



## **Fact Sheet: What is a Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure Ordinance?**

A Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure Ordinance (RRED) would require property owners of long term rental housing units to register their unit with the city and share energy information about their rental units with prospective tenants.

The key objectives of RRED are to:

- Educate and increase awareness about energy efficiency to property owners and tenants;
- Provide important information to tenants to help them make informed decisions; and
- to establish a baseline standard of disclosure.

Through the ordinance, property owners of Somerville-based rental units would:

- Register each of their rental units annually
- Disclose energy information about rental units to prospective tenants
- Post certificates with information about property in rental unit
- Appoint a local point of contact for their rental units

The ordinance would also create a publicly accessible database of rental units.





## Background:

RRED was initially put forward as a priority action in Somerville's 2018 Climate Forward as a result of community, stakeholder, and staff engagement. Since then, the city has engaged in peer learning with other municipalities and conducted research to learn about similar initiatives across the country. Nationally, a majority of cities of all sizes and with rental populations similar to Somerville that have implemented successful rental registry ordinances.

To develop the ordinance, the city established an internal working group to conduct research and strategize across departmental priorities. The draft ordinance was submitted to Council and received favorably.

Before the ordinance would be passed and a program manual would be developed, city administration wanted to conduct interviews and focus groups with the community to inform the initiative and better understand potential impacts.

## Timeline:

Funding was secured in 2023 to conduct interviews and focus groups in the Summer and Fall of 2024 with a goal of proposing a revised ordinance in 2024. If passed by the Council, the implementation period would be defined in the ordinance but is anticipated to last a least twelve months with regular community engagement during program development and an extensive outreach campaign to inform building owners and the public about the program.

