

# Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund

## 2023-24 Report



Produced by:

**Vermont Council on Rural Development**

Unleashing the power of Vermonters to create a better future



The Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund supports projects that make a meaningful, community-scale impact with solutions that expand community resilience, reduce energy use, and/or create new approaches to challenging problems.

To date, this fund has awarded 92 local innovators with over \$285,000 in collective support for community-led climate and energy projects.





# Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund

## 2023-2024 Report of Awardees

In late fall 2023, VCRD implemented the third round of the Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund – a small, catalytic grant program for local innovative climate projects. In this round, \$82,500 in small grants of \$500 to \$4,000 were awarded to 25 local projects developing solutions that move Vermont closer to its climate and energy goals. Funded projects were chosen by a team of VCRD staff and the Climate Economy Initiative Advisory Committee including member representatives from EastRise Credit Union, Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN), the Regional Planning Commissions and Efficiency Vermont. In making award decisions, we look for projects that are innovative, equitable, collaborative, replicable, and have positive climate/energy impacts.

Thanks to the generous support of Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE), EastRise Credit Union, Ruth H. Brown Foundation, Ben and Jerry's Foundation, and the Vermont Community Foundation Funds including the Sunflower Fund and the Flood Recovery Fund who together provided funding for this third round.

A fourth grant round was awarded at the end of 2024 and a fifth round will be announced in late summer 2025. Join the VCRD email list at [vtrural.org](http://vtrural.org) to stay informed of this annual opportunity.

This report describes outcomes of projects completed in 2023-2024 in the words of the awardees. We appreciate the dedication and efforts of each team and the collective impact of the work for Vermont's future.

All the best,

Laura Cavin Bailey

*Climate Economy Program Manager*

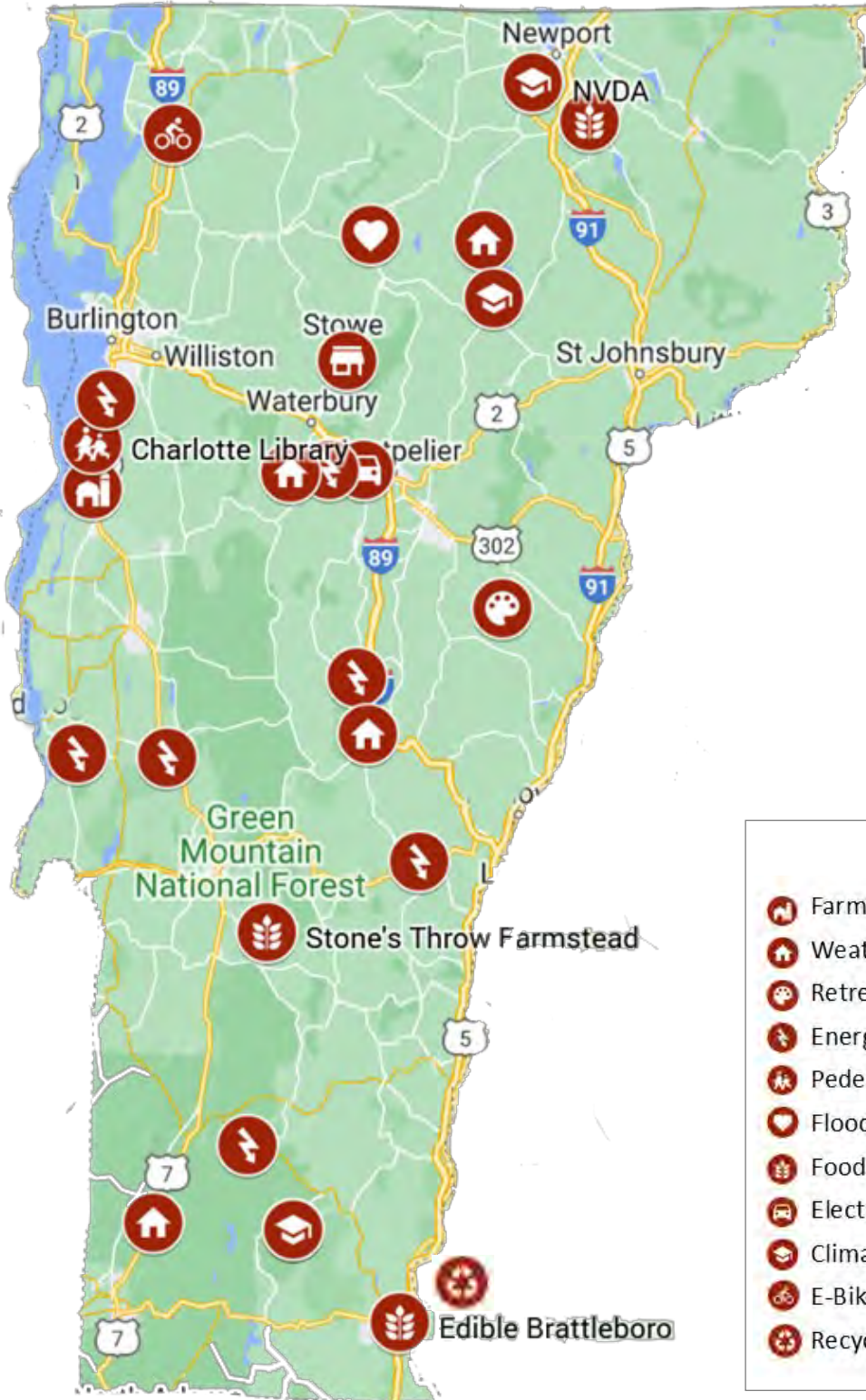


# Location of Funded Projects

For an Interactive map of project locations, types, and descriptions:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1hYZMYKaTsamvUUwgpPXVJFiPSsR1eHM&ll=43.916991502026995%2C-72.5948967&z=8)

[mid=1hYZMYKaTsamvUUwgpPXVJFiPSsR1eHM&ll=43.916991502026995%2C-72.5948967&z=8](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1hYZMYKaTsamvUUwgpPXVJFiPSsR1eHM&ll=43.916991502026995%2C-72.5948967&z=8)



| KEY |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
|     | Farmer Climate Network     |
|     | Weatherization             |
|     | Retreat Space              |
|     | Energy Systems             |
|     | Pedestrian Safety          |
|     | Flood Recovery             |
|     | Food Systems               |
|     | Electric Vehicle Education |
|     | Climate Workforce          |
|     | E-Bike                     |
|     | Recycling                  |



# Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund

## 2024 Awardees

Here's a snapshot of outcomes of each project in the words of the awardees.

### **Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN)** | [acornvt.org](http://acornvt.org)

**Project:** \$4,000 to support a farmer-led network committed to mitigating the effects of climate change on our local foodshed.

**Outcome:** We hosted working bees at 6 farms with the farmers and their neighbors and customers who came to: harvest and process soy beans at Boundbrook Farm; transplant thousands of onions at New Leaf Organics; transplant thousands of tomatoes at Singing Cedars Farmstead; transplant thousands of flowers at Stone's Throw Farmstead; weed a greenhouse and lay compost at Frog Hollow Farmstead; and reclaim pasture for goats in partnership with Rural Vermont at Tup's Crossing. We also hosted a few community building and wellness events inspired by folks in the Cultivemos Network and by request from the farmers we work with. In August we hosted a screening of *Farming While Black* with a panel of black farmers at Middlebury College, and a farmer wellness day (tubing the White River + massage + sound bath + lunch) at a camp in Stockbridge. We are planning a farmer gratitude party for the December solstice to bring together farmers at the end of the season to celebrate and relax in a fun, inclusive environment.



### **Bennington County Window Dressers**

**Project:** \$3,000 to provide Window Dresser inserts free of cost to those who cannot afford to pay in Bennington County. For the past 3 years, Bennington County has hosted two collaborating Window Dressers builds, one in Bennington and one in Arlington, to provide approximately 500 low-cost, high-quality window inserts yearly to county residents. We partner with Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council (BROC) to further weatherization gains by referring interested clients. Those not eligible for BROC services are referred to Neighbor Works. All Energy Committees in the county both affiliated and unaffiliated with towns are involved and we have over 150 volunteers participate in the builds yearly.



**Outcome:** This year, the Northshire and Southshire Window Dressers teams again worked together to provide 550 insulating window inserts to almost 100 families and organizations in the county. This is the largest number that the two communities have built. 55% of the Southshire orders and 40% of the Northshire orders were for families that could not afford inserts and otherwise would not have been able to access weatherization through Window Dressers. Bennington County has a high energy burden due to old housing stock and poverty census tracks. We were happy to connect with individuals for whom the Window Dressers inserts were not just a convenience but a matter of

being able to reduce, and thus pay, their heating bills this winter. The number of volunteers and excitement around the Window Dressers builds was very high this year. Approximately 300 individuals volunteered including six teams in the Southshire sponsored by local organizations. Over 95% of all families and organizations gave back either by participating in the community build or by providing snacks and desserts for volunteers. We think that the consistency in the value of the product and the welcoming atmosphere created at the builds has helped make this a popular event. This year, we had several individuals who learned about the volunteer opportunity on Front Porch Forum or in the local newspaper. One of the volunteers, currently living at the Homeless Shelter a few blocks down Main Street from the build, showed up the first day and came back to help out the following two days. We appreciated his skills and patience as he trained new volunteers on days 2 and 3. We don't know if he was aware that volunteers built Window Dresser inserts for the shelter two years ago.

## Bottomless Well

**Project:** \$2,000 to support the completion of an off-grid simple living retreat center for climate change artists and activists, which would act as a model for sustainable living, demonstrating how a simple connected lifestyle is an actionable catalyst for environmental justice and providing a refuge for those on the frontlines, offering them an opportunity to reconnect and refuel, while working on climate change mitigation and educational projects.

**Outcome:** Funds contributed to the building of a composting toilet system and portable solar electric system that were used for our first educational retreat events in the summer of 2024.



## Catamount Solar | [catamountsolar.com](https://catamountsolar.com)

**Project:** \$4,000 to put a business plan together and secure partners for a community solar project.

**Outcome:** After reviewing more than 8 potential sites in the greater Randolph area to assess suitability to host a 150kW community solar array, one site was selected based on solar access, terrain, and proximity to 3-phase power. A contingent lease agreement has been executed with the landowner. We have developed an initial site plan and started the process to obtain preferred siting status. The project's advance notice letter was submitted to the Vermont Public Utilities Commission and abutting property owners letting them know that the Certificate of Public Good application will be filed in mid-December. We will continue to update potential project partners and do further outreach and marketing of the project after the holidays.

## Charlotte Public Library | [charlottepubliclibrary.org](https://charlottepubliclibrary.org)

**Project:** \$4,000 to install two solar-powered flashing LED pedestrian crossing signs and one dedicated crosswalk in the West Village area of Charlotte.

**Outcome:** These funds enabled us to complete an accessibility/walkability project at the library. To improve the pre-existing pedestrian crosswalk on Ferry Road with the purchase and installation of a solar-powered pedestrian crossing sign system and repainting the crosswalk markings with reflective paint. This crossing update allows for safe crossing on a road that sees excessive speed at all times of day, especially with commuter and ferry traffic. Providing a safe crossing helps to promote the walkability of our neighborhood and invite townspeople of all ages and abilities to opt for walking.



## Community Resilience Organizations | [gocros.org](https://gocros.org)

**Project:** \$4,000 to convene the CROs cohort of frontline organizers who were directly impacted by floods and/or engaged in local relief efforts to debrief the relief phase, build personalized emergency preparedness kits, and explore/purchase back-up energy solutions.



Community  
Resilience  
Organizations

**Outcome:** CROs leveraged this funding to invite and gather a group of individuals involved in 2023 flood response as a cohort in 3 conversations – 1 virtual and 2 in person. The coming together of this disparate but interconnected network has resulted in a community of practitioners that can support one another during and between disasters. In the middle of flooding events this summer, the group collaborated on the creation of “People’s Demands for Just Recovery” which calls for the state to invest in people being able to stay in their communities. Our goals to explore collective back-up power and build toolkits are still on the table but took a back seat to relationship building, information sharing, and advocacy due to the immediate flood relief, response, and recovery patterns that Vermont organizers found themselves in this summer.

## Craftsbury Energy Committee | [townofcraftsbury.com/energy-committee](https://townofcraftsbury.com/energy-committee)

**Project:** \$1,000 to support the 2024 Window Dressers Insert Program and provide free inserts for income qualified homes.

**Outcome:** We were able to provide 177 window inserts to 22 households in the five-town area. Great project! This project provided the ability to reach and connect with low-income households in a very practical way.



## Edible Brattleboro | [ediblebrattleboro.org](https://ediblebrattleboro.org)

**Project:** \$4,000 to transform a vacant town-owned lot located in a flood zone into a mini food forest for public access to food and green space. Working with the town and conservation district, the plan is to identify the plants that can tolerate flooding and reduce the impact of extreme weather while providing food and beauty to the lot.

## The Flower Basket | [theflowerbasketvt.com](https://theflowerbasketvt.com)

**Project:** \$4,000 to educate florists, growers, and foragers to increase the purchase of locally grown flowers and locally foraged materials, thereby decreasing florists’ carbon footprint and helping local farmers diversify their income streams.



**Outcome:** We created a webpage full of information for new flower growers on growing and selling to florists based on input we’ve gathered from growers and florists across the state. We’re offering a round-table series this winter for local growers, retailers, designers, and others interested in floriculture to share information on growing tips, business insights, marketing, best practices, etc., and to promote collaboration. I’m looking forward to learning from each other and am excited to see how this project will continue beyond the initial grant funding.

## Green Driving America Inc | [greendrivingamerica.org](http://greendrivingamerica.org)

**Project:** \$3,995 to provide EV educational webinars to schools on clean transportation, transportation efficiency, and alternatives to driving within the school community with goals of reducing CO2 emissions and energy waste and improving air quality and health of Vermonters. The recipients and partners in this project are driver educators and high school STEM educators.

**Outcome:** We gave 11 presentations for 242 students in driver education or STEM classes that overviewed smart driving practices in gas-powered vehicles, the benefits of low- to zero-emission vehicles, as well as alternatives to driving. Presenters included Green Driving America staff, interns, and UVM and Dartmouth College students.



## Northeastern Vermont Development Association | [nvda.net](http://nvda.net)



**Project:** \$4,000 to provide free online training in solar installation & design for 20 low-to-moderate income earning NEK residents with a goal of growing the climate workforce.

**Outcome:** 20 NEK residents are enrolled in Solar Installation & Design – an intro to solar course designed for beginners with no prior experience. Participants completing the course are eligible to take the ETA-I (Electronic Technicians Association International) certification exam.

## Orleans County Historical Society, Inc | [oldstonehousemuseum.org](http://oldstonehousemuseum.org)

**Project:** \$4,000 to plant a publicly accessible 10-stem heritage tree garden at the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village featuring fruit, nut and flowering varieties, and celebrating trees native to the NEK. Three primary goals include: 1. installing a carbon dump centrally in the Historic Village that can be visited by the public and that reduces greenhouse gasses year-round; 2. increasing the canopy in the historic downtown landscape and replacing some ancient maples that are dying off around the town of Brownington; and 3. offering an educational and recreational space with interactive information about the role of trees in greenhouse gas reduction as well as the history of the trees planted.

**Outcome:** We have planted, maintained and enriched the trees on our property, adding to our contribution of fresh oxygen and essential tree cover in our region. Our three tree stewards (8th and 9th graders) helped to plant, water and maintain our new stems on the property. They were diligent about the care of these new additions and were taught the important connection between planting and maintaining trees and a healthy environment. We have plans over the next few months to purchase additional tree care equipment and continue several tree maintenance projects to ensure our new and existing trees have the best chance of survival over the winter.





## Orwell Free Library | [orwellfreelibrary.org](http://orwellfreelibrary.org)

**Project:** \$2,000 to replace the 29 fluorescent light fixtures in the Orwell Free Library with LED light fixtures.

**Outcome:** We replaced all our fluorescent lights, including 8 that were burned out, with LED kits. The library is brighter, quieter, and hopefully uses a bit less electricity with each passing hour. Our building and utilities are funded 100% by local taxpayers.



## Rich Earth Institute | [richearthinstitute.org](http://richearthinstitute.org)

**Project:** \$2,000 to develop and build efficiency upgrades to the Rich Earth farm fertilizer applicator. The upgrade will help improve the rate of application, evenness of spread coverage, and speed of the fertilizer they provide to farms.

**Outcome:** The retrofit of the custom-built farm fertilizer applicator addressed some issues of the previous design, effectively improving its functionality and efficiency. Our new design improves the flow rate and evenness of distribution across the boom making fertilizer application precise. This speeds up the overall application process and makes it easier for participating farmers to integrate into their existing workflows. This project represents one of the biggest steps our organization has taken in a long time to lower the barriers



to entry on the application of our fertilizer. To complete this project, our team had to take our applicator apart, complete the retrofit, and then reassemble the equipment. This process enabled our team to gain a comprehensive understanding of the inner workings of the equipment. As a result, Rich Earth is now able to more easily complete applicator repairs, further customize the design to respond to future farmer feedback, and produce new models much more quickly. The applicator will be used on farms to apply fertilizer throughout the 2025 growing season and many seasons into the future.

## Shelburne Climate & Energy Committee

**Project:** \$2,500 to promote heat pump installation education and awareness for existing Shelburne homes. A community survey on households' current heating sources and, for those already with heat pumps, their level of satisfaction, will introduce the project and gather baseline Shelburne data. The subsequent event with food and lottery gifts will present the results of the survey and provide basic heat pump information including

**Outcome:** We held a heat pump forum in March 2024 for 50 attendees with presentations by Efficiency Vermont and a local contractor. Participants learned about climate benefits of switching to heat pumps and installment options, costs, rebates, and available tax credits and heard experiences of those who have switched. Attendees who install a heat pump within the year following the event will receive \$250.



## SolarFest, Inc | [solarfest.org](https://solarfest.org)

**Project:** \$4,000 to support the Town of Brandon’s Energy Committee’s plan to provide a toolshed for an electric lawn and garden tool lending ‘library’ at the Brandon Free Public Library.

**Outcome:** We purchased materials and equipment for a mobile “ToolShip” to house an electric lawn mower, string trimmer, and leaf blower which are charged by the sun. We leveraged the volunteer talents of Brandon High School Re-envisioned (ReBHS) to design and fabricate the first prototype of the ToolShip and partnered with the Brandon Free Public Library to implement this innovative program for their patrons. Once operational, patrons began borrowing tools almost immediately.



## St. Albans Free Library | [stalbansfreelibrary.org](https://stalbansfreelibrary.org)

**Project:** \$3,600 to purchase two E-bikes for the Loan Program at the St. Albans Free Library that compliments their current non-traditional lending program.



**Outcome:** We purchased two e-bikes from our local bike store, Bootleggers. They were a great partner and gave us some accessories including fenders & racks at no cost. The bikes were purchased primarily so that patrons considering purchasing an e-bike can come to the library to try them out first. Most borrowers try them out with the intension to buy and a small percentage don’t plan to buy due to cost but take them out to enjoy riding around town and on bike trails. We didn’t know what to expect as far as the use of the bikes was concerned and have been surprised at how many times the bikes have been used – 56 times to date! The very first use was for the Total Eclipse in April 2024. A St. Albans Messenger reporter in need of transportation between events figured that if he took his vehicle, he’d likely get stuck. He borrowed one of our e-bikes and was able to navigate St. Albans City and Town with no problem.

## Stone’s Throw Farmstead | [stonethrowfarmstead.com](https://stonethrowfarmstead.com)

**Project:** \$4,000 to construct a climate resilient, passive solar greenhouse for our organic vegetable and flower farm. This greenhouse will be constructed using ecological design principles that increase the energy efficiency and passive heating/cooling capacity of the structure.

**Outcome:** The funds were used to significantly offset the costs of building and fitting out an 18’x30’ up-cycled greenhouse on our organic vegetable and flower farm. We purchased a 99% efficient wood-burning heater, wool wall insulation, polycarbonate paneling, and heat-retaining drums. These investments gave a new, energy-efficient lease on life to an old, inefficient propagation structure. As a result, our farm was able to grow fossil-fuel free transplants to triple our field production, offer transplants for sale (a new enterprise), and sleep through the night knowing our greenhouse full of young plants was kept warm by an efficient wood stove and temperature swings were mitigated by the woolen insulation and heat-retaining drums. We were able to invest in critical, resilient infrastructure for our fledging business that will continue to support our growth and commitment to sustainable farming.



## Stowe Electric Department | [stoweelectric.com](http://stoweelectric.com)

**Project:** \$4,000 to host a design event with high school and college students alongside professional advisors for the restoration of the historic Seaver Sawmill. The goal is to place high school and college students together in small groups to allow each student the chance to offer their insights, ideas, and experiences in the design of the building. Subject matter experts, industry professionals, and local residents will participate and provide guidance and encouragement as the students develop their designs. Each group will create a unique design and present their design to the group – Stowe Electric will consider the designs in the formal adaptive reuse of the mill.



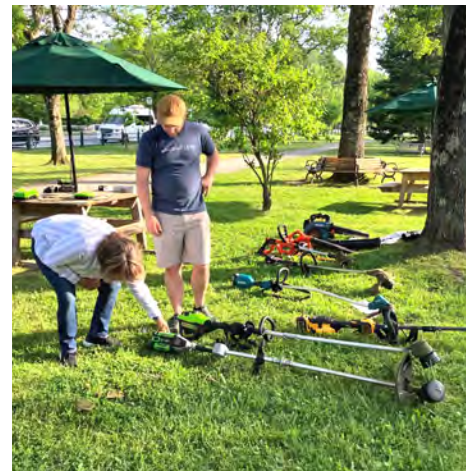
**Outcome:** Stowe Electric Department (SED) organized and hosted a Student Design Charrette at the Stowe Town Hall Theater. In attendance were 27 students from Stowe High School, University of Vermont and Vermont State University, as well as professors, teachers, community members and 13 professionals in architecture, engineering, historic preservation, energy, planning and media fields. High school and college students worked alongside industry professionals to create a vision and design for the historic Seaver Sawmill while considering economic and social needs of the community in addition to historic

preservation and renewable energy best practices. The day culminated with students giving presentations on their design ideas, fielding questions from participants, and discussing ways to honor the history of the sawmill while meeting the needs of the community. Successes of SED's Student Design Charrette include: 1) Student Engagement: Students were presented with a real-life design challenge and understood that their ideas were an important part of creating a vision for the future; 2) Vermont-Specific Connections: It was impactful to have many professionals engaging with the students in their groups, answering questions and guiding the design work, while also connecting with them on a more personal level about how they grew in their fields and areas of interest. The last 30 minutes of the event served as an ad-hoc "career day" in which professionals shared their journeys to their careers and answered questions from the students; and 3) Fostering Partnerships: Planning and preparing for this charrette was a truly collaborative experience, with partners from the State ACCD and Preservation Trust of VT to professors and high school teachers. Bringing people together from these varied backgrounds created a rich experience for all and set the stage for multi-disciplinary design plans that were inherently creative in how they addressed concerns. It became clear that connections, partnerships and collaborations across differences are critical for tackling tough questions as communities prepare for climate change and in creating innovative solutions.

## Sustainable Woodstock | [sustainablewoodstock.org](http://sustainablewoodstock.org)

**Project:** \$3,405 to promote electric lawn care in the Town and Village of Woodstock, with an emphasis on reducing the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and other equipment. Gas-powered lawn equipment produces massive amounts of carbon emissions and creates harmful noise and air pollution, and this project will help educate the public about alternatives.

**Outcome:** We designed and printed a pamphlet and info sheet on electric lawn care and the negative impacts of leaf blowers; held an in-person electric lawn care demo day; published two letters to the editor, one article, and one ad in the local paper about electric lawn care/leaf blowers; and screened 'The Quietest Year.' Through the events we have hosted, we have seen great interest in planting for pollinators, which intersects with electric lawn care. This has been a successful way to spread our message, and we look forward to running projects and events next year where the two topics can intersect.





**Project:** \$4,000 to pilot a merged curriculum that will provide linguistically accessible training in weatherization and heat pump installation to English Language Learners.

**Outcome:** As part of our objective to design technical English curriculum for a bridge class to our Energy Works program, as well as English support during training and employer onboarding, Vermont Adult Learning’s Workforce Development Team, Brattleboro Regional Director/ Adult Education Instructor and English Language Learner staff, and contracted technical instructors held several meetings to review the Heat Pump Installation curriculum. Utilizing an Integrated Education and Training model, a syllabus was developed, a Google Classroom Course was created, and course materials, tests, and best practices shared. The course currently includes instruction on why heat pumps are beneficial to the environment; the economics and affordability of using heat pumps in homes and career opportunities as an installer; how to plan for the future of your career and personal goals; understanding terminology, components, functions, mechanics and cycles of the heat pump and its installation; and safety, refrigerants, tools & materials, AC gauge reading,

pressure testing, and heat pump installation demonstration. Additional curriculum work is required to develop ELL supports for OSHA-110 Certification, First Aid/CPR/AED Certification, EPA-608 Certification, Power Tools, technical weatherization training, and gender equity training. This work will be completed in the next 6-9 months and VAL will then begin providing these ELL supports for VAL Energy Works trainings in Windham, Chittenden, and Rutland Counties in 2025 and beyond. The Adult Education and Literacy Network, of which Vermont Adult Learning is the largest of four agencies, has seen an 88% increase in ELL students in the last two years. This is a reflection of the growing refugee population resettling in Vermont, many who already have backgrounds in the trades (construction, plumbing, electrification, etc.). The ELL supports VAL is developing will help participants be well-positioned for climate job opportunities upon completion of the program.

## **Vermont Community Solar Association**

**Project:** \$1,000 to launch the new Vermont Community Solar Association, a network of supporters and creators with a mission of ensuring that all Vermonters have access to renewable electricity. They aim to identify the research opportunities, structural supports, and opportunities to relieve regulatory impediments, that together create the environment for this important aspect of Vermont’s energy profile.

## **WheelPad L3C** | [wheelpad.com](http://wheelpad.com)

**Project:** \$4,000 to partially fund the design of a new product, BathPAD: a small modular accessible bathroom to connect to a home. Once designed, the BathPAD can be built in our modular manufacturing facility in Wilmington, VT. WheelPad L3C builds modular accessible housing products that can rapidly make any home safe and accessible for anyone, but especially people with disabilities or those seeking to age in place. Our original product called SuitePAD is a 24 foot by 8.5 foot bedroom and bathroom suite that can connect to a home in as little as two weeks for someone who quickly needs accessibility to recover from a traumatic accident, respond to a diagnosis like ALS or MS, move in with their adult children instead of going to a nursing facility, or give a child with a congenital disability more independence.



**Outcome:** We created the initial designs for a BathPAD in conjunction with LineSync Architecture Principal Architect Joseph Cincotta. We are now vetting the ideas with potential users and creating a budget for final design and prototype construction. People are VERY EXCITED about this because when inside plumbing arrived in Vermont, so many were installed on the second floor. This is a hardship for those aging in place, as well as those with other mobility issues. The demand for this product is great.

## White River Valley Window Dressers Community Build

**Project:** \$2,000 to support Window Dressers county wide – a volunteer-driven effort dedicated to helping Northern New England residents reduce heating costs, fossil fuel consumption, and CO-2 emissions by lowering the amount of heat loss through windows.

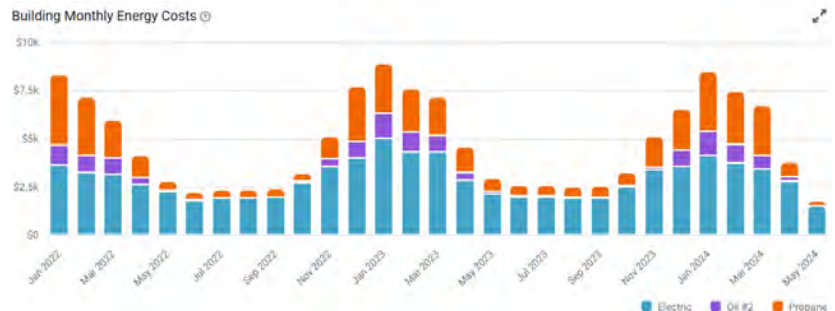
**Outcome:** Community volunteers from Central Vermont came together for the Community Build in Bethel Town Hall in October 2024. The Outreach efforts resulted in 22 insert orders, 148 window inserts built (of which 50 were special rate for people who are low-income), and 4 rewraps. Included in the build were inserts for Rochester Town Office. Outreach efforts included Front Porch Forum posts, flyers and brochures hung on community bulletin boards, tabling at local Farmers Markets, a Hey Neighbor Event held in Rochester, tabling at local food shelves, Champlain Valley Fair and Harvest Fair in Rochester. Measurers went out this Summer to measure each window. Volunteer coordinators managed the build making sure each build was staffed, and food coordinators planned menus, obtained food donations, shopped for perishable and non-perishable items, and arranged for pickup and delivery. It is estimated that a medium insert will save 8.5 gallons of heating oil every year. Reducing fossil fuel use, keeping customers warm, and most importantly, providing inserts to people that are low-income, were all goals of this build.



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## Winhall Energy Committee

**Project:** \$4,000 to install a web-accessible Energy Dashboard which publicly tracks and graphically displays monthly energy use at each of the Town of Winhall’s five municipally owned buildings.



**Outcome :** The Winhall Energy Committee established an Energy Dashboard as a web-accessible tool to publicly track and graphically display energy use and costs at each of the town’s municipally owned buildings, based on invoices and service meter readings for the energy sources used. Winhall’s municipal buildings currently use Propane, #2 Heating Oil, and Electricity. Data from previous years’ monthly energy use are in the system so that efficiency baselines for each building can be established and compared to the current month. Since the weather changes daily, monthly, and yearly, and changes in weather cause changes in energy use, the heating degree day and cooling degree values are also tracked, in order to weather-normalize the energy use data. Winhall’s municipal buildings were built using a variety of materials and construction methods across a wide time period. Using an energy dashboard enables the town to identify inefficiencies in each building and make necessary adjustments and efficiency improvements that will lead to cost savings for the town over time. The energy dashboard will also serve as an educational tool for residents and property owners, raising awareness about energy efficiency and consumption, promoting more sustainable habits, and illustrate how people can make similar energy efficiency improvements at their own homes and businesses.



# Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund Press

## Some media and news articles of funded projects:

A History of the American Lawn – Sustainable Woodstock 5/30/24

<https://www.sustainablewoodstock.org/a-history-of-the-american-lawn/>

Borrow E-Bikes From St. Albans Free Library Until October 27<sup>th</sup> to Enjoy the Outdoors -St. Albans Messenger 5/7/24 [https://www.samesessenger.com/things\\_to\\_do/borrow-e-bikes-from-st-albans-free-library-until-oct-27-to-enjoy-the-outdoors/article\\_580070e8-0972-11ef-987b-4782d1de2ee8.html](https://www.samesessenger.com/things_to_do/borrow-e-bikes-from-st-albans-free-library-until-oct-27-to-enjoy-the-outdoors/article_580070e8-0972-11ef-987b-4782d1de2ee8.html)

Shelburne Committee Holds Heat Pump Workshop -Shelburne News 3/14/24

[https://www.vtcng.com/shelburnenews/community/shelburne-committee-holds-heat-pump-workshop/article\\_c1300b24-e284-11ee-88cd-93918b089d64.html](https://www.vtcng.com/shelburnenews/community/shelburne-committee-holds-heat-pump-workshop/article_c1300b24-e284-11ee-88cd-93918b089d64.html)

Brandon Toolship: Coming Soon to a Neighborhood Near You! - Brandon Reporter 7/3/24 (pg 9) [https://brandonreporter.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/REPT\\_2024-07-03\\_001\\_compressed-1.pdf](https://brandonreporter.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/REPT_2024-07-03_001_compressed-1.pdf)

People’s Demands for a Just Flood Recovery – Vermont Business 8/1/24

<https://vermontbiz.com/news/2024/july/31/peoples-demands-just-flood-recovery-august-1>

Community Resilience Organizations - People's Demands for a Just Recovery from Flooding – Orca Media 8/1/2024 <https://www.orcamedia.net/show/community-resilience-organizations-peoples-demands-just-recovery-flooding-812024>

Bold State Action Demanded by Flood Recovery Groups - Hardwick Gazette 8/13/24

<https://hardwickgazette.org/2024/08/13/bold-state-action-demanded-by-flood-recovery-groups/>

Tomorrow in front of Statehouse: “The People’s Demands for a Just Flood Recovery” - Vermont Daily Chronicle 7/31/24 <https://vermontdailychronicle.com/tomorrow-in-front-of-statehouse-the-peoples-demands-for-a-just-flood-recovery/>

‘Working bees’ Tackle Projects on Local Farms - Addison County Independent 2/22/24 <https://addisonindymediaoffload.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/22091155/02-22-2024.pdf>

New network helps farmers connect, talk climate change - Addison Independent 10/19/23

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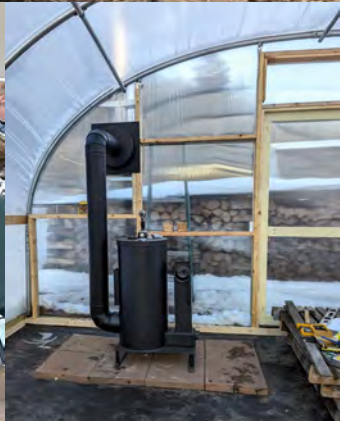
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