Improving Efficiency in Municipal Buildings: Getting There

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Overall Process

- Form a team
- Build support
- Compile data
- Set priorities for energy saving opportunities
- Decide on financing approach
- Undertake efficiency improvements and monitor results
Form a Team

• A group of 5-7 people with a diverse range of skills and experience

• 150 town energy committees or energy coordinators in VT

• Energy committees can play a key role in ushering the process

• See Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) website - www.vecan.net
Build Support

- Enlist the support of municipal officials
- Work in partnership with municipal officials to reduce municipal energy costs
- Communicate cost and savings information
- Make information available through a variety of forums
Compile Data

- Municipal energy costs often embedded in different departmental budgets
- Compile data on municipal energy bill
- Compile electrical and fuel bills for each municipal energy use
- EPA has a program to help municipalities benchmark their buildings - [www.epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/energy-challenge.html](http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/energy-challenge.html)
Identify and Set Priorities

- Conduct audits/assessments of energy saving opportunities
- Tap into appropriate expertise
- Efficiency Vermont can provide relevant technical assistance or provide access to assistance
Conduct Walk-Through Assessment

- Walk-through is a basic information-gathering tool
- Not a professional audit
- Provides basic information about energy saving opportunities
- Involves visual inspections of air leakage, insulation, heating equipment, and electrical uses
Conduct Professional Energy Audit

Includes:

• Visual inspection of insulation levels and possibly an infrared scan
• Blower door test -- (residential-style structures)
• Health and safety diagnostic testing
• Recommendations for electrical upgrades
• Audit report
Moving Ahead with Building Energy Improvements

• Contract with energy professional to conduct work
• See Efficiency Vermont website for contractors list
• Option: Tap into assistance from community volunteers to help implement efficiency measures
Consider Financing/Funding Options

- Grants
- Efficiency incentives
- Budget and capital reserves
- Bonding
- Loans
- Performance contracting
- Tax-exempt lease purchase

Differentiating “funding” from “financing”
Implement and Monitor

- Secure funding/financing
- Prepare necessary documentation/engineering
- Prepare RFP/bid
- Review bids/proposals and award contract
- Oversee project implementation
- Monitor results
Other Opportunities and Resources

Other Energy Saving Opportunities

• Municipalities can reduce energy costs by improving efficiency in streetlights, treatment plants, and vehicle fleets.

Resources

• Efficiency Vermont: [www.efficiencyvermont.com](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com)

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