

# Vermont Council on Rural Development



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

One of 16 State Rural Development Councils nationwide, VCRD is an independent non-profit with a 24 member Board of Directors representing federal, state, local, private, and non-profit partners working together to promote the progress of rural Vermont.

## FEDERAL

- Darcy Carter, *District Director*, US Small Business Administration
- Anthony Linardos, *VT & NH State Director*, USDA Rural Development
- John Sinclair, *Forest Supervisor*, Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forest

## STATE

- Ted Brady, *Deputy Secretary*, VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development (*CHAIR EMERITUS*)
- Julie Moore, *Secretary*, VT Agency of Natural Resources
- Anson Tebbetts, *Secretary*, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets

## LOCAL

- Arthur Schmidt, *President*, Retreat Farm (*SECRETARY*)
- Timothy Smith, *Executive Director*, Franklin County Industrial Development Corp (*SECRETARY*)
- Ross Sneyd, *Director of Corporate Communications and Community Relations*, National Life Group
- Ed Vilandrie, *Director*, Altman Vilandrie & Company

## NON-PROFIT

- Paul Bruhn, *Executive Director*, Preservation Trust of Vermont (*VICE CHAIR*)
- Megan Camp, *VP & Program Director*, Shelburne Farms (*CHAIR*)
- Aly Richards, *CEO*, Let's Grow Kids
- Dan Smith, *President & CEO*, Vermont Community Foundation

## PRIVATE

- Jen Kimmich, *Co-Owner*, The Alchemist
- Rob Miller, *CEO*, Vermont State Employees Credit Union
- Wright Preston, *VP Commercial Banking*, Northfield Savings Bank (*TREASURER*)
- Monique Priestley, *President and Founder*, The Space on Main, Bradford
- Kate Stephenson, *Partner*, HELM Construction Solutions

## NON-VOTING LIAISONS

- John Tracy, *State Director*, Senator Leahy's Office
- Rebecca Ellis, *State Director*, Congressman Welch's Office
- TBD, *State Director*, Senator Sanders' Office



## •Community Visits

- 2 – 3 towns each year



## •Climate Economy Initiative

- Model Communities Program
- Climate Economy Action Team



## •Leadership Development

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Vermont Leadership Summit was August 12
- Resource guide in the works

## •Working Lands



# At The Core – The Community Visit



**Community Steering Committee:**  
*meets once to brainstorm Forum topics and logistics.*

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

*Ultimately, all decisions will rest in the hands of the community. VCRD brings an extensive invitation process to ensure that all are welcome, encouraged to attend, and are heard.*

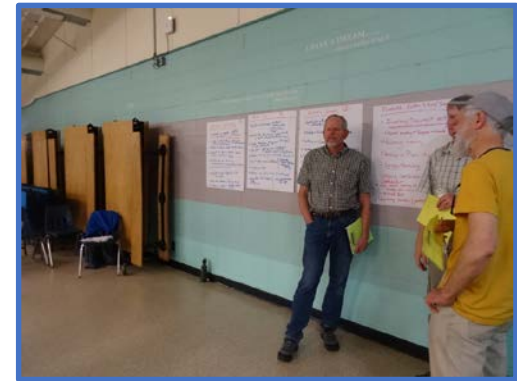
**Month 1: COMMUNITY VISIT DAY**  
*Community shares challenges and ideas in Focus Forums.*

**Month 2: COMMUNITY MEETING DAY**  
*Residents prioritize their action items and sign up for Task Forces.*

**Month 3: COMMUNITY RESOURCE DAY**  
*Task Forces create Action Plans and work with Resource Team to identify next steps/resources.*

**VISTING RESOURCE TEAM**

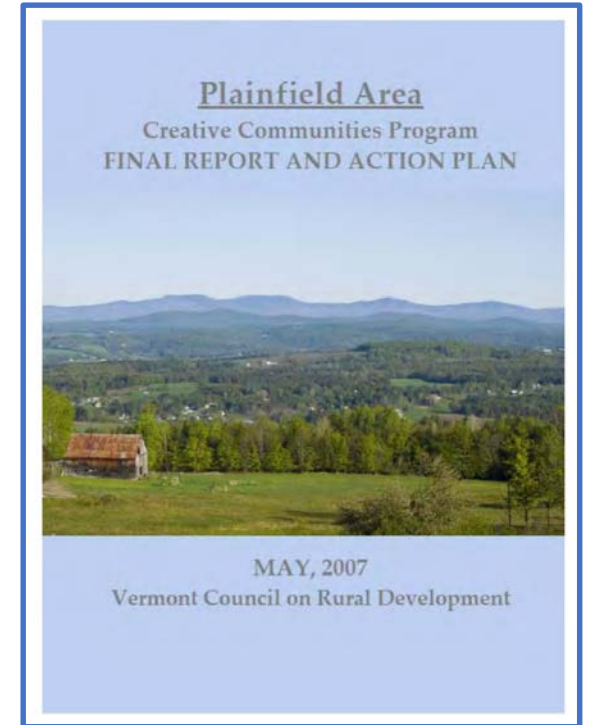
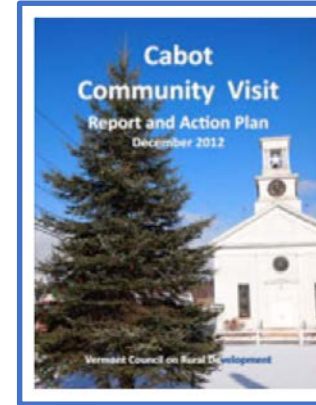
*Sometimes it's best to have an outside voice, and for this reason VCRD brings a team of experts. Visiting Team members act as listeners, advisors, and resources for the Community. They give clear recommendations, and help Task Forces develop action plans for the best chance of success.*





# VCRD in Central Vermont

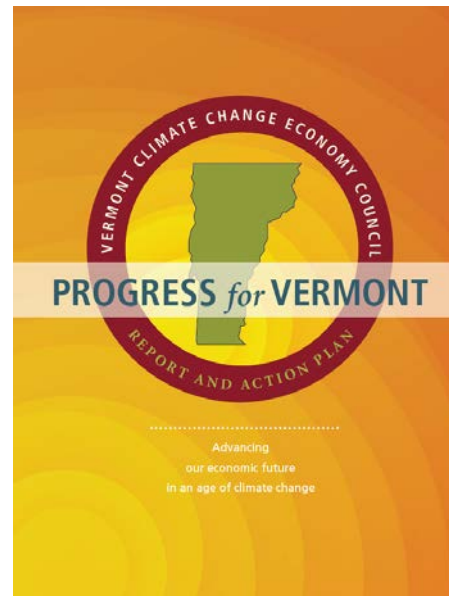
- Plainfield Creative Communities Program – 2007
- E-Vermont - Middlesex 2010, Calais 2011
- Cabot Community Visit – 2012
- Digital Economy Towns - 2013-2014: Barre, Berlin, Cabot, East Montpelier, Moretown, Northfield, Plainfield, Roxbury, Waterbury
- Model Communities 2019 – present RAMP (Marshfield and Plainfield)
- Community Visit Early 2020 - Barre





## Vermont Climate Economy Initiative Model Communities Program

“Actively addressing climate change is **the biggest economic opportunity of our time**” – Danny Kennedy, California Clean Energy Fund

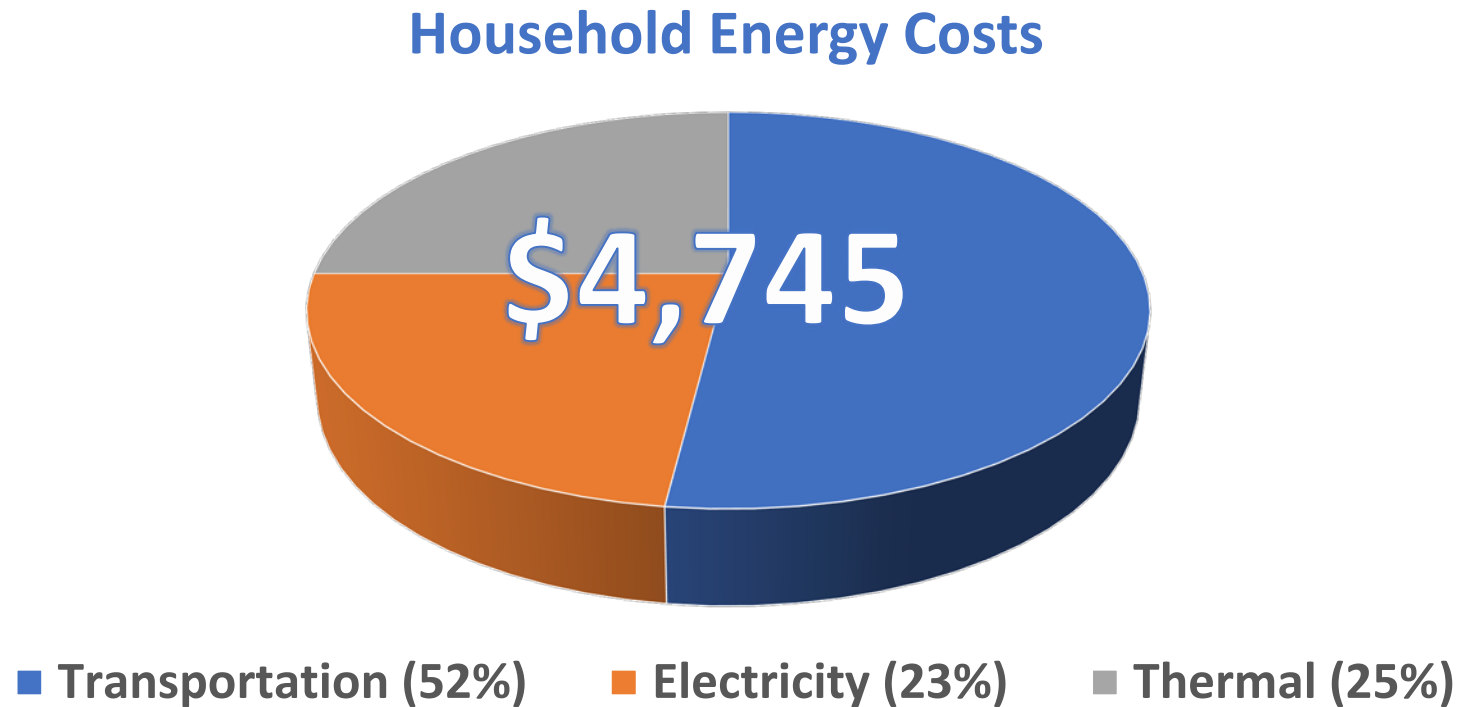


Since 2000, More Than 20 Countries Have Reduced Annual GHG Emissions While Growing Their Economies

COUNTRY	CHANGE IN CO <sub>2</sub> (2000–2014)	CHANGE IN GDP (2000–2014)
Austria	-3%	21%
Belgium	-12%	21%
Bulgaria	-5%	62%
Czech Republic	-14%	40%
Denmark	-30%	8%
Finland	-18%	18%
France	-19%	16%
Germany	-12%	16%
Hungary	-24%	29%
Ireland	-16%	47%
Netherlands	-8%	15%
Portugal	-23%	1%
Romania	-22%	65%
Slovakia	-22%	75%
Spain	-14%	20%
Sweden	-8%	31%
Switzerland	-10%	28%
Ukraine	-29%	49%
United Kingdom	-20%	27%
United States	-6%	28%
Uzbekistan	-2%	28%

Sources: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2015; World Bank World Development Indicators

# A typical Vermont household spends about \$4,700 annually on energy costs

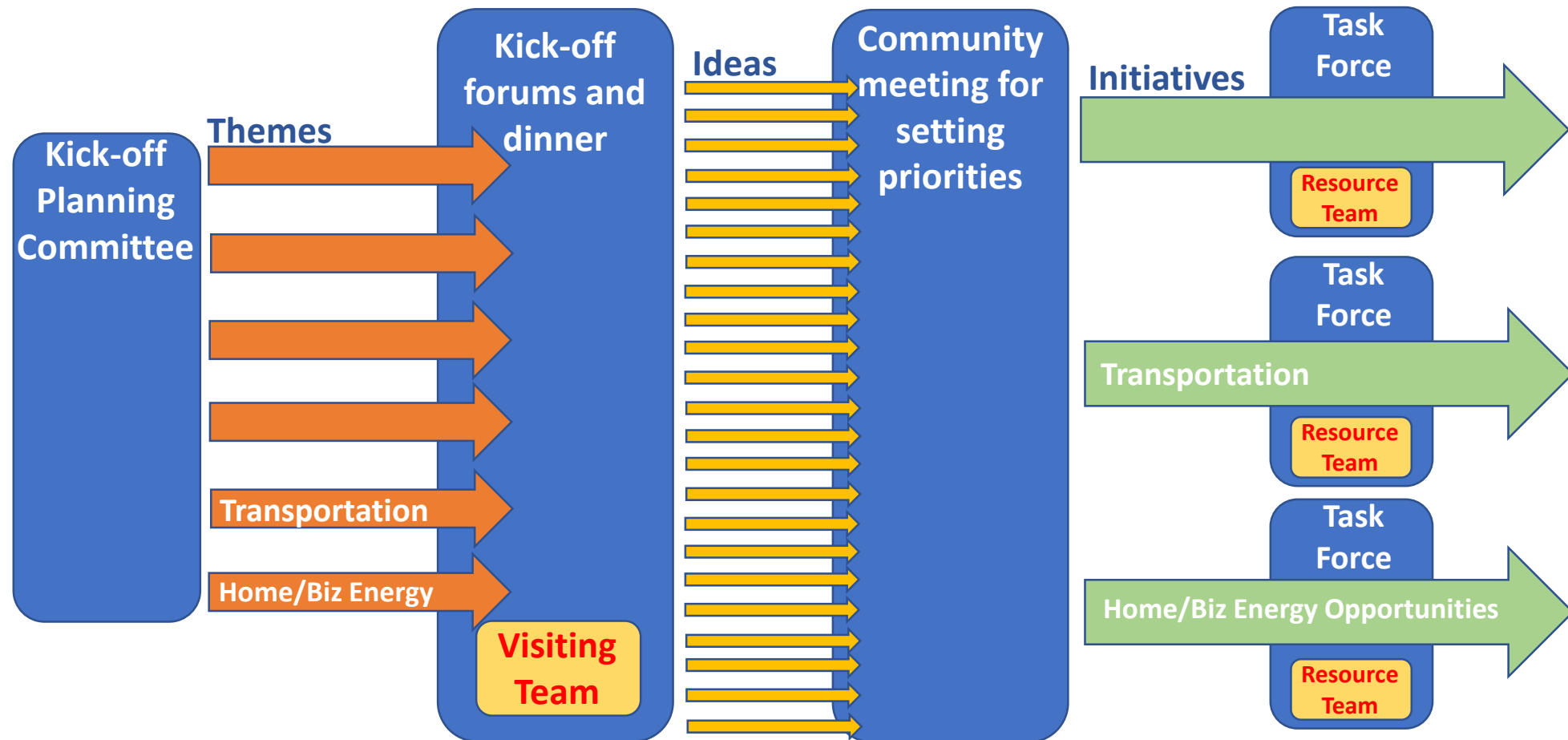


Data from a 2016 Efficiency Vermont report on energy burden in Vermont - <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/Media/Default/docs/white-papers/efficiency-vermont-mapping-energy-burden-vermont-white-paper.pdf>

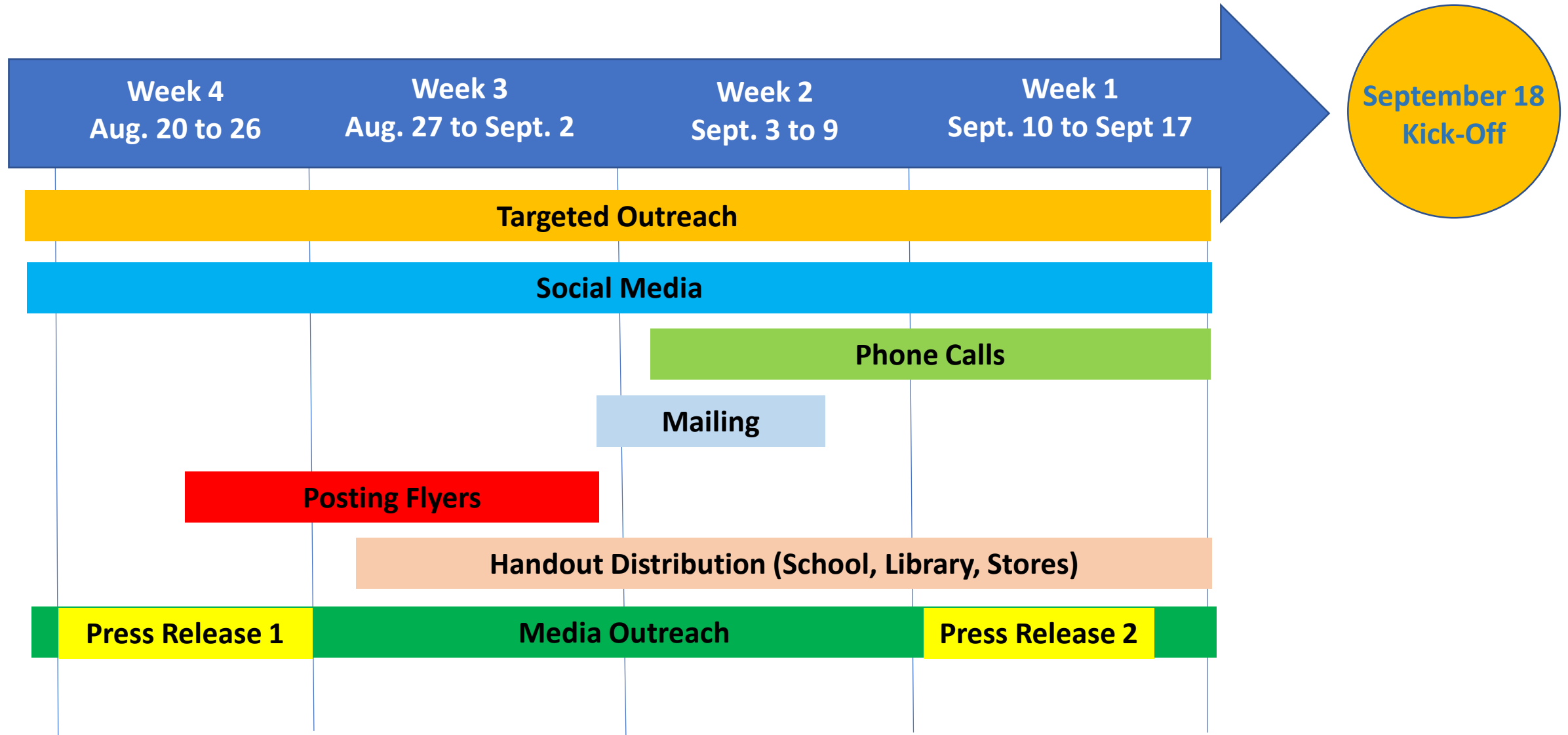


# Vermont Climate Economy Initiative Model Communities Program

## From Themes to Ideas to Initiatives



# Greater Middlebury Climate Economy Initiative Kick-Off Outreach Plan





# Model Community Profile - Randolph

The Randolph Region Re-Energized (R3) process attracted over 300 area citizens with community meetings in the spring of 2018. 80 volunteers joined task forces to implement 4 identified priorities and have been busy with their work since then.

## Randolph Priorities:

- Reduce Municipal and School Costs through Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects
- Attract and Support Climate Economy Businesses and Entrepreneurs and Strengthen Downtown Randolph
- Attract More Visitors to the Randolph Region
- Savings Opportunities for Homes and Businesses Through Renewables, Efficiency, and Energy Transformation



Randolph Region Re-Energized (R3) By The Numbers:  
Total Participants: 300  
Task Force Sign-Ups: 80  
Visiting and Resource Team: 30



# Project Profile - Middlebury's Neighborhood Energy Project

- Working with a core group of volunteers from a selected neighborhood to organize a campaign to get as many residents as possible in that neighborhood to have a free home energy visit.
- The volunteers performed outreach through door-to-door contact, leaflets, lawn signs, and at social events to gather sign-ups.
- Utility partners then followed up with one hour visits from trained professionals who did home walk-throughs, reviewed the full scope of energy use for a household and made a diverse set of recommendations.



## **Results from the South Street Neighborhood:**

Homes in the neighborhood: **100**

Home Energy Visits Completed: **42**

Post-Visit Surveys Completed: **22**

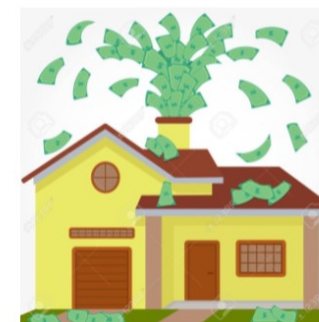
% of those surveyed that found their visit somewhat or very helpful: **91%**

% of those surveyed that found the project helpful in growing their connections with neighbors: **76%**

Surveyed Households that took a **major** action as a result of their visit: **6**

Surveyed Households that plan to take a major action as a result of their visit: **17**

## **SOUTH STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ENERGY PROJECT**



### **Do you want to save on your energy bills?**

The South Street Neighborhood, including **Chipman Park, Green Mountain Drive, Benedict Lane, and Lantern Lane** have launched an initiative to help increase the comfort, health, and affordability of our homes, while also reducing fossil fuel emissions. We are connecting, neighbor-to-neighbor, to introduce the program and to sign people up for some great, limited time offers for folks living in the South Street neighborhood, including:

#### **Free Home Energy Visits**

A certified energy professional will conduct a 1-1½ hour home visit to help you better understand your energy usage, identify opportunities for savings, and leave you with recommendations for moving forward.

#### **Free Smart Thermostat**

We are providing free smart thermostats for homeowners who participate in the free home energy visit.

# Model Community Profile – Marshfield/Plainfield

*Revitalizing All Marshfield and Plainfield (RAMP)* convened in the spring and summer of 2019 and is now carrying forward with four key priorities:

- Support and Strengthen Both Village Centers & Improve the Rt 2 Corridor
- Build a Farm and Food Network
- Improve Transportation Options to Increase Mobility, Reduce Costs, and Reduce Emissions in Both Towns
- Reduce and Transform Energy Use and Increase Renewable Energy Generation for Homes, Businesses, Twinfield School, the Towns, and Other Institutions



RAMP  
by The Numbers:  
Total Participants: Approx.  
150  
Task Force Sign-Ups: 70+



Revitalizing All Marshfield and Plainfield: RAMP into the future

Kick-Off Event: Forums and FREE Community Dinner

This event launches a process to bring community members together to identify and advance priorities that improve economic opportunity and affordability in the face of climate change. Vermont leaders in economic development, agriculture, energy, and business will join as the Visiting Team. Enjoy the free dinner and attend the forums most important to you!

4:30-5:45pm	Growing local foods and a working landscape while preserving healthy forests, waters, and ecosystems	Improving local infrastructure and transportation options
5:45pm	FREE Community Meal featuring live music and chocolate by Nutty Steghe	
6:45-7:15pm	Climate Action Pitches - Submit pitches that are ideas that could be deployed part of this program. Want to help select pitch topics? Submit survey here: <a href="https://open.athens.oregon.gov/2019/02">https://open.athens.oregon.gov/2019/02</a> or by paper at the Cutler and Judd Libraries. Deadline is April 30.	
7:15-8:30pm	Energy generation and efficiency	Developing vibrant communities

Carpooling is encouraged! Connect with riders and drivers for this event here: <https://www.wassupcarpool.com/2019/04>

The Revitalizing All Marshfield and Plainfield (RAMP) initiative is a community-driven process with local leaders, the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), and Efficiency Vermont. This event is produced by VCRD, a non-profit organization supporting the locally-defined project of Vermont's rural communities. To learn more, visit [www.ramptown.org](http://www.ramptown.org) or contact us at [info@ramptown.org](mailto:info@ramptown.org) or 802.273.3101.





## Looking Ahead To Model Communities 2.0 - in 2020

- One full community process with multi-step convening
- Community Climate Economy Accelerator
  - Recruiting up to 10 community-based leaders
  - Light and focused leadership training
  - Direct project support
- Application process for both of these opportunities will begin later this fall



## Vermont Climate Economy Initiative Model Communities Program

### Questions?



#### Contact:

**Program Director Jon Copans**

**[jon@vtrural.org](mailto:jon@vtrural.org)**

**(802) 225-6393**

**[www.vtrural.org/model-communities](http://www.vtrural.org/model-communities)**