

**Vermont Energy & Climate Summit**  
***“Meeting Vermont’s 2025 Energy & Climate Goals”***

**\*\*\*Pitch Submission Form\*\*\***

**1. Pitch Submitted By (Your Name or Organization):** Vermont League of Cities and Towns

**2. Contact Email Address:** [Khorn@vlct.org](mailto:Khorn@vlct.org)

**3. Contact Phone Number:** 802 229 9111 x1912

**a. Pitch Title:** Vermont Climate Action Communities

**b. Pitch Summary:** Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), in partnership with the Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition, Energy Action Network, and Efficiency Vermont, proposes to implement a program to drive deep efficiency savings, reduce local emissions and participate in the transition to a clean energy economy, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and provide locally supported renewable energy generation for municipalities and the communities they serve. Under the Vermont Municipal Energy and Climate Pledge Partnership, municipalities would be encouraged to undertake actions in broad categories: municipal energy use, local policy development, energy and climate change resiliency planning, and residential/business engagement. This proposal envisions a 2-phase process: 1) Pull together a framework of existing resources and provide guidance to municipalities on how to achieve climate pledge goals, and 2) Develop a more comprehensive program that sets clear goals and provides grants to municipalities to achieve climate reductions goals. Municipalities would track their progress toward these goals over time through the EAN Community Energy Dashboard. Program success will be based upon achieving measurable improvements increased efficiency and renewable energy generation.

**4. What energy sector(s) does this Pitch apply to? (Check all that apply):**

- Energy Efficiency
- Electricity
- Transportation
- Thermal Heating &/or Cooling
- All (Total Energy) -- xx
- None: Non-energy related carbon reduction proposal

**5. Which criteria category(ies) does it address? (Check all that apply):**

- Economic Activity - xx
- Affordability - xx
- Vulnerable Vermonters - xx
- Other

**6. Scale of impact on Vermont’s energy and climate goals:** If this proposal came to fruition, how might it move the needle in helping to meet Vermont’s energy and climate goals by 2025 and/or 2050? Please outline assumptions and, if available, provide calculations.

Municipal officials are in a unique position to drive efficiency, resiliency and renewable energy improvements – not only for their own energy use but through their influence on future development

and their on-going relationships with the residents and businesses within their community. Municipalities consume energy for buildings, treatment facilities, street lighting, and vehicles. Municipalities have significant influence over all new development through both municipal planning and the permitting process. Municipal officials can provide examples of addressing the climate challenge, efficiency and energy use through their actions relative to municipal infrastructure. Finally, they have on-going relationships with every resident and business within their jurisdiction through the provision of a wide-range of municipal services.

This program would build off of the comparable efforts in other states and organizations, including [Massachusetts Green Communities](#), California's [Local Government Partnership Program](#), the [NH Local Energy Working Group](#), and the American Council for Energy Efficient Economy's [Local Energy Efficiency Self-Scoring Tool](#).

**7. Benefits/costs of this proposal for Vermont and Vermonters:** Including, where possible, economic, financial, social, and environmental.

This proposal can be considered in two phases. Phase 1 would consist of pulling together existing resources and providing guidance to municipalities on how to participate to achieve their climate pledge goals. Phase 2 would involve developing a more comprehensive program that sets clear goals and provides grants to municipalities to achieve climate reductions goal – similar to the Massachusetts Green Communities program. Under an expanded program, municipalities who achieve specific milestones would receive grants to implement climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

This program would be cost-efficient as it would draw upon existing resources to engage and assist municipalities. Specific costs and benefits have not been determined as yet.

**8. Decision-makers necessary for this proposal to be adopted or move forward (e.g., Legislature, Governor, a regulatory agency, a business, organization, media outlet, or financing institution, etc.)**

Phase 1 could be done by drawing upon existing resources from participating partners. Under Phase 2, financial support would be needed to provide program coordination and grants to municipalities.

**9. Strategy and key considerations:** Outline the overall strategy, including gaps, barriers and opportunities for moving this proposal forward.

**Goals**

- Work with municipalities to implement a comprehensive and locally generated approach to drive efficiency, climate change resiliency, and renewable energy for municipalities, incorporate those attributes in economic vitality initiatives they undertake, and with the constituencies they serve;
- Provide a range of support services and technical assistance to ensure that municipalities have the tools they need to succeed; and
- Track and evaluate community progress toward achieving municipally stated goals.

**Overview**

- Encourage municipalities to undertake actions to reduce climate impacts through efficiency and renewable energy toward meeting goals of Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan of 90% renewables by 2050;
- Focus on improvements in 1) municipal energy use, 2) policy development, 3) energy and climate change resiliency planning, and 4) residential/business engagement.

- Train municipal officials and local energy committee members on developing local action plans that establish goals and implementation priorities, and identify concrete steps for achieving these goals.
- Track progress toward these goals over time through the Community Energy Dashboard
- Reward municipalities through statewide recognition and/or grants.

### Scope of Municipal Efforts

- Municipalities develop comprehensive energy plans that set measurable goals, establish priority actions, and address energy planning guidelines
- Plans would address all energy sectors, including electrical, thermal, and transportation energy use, and climate action resiliency within the context of other land use and planning priorities.
- Municipalities implement strategies/actions identified in action plan – selecting a range of actions addressing each of the four buckets of: municipal energy use, policy development, energy and climate change resiliency planning and action, and residential/business engagement.

### Scope of Assistance

Assistance to municipalities can include:

- **Guidance:** Menu of efficiency, renewable energy and climate resiliency options, a clear process for setting priorities, and a detailed catalogue of available technical and financial resources.
- **Technical assistance:** One-on-one assistance on specific technologies, policies, and options
- **Training and workshops:** Organize regional forums to train municipal staff/energy committee members and provide a forum for exploring potential opportunities for regional collaboration.
- **Community Energy Dashboard:** Municipalities pledge and track progress toward achieving their goals, as well as recording actions taken.
- **Recognition:** provide recognition to municipalities that meet their goals (and potentially goals)

### Metrics

Some potential metrics for evaluating program impacts include, but are not limited to:

- Municipal (and school) energy savings - MWH and MMBTU
- Building energy code compliance and participation in EVT’s above-code programs (RNC and CNC)
- Residential kwh savings
- Business kwh savings
- # of towns adopting innovative financing mechanism
- # of Home Performance and Building Performance jobs completed
- Adopted municipal energy plans
- Endorsed siting for community based renewable/clean energy projects

### Key Partners (\*to be asked)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VLCT – lead</li> <li>• VECAN</li> <li>• EAN</li> <li>• Efficiency Vermont</li> <li>• Vital Communities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New England Grassroots Environmental Fund</li> <li>• Vermont Planning and Development Agencies*</li> <li>• Vermont Council on Rural Development*</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**10. Timeline:** To meet our 2025 goals, we need some proposals that can be implemented in the next couple of years as well as some “game changers” that will bend the curve even further out. What timeline do you foresee for your proposal to be developed and implemented?

Phase 1 could start in Q1 2018. If funding was approved in the 2018 session, Phase II could start in 2019.