

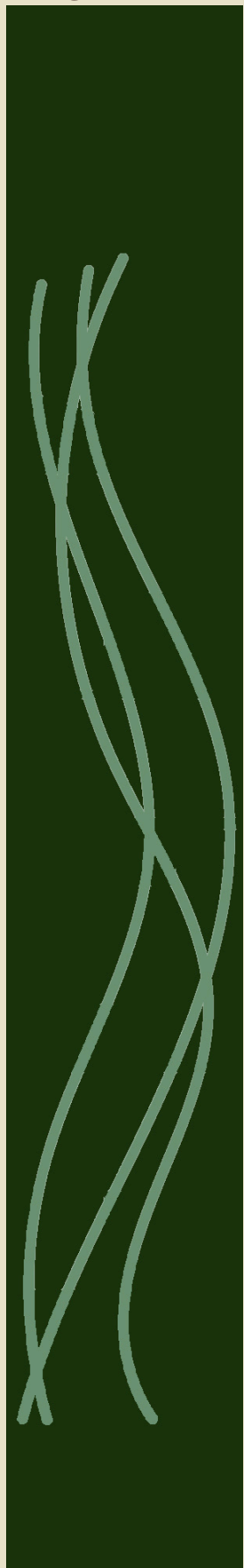
2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT



Community Rides/Gopher offers affordable and dependable rides in rural Vermont for essential activities like getting groceries.

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From our
Board President **Tony Klein** and
Executive Director **Gabrielle Malina**:

Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity is a uniquely Vermont institution.

VLITE was created by Vermonters and for Vermonters. Founded by the State's Public Service Board in 2012 to become a nonprofit owner of VELCO (Vermont Electric Power Company), VLITE represents the infusion of a public good element into the fabric of the electric transmission system.

VLITE's core activity is utilizing its VELCO dividends of approximately 1 million dollars annually to provide grants that advance state energy policy while emphasizing the energy needs of low and moderate income Vermonters. VLITE dedicates the majority of its grant funds to programs that are focused on low and moderate income Vermonters. VLITE also names three independent directors to the VELCO board, another means of infusing a public good element into the governance of VELCO.

VLITE is responding to a changing energy environment.

After the floods of July 2023, VLITE funded the work of utilities to assist homeowners to restore home heating systems by the time winter arrived. Since then, VLITE has also invested in a home repair program with ReSOURCE and the Serve, Learn, Earn Collaborative that pairs construction and energy workforce training to help flood victims make their homes safe, comfortable and energy efficient.

The Inflation Reduction Act offered tax credits for the first time to nonprofits for solar development. The tax credit represents a once in a generation opportunity for the state's nonprofit housing developers to benefit from the credit whilst lowering operating costs for their affordable, electrified buildings. Many Vermonters with low income are renters and historically have not enjoyed the benefits of solar power. VLITE grants have fueled solar developments for several affordable housing projects, aiding with the significant upfront costs of these projects and leveraging significant federal dollars.

VLITE committed \$925,000 towards grants that meet its mission in 2023 and another \$1,089,981 in 2024. Cumulatively, VLITE has awarded \$11,747,863 since it began awarding funds in 2013, an average of \$978,988 per year! Read on for some of the highlights of VLITE grants in 2023 and 2024.

Thank you to all of our partners – the nonprofits, electric utilities, municipalities, and state agencies who do this work – and to the other funders who support them. Together we are creating a more equitable energy future for Vermonters.

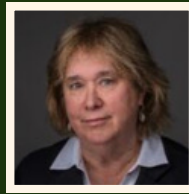
VLITE Board



Tony Klein
President



Peter Walke
Vice President



Sarah Hofmann
Treasurer



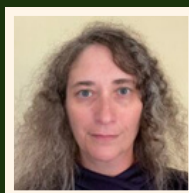
Larry Lackey
Secretary



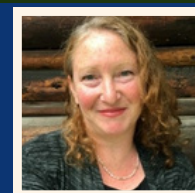
Paul Dragon
Board Member



Jean Hamilton
Board Member



Amy Shollenberger
Board Member

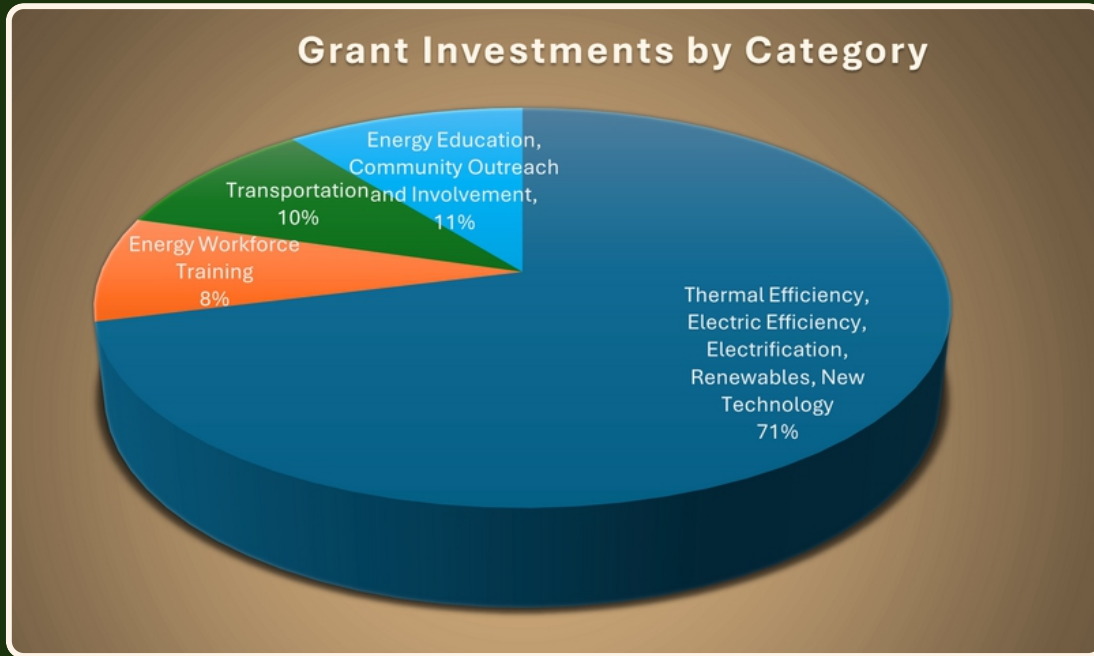


Gabrielle Malina
Executive Director

VLITE Balance Sheet

			31-Dec-24	31-Dec-23
ASSETS	Current Assets		\$1,579,988	\$1,472,450
		Other Assets / Common Stock - VELCO	\$8,990,300	\$8,990,300
		Total Assets	\$10,570,288	\$10,462,750
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	Liabilities			
		Total Current Liabilities/Grants Payable	\$822,462	\$632,365
		Total Liabilities	\$822,462	\$632,365
	Equity			
		Total Equity	\$9,747,826	\$9,830,385
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY			\$10,570,288	\$10,462,750

VLITE Grants



All grants approved and active in 2023 and 2024 totaled \$2,014,981.

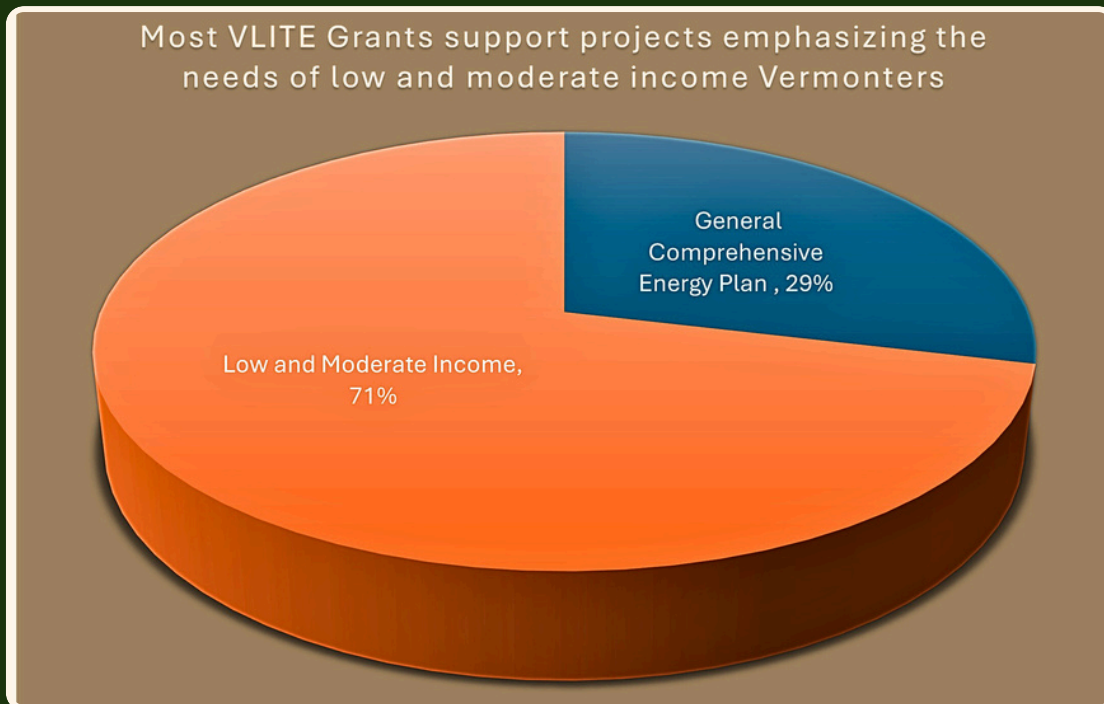




Photo courtesy of WheelPad L3C

2023 and 2024 Grants



WheelPad L3C

WheelPad L3C in Wilmington, VT builds accessible accessory home attachments with a focus on wheelchair accessibility. WheelPad is committed to creating mobility solutions in an energy efficient manner.

- VLITE funds of \$100,000 were used towards the renovation of an open air pole barn allowing WheelPad L3C to build these units in an indoor controlled energy efficient environment.
- The grant was used to create the radiant wood floor for the manufacturing facility, as well as energy efficient garage doors to allow daylighting, and insulation. The result was a functional and efficient indoor manufacturing facility that will allow WheelPad L3C to bring construction in-house.
- WheelPad innovated a patent-pending radiant heated wood flooring design. This design turned out to be one-third of the cost - and stronger - than a steel reinforced radiant heated concrete floor.



Champlain Housing Trust / Evernorth

Affordable housing developers Champlain Housing Trust and Evernorth received a \$150,000 grant from VLITE.

- The grant supported a 150 kw solar array for the Bay Ridge affordable apartments in Shelburne (68 units across 4 buildings).
- Four new and rehabilitated electrified buildings will also benefit from substantially enhanced insulation and new systems throughout.
- Norwich Solar broke ground in late October and expects the solar PV project to be completed in February 2025.
- This project is eligible for a 30% renewable energy tax credit.
- Generating its own electricity - for a building with electrified HVAC - means overall energy costs for heating and electricity will be more consistent, resulting in steadier operating costs for the building.



Milton Mobile Home Cooperative

Milton Mobile Home Cooperative received a grant from VLITE of \$55,000 for electrical service upgrades to dangerously outdated electric infrastructure.

- Unexpectedly high bids for electrical service replacement work brought attention to the plight of mobile home parks contending with outdated electrical infrastructure and the lack of available funds to upgrade it. To meet this urgent need, the VT Department of Public Service, Efficiency Vermont, and Green Mountain Power modified the design of an existing \$10 million state grant program that now covers mobile home park electrical infrastructure upgrades in several parks.
- The grant program will assist 600 homeowners in four parks in 2025-2026. The project will deliver 150 amp service parkwide and to individual residents through panel upgrades, which can accommodate air source heat pumps. It will also mean that parks can accommodate high efficiency advanced manufactured home models.



Community Rides Vermont, Inc

CRVT is a new nonprofit addressing the problem of lack of reliable transportation in rural areas through its ride service, Gopher.

CRVT partners with Central Vermont Medical Center, school districts, Green Mountain Transit, local businesses, and community organizations to help Vermonters who struggle with transportation.

- The grant of \$200,000 supports CRVT and its on-demand ride services with electric vehicles based at Capstone Headquarters in Barre, VT.
- Demand for rides has grown rapidly. In 2024 Community Rides/Gopher drove 117,301 miles, providing 7,040 rides.

*In 2024
CRVT/Gopher
drove 117,301
zero emission
miles.*



Photo courtesy of CVRT



Randolph Area Community Development Corp

RACDC received a \$150,000 grant to expand affordable housing options in Randolph.

- The Salisbury Square affordable housing project includes solar power generation and all-electric multifamily and single family homes. In total twenty one homes will be connected via a direct current Microgrid with backup battery storage.
- The combination of a microgrid with all electric homes and battery backup capacity will create a significantly more resilient community able to weather power outages.



Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County

CEAC is a new nonprofit helping Vermonters in Addison County address the complexities of electrifying and weatherizing their homes by providing personalized information about the cost effectiveness of various energy improvement options as well as available rebates or incentives.

- A VLITE grant of \$65,000 launched the Energy Navigator program to help Addison County residents save money on energy costs and utilize existing incentives.
- The CEAC project trains trusted local “Navigators” to provide individual support to help people make timely and cost effective clean energy improvements.
- CEAC created a website for increased accessibility for homeowners. The organization is hoping that its Energy Navigator Program provides a replicable model for other counties to adopt.



This group of 10 volunteers started their training with Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County to become energy coaches.



Neighborworks of Western Vermont HEAT Squad

Neighborworks HEAT Squad provides energy audits, weatherization services and education for low and moderate income homeowners.

- A grant of \$154,000 was awarded for weatherization and energy audits including a healthy homes assessment. The grant will provide 70 comprehensive energy audits and 35 weatherization projects for households in Bennington County and the Northeast Kingdom, areas of Vermont that are underserved and energy burdened.
- The HEAT Squad helps households at every step from outreach and education about energy efficiency, to intake and scheduling, to energy auditing and project coordination, referrals to trusted independent contractors, to lending options and rebate submissions. The goal is meaningfully engaging these households in the complicated decision-making about energy efficiency and healthy homes.
- Each weatherized household expected to save an average of \$900 a year on their energy costs. In total, Neighborworks estimates that 175,000 less pounds of carbon is emitted annually as a result of these projects.

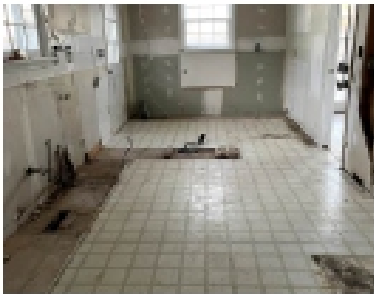


Lamoille Housing Partnership

Lamoille Housing Partnership (LHP) has developed and maintained income-eligible affordable homes and apartments in Lamoille County. LHP merged with Downstreet Housing and Community Development at the end of 2024 and all the housing will remain affordable.

- A VLITE grant of \$40,000 grant leveraged a \$250,000 grant from the TD Charitable Foundation and the Town of Cambridge.
- LHP built three solar arrays in Jeffersonville including a 75 kW AC solar system on senior housing and two 11kW systems on each of two multifamily buildings. Beneficiaries include 34 homes - 24 senior and 10 family - low and moderate income earning senior and family households.
- Systems are expected to reduce energy costs by approximately 70% at the senior building, resulting in \$11,900 savings and 60% at the family buildings and \$3,660 savings.
- Net metering lowers electricity bills, which means smaller and less frequent rent increases.

BEFORE AFTER



Riverflow

Riverflow is a new housing initiative in Monkton, Addison County where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those without can live together, sharing lives of dignity and purpose.

Riverflow addresses the need for supportive housing for adult Vermonters with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- A VLITE grant of \$50,000 enabled energy improvements to a newly purchased 5,700 sq ft. house in need of renovations, with 30 acres. The grant enables improvements to the house’s thermal envelope to increase the home’s thermal efficiency with attic insulation, crawl space encapsulation, and basement insulation.
- They also updated electrical work and installed high efficiency hot water heaters and cold climate heat pumps. In total these improvements will make the residence safer, and more comfortable for residents, while lowering heating bills.

Riverflow welcomed its first residents to the Monkton home in October 2024, and intends to build more residences on the property in the future

Jesse is joining Riverflow from just down the road and comes looking for friends, connection, and the opportunity to learn about community life. His joy, fist-bumps and appreciation for music are bright spots in any day. He, too, is ready at any moment for a flash dance party! He is ready to make new friends, connect, and learn about his budding vocational interests. Jesse recently brought his friends from high school over to the property and was a proud tour guide, clearly expressing his enthusiasm for the future of the community. Jesse also loves Special Olympics as both a skier and a runner.



Photos and caption courtesy of Riverflow



Heartbeet Lifesharing

Heartbeet is a licensed therapeutic residential living community and 501c3 nonprofit located in Hardwick, VT. Heartbeet is home to around 60 individuals, including 15 (soon to be 17) individuals with developmental disabilities, families and volunteers. The community abounds with farming, gardening, culinary, estate and landscaping, forestry, home making, and art opportunities on site.

- Heartbeet received a VLITE grant of \$150,000 - \$60,000 for construction of an all-electric energy efficient new residence and \$90,000 for a solar array and power system.
- The new residence will include a grid-integrated EV charging system for an electric Ford truck capable of acting as battery backup, and a solar power system which will power and benefit the whole Heartbeet community.
- Heartbeet expects to be able to utilize the federal solar tax credit for nonprofits through the Inflation Reduction Act.



Agritech Institute

Agritech Institute helps small farms confront the climate crisis by employing emerging technologies to improve soil and climate health and reduce water pollution.

- A grant of \$65,000 is testing goat grazing using radio collars and “virtual fencing” on electric utility rights of way.



Photo courtesy of Agritech Institute

Agritech Institute (continued)

- The concept is to provide a more cost effective and sustainable (pesticide-free) technique for right of way and solar array vegetation maintenance and a profitable application for small scale grazing operations.
 - Washington Electric Coop (WEC) and Stowe Electric Department (SED) have each successfully completed a trial pilot. WEC and SED are planning second year 2025 trials and Agritech is also in discussions with VELCO to test this technology.
-



Capstone / Vermont Gas Systems

A grant of \$100,000 was provided to Capstone Community Action, acting as fiscal agent for Vermont Energy Recovery Teams (VERT), to help with flood recovery for heating systems damaged by July 2023 floods.

- VERT was a collaboration between the electric and natural gas utilities initially organized by Vermont Gas Systems. VERT assisted homeowners at or below 120% area median income (AMI) by coordinating with contractors to perform assessments of flood survivors' heating and cooling equipment, air sealing, insulation, and electric panels.
- Homeowners were provided with a scope of work, quotes, project scheduling, and connected with state funding, primarily provided through Efficiency Vermont.
- The priority was to restore heat to homes before winter of 2023/2024. Capstone is continuing to provide technical assistance and support to flood survivors.



ReSOURCE / Serve Learn Earn

ReSOURCE is a longtime provider of innovative energy and construction workforce training, with a history of responding to emergent needs and creating training programs that meet community demand and with a focus on environmental sustainability.

- A grant of \$175,000 was provided to ReSOURCE serving as fiscal agent for the Serve, Learn, Earn Collaborative to provide construction crews for energy and structural improvements to flood-affected homes for income-qualified homeowners
- ReSOURCE put together four crews of between five and ten trainees working and training concurrently. Approximately thirty at-risk youth received training and will complete up to twenty four projects through 2025.



A ReSOURCE YouthBuild student steps up to support Barre, VT, in the aftermath of the devastating July 2024 flood. Through hands-on service, they are not only helping families recover and rebuild but also gaining valuable skills that will shape their future careers. This work exemplifies the power of community and service work.

**SERVE
LEARN
EARN** 



Vermont Energy Education Program

VEEP typically provides “hands on, minds on” energy education to students in K-12 settings.

- A grant of \$40,000 was awarded for adult education workshops working in partnership with local and state initiatives to support electrification, conserve energy, and improve climate resilience. These events are held in public spaces like libraries, granges, municipal buildings, senior centers, and schools.
- To date, VEEP has delivered 19 workshops with 260 attendees all across the state with partners such as WindowDressers, Drive Electric VT, and Efficiency Vermont.
- VEEP has learned that these workshops are most impactful when they directly connect actions people can take in their homes along with funding information on subsidies and rebate programs so that action becomes tangible. People are more likely to take action on energy improvements if they understand and can access the financial incentives available to them.



Attendees at a VEEP community workshop learning about home energy usage.

Photo courtesy of VEEP



Capstone Community Action Weatherization Assistance Program

Capstone's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) serves Vermonters with income below 80% of area median income to weatherize their homes. The service area includes Addison, Lamoille, Orange, Rutland, Washington and Windsor Counties.

- A \$200,000 VLITE grant will allow Capstone's Green Heat Initiative to continue a program that began with ARPA funds (now spent) to install low temperature mini splits and heat pump water heaters in homes that they are actively weatherizing or have already weatherized.
- Capstone anticipates that they will install 19 mini-splits and 15 heat pump water heaters, which will significantly supplement fossil fuel based systems. Capstone will coordinate site visits, gather essential data, and evaluate the suitability of each technology for clients' homes. They will solicit bids from trusted contractors, facilitate the installation process, manage and pay invoicing and maintain ongoing communication with clients to address post-install concerns.



Town of Fair Haven

The town of Fair Haven will work with development consultants and Efficiency Vermont to explore the viability of reviving an advanced manufactured home factory to be owned and operated by a third party.

- The goal is to identify an owner/operator, prepare the plant for production in 2025 and begin delivering housing units in 2026. Once operational, the factory could create 75-100 jobs in what is historically a poor and underserved community.
- Fair Haven received a VLITE grant of \$60,000 which was matched by a \$60,000 grant from the State for the evaluation of reactivating the former Skyline Homes manufactured housing plant.
- If reactivated, the factory would deliver affordable and energy efficient homes that meet HUD's preemptive standard for manufactured homes and/or volumetric modular units for single-multifamily housing.
- Vermont has extremely low housing vacancy rates and needs more housing units built faster to correct the imbalance. If brought back online the factory could produce multiple units of affordable housing each day.



Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

CVSWMD provides waste management services in central Vermont since 1987, including hauler oversight, educational programming, business outreach, seasonal Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events, and year-round electronics and universal waste collection. They serve 53,000 residents and 2,500 businesses.

- The State of Vermont has identified an infrastructure gap and prioritized establishing an HHW facility in Central Vermont. The Agency of Natural Resources has provided \$656,000 in support. The total project cost is estimated to be around \$4 million. CVSWMD Board has committed \$2.2 million.
- In 2025, CVSWMD will relocate its headquarters to 300 Granger Road, Berlin. The facility will include an office and a new year-round, combined recycling and HHW collection center called the Eco Depot. Electronics and battery recycling, and safe, responsible disposal of household hazardous waste such as fuels and pesticides will happen there.
- An \$81,000 VLITE grant allows CVSWMD to make energy improvements to the new facility including four battery backups for maintaining critical functions of the facility in the event of power outages. CVSWMD will also purchase a Fleet electric vehicle and Level 2 Charger.



A blower door test in a municipal building in Reading VT during an energy assessment.

- *Reading received a Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grant from the State of Vermont Dept. of Buildings and General Services.*
- *The MERP grant was in turn supported by a VLITE grant funding the MERP Coordinator.*



Vermont Council on Rural Development - Climate Programs

A two year grant of \$180,000 supports three programs:

- The Climate Economy Resilient Communities (CERC) program helps communities build a climate-resilient, inclusive, and economically viable future. CERC most recently supported Johnson, VT in building a long term flood recovery plan.
- The Climate Catalyst Leadership Program provides direct support to new and emerging climate leaders embarking on their individual community projects. Fifteen leaders joined the latest cohort.
- The Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund aims to inspire, support, and share projects that demonstrate the diversity of local climate initiatives with the help of continued VLITE seed funding, along with other funders including EastRise Credit Union, Ruth H. Brown Foundation, the Ben & Jerry’s Foundation, and the Vermont Community Foundation. In 2024 the CCIF announced its latest round of awards for 24 local projects.

Vermont Adult Learning received a \$4,000 Innovation Fund grant from VCRD to pilot a merged curriculum that will provide linguistically accessible training in weatherization and heat pump installation to English language learners.

Bennington County Window Dressers won a \$3,000 VCRD Innovation Fund grant to provide WindowDresser inserts free of cost to those who cannot afford to pay in Bennington County.

About 300 insulating window inserts were provided to dozens of families.

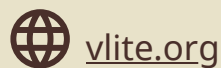




Photo courtesy of Vermont Adult Learning

“Learning about weatherization wasn’t my first idea for a career. Gaining this education persuaded my thoughts and gave me confidence that I am a great candidate for this career!”

Vermont Adult Learning Weatherization Training Participant



For more information contact Gabrielle Malina at director@vlite.org