

Looking Back Over a Decade of SERG Accomplishments

We are so proud of our many great accomplishments and grateful for the many current and past SERG board members, town energy committee representatives, institutional, organizational and business partners, and financial supporters who have made it all possible. As we look ahead to our exciting future at Vital Communities, we thought we'd share **just a few of the many great projects you've helped us launch over the past 14 years.**

	Local Innovation	Ongoing Impact
2002	Formed the first Vermont and New Hampshire Town Energy Committees (TECs) in Norwich, Thetford, and Hanover in 2002	Helped form and/or support more than <i>200 energy committees</i> in Vermont and New Hampshire, including 38 in the Upper Valley
	Free energy audits and cost saving tips for five Upper Valley social service agencies in 2003 (Listen Inc., The Family Place, Headrest, Hannah House, and COVER)	Contributed to energy improvements at the Upper Valley Haven , resulting in \$1,000 annual savings
	Streetlight removal and upgrades in Thetford in 2004 cut energy use by 85%, saving over 15,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year	Established a model that has been followed by dozens of other Vermont towns
	In 2004, SERG became a certified Home Performance with Energy Star contractor	Conducted more than 150 home-energy assessments
	Developed free resource kits in 2007 with watt-meters, books, and DVDs about climate change and home energy savings	Available in 27 libraries throughout Vermont and New Hampshire
	Hosted first Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable in 2008	Hosted annually since with nearly 100 attendees in 2015
	Developed curriculum in 2008 and 2009 for home energy workshops – " Button Up Workshops " – and trained presenters across VT and NH	Over 270 workshops held to date, with dozens more each year across VT and NH
	Launched Thetford HEAT (Home Energy Action Team) in 2011, a massive volunteer effort to provide information to 650+ homes and triple the number of weatherized homes in Thetford	Helped inspire and develop the Vermont Home Energy Challenge in 2013, involving 77 towns throughout Vermont (including 12 in the Upper Valley)
	Developed accredited workshops for real estate professionals in NH (2013) and VT (2014) focused on the value of home energy efficiency	Attended by more than 300 realtors to date
	Received 2014 Vermont Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence	
2015	Hosted public workshops in 2015 to connect Upper Valley residents with PACE financing, heat pumps, and modern wood heat	Merging with Vital Communities' Energy Program to ensure our good work in the Upper Valley continues far into the future

Turn this page over for a look at what's to come...

Looking Ahead to a Bright Future at Vital Communities

BOB WALKER ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE

While Bob is cutting back his hours and looking forward to not running his own organization, he's still committed to helping develop and implement energy projects in the Upper Valley. He'll be working directly with Vital Communities and helping with other projects in the Upper Valley and beyond.

SAME RESOURCES, NEW HOME

Website – Over the years SERG has compiled an extensive online resource library, and we'll be moving that content over to Vital Communities this winter. VitalCommunities.org/Energy will soon be the go-to resource for energy news and information in the Upper Valley.

Public Energy Forums – SERG is well known for hosting forums to educate the public about energy issues and technologies. Recent forums on electric vehicles, heat pumps, and modern wood pellet heating packed the Montshire Museum's Porter Community Room, and Vital Communities will carry on this tradition.

Upper Valley Energy News – Vital Communities will take over management of SERG's longstanding energy updates list and continue sharing energy news, tips, and events with more than 1,500 subscribers. If you already receive updates from SERG, you can expect to start receiving them from Vital Communities sometime this winter. If you know others who would like to receive these free energy updates, have them contact us.

Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable – SERG and Vital Communities have partnered for years to host this event each spring that brings together close to 100 representatives from our region's 38+ energy committees. Vital Communities will continue to organize this event each May.

Support for New and Existing Energy Committees – Since the first energy committees were formed in 2002, Bob Walker has personally helped establish dozens of energy committees throughout the Upper Valley. Vital Communities will continue SERG's mission of helping every town in the Upper Valley form and sustain a town energy committee.

MANY NEW AND EXCITING PROGRAMS TO COME...

The opposite side of this page outlines just some of the incredible projects you've helped SERG develop over the years. Vital Communities also brings a strong history of successful projects to the table – most recently through Solarize Upper Valley, an innovative program connecting local volunteers with local energy businesses to help over 350 residents go solar in the past two years.

Bob and Sarah Simonds, Vital Communities' energy program manager, are already working to build on both organizations' past successes and develop new programs to help communities take action on energy issues. Modern wood heating, heat pumps, and home energy efficiency are just a few of the ideas on the table. Look for opportunities to get involved as a volunteer or participate when these new programs come to your town.