

Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network

Spring Summit 2023

Accessing Federal Funding Opportunities for Energy Projects

June 3, 2023



Bonnie Waninger, Coordinator
Federal Funding Assistance Program

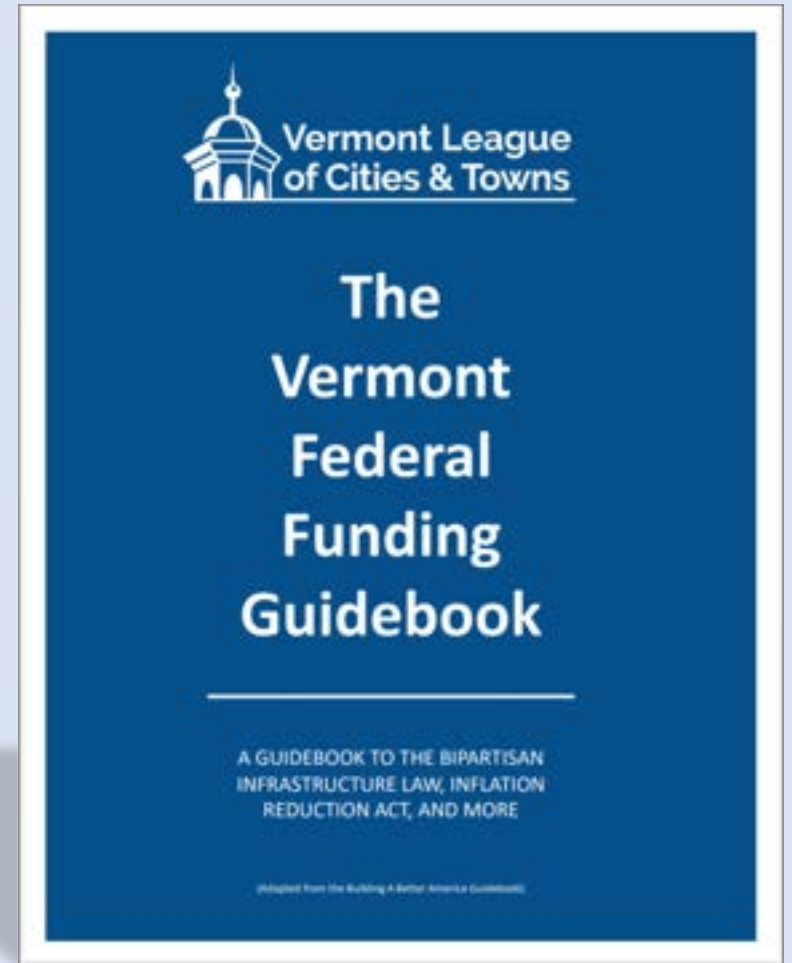


Billions of Dollars Available

(no, "billions" is not a typo)

In this watershed moment of federal funding opportunities, *now is the time to turn your ideas into actions.*

- American Rescue Plan Act
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law / Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Inflation Reduction Act
- Existing State and Federal Programs



VLCT's Federal Funding Assistance Program

We do the work, so you don't have to

Available at <https://www.vlct.org/federal-funding-assistance-program-ffaarpa>

- **Funding opportunities** right for municipalities
- **Consults on Call*** to self-book time with our team
- **Tip of the Week** gives you a competitive advantage
- **Frequently Asked Questions** related to grants
- **Resources** to win and manage grants

Contact us for assistance at FFA@vlct.org



**Members only.* Must have an official role with a VLCT member organization (selectboard, city council, trustee, Town Manager or Administrator, town clerk, treasurer, planning commissioner, conservation commissioner, energy committee, etc.).



Positioning for National Grants

Understand what's changed

- Equity is in the forefront – [Justice40](#)
- Fewer awards but larger grants
- Build America, Buy America integration
- [Tax incentives](#) for tax exempt entities



Source: pixabay.com



Positioning for National Grants

Be strategic to succeed

- Prioritize needs
- Work collectively
- Update cost estimates
- Understand “disadvantaged” and “rural”
- Know the rules before applying
- Engage professionals for tax incentives
- Ask “Is municipal funding the best option?”



Source: <https://www.istockphoto.com>



Funding - Where to Begin?

Identify your project's game pieces



Source: <https://www.bing.com/images>

[Panton Grid Resilience](#)

Main: Grid resilience

Secondary: Climate change, hazard mitigation, social vulnerability, renewable energy

[Window Dressers](#)

Main: Weatherization


Secondary: Social vulnerability, community building, climate change

[Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure](#)

Main: Climate change

Secondary: Transportation, economic center vitality, housing sustainability, accessibility, renewable energy



A silhouette of a utility pole with cross-arms and insulators, set against a bright orange sunset sky. The pole is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its lines extending towards the right. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a low sun.

Federal Energy Programs for Utilities

- Grid reliability, resilience, and outage prevention
- Hydroelectric efficiency improvements and production incentives
- Renewable electric generation loans
- Energy efficient transformer rebates
- Siting of interstate electricity transmission lines





Federal Energy Programs for Municipalities

- Automation, connected vehicles, and smart grid and traffic signals
- Safe Streets and Roads planning and implementation
- Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants
- Efficiency and renewables at public school facilities
- State revolving loan fund for efficiency improvements





Federal Energy Programs for Municipalities

- Charging and fueling infrastructure grants
- Tax incentives for vehicles, fueling infrastructure, renewable generation, and energy efficient buildings
- Clean heavy-duty vehicles and diesel emission reductions
- Green and Resilient housing retrofit program
- Building energy code adoption





Federal Energy Programs for Municipalities

- Energy efficiency for water and wastewater systems
- Loan guarantees for energy infrastructure revitalization and replacement
- Environmental and climate justice
- Climate pollution reduction



Key Programs:

Tax Incentives

Direct Pay Mechanism

Provides a tax refund to the municipality after investments are made.

- Commercial clean vehicles credits
- Renewable energy generation and storage
- Alternative fuel vehicle refueling property (EVs, hydrogen, etc.)
- Certain utility and manufacturing operations

Transfer of Credit Mechanism

Allows the municipality to transfer (sell) a tax deduction to another entity after project construction

- Energy efficient commercial buildings (transfer to project designer)

[Municipal Tax Incentive Summary](#)





Credit: Capstone Community Action

Key Programs:

Municipal Energy Resilience Program

Agency: VT Buildings and General Services

What: Provides staff support, application and technical assistance, and funding for weatherization, thermal improvements, fuel switching, renewable energy, battery storage, and electric vehicle charging for municipal buildings.

Who: Municipalities (cities, towns, incorporated villages, fire districts, and all other governmental incorporated units except school districts), along with the buildings they own.

When: Capacity Building grants now; Energy Resilience Assessments thru December 2023; Implementation grants Spring 2024.

[Municipal Energy Resilience Program](#)





Credit: Capstone Community Action

Key Programs:

Municipal Energy Resilience Program

Capacity Building Grants

- Get started, fill an information gap, build knowledge and support.
- All eligible applications awarded grants.

Energy Resilience Assessments

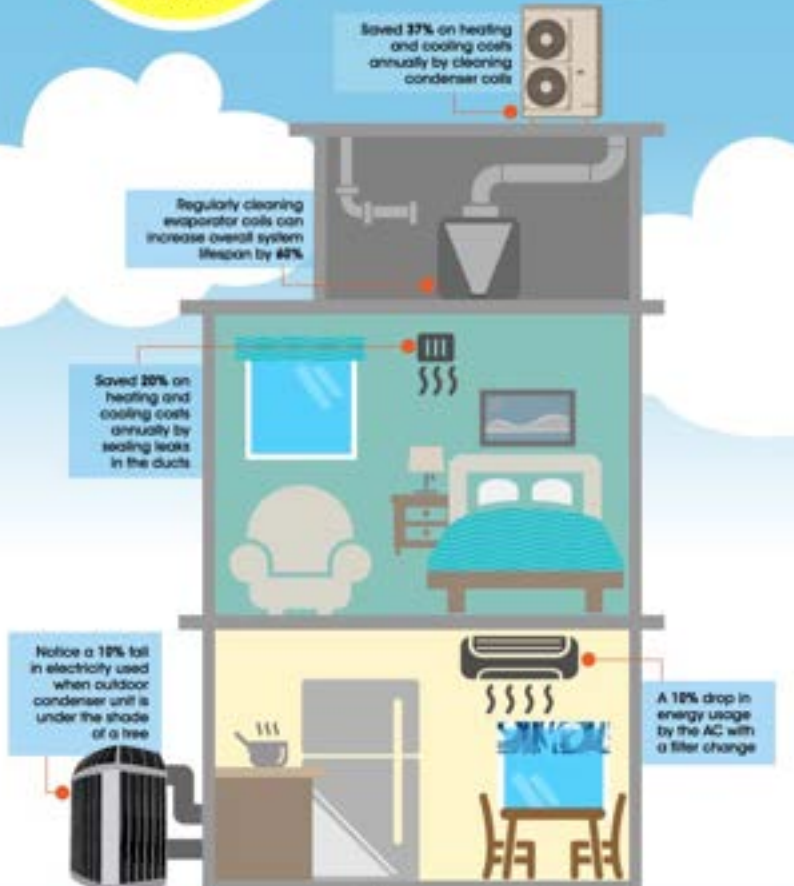
- Choice of two levels of assessment – walk through and investment grade.

Implementation Grants

- Up to \$500,000 for building projects – single or multiple buildings
- Buildings must be ADA compliant at project completion.
- High-speed internet or a plan to have it by 2024 required.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY & HVAC MAINTENANCE



Credit: speedclean.com

Key Programs: Municipal Energy Loans Programs

Agency: VT Buildings and General Services

What: Equipment replacement, studies, weatherization, construction of improvements affecting the use of energy resources, energy efficiency and conservation measures, and the use of renewable resources

Who: Municipalities (city, town, fire district, incorporated village, and all other governmental incorporated units except schools)

When: Unknown. \$2.8 million fund will be capitalized with BIL RLF Capitalization Grant and EECBG State formula funds after awards are made.

[Act 172 Link](#)





Key Programs: Powering Affordable Clean Energy

Agency: USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Service

What: Up to 20%, 40% or 60% loan forgiveness for renewable energy projects that use wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal or biomass and for renewable energy storage projects.

Who: Electric generators that resale power.

When: Program opens June 30, 2023. Letter of Interest required by September 29. Loan application by invitation only.

[PACE Program Link](#)



Key Programs:

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants

Agency: Federal Highways Administration

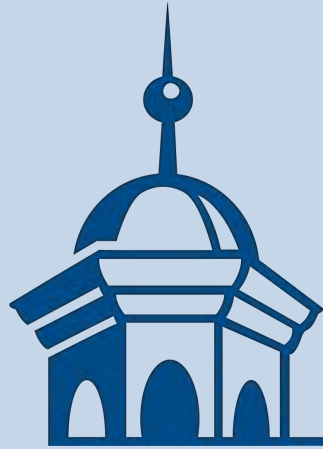
What: Install electric vehicle charging and alternative fuel in locations on public roads, schools, parks, and in publicly accessible parking facilities. Includes 5 years operating assistance and acquisition and installation of traffic control devices.

Who: States and their political subdivisions, local governments, and several other types of public organizations

When: Program opened in March. Applications are due June 13, 2023.

[Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Link](#)





**Vermont League
of Cities & Towns**

Thank You!

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