

12<sup>th</sup> Annual VECAN Conference

# Tips for Working with Municipal Governments

Efficiency  
Vermont

Introductions

5 Tips for Working with Municipal  
Governments

Group Exercise

Wrap up



# Agenda

## Introductions

5 Tips for Working with Municipal Governments

Exercise

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Please introduce  
yourself:  
Name, Town, &  
Affiliation

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# Tip #1: Set Clear Goals & Objectives

Create a set of long and short term goals

Know how these overlay with the town's goals and objectives

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- Are there any town plans or documents that support your project?

## Tip #2: Build a Coalition

You can't go at it alone!

Potential stakeholders include:

- Local officials (select boards, trustees, etc.)
- Technical experts
- Non-profits
- Statewide agencies

## Tip #3: Know the Budget

Which budgets could your efforts impact?

Who are the key decision makers for these budgets?

What steps can you take to help estimate the costs?

## Tip #4: Start Small

Identify the low-hanging fruit

Begin with projects that will be easy to execute and speak to the town's bottom line



## Tip #5: Remember Slow and Steady Wins the Race

The wheels of government are  
slow to move

Don't get discouraged, don't  
give up hope

Remember: Small steps add up

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*5 min*

Step 1: Pick a topic to work on:

1. Municipal fleet improvements
2. Weatherization for municipal buildings
3. Fuel switching for municipal buildings (to electric or wood heat)
4. Town level solar
5. Public outreach and education

*5 min*

Step 2: Create a potential project (real or imagined)

*20 min*

Step 3: Work through the key considerations together

*10 min*

Step 4: Create 1 to 3 potential first steps

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# Wrap Up