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# Helping Vermonters Navigate Clean Energy Projects

2025 VECAN Conference

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Community is at the







MOUNTAIN

**GREEN** 

VERMONT NATURAL **RESOURCES COUNCIL** 























**ReEnergized** 







CHITTENDEN COUNTY RPC

Communities Planning Together













RUTLAND REGIONAL **PLANNING COMMISSION** 















Meeting our climate

goals requires

multiple solutions

and partners

### **Project Process**

**Get Motivated** 

**Collect Information** 

**Make Decisions** 

**Take Action** 

### Ideas to help your neighbors navigate

- Kitchen table conversation + virtual home energy visit
- Offer to help call contractors and review project quotes
- Offer to help prepare the home for projects (clean attics, basements, etc.)

<sup>\*</sup>These are examples of approaches that have been effective. Please note, they are not sponsored by EVT

### Virtual Home Energy Visit + Kitchen table conversation

- 1. Book with easy online scheduling tool www.efficiencyvermont.com/visit
- 2. Participate in the visit alongside the customer

This is especially helpful for older Vermonters and those with mobility challenges

3. Connect with the customer afterwards for a "kitchen table conversation" to help them think through and plan their next steps

Efficiency Vermont provides technical guidance – so you don't have to

"It was easy. A quick video call – no selling, no pushing. It was really about helping me understand, and it was a million times better than trying to read about it on the Internet. I wish all things were that easy."

- Bill in Barre, VT



# 2 Call Contractors & Review Quotes

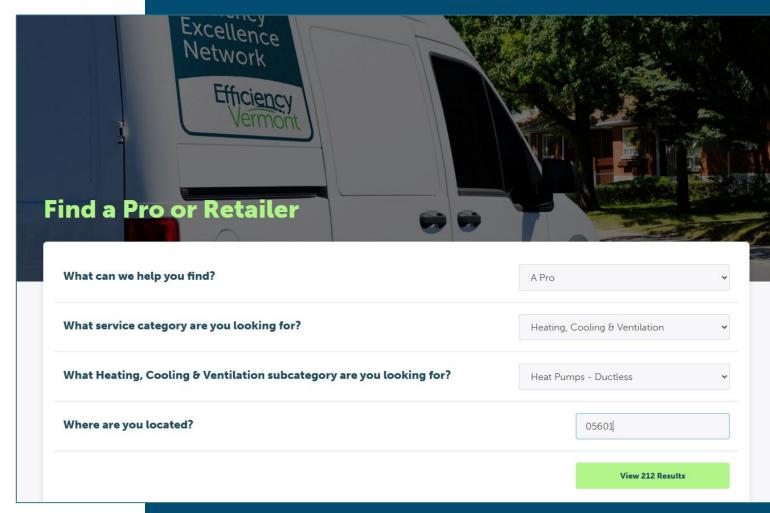
1. Use the **Find a Pro tool** to identify area contractor members of the Efficiency Excellence Network

For weatherization contractors, see customer reviews and ratings

www.efficiencyvermont.com/Pro

- 2. Offer to **call contractors** on the customer's behalf to obtain project quotes
- 3. Offer to **assist with follow** up as needed/requested by the customer

Some customers may want to handle this on their own — or may qualify for free support/project management from their local low-income Weatherization Agency



### 3 Prepare the Home

- 1. Understand the scope of work to be performed by the contractor
- 2. Offer to help clear out basements, attics and any other areas necessary for the project to move forward
  - This is especially helpful for older customers and those with mobility challenges
- 3. There may already be **volunteer efforts** you can plug into to support this need in your area (ex: 350.org)

This kind of preparation is especially important for weatherization projects, but can also be relevant for heat pump and other installations

Any physical work done in the home should be at the request of the homeowner, and undertaken at your own risk



### **Existing Resources**

#### **Get Motivated**

Outreach, education and promotional efforts

- EVT, BED, VGS
- Electric Utilities
- Community groups
- Non-profits
- Contractors

Peer-to-peer engagement

#### Collect Information

#### **Technology/Project:**

EVT website

#### **Home Assessments:**

- EVT Energy Advisors
- EVT Virtual Home Energy Visits
- Energy audits
- \*VGS Home Energy Evaluation

#### Rebate and Financing:

- Efficiency Vermont Utilities
- Lenders

#### Costs/Savings:

- Contractors
- EVT, BED, VGS
- Electric Utilities

#### **Contractors:**

- Efficiency Excellence Network
- Weatherization Agencies

#### Make Decisions

#### Customer

- \*Efficiency Vermont
- \*Contractor
- \*with limitations

#### Take Action

Customer Contractor

### Efficiency Vermont Resources

That you can use to help Vermonters navigate a complex system

#### **Self-serve online resources**

- +605,000 Users, 1.8M Website Views (2024)
- +200 "how-to" guides, customer stories and articles
- "Find-A-Pro" web tool
- "Rebate Finder" features EVT, Utility, and Partner offers

### **Team of 10 Energy Advisors on call to support Vermonters**

- 1:1 over-the-phone support (FAQs, awareness of partner & EVT offers, next steps & contractor referrals)
- **20,952** contacts (2024)
- Regular training calls to support Green Savings Smart, CEAC, utilities

+628,000

total engagement 2024



 Engaged 2,200 customers at 117 events covering every county (2024)

### **Engineering Consultants provide free "Virtual Home Energy Visits" statewide**

- On-demand self-serve scheduling
- 1-2 hr visit, tailored to individual home
- Personalized scope, prioritized next steps
- +700 delivered (in 2024)



#### **Efficiency Excellence Network**

- EVT approved, independent network trained to deliver highest-quality efficiency services
- Ongoing training required to stay in network

## Things to Keep in Mind

- Energy projects are complex especially given it involves people's homes and businesses.
- There are so many resources—directing people to the right resources is critical
- Our priority is a positive, supportive customer experience, not one that feels confusing or intrusive.
- Focus on identifying system gaps and where you can add the most value.
- Residential use is just a small piece.
  Commercial buildings contribute a large portion of Vermont's emissions. Reach out to learn more about how to help commercial customers



### Community Engagement Team

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### Thank you

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