



For Immediate Release

September 27, 2023

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STATE OF VERMONT KICKS OFF MUNICIPAL ENERGY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Canaan is first of over 180 communities approved to date to benefit from building assessments this fall

Montpelier, Vt. — The Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) has announced the first energy assessments funded by the state's Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) took place on Tuesday, September 19 in Canaan at the Town Office, Town Garage, and Library. The assessments are part of over 480 planned for this fall.

These assessments, which will be taking place in over 180 towns located across all 14 Vermont counties, empower town leaders with insights on how they can improve the energy efficiency and resilience of their municipal buildings and provide them with the crucial data to apply for future implementation grants of up to \$500,000.

"These energy resilience assessments have been very popular with municipalities," said BGS Commissioner Jennifer M.V. Fitch, P.E. "The information they provide is critical for communities looking to lower their energy burden and reduce the impact of disruptive events, and enables towns to apply for implementation grants to achieve recommended energy resilience measures."

Act 172 (2022) allocated \$45 million to MERP to provide staff support, application and technical assistance, and funding to increase energy resilience, reduce energy use and operating costs, and curb greenhouse gas emissions by promoting weatherization, thermal improvements, fuel switching, renewable energy, battery storage, electric vehicle charging, and enhanced comfort in municipal buildings.

Municipally owned buildings in cities, towns, incorporated villages, fire districts, and all other governmental incorporated units (except school districts) are eligible. Particular priority is given to communities identified as having a high energy burden according to Efficiency Vermont's 2019 Energy Burden Report. A municipality's energy burden is calculated by dividing energy spending by household income.

The program was conceived to offer municipalities the same cost savings that have been leveraged by the state through the successful State Energy Management Program (SEMP),

which has saved the state over \$4.7M in energy costs since its inception in 2014. Both SEMP and MERP support Governor Scott's strategic priority of making Vermont more affordable.

All MERP grants are administered by the state's Department of Buildings and General Services, in partnership with Vermont's regional planning commissions. Applications for assessments will be accepted through October 31, and municipalities can request assessments for up to five buildings per application. Details are available on the [Department of Buildings and General Services website](#). Municipalities should direct questions about the grant and process to their regional planning commissions.

Additional partners for the program include the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, and Efficiency Vermont.

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