

Starksboro Energy Committee

Monday September 8, 2025

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Virtual Teams Meeting

## [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 802-377-3679](#) United States, Middlebury (Toll)

Conference ID: 222 356 293#

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### 1. Welcome

- a. Rich Warren
- b. Jeff Dunham
- c. Adam Acquire
- d. Richard Faesy
- e. Amanda Vincent

### 2. Public Comments

- a. Note from Bekah Kuster of Efficiency Vermont:

Hi Richard,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Bekah Kuster, and I'm a Community Engagement Manager with Efficiency Vermont. I support Town Energy Committees in Addison County—and as a Monkton resident, I'm also a neighbor to Starksboro!

I understand Robyn King was previously a member of the committee. Now that she's stepped away, I thought it would be a good time to reach out and introduce myself. I try to connect with the energy committees in my territory quarterly to share relevant updates and learn more about your work, so I can identify ways Efficiency Vermont can support your efforts.

I've included a few timely updates below, but I'd be happy to find a time to meet to discuss this and anything else that would be helpful for your committee.

#### **Help spread the word about free appliances:**

Efficiency Vermont offers free high-efficiency appliances to qualifying households. We need your help getting those appliances to Vermonters who need them. You can use our easy social media template below, as well as this flyer: [efficiency-vermont-low-income-program-overview.pdf](#).

*Great news for Vermont homeowners and renters struggling with high energy bills! You could receive free and reduced-cost products and services from Efficiency Vermont. Visit*

[www.encyvermont.com/free-products](http://www.encyvermont.com/free-products) to see whether you qualify. You can also call 1-888-921-5990.

**Help Businesses in your community get 2x rebates for efficiency upgrades:**

For a limited time, Efficiency Vermont is offering 2x custom rebates (up to \$25,000) for eligible businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, and farms. [Learn more here](#) and help spread the word with your community.

**Join [Button Up Vermont](#) – Starting October 1!**

[Button Up Vermont](#), the annual campaign to promote the benefits of weatherization and heat pumps, kicks off on October 1st, and we'd love for you to participate this year! If you missed the partner kickoff meeting, [you can watch the recording here](#) or view a copy of the [slides here](#) to learn how to get involved.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers,

**Bekah Kuster** (she/her)

Community Engagement Manager 2



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- b. Front Porch Forum
    - i. Richard can post on FPF
    - ii. Rich thinks we should embrace this as much as possible to think
    - iii. Reach out to Pete AK
    - iv. Post at Food Shelf or pick up
      1. Baptist Church and Food Shelf
    - v. Starksboro Energy Fair
    - vi. Booth at the Harvest Festival
      1. September 27 Booth
      2. Get the word out
    - vii. Ask Efficiency Vermont for handout resources
  - c. Energy Navigator
    - i. Ask Pete to come to future meeting
  - d. Richard ask for more information and heat pump information
3. Approve Minutes from 7/7/25 and 8/4/25 meetings
    - a. Move to approve by Rich
    - b. Second Adam

- c. Approved
- 4. Town Energy Plan research assistance from the ACRPC
  - a. Rich called Adam Louge but has not heard back
    - i. Will email to follow up
  - b. Town Plan will be redone next year
  - c. Focused on wrapping up the regulations
  - d. RPC guides the towns' plans
  - e. Would be better to approve what they have now and then focus on the Town Plan to help drive the regulations, would be the right order
- 5. MERP Grant updates
  - a.  [Quotes for MERP](#)
  - b. ACRPC Updates
    - i. Regulated Building Materials Assessment needs for both buildings
    - ii. Other MERP steps
  - c. Food Shelf
    - i. Thanks to Rich for cutting down the fence
    - ii. Jeff could add some Sakrete to the existing holes
    - iii. ADA Access
      - 1. Parking paving and striping
        - a. No definitive
        - b. 8' + 5' walking area for doors to access = 13' on one side is the requirement minimum
        - c. Walkway (5' ) needs to go to the door
        - d. Needs to be almost level (1 in 20)
      - 2. Barrier placement
        - a. Amanda hasn't ordered
        - b. 2' barrier (\$275) or waste block (\$20)
          - i. 2x2x6
        - c. Plus \$185/hour for delivery
        - d. Jersey Barrier
        - e. Use MERP funds approved
        - f. Amanda will ask Pete, town road and follow up
      - 3. Signage
        - a. Attach to waste block
        - b. Anchor a post to block and attach sign to that
    - iv. Door threshold and weatherstripping status
      - 1. Richard called
      - 2. Amanda will reach out to Howard
        - a. Doors
        - b. Roof
    - v. Electric upgrades
      - 1. All set
      - 2. Rubber mats under refrig freezer to reduce noise
    - vi. Heat Pumps
      - 1. Roof over outdoor units
      - 2. Amanda will ask about patching and painting
      - 3. Air-sealing where lines go through the wall

4. RF look to see if it needs air sealing
- vii. Insulation/air-sealing bids
  1. We need to do final edits
  2. RF needs to finalize edits
  3. Give to Amanda final version for posting
    - a. Town Website
    - b. FPF
    - c. Once ready to go
- viii. Review budget
  1. Update
  2. Only Fridge and Freezer
  3. EVT invoices
  4. Heat pump invoices
    - a. EVT
    - b. GMP
    - c. Amanda will look into it
  5. Remaining costs
    - a. Barrier
    - b. Doors
- d. Jerusalem Schoolhouse
  - i. They have all MERP information now and know the deadline
  - ii. Will start in spring
6. Heat Pump Operation Guidance for Town Energy Corner review
  - a. Wait to see what Becca gets back to us
  - b. See if Efficiency Vermont has any educational materials
  - c. Looking for explainer that EVT may already have
7. Other business
  - a. Solar Update
    - i. Jeff talked to Paul at All Earth
    - ii. Has been communicating slowly, but all good
    - iii. RF shared his learning about changes of voltage by VEC leading to solar inverter cutting out at high solar output times, reducing solar production. Adjusting local inverter would keep it from cutting out at high voltage times.
  - b. Tax credits
    - i. All are disappearing in December for residential
    - ii. Does Efficiency Vermont have any information?
8. Next meeting – Move to Tuesday 10/14/25
  - a. Adam and Rich may be out
  - b. Day after Indigenous Peoples Day