

Starksboro Energy Committee

Tuesday October 14, 2025

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Virtual Teams Meeting

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 802-377-3679](tel:+18023773679) United States, Middlebury (Toll)

Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Attendees

- a. Committee members: Richard Faey, Rich Warren, Jeff Dunham, Adam Aguirre
- b. Guests: Pete Antos-Ketcham, Bekah Kuster (Efficiency Vermont)

2. Public Comments

- a. None

3. Approve Minutes from 9/8/25 meetings

- a. Jeff moved, Adam seconded, approved

4. Efficiency Vermont’s Button Up Vermont Campaign – Bekah Kuster presented

**What is Button Up Vermont?**

Button Up is Vermont’s annual campaign to help Vermont residents prepare for winter.

- Statewide collaboration of organizations, utilities, communities, passionate citizens, town energy committees, community action agencies, contractors and many more
- Sponsored & facilitated by Efficiency Vermont
- Resources at [buttonupvermont.org](http://buttonupvermont.org)



a.

**Button Up Vermont**

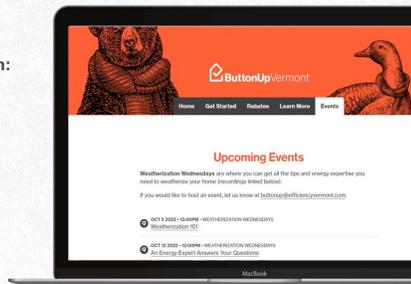
**Upcoming Webinars**

**Weatherization Wednesdays at noon on Zoom:**

- October 15: Why Heating Your Home isn’t as Simple as You May Think
- October 22: How to Button Up Your Home
- October 29: Demystifying Heat Pumps

**Help Spread The Word!**

Visit the [Button Up Partner Toolbox](#) to find additional outreach materials and social media assets to support your promotion



View all events at [buttonupvermont.org/events](http://buttonupvermont.org/events)

b.

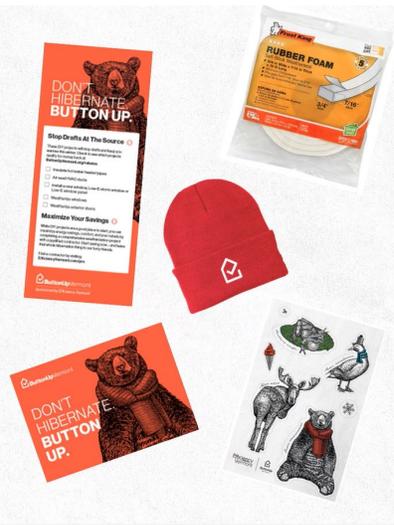
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c.

## Partner Resources

- Events support
  - Free weatherstripping giveaways
  - Form to share your event details
  - Co-Op advertising funds – up to \$100
- Partner Toolbox
  - Printable flyers
  - Social media content
  - Graphic assets
  - Request form for printed materials
- Campaign information
  - Weekly email updates & tips
  - FAQs and more

[ButtonUpVermont.org/partners](https://ButtonUpVermont.org/partners)



d.

## Enhanced rebates for nonprofits

- Open to eligible 501(c)3 nonprofits providing health, safety, or welfare services
- Covers 100% of costs up to \$7,500 for eligible nonprofit customers to purchase up to four pieces of qualifying equipment or complete a qualifying custom project.
- Rebate available through 2026, or while funds remain.

[Enhanced Rebates for Nonprofits | Efficiency Vermont](#)

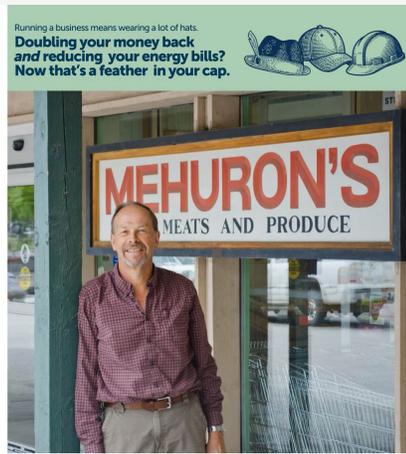
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e.

## 2x Custom Rebates

- For a limited time, Efficiency Vermont will double custom incentives for businesses, non-profits, and other organizations—up to \$25,000—for extra help amid economic uncertainties
- How it works:
  - Free energy consultation
  - Customized project plan & incentive
  - Ongoing support

Learn more here: [Custom Project Support | Efficiency Vermont](#)



- f.
- g. Until funds are exhausted
- h. Available through the end of 2026
- i. Bekah to connect us with program manager at EVT for enhanced rebates

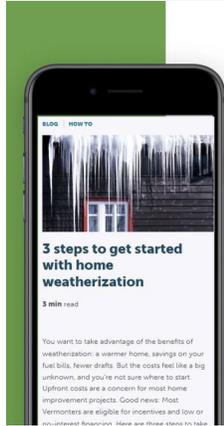
## Resources to share with your community

One-page flyers with rebates in one place:

- [Offers for Homes flyer](#)
- [Tips for Renters flyer](#)
- [Home Energy Loan flyer](#)
- [8 ways NOT to use a heat pump](#)
- [Heat Pumps Are They Right For You](#)
- [Free appliance replacement flyer for income-eligible households](#)

[Partner Resources | Efficiency Vermont](#)

- j.



Use our **BLOG** to share “how-to” guides and expert tips with your community

- [9 ways to get the most out of your heat pump all winter | Efficiency Vermont](#)
- [How to get clean energy tax breaks before they expire | Efficiency Vermont](#)
- [12 simple tips to save energy at your rental](#)
- [3 steps to get started with home weatherization](#)
- [9 DIY projects to help you keep warm this winter](#)
- [How to fix a wet, damp, or downright leaky basement](#)
- [How an old home was transformed by new insulation | Efficiency Vermont](#)
- [Is a heat pump water heater a good choice for your home?](#)

k.

5. Town Energy Plan research assistance from the ACRPC

a. No updates

6. MERP Grant updates

a.  [Quotes for MERP](#)

b. Food Shelf

i. ADA Access

1. Parking paving and striping

- a. Jeff filled holes with cement today
- b. Thanks Jeff!

2. Barrier placement

- a. Identify the property line to the bank if possible to move closer to the bank away from the building
- b. Pete doesn't feel strongly about rock vs. concrete
- c. Criteria to address: plowing, accessibility
- d. Pete will ask Josh if there is a free or other possible solution
- e. Peg Casey wants to make sure we can work around it to access and store things out back
- f. Concrete or metal post or bollard may be adequate
- g. Vertical culvert filled with concrete and could drop the post in before concrete cures for handicap post/sign
- h. Denny goes up periodically to pull snow away from piling up behind the building to remove snow from building up
- i. Paul Porter does snow removal usually
- j. Select Board should make the final call on a barrier placement
  - i. Can Amanda ask Josh to make a recommendation, informed by Pete's discussion with him and put in front of SB?

3. Signage

- a. Wait until there is a decision on the barrier

ii. Door threshold and weatherstripping status

1. Howard did the work
2. Had to modify what was there
3. Looks good
4. Close to the height criteria for threshold

iii. Electric upgrades

1. Pete suggests a dedicated switch to turn on/off the water heater with signage for workers
2. Whoever is coming in they should turn on the water heater at the beginning or put on a timer
3. If there is any money left at the end of the project, consider an instantaneous electric water heater like at the Baptist Church
- iv. Heat Pumps
  1. Operating now
  2. All committee members and Pete think that remote thermostats would be better than the handheld controllers, if there is budget
  3. Prioritize adding remote thermostats as part of MERP grant if there is anything left at the end
  4. Plan to construct a simple roof over the second heat pump outdoor unit
- v. Insulation/air-sealing RFP status
  1. RFP was provided to Amanda to distribute to solicit bids
- c. Jerusalem Schoolhouse
  - i. No updates discussed
7. Heat Pump Operation Guidance for Town Energy Corner review
  - a. We reviewed Efficiency Vermont's guidance and information they have already developed
  - b. Adam will review
  - c. We should post on the town's Energy Corner web site, in Front Porch Forum, and hand out
  - d. Come up with plan at next SEC meeting
8. Other business
  - a. Pete's update
    - i. Energy Navigator
      1. Pete hasn't received much interest in his energy navigator services
      2. He is more interested in new EVT grants and finding funds for people to do energy projects
    - ii. Low income people don't have available capital or many reserves for available fuel for this upcoming winter
    - iii. Some people have heat pumps without weatherization so they need and electric subsidy to pay for their heat
    - iv. Should be interacting with contractors to make sure house is not a sieve before installing heat pumps
    - v. Pete is hoping that EVT can come up with more grants for low income customers
    - vi. EVT is trying to work with contractor for accountability
    - vii. Workforce
      1. Still an issue
      2. Hard time recruiting enough energy workforce
  - b. Data Updates in ESPM
    - i. Richard's nephew Cohen Bove is available to help update the town's energy date in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM)

- ii. Jeff made a motion for Amanda to work with Cohen to update ESPM, and arrange for a fair hourly rate
  - iii. Adam seconded the motion
    - 1. Committee approved with Richard abstaining
- 9. Next meeting – 11/3/25