

## **Using the Vermont Home Energy Profile**

Have you noticed the general lack of energy information available for homes compared to what is readily available for a miles-per-gallon (MPG) stickers for vehicles, ENERGY STAR ratings for efficient appliances and nutrition labels for food? The average consumer has limited access to comprehensive information on the energy performance of their home. Historically, home energy information has been invisible in real estate listings and home sales. The City aims to change this — giving potential owners a sense of home energy performance and costs by providing an intuitive and free tool to generate energy information and recommendations unique to each home. With the anticipated passage of the city's Home Energy Disclosure Ordinance, sellers will be required to generate and provide to potential buyers a <u>Vermont Home Energy</u> <u>Profile (VHEP)</u> label when listing a home for sale. The label is intended to provide key home energy insights for residents, sellers, realtors, and appraisers.

## How to Create Your Profile

This no-cost, easy-to-use tool can create your custom label in four easy steps! You simply create your VHEP by registering a login, claim your home, and review and edit your home features (Figure 1). A homeowner can expect to spend 10-20 minutes filling out the tool to accurately generate a home energy profile.

To generate the profile, the tool combines automated energy modeling capabilities from ClearlyEnergy with data from publiclyavailable tax assessor databases and the Home Energy Labeling Information eXchange (HELIX) – a secure database that stores home energy labels, certifications, and solar PV data. The VHEP displays projected annual energy usage and costs, energy highlights, recommended measures and includes the option to supplement with utility bills and information about in-home assets to refine the cost estimate. The tool normalizes for weather, occupancy, and thermostat settings – factors that may cause the baseline estimate to not accurately reflect what you have entered into the VHEP.

The VHEP tool was developed with input from Montpelier residents - from development, to profile layout to a pilot test in the fall of 2020. The city took into account stakeholder feedback, made modifications, and improved the functionality and profile layout.

## VERMONT D 93 MMBtu Expected Annual Energy Usage PROFILE int of energy this home is expected to use over the course of the year, with O This home's usage: 93 THIS HOME'S ANNUAL EXPECTED ENERGY COST LOWEST ENERGY USE \$1456 annual energy costs of this home, and documents verifie energy upgrades completed t professional contractor. Energy \$1456 Expected Annual Energy Costs ted by a The breakdown of fuel usage is an estimate based on the fuels used in this home protessional contractor. Energy usage and costs are estimates o Standardized assumptions are r for variable factors such as wea occupancy, lights and appliance Wood Pellet \$546 3 cord \$1,55 $( \mathfrak{o} )$ \$937 -5,351 kWb HOME INFORMATION LOCATION: 123 Main Street, VT 05000 YEAR BUILT: Completed actions, home energy certifications Energy Highlights CONDITIONED FLOOR AREA: 3,029 sq. ft. Congratulations! You've taken the first step to understanding your home's energy use Generated a Vermont Home Energy Profile **REPORT INFORMATION** PROFILE ISSUE DATE: 6/10/20 GENERATED BY: John Doe The following actions can help you save money on your energy costs for years to come: regular maintenance with a professional f ble) equipment to ensure optimum perfor Ensure insulation levels meet Vermont Residential Building Energy Standards Discover if unseen air leaks are contributing to heat loss and cro uncomfortable drafts in your home.

## What to Expect When Selling Your Home

Figure 1: Front Page of the Vermont Home Energy Profile

Verify all appliances and mechanical equipment are ENERGY STAR® certified.

Once a homeowner or authorized authority completes the VHEP, the data is stored in HELIX. When a home is listed for sale, a copy of the profile will be provided to all licensed agents working on the seller's behalf, to all prospective buyers, and to the buyer at closing. In addition, the tool is available to Montpelier residents who may not be selling their home but are interested in understanding more about energy savings potential. This information is designed to enable more knowledgeable decisions about the full costs of operating homes and to motivate investments in home improvements that lower bills, reduce carbon emissions, and increase home comfort, safety, and health.

For more on Montpelier's Home Energy Information Ordinance and supporting tools, please reach out to Jasmine Benson, <u>jbenson@montpelier-vt.org</u>.