

The Municipal Energy Resilience Program

What is MERP?

- ❖ Act 172 of 2022 created the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) and allocated \$45 million to the program.
- ❖ MERP will provide funding and technical assistance to municipalities to increase their energy resilience, reduce energy use, and curb greenhouse gas emissions by promoting renewable energy, weatherization, fuel switching, thermal improvements, and enhance building comfort.
- ❖ Municipalities with a high energy burden, as defined by Efficiency VT's Energy Burden Report, will be prioritized.
- ❖ Eligibility:
 - ❖ Cities, towns, incorporated villages, fire districts, and all other governmental incorporated units except for school districts.

Program Components

- ❖ Community Capacity Mini-Grants – **available now!**
- ❖ Free Energy Assessments
- ❖ Implementation Grants

Community Capacity Mini-Grants

- Up to \$4,000 to support energy resilience and building community capacity. **AVAILABLE NOW!**
- More than one municipality can apply jointly, but the maximum award will be \$4,000.
- Possible uses:
 - Host educational energy events (workshops, energy fairs)
 - Develop and distribute promotional materials (flyers, web content etc.)
 - Start an energy committee
 - Hire a consultant to assist with project management or do an ADA assessment.

Free Energy Assessments

- Conducted by BGS contractors
- Application coming soon!
- Two levels available (both levels qualify a town for an implementation grant).
 - Level 1: 0.5 – 1 hours in duration. High level overview of building systems.
 - Level 2: Approx. 4 hours in duration. Building documents required. May qualify the town for additional loans/grants.

**Buildings must be municipally-owned or have a long-term/perpetual lease by a municipality to be eligible*

Implementation Grants

- Grants of up to \$500,000 for building renovation projects such as weatherization and air sealing, and replacement of fossil fuel heating system with a more efficient system.
- Must receive a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment to qualify (previous assessment may be considered).
- Funding must be used for one project that can be split across several buildings.
- Application expected later this year.

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Reach Out to Your RPC!



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[RPC Energy Contacts & Map \(vecan.net\)](#)

<https://bgs.vermont.gov/municipal-energy-resilience-program>