

Manchester's Energy-Saving Success Story

The results are in. According to data released by Efficiency Vermont, recent Manchester-area energy-saving efforts are, by any measure, a success. The Vermont Community Energy Mobilization (VCEM) Project, a four-month campaign that ended in the spring, is now reducing local energy costs by more than \$5,000 per year, based on average Vermont residential electricity rates.

The Manchester campaign was one of nine VCEM projects in the state. Together, the nine communities' efforts are saving as much electricity, annually, as 43 Vermont households use in a year.

"Manchester's success is due to the commitment of this community's people and to the leadership of the Manchester Energy Committee, and residents Alan Benoit, Philip Picotte and Lee Krohn, Town Planning Director," says Gabrielle Stebbins, VCEM statewide co-coordinator for Efficiency Vermont. "Not only are households saving energy dollars, but they're also contributing to a cleaner environment by demanding less energy from polluting power plants."

Manchester's efforts brought 34 Efficiency Vermont-trained local volunteers into a total of 48 homes in Manchester, Dorset, and Peru to identify potential energy-saving improvements, install efficient products — such as compact fluorescent light bulbs -- and to educate residents about ways to further reduce energy costs.

"A great component of this project is that it truly reflects Vermont's state ethos of neighbors helping neighbors says VCEM statewide co-coordinator, Paul Markowitz, of Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network.

