

Funding Opportunities for Energy Committees

This list is a starting point and is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all energy-related grant opportunities.

[VNRC Small Grants for Smart Growth](#)

- The Vermont Natural Resources Council offers small grants on a rolling basis, typically in the \$500-\$1500 range to fund a variety of smart growth projects which can include advocating for better land use practices, advancing transportation choice, supporting affordable housing, and downtown/village center revitalization.

New England Grassroots Fund Grants

- [Seed Grants](#) range from \$500-\$1000 and are awarded on a rolling basis to local groups that are starting a new environmental project.
- [Grow Grants](#) range from \$1000-\$4000 and are awarded to more experienced groups who want to deepen or expand an existing environmental project. Deadlines are in March and September of each year.
- [Young Leader Grants](#) provide up to \$6000 of funding to an environmental project primarily led by young people between the ages of 15-25. Deadlines are in March and September. *This could be a good option for energy committees that have younger members that are interested in leading a local project.

[Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund](#)

- This grant program is offered through the VT Council on Rural Development and provides small grants to local organizations that are developing solutions to help Vermont meet its climate and energy goals. Awards range from \$500 - \$4,000 and the program is anticipated to return for another round in 2022.

[Diesel Emissions Reduction Financial Assistance Program](#)

- This program through the VT Department of Environmental Conservation offers grants to fund the electrification of heavy-duty vehicles and equipment and other upgrades that reduce diesel emissions.

[USDA Community Facilities Program](#)

- This program provides loans or grants to public entities or nonprofits to construct or improve essential community facilities which include town buildings. Improvements to facilities could include renewable energy installations.

[USDA Rural Energy for America Program](#)

- This program provides funding to assist rural small businesses and agricultural producers with energy audits, renewable energy site assessments, and technical assistance.

[Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant](#)

- This program is funded by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and funds the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The program recently received \$1million to install charging stations at multi-family affordable housing units in 2022.

[The Vermont Community Foundation](#)

- VCF offers a variety of grants throughout the state, covering a broad range of issues and topics.

Other opportunities to keep an eye on:

- **State & municipal ARPA funding:**
 - The state plans to invest it's \$1 billion ARPA funding in economic development, climate action, infrastructure, housing, and more. This investment could create funding opportunities for energy efficiency, and climate change mitigation/adaptation projects.
 - VT municipalities received direct ARPA funding that can be used for a broad range of projects. Speak with your select board about opportunities to invest ARPA money in energy efficiency projects and watch this [Energy & ARPA webinar](#) for more information.
- **The Federal Infrastructure Bill:** the new infrastructure bill will provide funding opportunities to municipalities to make infrastructure improvements including sustainable, accessible, transportation options, and EV charging. The bill also provides funding for several new competitive grant programs. VLCT has information about what the infrastructure bill will mean for Vermont communities on their [website](#).