations owned or operated by minorities and women
- Contact: 617-973-8692 or www.state.ma.us/somwba

Johnny Appleseed Trail of North Central Massachusetts

A tourism organization promoting the trail and the communities in the region. Opportunities exist for advertising and synergistic relationships with local businesses: <http://www.appleseed.org/>

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)

Regional planning agency of which Ashby is a member. The MRPC provides technical assistance to member communities, offers grants for local communities, and conducts the Montachusett Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (MRCEDS) whereby regular meetings are held to discuss issues of economic development in the region. Programs include:

- Expedited permitting program (Chapter 43D)
- Brownfield site assessments
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program

You can contact them at: mrpc@mrpc.org

NOTE: The above represent common local-area resources. Please also see the attached listings excerpted from the Worcester Business Journal that identify programs throughout central Mass. Courtesy: Town of Ayer Economic Development Plan Committee.