

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 • www.acrpc.org • Phone: 802.388.3141

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Jeremy Grip
Cheryl Brinkman
Ross Conrad
Maddison Shropshire - ACRPC Staff

Richard Butz
Howard Widelitz
Richard Faesy
Kurt Haigis

AGENDA

6:30 pm - Call to Order

6:35 pm - Presentation and Discussion of [Municipal Energy Resilience \(Act 172\) program](#). The presentation is available at the following [link](#). Questions around the program were generated for upcoming presentation by BGS and answers collected from the VECAN presentation on [December 13th](#).

- How much weight is given to energy burdened communities? Will traditionally wealthy communities be excluded?
 - The focus on energy burden is intended as a way to prioritize projects not determine eligibility. Particulars of the weight given to “energy burdened communities” and the data source are still in development by BGS. All municipalities are encouraged to apply to this program.
- How is high speed internet defined for Act 172 requirements?
 - Definition is in development by BGS.
- Is solar eligible with this program?
 - Solar is included in the assessments but is not specified in the construction grant. We have to wait to learn more from BGS to know if solar will become eligible for the construction grant.
- What should we expect from the Assessment process?

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- Currently BGS is indicating that the immediate round of funding will be focused on “walk-around” audits rather than investment grade audits to maximize the number of projects that can be moved in the time allotted. Recent audits can be taken into consideration. A few communities may be eligible for deeper audits but it is not clear how they might be selected.
- Any municipality can apply for any number of assessments on eligible buildings in their communities. They would prefer towns prioritize the least energy efficient eligible buildings. **Schools are not eligible for any assessments.**
- Keep in mind that there is 5 million allocated for assessments and BGS will perform as many assessments as possible before the funding runs out. An RFP was put out to bid in early December and closed on the 19th. We are waiting to learn the estimated cost per assessment and the number of buildings that can be completed.
- Is there a time limit on when granted construction funds can be used?
 - Not at this time, but BGS is considering a 2 year limit to complete construction after the funds have been granted to the community.
- Do any of the grant funds require a match?
 - No. The \$500,000 limit is set by town and cannot be exceeded. Therefore, while a match may not be required, having additional funds may allow the town to pursue a larger project than the grant funds allow.
- What can be done with the \$4,000 mini grants?
 - These grants are intended to help communities educate residents on energy efficiency opportunities and incentives. In addition it can be used to develop consensus around what work is highest priority in town, and promote improvements in homes as well.
 - The funds can be used for anything that supports the above; pizza parties to discuss energy needs, consultants/ facilitators to support the prioritization of projects, mailers discussing the project or residential programs, hiring grant writers to fund raise for additional programming etc. There is sufficient flexibility for towns to get creative.
- What is the timeline for this program:

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Roughly:

- RPCs now have a contract to support your towns with this work
- Mini Grant (\$4,000) application for community education and outreach available no later than town meeting day.
- Assessment application available sometime in March
- Construction grant application opens ~ early 2024.

7:15 pm - Misc. Energy Updates

- Upcoming event in Vergennes, REV presenting
- CEDF's new [Woodstove Change-out and Repair Incentives](#)
- National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) [no-cost technical assistance \(TA\)](#)

7:20 pm - Review of [October 2022 Minutes](#). Cheryl moved to approve the minutes; Jeremy second. Ross requested that the minutes reflect more information on guest presentations. All in favor.

7:25 pm - Whiting enhanced energy plan review. The regional review meeting will be scheduled for the **25th of January** and a hybrid option will be available.

7:30 pm - Ross moves to adjourn the meeting; Cheryl seconds; all in favor.

Note: agendas and adopted meeting minutes for this and all other meetings are also available online at the ACRPC website: <https://acrpc.org/minutes-agendas/>

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