

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 • [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org) • Phone: 802.388.3141

## ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

### Committee Attendance

Jeremy Grip  
Cheryl Brinkman  
Ross Conrad  
Rich Warren

### Minutes

6:32 pm - Call to Order

6:35 pm - Review of [December 2022 Minutes](#) Cheryl moves to approve the December meeting minutes; Jeremy seconds; all in favor.

6:40 pm - Act 172: Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Update

- Please add information on your buildings to [this spreadsheet](#)
- To understand where your town will fall in priority for assessments and implementation funds check this energy Burden data [Sheet](#)
- Notes from last BGS meeting
  - Mini grants: Mini-grant applications will be available on or before town meeting day. BGS hopes to have them available before so checks can be sent asap.
    - If every town applies for a mini grant it will be about \$1 million of the MERP budget. This means that any mini grant sharing between towns or regionally will increase the amount available through the implementation grant. applicants are encouraged to develop projects shared across multiple municipalities.
    - Potential Uses:
      - Hire a grant writer or consultant
      - Host educational events
      - Purchase promotional materials
      - Start an energy committee
  - Assessments: working to get contracts for assessments ready to go.
    - Hoping for town meeting day application release as well but it can take 2-3 months to complete the contracting process.

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- Any buildings that have already had a recent assessment can include that information in the application and potentially reduce the amount of time required for the MERP assessment process.
- If towns have particular projects that they would like to fund through MERP implementation they should include it in the assessment application or communicate that need to the assessment contractor.
- If the town plans to use the MERL loan program they will need a level 2 assessment. Level 2 assessment takes 4 hours vs level 1 assessment at 1-2 hours.
- BGS anticipates a dedicated application period for the highest scoring towns against energy burden criteria before opening the application to all. This will be true for assessments and implementation grants.
  - Criteria include energy burden, geography, community size, staffing etc from Act 172.
- The state provides a GIS layer to determine what [level of internet service](#) all E911 addresses have. A [spreadsheet is also available](#) here that tells you each town's level of service.

6:50 pm - Jean Terwilliger: Residential decarbonization project and how the MERP mini-grants could support outreach and education efforts.

- 
- Finding a broader community to support greater outreach
- Put out a survey on what info people would like to see? Energy Fair with contractors and others with neighboring communities. Theme: what's in it for me?
  - Traveling solar demonstration

7:15 pm - Misc. Energy Updates

- Solar workshop on Thursday 23rd 12-1:30 [REGISTER HERE](#)
  - Hosted by energy planners from Addison County and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commissions, this 3-part workshop series is intended to support member municipalities interested in municipal solar projects. Throughout the series we will be joined by community and industry experts to build a set of best practices and help communities identify and meet their communities' needs. Participants are welcome to join 1 or all workshops in the series, materials and resources will be provided throughout to help participants navigate the process regardless of where they are starting from! Part I covers an overview of different models of municipal solar and provide the broad strokes of how to develop and implement projects (moving towards

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a step-by-step workflow!). In addition, to your regional energy planners Sam and Maddi, we will be joined by experts from Norwich Solar.

- Committee comment - how can wildlife corridors be incorporated into solar designs?
- Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant [program](#)
  - ACRPC has been allocated about \$75,000 that we will be able to apply for this summer. ACRPC is seeking input and recommendations on how we should use this funding for? A few options discussed:
    - Feasibility studies
    - Solar projects
    - Revolving loan fund
    - Startup fee for [ZeroHomes](#)?
- Public Service Department is seeking feedback on renewable electricity programs
  - To kickstart public engagement opportunities related to the Public Service Department's (PSD) ongoing review of renewable electricity programs in Vermont, the PSD is hosting a webinar series to share information and answer questions about Vermont's current electric system. Through the informational webinars, the Department will explain where Vermont's electricity comes from, what policies and programs support the use of renewable electricity and provide information about the process to develop future programs and policies that will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The webinars are intended to be introductory in nature and will likely be of interest to ratepayers, energy committee members, students, or anyone who wants to know where Vermont's electricity comes from and what policies and programs support renewable electricity today. Each topic will be held on two different dates/times:

## Webinar 1: Where Does Vermont's Electricity Come From?

- Tuesday January 31, 12:00 pm-1:30 pm
- Thursday February 2, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

## Webinar 2: Current Renewable Electricity Policies

- Tuesday February 14, 12:00 pm-1:30 pm
- Wednesday February 15, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

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## Webinar 3: Parking Lot Session to Cover Additional Questions

- Thursday March 9, 12:00 pm-1:30 pm
- Monday March 13, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

More information about the webinars, registration links, and information on the Department's process to review renewable electricity programs and policies can be found on the Department's Renewables webpage:

<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/renewables>

- Heavy Duty EV webinar
  - [Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Charging Solutions](#) Webinar Recording. Resources and contacts from this webinar included below.
  - Tiana Smith ([tiana.smith@greenmountainpower.com](mailto:tiana.smith@greenmountainpower.com)), Head of Electrification and Sustainability. Green Mountain Power
  - Tom McDonald ([tom.mcdonald@waveipt.com](mailto:tom.mcdonald@waveipt.com)), Senior Director of Product Marketing. WAVE.
    - [YouTube: WAVE AVTA Case Study Video](#)
    - [Link to WAVE/AVTA Case Study](#)
    - [Link to WAVE/CCCTA Case Study](#)
  - Scott Bradley ([scott@pioneer-emobility.com](mailto:scott@pioneer-emobility.com)), Director of Sales. Pioneer Power
  - Vermont Clean Cities Coalition: Peggy O'Neill-Vivanco, [poneillv@uvm.edu](mailto:poneillv@uvm.edu)
  - Bill Cunningham - TVT is looking at EV buses but there are still several challenges for heavy duty EVs in VT.
  - Committee comments suggest interest in inviting the Clean Cities Coalition to present in the future.
- EAN has developed an Affordable Heat Act [FAQ](#)
- VLCT has a new [Federal Funding Assistance Program](#)
  - [VLCT Federal Funding Guidebook](#) - VT update will be coming soon.

## 7:30 pm - Whiting EEP review

- Insubstantial corrections to the Whiting Enhanced Energy Plan were made following the regional energy committee's review. The final plan can be found on the [ACRPC website here](#).

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- Jeremy moves to recommend that the Full Commission approves the Whiting Enhanced Energy Plan; Ross seconds; All in favor.

8:12 pm - Adjourn

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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