

Funding and Supporting Local Action in Your Community

June 9, 2016

Ally Philip, **New England Grassroots Environment Fund**



New England
Grassroots
Environment Fund



New England Grassroots Environment Fund

Dollars



Stories



Trainings



Collaboratives



For more information: www.grassrootsfund.org

Ally Philip: ally@grassrootsfund.org





DOLLARS

New England Grassroots Environment Fund

Small Grants Program



- \$250 - \$1,000
- Rolling online application
- Dedicated to help innovative, largely volunteer groups launch projects and build the group.



- \$1,000 - \$3,500
- Online application deadline: March 15 & September 15
- Dedicated to help established groups increase capacity, collaborate, and leverage impact.



- Three levels:
 - Regional Hubs
 - Capacity Building and Innovation
 - Pollinators
- Up to \$5,000
- Invitation-only



Renewable Energy



Oyster River Community Solar Farm, NH

Renewable Energy



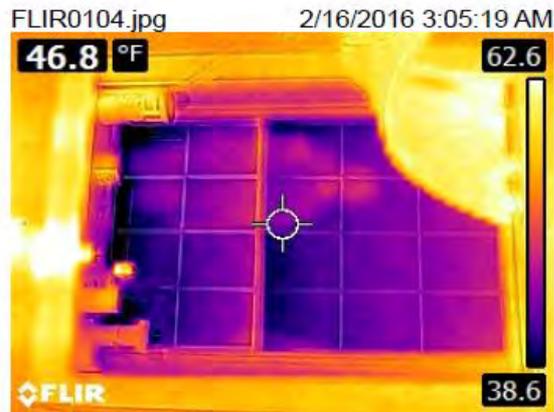
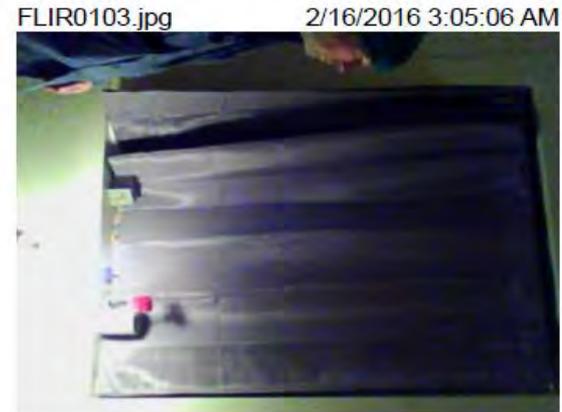
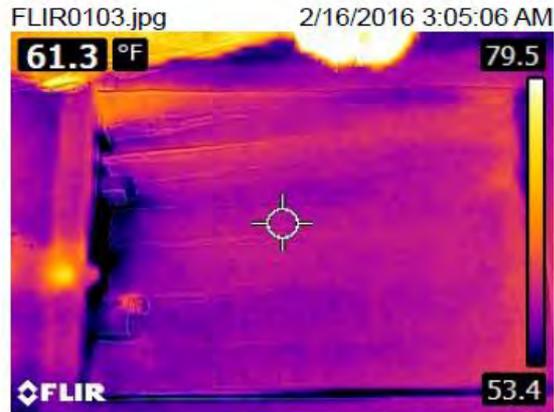
Solarize Ammonoosuc , NH

Energy Cooperatives



Co-op Power, MA

Energy Efficiency



Washington Warm Neighbors, NH

Green Transport



QC Bike Collective, NH

Community Resilience



Community Resilience Organizations, VT



STORIES



Feature Stories

Vinalhaven Energy Club helps take sting out of local heating bills

POSTED ON: August 14, 2014

PRIMARY ISSUE AREA: [Climate Change & Energy](#)

STATE: [Maine](#)

Making a difference in the world doesn't have to be a daunting task.

After describing what Vinalhaven Energy Club provides for the Vinalhaven community in Maine, the club's founder, Karol Kucinski, jokingly said "pitch this idea to the old farts."

Kucinski, a retiree himself, knows how much a few hours of free time can benefit a good cause.

VEC's membership is a beneficial mix of retirees and 20-somethings, who are skilled laborers. Because of the diverse background of its membership, VEC has been able to complete some good work despite its small size.

Kucinski formulated the idea of an energy-focused





Communications

Grow Grants dollars

In our Spring 2015 Grow round, we were able to fund **34 projects** across New England. We were inspired by the work these groups are doing, from a [Gas Leak Patrol Campaign](#) in Boston to the African Alliance of Rhode Island's [community-supported fishery](#) to a [local investment club](#) in Vermont we are excited to see the Grow program continue to expand!

Strategic Energy Action Toolkit tools

A new tool is available to help local energy committees and groups increase their impacts on their communities! **The Strategic Energy Action Toolkit** provides a framework to help energy committees combine the right balance of strategy and action for maximum impact and success in

Seed Grants dollars

This month, we awarded **11 awesome groups** Seed grants to support exciting projects like a [new bike collective](#) in Manchester, NH, an [emerging farm-to-school program](#) in Barrington, RI, and [neighbors taking a stand against pesticides](#) in their community in West Hartford, CT.

VT Energy Action Network collaboratives

The Grassroots Fund is excited to be collaborating with the **Energy Action Network** on energy & climate work in Vermont. EAN is a community of diverse, high-level stakeholders — business, government and non-profit leaders — who are committed to [collaborating as a network](#) and using a



TOOLS & COLLABORATIVES



Collaboratives

- NH Local Energy Solutions Work Group
- New England Local Energy Network
- ME Energy Work Group
- VT Energy and Climate Action Network
- New England New Economy Fund
- Food Solutions New England

Local Energy Solutions Work Group

Providing collaborative guidance and technical support to
Local Energy Committees/Commissions (LEC's),
municipalities, schools, and other political subdivisions
seeking to reduce energy use, minimize energy costs,
and/or reduce fossil-fuel consumption.

CONTACT US

nhenergy.org

Project Profiles

Renewable Energy Action Stories



Food Co-op
Community Supported Solar
Keene

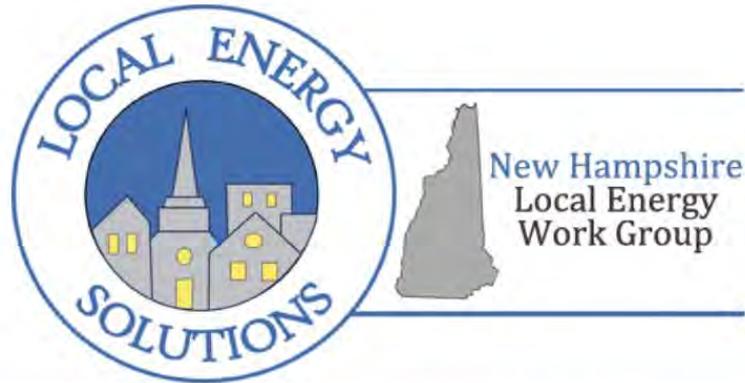


Solar PV at Rotary Club
Amphitheater
Plymouth



Solar PV at Minot-Sleeper
Library
Bristol

LES Work Group Newsletter



Local Energy Solutions E-News July 2015

Turning Ideas Into Action

In This Issue

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[LES Webinar](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Energy Solutions From
Around NH](#)

[Resources & Tools](#)

Spotlight From NH Sustainable Energy Association

Kate Epsen of NH Sustainable Energy Association and the NH Clean Tech Council appeared on Fred Kocher's WMUR show recently to discuss the attempted raid on the dedicated Renewable Energy Fund and the impasse reached over this session's bill HB 208, which determined the use of funds connected with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. [Watch the interview here!](#)



LES Work Group Webinars

LES Webinar Series

The second Wednesday of every other month from noon - 1 p.m.



Presenters:

Sarah Simonds, Vital Communities

Linda Gray, Norwich Energy Committee

Leigh Cameron, The Grassroots Fund

Strategic Energy Action Toolkit - Increase the Effectiveness of Your Local Energy Group!

July 8th, noon / [Register Today!](#)

Wish your energy committee could make more of an impact in your community? Is your committee struggling to identify your next project or getting too bogged down in planning? Join us for an introduction to the Local Energy Work Group's Strategic Energy Action Toolkit that helps energy committees combine the right balance of strategy and action for maximum impact and success. We'll hear from Vital Communities, a key developer of the toolkit, as well as from energy committees that are already using it to guide their work. You'll also learn about how to get a copy of the toolkit, participate in trainings, and access other resources for local energy groups.

Regional Energy Hubs

The NH Regional Energy Hub pilot is supported by the Thomas W. Haas Fund of NH Charitable Foundation, the Putnam Foundation, and the Jane's Trust Foundation.

Ammonoosuc Regional Energy Team



[Visit ARETs Website](#)

[Contact](#)

Mount Washington Valley Citizens for Energy Efficient Communities



[Visit MWVCEEC's Website](#)

[Contact](#)

Wapack WREN



[Visit WREN's Website](#)

[Contact](#)



Local Energy Solutions Conference 2015

Save the Date: November 19, 2016

March 21, 2015

Brought to you by the Local Energy Work Group, the NH Sustainable Energy Association, and the New England Grassroots Environment Fund

www.nhenergy.org

Strategic Energy Action Toolkit

Overarching Actions

Set Achievable Public Energy Goals (based on state goals if possible)

Does your group have a mission statement? Have specific energy targets/goals been set (e.g. 10% reduction in energy use in town buildings)? Do your goals line up with your state's energy goals?

Develop a List of High-Impact Projects and Prioritize Them

Be strategic about where your group focuses its energy - using this toolkit is a great start.

Assess Funding/Financing Opportunities for Energy Projects

Look broadly at the kinds of grants, funded programs, and financing opportunities available for municipal energy projects. Some opportunities may be time sensitive, so you'll want to revisit this strategy periodically.

Incorporate Local Energy Policies

Develop or Update Energy Chapter in Master Plan

Most town plans have a chapter on energy - how recently was yours updated? Check the resources section of this toolkit for tips on what should be included/updated.

Property Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy

An official exemption? An unofficial practice? Ask the local tax assessor.

Encourage Energy Code Compliance for New Construction Projects

There's a lot that towns can do to encourage local builders, homeowners, and developers to build to energy code standards. Check the Resources section for more info.

Adopt a PACE Ordinance (Property Assessed Clean Energy)

Some states have PACE programs available to help finance home energy projects, but only for residents of towns who have adopted a PACE ordinance.

Technical Support

LES Work Group Members

The LES Work Group is here to help! For general questions, contact the LES Work Group coordinator at lesinfo@grassrootsfund.org or for specific topics you may contact a Work Group member directly.



Sarah Simonds

Energy Program Manager, Vital Communities & LES Work Group Co-Chair

Contact me about:



Theresa Swanick

Effingham Energy Committee & LES Work Group Co-Chair

Contact me about:



Scott Albert

Principal, GDS Associates

Contact me about:

Ally Phillip, New England Grassroots Fund

ally@grassrootsfund.org

603-905-9915

Helpful Links

New England Grassroots Environment Fund: <https://grassrootsfund.org>

LES Work Group: <http://www.nhenergy.org>

