

Funding Opportunities for Energy Committees

This list is a starting point and is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all energy-related grant opportunities.

Municipal Energy Resilience Program

- This new program allocates \$45 million in ARPA funding to support municipal energy resilience. The program includes applications for:
 - Free energy assessments of municipal buildings
 - Up to \$4,000 per municipality for outreach and education about municipal energy efficiency and resilience
 - Grants of up to \$500,000 for approved projects for weatherization, thermal efficiency, and to supplement or replace fossil fuel heating systems with more efficient renewable or electric heating systems.
 - Regional planning commissions will also receive funding to help municipalities navigate this program.
 - **Check the BGS website for the most up-to-date information!**
<https://bgs.vermont.gov/municipal-energy-resilience-program>

VNRC Small Grants for Smart Growth

- The Vermont Natural Resources Council offers small grants on a rolling basis, typically in the \$500-\$1500 range to fund a variety of smart growth projects which can include advocating for better land use practices, advancing transportation choice, supporting affordable housing, and downtown/village center revitalization. <https://vnrc.org/small-grants-for-smart-growth/>

New England Grassroots Fund Grants

- Seed Grants range from \$500-\$1000 and are awarded on a rolling basis to local groups that are starting a new environmental project. <https://grassrootsfund.org/grant-programs/seed-grants>
- Grow Grants range from \$1000-\$4000 and are awarded to more experienced groups who want to deepen or expand an existing environmental project. Deadlines are in March and September of each year. <https://grassrootsfund.org/grant-programs/grow-grants>

**The Grassroots Fund defines environmental projects broadly, and has previously funded energy-related projects including Bennington County WindowDressers.

Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund

- This grant program is offered through the VT Council on Rural Development and provides small grants to local organizations that are developing solutions to help Vermont meet its climate and energy goals. Awards range from \$500 - \$4,000 and the program is anticipated to return for future rounds, usually advertised in the summer/fall. <https://www.vtrural.org/programs/model-communities/innovation>

Diesel Emissions Reduction Financial Assistance Program

- This program through the VT Department of Environmental Conservation offers grants to fund the electrification of heavy-duty vehicles and equipment and other upgrades that reduce diesel emissions. <https://dec.vermont.gov/air-quality/mobile-sources/diesel-emissions/vt-diesel-grant>

USDA Community Facilities Program

- This program provides loans or grants to public entities or nonprofits to construct or improve essential community facilities which include town buildings. Improvements to facilities could include renewable energy installations. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant

- This program is funded by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and funds the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The most recent round of funding allocated \$1million to install charging stations at multi-family affordable housing units in 2022. Future funding will be allocated for workplace and community destination charging. <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/electric-vehicle-supply-equipment-evse-grant-program>

The Vermont Community Foundation

- VCF offers a variety of grants throughout the state, covering a broad range of issues and topics. <https://vermontcf.org/nonprofits-and-grantseekers/available-grants/>

Other opportunities to keep an eye on:

- **State & municipal ARPA funding:**
 - The state plans to invest it's \$1 billion ARPA funding in economic development, climate action, infrastructure, housing, and more. This investment has created several programs through state agencies including VTrans, the Agency of Commerce & Community Development, the Public Service Department, Agency of Natural Resource, VT Emergency Management, and others. Visit the state agency websites or contact BCRC for more specific program information.
 - VT municipalities received direct ARPA funding that can be used for a broad range of projects. Speak with your select board about opportunities to invest ARPA money in energy efficiency projects.
- **The Federal Infrastructure Bill:** the new infrastructure bill will provide funding opportunities to municipalities to make infrastructure improvements including sustainable, accessible, transportation options, and EV charging. The bill also provides funding for several new competitive grant programs. VLCT has information about what the infrastructure bill will mean for Vermont communities on their website: <https://www.vlct.org/resources/resource-library/infrastructure>