

2021 Upper Valley Energy Committee Updates

The following is a summary of updates provided in a spring 2021 energy committee survey conducted by Vital Communities.



Farms and Food



Renewable Energy



Energy Planning



Energy Efficiency



Transportation Efficiency
(E-Bikes, EVs, Public Transit)



Municipal Building Improvement



Public Education























Town and Partner Collaboration



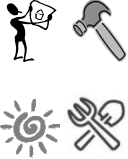







Young or Evolving Committee













Contact Information	Recent Activity	Key
<p>Andover Energy Group (NH), an ad-hoc citizen's committee</p> <p>Larry Chase lbchase@aol.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several smaller projects currently under way, largely thanks to suggestions offered in a Zoom session with Sarah Brock from Vital Communities earlier this year/late last year. 	
<p>Barnard Town Energy Committee (VT), a committee serving directly under the Selectboard</p> <p>Elizabeth Ferry ewferry@icloud.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with the Geoff Martin from Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) and the Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) Steering Committee Worked with Barnard Select Board on IREC Actions 	
<p>Bethel Energy Committee (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Selectboard</p> <p>Nicole Cyr ncyr@vtc.edu www.facebook.com/bethelvermontenergycommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the Town Plan in 2020. Plus a list of action items Reviewed current status of progress towards 90% by 2050 goal Working on a Purchasing Policy review Participated in Button Up "Weatherization Wednesdays" by sharing weekly events on our Facebook page (cross posted to the Town's Facebook page) - a good fit for pandemic times 	





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<p>Bradford Energy Committee (NH), an energy committee serving directly under the Selectboard</p> <p>Kathleen Bigford kathleen.bigford@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received energy audits from an Eversource auditor for four municipal buildings (town library, fire station, Bradford Area Community Center, Road Department maintenance building) Passed an article on the town warrant for \$8,000 to fund energy saving measures for the town library Bradford Energy Committee disbanded for 9 months in 2020 due to COVID-19 related issues 	 
<p>Cavendish Energy Committee (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Selectboard</p> <p>Peter LaBelle peterjlabelle@aol.com</p> <p>www.cavendishvt.com/energy-committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted a well-attended composting workshop run by the Regional Solid Waste District Presented the Planning Commission with a rewritten Energy Chapter for the town plan Brought on-line the first public EV Charging station in Cavendish Created and instituted a community composting facility at the local transfer station 	  
<p>Chelsea Energy Commission (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>Phillip Mulligan energywright@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with Vital Communities. On mobile home weatherization and assistance promotion but saw very little interest Working with our county forester to promoting a Proforestry management plan for our Town Forest. Exploring how to use Covid funding that is coming to towns to evaluate and improve the pumping efficacy of the waste water treatment plant 	 
<p>Claremont Energy Advisory Committee (NH), an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>Derek Ferland Derek.ferland73@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed renewable energy ordinance for City Council approval Obtained City Council Approval to form municipal aggregation sub-committee to look at community power 	 
<p>Corinth, NH, an energy coordinator appointed by the town</p> <p>Timothy O'Dell todell162@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town recently re-appointed a town energy coordinator; little activity in the last year 	



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<p>Cornish Energy Committee, NH, an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>Joanna Sharf josharf@gmail.com</p> <p>www.cornishnh.net/?page_id=881</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Started a regular informational posting on our town's listserv called "Did You Know?" with brief energy-related items of interest E-bike sharing program via Local Motion and Vital Communities 	 
<p>Enfield Energy Committee (NH), an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>Jo-Ellen Courtney jecourtney820@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceeding with a Purchase Power Agreement to install a solar array on a DPW building Collaborated with Sustainable Hanover to host two Button Up online educational sessions. Both were well attended. Working together with Sustainable Hanover and Plainfield/Cornish committees to increase broader geographic participation in the Button Up online programs. We have replaced lightbulbs in several municipal buildings and are able to see reduction in energy consumption. We have supported energy audits in several municipal buildings. 	   
<p>Fairlee Energy Committee (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>Douglas Fraser Douglas.fraser@dartmouth.edu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured an EV charging station Engaged with two community solar arrays Secured an energy chapter in the Fairlee Town plan – See: https://www.fairleevt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Fairlee-Town-Plan-adopted-2020.pdf 	  
<p>Grantham Energy Committee (NH), an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>www.granthamnh.net/energysite</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pandemic put public meetings on hold, group is in a reforming process 	

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<p>Sustainable Hanover (NH), a subcommittee of Sustainable Hanover, serving directly under the Hanover Selectboard</p> <p>sustainablehanovernh@gmail.com</p> <p>www.hanovernh.org/sustainable-hanover-committee</p> <p>www.sustainablehanovernh.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked on 1st community solar project in Liberty service area and 1st large solar installation in Hanover – to be followed by a second array so that municipal electricity will be >90% met with local solar in 2021 • Made significant progress towards launching Community Power Hanover – on the warrant for town meeting in July • Achieved momentum through Andrew Hatch’s work and partnership with NHSaves/Liberty. Andrew is working with businesses in several UV towns. • Hosted Annual Forum: found a lot of value in holding an annual meeting on energy (and other sustainability topics) to report and engage with the community in real time 	
<p>Hartford Energy Commission (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>Molly Smith, msmith@vermontlaw.edu</p> <p>www.hartford-vt.org/2229/Energy-Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held a webinar about electric vehicles (over 100 attendees) • Hosted e-bike lending program to great success 	
<p>Hartland Energy Committee (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>Sarah Bruce brewsterscroft@vermontel.net</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted a re-written Hartland Enhanced Energy Plan (HEEP) to Town Planning Commission for our Updated Town Plan • Conducted survey on separation of food waste by residents (~80%) and began a educational campaign to maximize full compliance with Act 148 • Began collecting information to present the Town with options for replacement of the HVAC system in the Town Library 	
<p>Lyme Energy Committee (NH), an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>Jim Nourse Jim.nourse@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed a warrant article to shift to 100% reliance on clean, renewable energy sources for electricity by 2030 and for heating and transportation by 2050 at the March 2020 Town Meeting • Rewrote Energy Chapter-Town Master Plan • Made a recommendation to Select Board to replace 14-year-old wood pellet boilers in town highway garage with current generation pellet boilers - unfortunately Select Board still chose propane boiler (due to cost and ease of operation for town employees) 	

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<p>Newbury Energy (NH), an ad-hoc citizens committee</p> <p>Lisa Correa c-lisa7716@gmail.com</p> <p>www.NewburyNH.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted lighting audit on all town buildings • Received approval for proposal (Eversource); LED installation is imminent • Soliciting bids for municipal solar • Planned HVAC audit • Worked with local Hannaford sustainability on single use plastic program • Advertised DIY Button Up program (virtual) to community • Meeting with Vail/Mt. Sunapee regarding energy efficiency and an EV charging station 	
<p>Norwich Energy Committee (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Selectboard</p> <p>Norwich.energy.committee@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched “Electrify Everything” and “Eat Low and Local” challenges to households and businesses to eliminate fossil fuels and reduce carbon footprint through locally sourced food (CSAs) • Maintained umbrella campaigns for existing efforts on solar, weatherization, heating, transportation, and food • Launched a series of webinars on electrification topics including heats pumps, E-bike conversion and electric lawn equipment 	
<p>Orford Energy Committee (NH), an energy committee serving directly under the Select Board</p> <p>energy@orfordnh.us</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placed Orford Town Offices (former Orfordville School) on NH Historic Registry as prelude to future efficiency improvement funding • Distributed energy saving info and conducted short surveys at Town Meeting (2020) • Gathered recommendations and gathered estimates for improving Town Offices HVAC and made temporary repairs of heat leakage spots • Held successful meetings via Zoom 	
<p>Piermont, NH, no official committee, but interested in forming one</p> <p>Crowsroost1@charter.net</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members interested in forming a group 	

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<p>Plainfield Energy Committee (NH), an ad-hoc citizens committee</p> <p>Steve Ladd, plainfieldEC@gmail.com</p> <p>www.plainfieldnh.org/energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on Community Power Aggregation 	 
<p>Randolph Energy Committee (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Selectboard</p> <p>Jen Phipps ec@randolphvt.org</p> <p>randolphvt.org/index.asp?SEC=60D9095C-F2B1-455A-9710-0A6116F5F036</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on a weatherization program geared towards mobile home owners (in collaboration with Vital Communities and other towns) Planning a Window Dressers project in the fall 	  
<p>Rochester Climate & Energy Action Committee (VT), an ad-hoc citizens committee led by the town energy coordinator</p> <p>Jeffrey L Gephart Vtwise@together.net</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on a Mow Electric! Demo Day (possibly with the Bethel Energy Committee) Working with GMP to study the feasibility of creating a Resiliency Island in Rochester Starting a monthly lecture series through our library Investigating creating Town requirement for code compliance Identifying an appropriate Building Performance/Engineering firm to audit and develop a scope of work for all Town assets 	   
<p>Rockingham Energy Committee (VT), a subcommittee of another town commission</p> <p>Peter Bergstrom rockinghamvtenergy@gmail.com</p> <p>facebook.com/RockinghamConservationCommission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with Vital Communities on weatherization & energy outreach to about 160 mobile homeowners; only 3 families replied, but we are hopeful others may use the resources we provided. We joined a coordinated Button Up event in Fall 2020 run by Efficiency Vermont across several towns. We assisted by sharing information and announcements of online meetings through local media. 	  

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<p>Sharon Energy Committee (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Selectboard</p> <p>Ryan Haac sharonenergycommittee@gmail.com</p> <p>sharonvt.net/organization/energy-committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked on Energy Savings Outreach • Discussing tree plantings and “real carbon solutions” like biochar from waste wood • Hosted the Upper Valley E-Bike lending library Spring 2021 	
<p>Springfield Energy Committee (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Selectboard</p> <p>Char Osterlund, charmf@vermontel.net</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Active in 2020, looking to re-group 	
<p>Town of Sunapee Energy Committee (NH), an energy committee serving directly under the Selectboard</p> <p>Keith Chrisman, chrismankw@icloud.com</p> <p>www.town.sunapee.nh.us/boards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted energy audit of four municipal buildings • Conducted energy audit of Wastewater Treatment Plant 	
<p>Joint Thetford Energy Committee (VT), an energy committee serving directly under the Selectboard and School Board</p> <p>Michael Kiess thetfordenergy@gmail.com</p> <p>www.thetfordvt.gov/government/energy-committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted Volunteer Weatherization: the Thetford Home Energy Action Team (HEAT) insulated and sheet rocked a small cabin for a town resident so he could live next to his son’s house. Five volunteers installed foam insulation board, sheetrock, and a heat-recovery ventilator in the cabin. This work was supported by the energy committee, with funds from the Thetford Farm Trust and the Ompompanoosuc Community Trust. • Contributed to funding the creation of a Regional Energy Coordinator position - Thetford is one of six towns that funded the creation of this position, filled in August 2020. Energy-saving projects underway include building audits with guaranteed cost savings and lining up solar sources for town electricity where we are still paying retail rates. The coordinator is also looking into idle-reduction technology to reduce fleet fuel costs. • Hosted E-Bike Library - More than 50 residents tried out an e-bike • Organized an EV Ambassadors Program 	

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<p>Warner Energy Committee (NH), an energy committee serving directly under Selectboard</p> <p>Clyde Carson ccarson@warner.nh.us</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a community power proposal 	
<p>Windsor, VT, an ad hoc citizen's energy committee</p> <p>windsorenergycommittee@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded community garden to a total of three in-town locations Partnered with the food shelf to grow produce in a dedicated plot, and added elevated beds for accessible gardens Learned to graft fruit trees as part of a local tree-planting group 	
<p>Sustainable Woodstock Energy and Transportation Group (VT), an action group within Sustainable Woodstock</p> <p>Jenevra Wetmore Programs@sustainablewoodstock.org www.sustainablewoodstock.org/our-programs/energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made Energy Upgrades to the Woodstock Emergency Services building resulting in a reduction of 30,000lb of CO2 per year Proposing a solar array on the EMS building to meet 10% of the town's energy with renewables (And keeping Renewable Energy Credits) 	