

Heating Efficiency Success Stories

Around the state, Vermonters are working hard to reduce heating needs through efficiency efforts. Our reliance on fossil based heating fuels comes at increasing costs, both on our wallets and the climate. Here's why heating efficiency is crucial in Vermont:

- In 2010 Vermonters paid \$600 million to import fossil based heating fuels, with over 80% of that money leaving the state economy.
- Heating costs have more than doubled in the last decade and continue to rise, creating burdensome fuel bills for Vermonters.
- 80 cents of every dollar spent on efficiency stays in Vermont's economy.
- Vermont stands to gain \$1.4 billion in total benefits from efficiency investments.
- Vermont will save over 6.8 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions – the equivalent of removing 1.26 million passenger vehicles from the road for a year through efficiency efforts.
- On average, homeowners can save \$1,000 annually on heating bills through efficiency renovations.

Heating efficiency makes sense, which is why Vermonters have already started taking action on investing in efficiency – and it's paying off. Below is a small but growing list of efficiency success stories.

Ascension Church Weatherization Project, South Burlington.

“Ascension Church is dedicated to helping faith communities and their individual members to be better stewards of Creation by using energy wisely, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Their energy efficiency renovation cut electricity use by 47% and natural gas consumption by 40% – a savings of \$7,000 annually.”

21st Century Barn Raising Improves Municipal Energy Efficiency at School, Middlesex

“Interest in helping homeowners and the community save money by saving energy catalyzed an old-time ‘barn raising’ model to harness volunteer sweat equity to undertake a significant weatherization project at the local elementary school. Through these efforts the Rumney Memorial Elementary school cut its fuel oil consumption by a 1/3, saving 2,000 gallons of fuel oil, 22 tons of carbon emissions, and thousands of dollars. “

Ripton Community Energy Mobilization Project

“Ripton's project involved 25 volunteers helping 60 local households (both single-family homes and apartments) make energy efficiency improvements. Volunteers conducted “home energy visits” wherein volunteers upgraded 30 percent of all households in Ripton with energy efficiency measures. These efforts led to a collective savings of 39,588 kilowatt hours and savings of \$5,744 annually. “

Bradford Academy Building Weatherization

“The Bradford Academy Building underwent a comprehensive weatherization job due to the hard work of the local energy committee . The Bradford Energy Committee led this effort through organizing an annual energy fair that helped in raising money to finance an initial energy audit and partly cover the weatherization work. These efforts have resulted in an a projected savings of 2,000-3,000 gallons of fuel oil, which will account for a savings of \$6,000-\$10,000 dollars annually at current fuel oil prices.”

Brattleboro Improves Efficiency in 15 Town and School Buildings

“Through the leadership of a local energy committee, Brattleboro Climate Protection, Brattleboro undertook one big project to improve energy efficiency in 15 town and school buildings. Between 2000 and 2010, energy use in those 15 buildings declined by 27%.”

Craftsbury garners accolade for Weatherization of Historic Academy Building

“In 2011, Craftsbury school district completed an award-winning renovation to a poorly insulated 1863 school building...Costs for heating fuel in 2011-2012 were \$39,783 less than in 2009-2010, a savings of 64%, and electrical costs declined by \$16,000/yr.”

South Hero Tackles Energy Savings, One Step at a Time

“When money became available for energy work on town buildings, the town of South Hero was ready...In two phases, as funding became available, they completed a comprehensive energy upgrade of the town office, which has reduced their energy use by almost 1,000 gallons annually – at current fuel oil prices, with electricity improvements included, the town will be saving nearly \$3,500 annually.”

Community Energy Mobilization in Middlebury

“In Middlebury, local volunteers reached out to other townspeople in 2010 to help them make their homes more energy efficient...Over a dozen volunteers made 120 home visits in the Middlebury area...Every participating homeowner saved energy as a result of energy-saving equipment, such as CFLs, that were installed on the initial visit. Much greater energy savings were possible for participants who followed up with a complete home energy retrofit.”

Putney Weatherization Program a Success

“Putney’s home weatherization program has been such a success that the town is considering an expanded version of the program. In the original round, 30 homes in town received incentives to become more energy efficient...Anticipated annual savings total \$32,839 for 30 homes.”