

Home Energy Information Guide

Here is everything you need to know about getting a Vermont Home Energy Profile (VHEP) for your home. This guide provides step by step instructions on how to use Energy Estimator, powered by [HELIX¹](#) and [ClearlyEnergy²](#) to create your profile.

With this guide, you can create your VHEP in four easy steps:

1. Register and Create a Login
2. Claim your home
3. Review and edit (optional) your home features
4. Create your VHEP

Vermont Home
Energy Profile
(VHEP) Guide

Step 1: Getting started

- Go to [VHEP Site](#)
- Register and create a login

My Account
Login / Register
Privacy Policy
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About Us
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By Address By Parcel ID

street apt/unit #

city zip code VT Search

Brought to you by a collaboration of Vermont Residential Energy Labeling Stakeholders and HELIX. Where home energy performance creates market value.

- You will receive an email from ClearlyEnergy with the subject line “Confirm ClearlyEnergy Registration”. Be sure to check your junk folder if you do not see it in your main inbox. You will need to confirm your account and login.

Once you have logged in

- You can search for your home by address or Parcel ID.

¹ <https://neep.org/initiatives/energy-efficient-buildings/green-real-estate-resources/helix>

² <https://www.clearlyenergy.com/>

- A Parcel ID is a number assigned to parcels of real property by the tax assessor of a particular jurisdiction for purposes of identification and record-keeping.
- **If your home was found in the system:** When you hit search, a screen will appear stating the address has been verified.
- On the same screen, you can review the four easy steps to creating a profile: 1) Register and Create a Login, 2) Claim your Home, 3) Edit Home Features, 4) Create Vermont Profile
 - From here, click **Start Your Profile**.

Four Easy Steps to Creating a Vermont Home Energy Profile

The buttons at the top of the page will guide you to the next step:



1. Register and Create a Login

You will receive an email from ClearlyEnergy with the subject line "Confirm ClearlyEnergy Registration". Be sure to check your junk folder if you do not see it in your main inbox. You will need to confirm your account and login.

2. Claim Your Home

In order to claim your home, be sure to login and find your address. Press the "Claim Your Home" button in order to edit your home's features and create the Vermont Home Energy Profile.

3. Edit Home Features

You will see a pencil icon next to the features you are now able to edit. You can optionally update information about your home, its energy systems or enter utility and fuel costs.

4. Create Vermont Profile


After you have updated your home features, click the "Create Profile" button to generate your Vermont Home Energy Profile. Once you have created your profile, you will be able to view and download it by clicking on the "View Profile" button.

[Start Your Profile](#)

- **If your address was not found in the system,** you will be brought to a screen, like below, to calculate your home's average energy use.
 - You will have to include the address, year the home was built, size, type of home, and primary heating fuel. There are additional metrics you can choose to fill in.

No Data Was Found For This Home

Please use this energy calculator to find out your home's energy use, and receive personalized strategies to cut those costs!



ABOUT YOUR HOME

For a better result, we need a bit of information about your home

Parcel ID (optional)

Street address

City

State

Your zip code

Your home was built in?

What is the size of your home?

Describe your home?

Your home is heated primarily with?

Natural Gas Electric
 Propane gas Oil

Cord Wood Pellet Wood

Optional:

Number of bedrooms?

Number of full & half baths?

Your cooling system is?

Window Central
 Heat Pump None

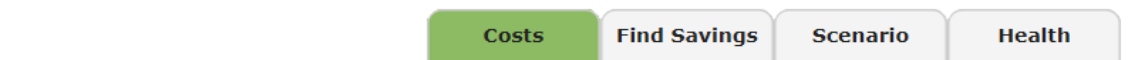
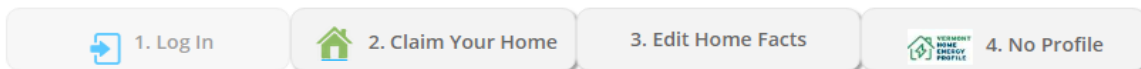
Do you have solar panels (photovoltaic) on your home? No Yes

Do you have a?

Both Neither Swimming Pool Hot Tub

[Start](#)

- When your address is found or filled out (pictured above), you will be brought to the following screen, which will display the baseline home energy cost estimate. This is calculated using home features from



E Unverified Estimate

\$4040/Year



To improve the ClearlyEnergy utility bill estimates, [claim your home](#) and provide us with a little more information or an estimate of your energy bill. Just click on the improve values icon

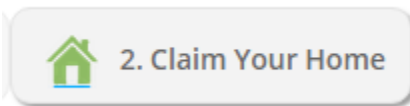
[Not your home? Click here to find your home's report](#)

public tax assessor data and HELIX data when available. The baseline home energy cost estimate may not reflect what you entered into the tool. The tool normalizes for weather, occupancy, and thermostat settings – this may cause the baseline estimate to not accurately reflect what you have entered into the VHEP. This allows for a way to know how energy efficient one home is compared to another.

In order to edit the features of your home, you'll need to "claim your home".


Step 2: Claiming Your Home

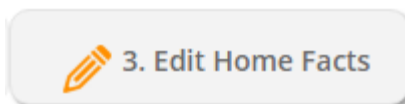
- Once you have logged in and found or added your home, press the "Claim Your Home" button in order to edit your home's features and create the Vermont Home Energy Profile.



- When you press Claim Your Home, you will be prompted to check two boxes.
 - By checking this box, you are confirming that you are the property owner or can act on behalf of the property owner (e.g. seller's agent, energy professionals completing the VHEP on behalf of the homeowner). Additionally, you are confirming that you will provide correct information to the best of your ability. **This first box must be checked in order to edit your home's features.**
 - The second box should be checked if you want to prevent other users from editing the home's energy features. By checking this box, the home energy features will be locked from editing by others for 30 days. After 30 days the home is unlocked. Do not check this box if you plan to have other users (spouse, contractor, etc.) modify your home data.
- Once you check the box(s), click **Claim**.

Step 3: Editing Home Features

You will see a pencil icon next to the features you are now able to edit. You can optionally update information about your home, its energy systems or enter utility and fuel cost. 



- Review the assumptions about your home such as insulation levels, heating system information, and appliances. To update any features and reflect the current state of your home, you will need to be logged in and have claimed your home.
- Click on the pencil icon to make edits.
- Once you have made edits, click **Update Values**.

Home Features

- Update general home facts

- This will allow you to indicate if you have completed a professional energy audit, indicate the size, age, and type of home you have (e.g. single family standalone home), specify if your home is divided into multiple units, describe your basement (if applicable), if you have a programmable thermostat, if association fees cover utility costs, and if you have an electric vehicle/charging station, a hot tub or swimming pool.
- Enter utility and fuel costs
 - This section allows you to enter actual utility bill information that will calibrate the tool's energy cost estimate. You can also indicate primary space and water heating fuel, the number of people living in the home, and the temperature you keep the home during the winter and summer.
 - **Note:** The tool's energy cost estimate is an asset-based score which considers the **physical assets** of a home such as the existing insulation levels, HVAC systems, and hot water systems. Asset-based scores do not consider the operational aspects including thermostat temperature, number of occupants, etc. Inputs for the utility bill section are used to normalize results for those aspects and other considerations like weather.

Heating Costs

- Update heating equipment and insulation details. If you know the answers to these questions, feel free to fill them in. If you are unsure, you can leave them blank. This page includes information on your heat system(s), any secondary/back-up heating systems, hot water heater, windows, attic and wall insulation, and overall air tightness of your home.

Cooling Costs

- Many homes use window air conditioning units or central air conditioning. By editing this section, you are able to indicate what type of air conditioning your home uses, if any.

Lighting & Other

- Here you can indicate what type of bulbs you use in your home, as well as the use (low, normal, high) of devices and electronics (TVs, microwaves, fans, humidifiers, computers).

Appliances

- You can edit the number of kitchens in your home. This is important if you have an in-law suite, or if the building is multifamily.
- Refrigerator: indicate the type and age of your fridge, as well as if it is ENERGY STAR certified. If you have a second fridge or freezer, you are able to indicate that here as well.
- You can indicate if you have a dishwasher, as well as how old it is and if it is ENERGY STAR certified.
- You can identify the type of clothes washer you have, as well as if you have a clothes dryer.
- You can also identify the primary fuel you use for cooking (e.g. gas stove, electric stove).

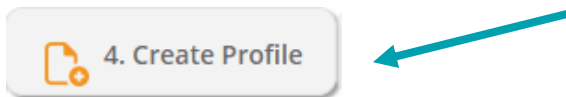
Solar 

If you have solar on your property and it did not automatically appear, you can edit this section and select yes to fill in the details. You will need the following information:

- Directions the panels face
- If any shade covers the surface
- Capacity (or maximum generation the system can produce) (kW)
- If the panels are owned or leased
- When the system was installed
- If there is battery storage

Step 4: Create your Vermont Home Energy Profile

After you have updated your home features, click the “**Create VT Profile**” button to generate your Vermont Home Energy Profile. This button only appears after you have claimed your home.



You will be brought to a screen to review your home values. This provides a chance to look over all the details you updated and the opportunity to go back and edit home features, or to create the Vermont Home Energy Profile. At the bottom of the page, you will be prompted with two boxes.


The **first box must be checked to generate the VHEP** and ensure the information provided is correct to the best of your knowledge on the date the profile is created. The **second box** asks if you would like to make the profile accessible for use by home buyers and real estate professionals – if yes, leave the box unchecked. If you would like to keep the VHEP and its contents private, check the second box.

Required: The information provided is correct to the best of my knowledge on the date the Vermont Home Energy Profile is created.

The Profile can be a valuable resource for interested homeowners and real estate professionals interested in understanding the energy features of a home. If you would like to make the Profile accessible for use by home buyers and real estate professionals leave this box **unchecked**. If you would like to keep the Vermont Home Energy Profile and its contents private and not publicly available, check this box

If third party, I am completing this Profile on behalf of/per the request of:

Comments? Comments are optional but will be included as a separate page of the Vermont Home Energy Profile

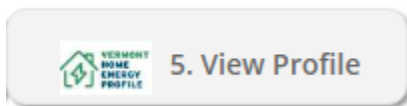


If you are a third party completing the VHEP, please provide the name of the person you are completing the profile on behalf of.

If you would like to add clarifying comments about certain elements of your home, you may do so in a comment box at this step.

- Click **“Submit”**. The tab now has a live link to create the Vermont Home Energy Profile as a PDF document.

You have now completed your Vermont Home Energy Profile!



The Vermont Home Energy Profile will be used in your real estate transaction process to provide an estimate of annual costs for operating this home. The VHEP also documents the following:

- Energy consumption and cost estimates
- Energy upgrades completed or certifications received when applicable
- Recommended energy saving actions
- Resources for additional energy savings opportunities, rebates and financing

The Vermont Home Energy Profile is a collaboration of Vermont Residential Labeling Stakeholders and The Energy Estimator, powered by HELIX and ClearlyEnergy. If you need technical support, submit a request through the tool. If you have any questions about the Profile, please contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990. Any specific questions about the Montpelier Home Energy Information Ordinance, please contact the Jasmine Benson at jbenson@montpelier-vt.org. See the frequently asked questions section at the end of this document for more information.

Figure 1 Front Page of VHEP

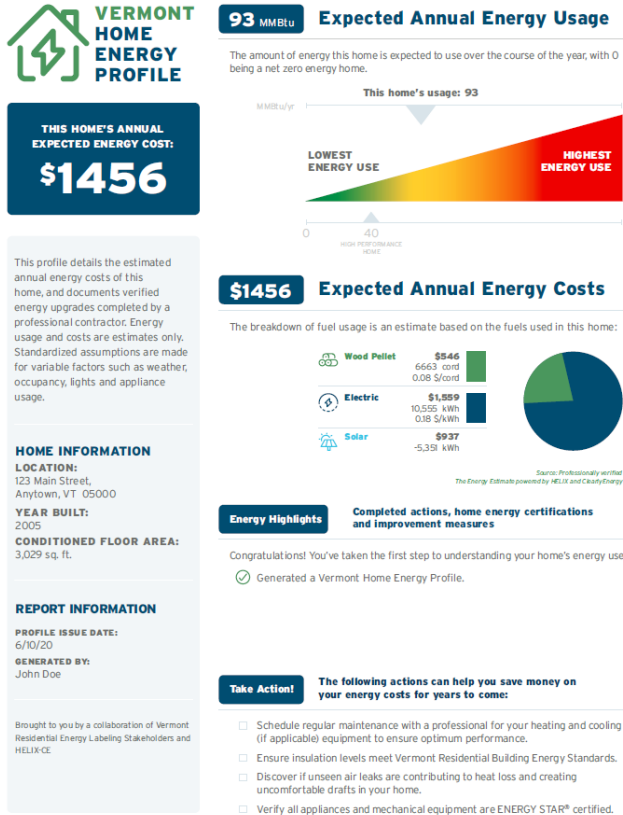


Figure 2 Back Page of VHEP

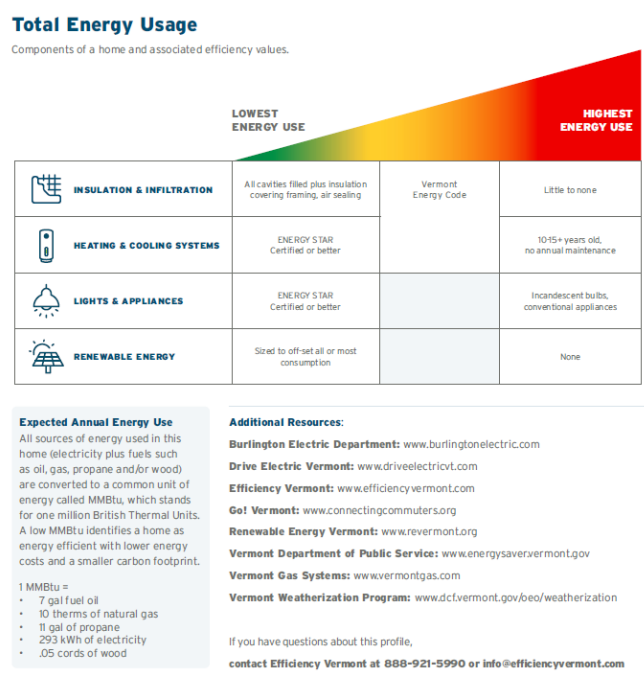
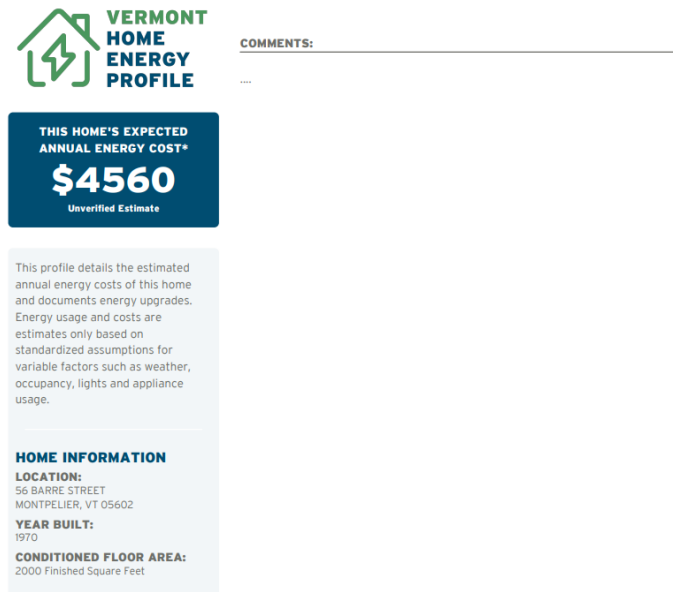


Figure 3 Comment Page of VHEP



Montpelier Home Energy Information Ordinance

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How does Montpelier's Home Energy Information Ordinance work?

Starting in May 2021, Montpelier residents are encouraged to generate and file a Vermont Home Energy Profile when listing properties for sale. Residents can create a Vermont Home Energy Profile (VHEP) in three simple steps. A certification sheet showing that a VHEP has been generated and shared with the buyer will be required at the point of sale along with other transactional documents. The ordinance will require VHEPs to be included in all residential listings as of July 1, 2022.

Why is the City of Montpelier requiring this?

The energy performance of a home should be known before the home is purchased. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide information to homebuyers about residential building energy performance. This information is designed to protect consumers, to enable more knowledgeable decisions about the full costs of operating homes and to motivate investments in home improvements that lower energy bills, reduce carbon emissions, increase comfort, safety and health for homeowners, and provide information to the City of Montpelier useful for reaching their Net Zero Energy goal.

- **Homeowners** can identify energy- and cost-saving recommendations for home improvements, and receive a better valuation of existing energy efficiency features and improvements in the real estate market when selling their home.
- **Prospective homebuyers** will gain more information about the operational costs of owning the houses under their consideration and receive a better valuation of existing energy efficiency features and improvements. This information can also be used in negotiating a mortgage rate.
- **Real estate professionals** will be better informed on how energy efficient a home is, enabling them to more confidently market energy efficiency features.

VHEP provides more transparency to homeowners, prospective buyers, and real estate professionals on the estimated energy use and costs of a home. This is similar to getting the miles per gallon (MPG) when looking at different cars in the market.

Does this ordinance apply to "for sale by owner" homes?

Yes. The homeowner is responsible for ensuring the Vermont Home Energy Profile (VHEP) is included in any online listings and at open houses hosted by the owner. All required listings include any printed advertisement, internet posting, or publicly displayed sign, including but not limited to NEREN MLS, Picket Fence Preview, Redfin, Zillow, Trulia and other third-party listing services. The only exemptions will be made for a building sold through a foreclosure, trustee, deed-in-lieu, or any pre-foreclosure sale.

Why is this mandatory for Montpelier sellers?

Emissions from residential buildings make up a considerable portion of Montpelier's greenhouse gas profile and some residents struggle with home energy affordability and data accessibility. Montpelier is pursuing a mandatory policy in support of local and state goals because analysis of existing policies shows that voluntary approaches don't generate significant results.

What is included in the Vermont Home Energy Profile (VHEP)?

The VHEP includes the estimated energy cost per year as well as the estimated energy use broken down by fuel type. The profile will also acknowledge any green certifications or home energy labels that are associated with the home. Recommendations for next steps after generating the VHEP are listed in the VHEP. There is also information on how to contact Efficiency Vermont to follow up with an in-person audit or to learn about local rebates and incentives for energy efficiency improvements.

What if someone lies on the form?

To ensure accountability, the name of the person who fills out the information for the VHEP is included in the report. In addition, the person claiming a home agrees to the following:

- They are the utility account holder or have the authority to act on behalf of the account holder.
- They will not knowingly provide incorrect information.
- They will comply with the Terms of Use.

In addition, the homeowner signs off on the information included in a listing. If the buyer finds information that was intentionally misrepresented, they could take legal action against the seller. The Vermont Judicial Bureau will handle all legal complaints and appeals.

What if my estimated annual energy cost is not what I expected it to be?

The estimated energy cost is an asset-based score. An asset-based score considers the physical assets of a home such as the existing insulation levels, HVAC systems, and hot water systems. Based on these assets and standard weather and occupant assumptions, the Vermont Home Energy Profile estimates annual energy usage and associated costs. This estimated cost may be different than your actual energy bills, which are based on your particular energy consumption behavior (e.g. thermostat settings, number of occupants, weather, etc.). Sellers generating a VHEP can add written comments in a comment box in the profile to clarify any anomalies.

For how long is my home's profile valid?

Printed and electronic VHEP reports are valid for two (2) years from the assessment date to ensure the reports reflect current and accurate information since fuel prices change regularly. Following the expiration date, a Montpelier seller listing a home publicly for sale is required to have the Vermont Home Energy Profile reissued.

VHEP reports are void and invalid after an alteration or remodel of the home that affects the heated square footage, the quality and type of windows, insulation, HVAC equipment, or other changes that are reasonably expected to impact the Vermont Home Energy Profile and associated estimates of energy use. Other changes can include remodeling a basement or attic space. These changes require a new Vermont Home Energy Profile to be obtained prior to publicly listing the covered building for sale in Montpelier.

Do I have to pay for a VHEP?

No. There is no cost to Vermont homeowners for completing a VHEP.

Will I need an in-person energy assessment before I list my house for sale?

No, VHEP does not require an in-person assessment. Balancing affordability, accessibility, and accuracy, this tool is used to streamline the process to be as easy as possible for homeowners.

What about the variability of energy prices?

The VHEP captures the estimated energy costs at the time the report is generated. It is true that energy prices may vary and the actual cost of energy may differ slightly from the estimated costs. It is recommended to generate a new VHEP when home upgrades or other factors impact the energy performance of the home.

What if I have a high estimated energy cost?

By including the VHEP in the listing, prospective buyers can make better informed decisions, but having a higher estimated cost of operation does not necessarily mean buyers will be deterred from your home. Studies around the country have shown that homes that provide standardized energy information, like VHEP, sell faster than homes without this information.³ Homebuyers like having energy information, similar to having MPG information when buying a car. In addition, providing energy information with recommendations influences new homeowners' decisions about energy renovations. This will help improve the housing stock of Montpelier

What if I can only guess at the answers to some of the questions VHEP asks?

VHEP is intended to provide an “apples-to-apples” estimate for comparative and educational purposes. It does not require 100% accuracy for all data inputs and for most fields (except the utility data section), a “good faith” guess is acceptable.

What if I think the estimate generated by VHEP is not an accurate representation of my home?

Adding utility bill information should help the model to create an accurate estimate. Users may also add a comment as an addendum to the profile as an explanation. Users are encouraged to ask questions and report suspected issues via the chatbox available at each step of the tool.

³ <https://www.tias.edu/en/knowledgeareas/area/real-estate/article/homes-with-an-energy-label-sold-100-days-faster>

What if I prefer a more detailed in-home audit rather than the virtual estimate? What if I already have a home energy rating like DOE's Home Energy Score or RESNET's HERS?

Data from previous on-site assessments are included in VHEP. All Montpelier residents are required to generate a VHEP when listing their home for sale in order to provide an “apples-to-apples” comparison. Homeowners interested in a deeper assessment are encouraged to engage a contractor to conduct an HES. Those planning to build a new home are encouraged to explore HERS.

What does ClearlyEnergy do with my data? Will it be sold?

None of your data will be sold. The data pulled into VHEP are publicly accessible and are supplemented only with inputs from the homeowner. Any edited features by the homeowner are stored within the VHEP account, but are not shared. With homeowner consent, VHEP shares the labels with the HELIX database, which can in turn share the labels with parties such as real estate professionals through multiple listing services, which are subject to privacy restrictions.

Where did the funds to develop the VHEP tool come from?

Supplemented by funds from Efficiency Vermont, the regional nonprofit Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) has funded, through support from foundations and the US Department of Energy, the development of the Vermont Home Energy Profile.

Who determined what kind of label would be used?

The Vermont Energy Labeling Working Group and the Montpelier Energy Efficiency Working Group, consisting of state and city officials, nonprofit organizations, technical partners, and industry experts led the collaborative development of this tool and label. Throughout the multi-year process, the groups solicited public feedback on the tool and label and tested variations of each with a focus group.

What if I have community solar or pay an optional green charge through my utility?

If cost units don't accurately represent your energy, you are able to add utility data in natural units. If the label generated still does not seem to accurately represent your home, users may add a comment as an addendum to the profile as an explanation. Users are encouraged to ask questions and report suspected issues via the chatbox available at each step of the tool.

Why should I trust the VHEP methodology?

VHEP has been developed and tested through a multiyear process involving various stakeholders, including a focus group of residents. The automated energy model behind VHEP has been studied and found to be comparable to other industry accepted energy usage and cost estimation models. Learn more clearlyenergy.com/api-model-testing and neep.org/residential-energy-labeling.

What if I need help completing my VHEP?

You can use [this Home Energy Information Guide](#) for step-by-step instructions for creating your VHEP, or [watch this short video that](#) summarizes the instructions.

People are ready to support you if you are still having trouble after completing the steps above. If you live in Montpelier, please reach out to Jasmine Benson at the City for assistance at jbenson@montpelier-vt.org. If you live outside of Montpelier, please use the chatbox in the tool to submit questions to the technical developer or email Emmeline Luck at NEEP at eluck@neep.org.

Are there resources available to help me lower my estimated energy cost for my home?

Yes! Efficiency Vermont has several resources available to help Montpelier residents complete home energy improvements. In fact, your profile will provide recommended next steps for improving the efficiency of your home, including contacting Efficiency Vermont. Consider checking out Efficiency Vermont's [Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program](#).

After creating my VHEP, how do I use available programs and incentives to support energy improvements?

Contact [Efficiency Vermont](#) at 888-921-5990 to learn more about available programs, resources, rebates, and incentives. Depending on your needs, they can also connect you with other partners to support you in making energy improvements.

After creating my VHEP, what do I do with it?

If you are selling your home and you live outside the City of Montpelier, you are encouraged, but not required, to display your VHEP with your property listing. You can ask your real estate agent or email Emmeline Luck at eluck@neep.org for help doing so. If you live in Montpelier, please reach out to Jasmine Benson at the City for assistance at jbenson@montpelier-vt.org.