

## **LCPC Energy Planning**

With advances in technology and climate change becoming an ever-increasing issue, energy has become a growing topic across Vermont. To assist communities, the Lamoille County Planning Commission has been hard at work developing resources that showcase cost saving incentive programs, a toolkit, an Enhanced Energy Plan, and a Municipal Guide focused on weatherization.

### **Energy Incentives Webinar**

LCPC hosted a Local Utility Energy Incentives webinar on March 31, 2022. This training highlighted energy incentives offered by local utilities, energy storage incentives, and electric vehicle/bike incentives. Efficiency Vermont's energy and weatherization rebates will be presented and an explanation on how VPPSA works with municipalities to offer rebates. Energy incentives information and presentation materials from this webinar will be available on [LCPC's Energy Planning](#) page.

### **Climate Action Toolkit**

Ongoing progress is being made toward creating a Climate Action Toolkit. Climate change and the impacts to municipalities (Ex: Increased flooding) needs to be addressed. In 2021, the State of Vermont convened the Climate Council to complete the 2021 Climate Action Plan and the Vermont Department of Public Service completed the draft update of the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan. Climate change and its effects cannot be completely avoided but municipalities can take steps to allow their communities to best adapt to the ever-changing climate landscape. Taking steps that are focused on reducing energy use, improving building efficiency, and utilizing weatherization techniques is becoming more evident each year. This toolkit is meant to act as a guide for how municipalities can identify risks from Climate Change that are or likely will impact the community, and how to take action to reduce/adapt to new climate conditions. This Climate Action Toolkit is currently under development.

### **Cambridge Enhanced Energy Plan**

Over the past year, the LCPC has been working with the Cambridge Planning Commission to develop a draft Enhanced Energy Plan. The purpose of this plan is to act as a guide for future renewable energy development in the community and promote energy efficiency measures to reduce the community's vulnerability to rising energy costs. Enhanced Energy Plans are developed in accordance with the Act 174 energy planning standards. The standards create an avenue for municipalities to develop energy plans to strengthen the municipality's voice in the Section 248 Energy Siting review process. Adopted and regionally confirmed (Determination of Energy Compliance) municipal enhanced energy plans receive substantial deference, giving the policies and actions in the "Municipal Plan" a stronger role in the Section 248 review process. A definition of substantial deference and more information on Act 174 or Section 248 can be viewed on the [Vermont Department of Public Service's website](#). Developing an Enhanced Energy Plan and meeting the Act 174 standards is voluntary. If regions and municipalities do not wish to update their plans to these standards, they will continue to receive due consideration in the Section 248 process.

### **Municipal Guide: Weatherization**

This municipal guide focuses on how weatherizing municipal buildings can lead to a more efficient and climate adaptive community. Proper weatherization of a building can make a huge difference in energy

costs. In this guide, towns will find a focused and detailed plan on how to build a strong team to address these issues in their respective communities. Also cooling/heating technologies will be presented with an explanation on how they allow for a cost-effective approach to a comfortable indoor climate, year-round. A chart will also be available in the guide that points out example annual heating cost for a few municipal buildings from around Lamoille County. This guide is being finalized and should be available soon.