

Climate Catalysts Innovation Grant Program

The Vermont Council on Rural Development, in collaboration with the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) and Vermont State Employees Credit Union (VSECU), invites applications for small grants to support local innovators developing solutions that move Vermont closer to its climate and energy goals. The fund is initially capitalized with \$20,000 from VLITE and VSECU and will be administered by VCRD. The objective of the fund is to support innovative local projects for which a small grant could have a meaningful impact.

Anywhere from 4 - 10 grant awards will be made ranging from \$500 to a maximum of \$4,000. Funds can be awarded to a municipality, school, non-profit organization, town energy committee or business. VCRD is open to working with potential grantees that lack the organizational infrastructure to accept funds directly. Depending on the applicant pool and size of the eventual awards, a second grant round may occur in the fall.

Criteria for successful projects include:

- Innovative: What is unique about this project?
- Replicable: Can the project serve as a model for others? What path exists for this to be more than a one-off?
- Collaborative: What partners are involved and what is the depth of their engagement?
- Equitable: How does this project address the needs of historically marginalized Vermonters?
- Climate/Energy Goals: When completed, will this project reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, reduce total energy use, and/or increase renewable energy consumption in Vermont? Can that impact be measured?
- Leverage: Would this grant unlock other funds or support?

Deadline for Grant Submissions is July 22

Join a Zoom Information Session on June 24 a 12:00 PM. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcu2qrz0vGdMkSYGpQNpYRq8UYHbOaEi>

Name of the entity applying for the grant:

Your answer

Contact Name:

Your answer

Contact E-Mail Address:

Your answer



Contact Phone Number:

Your answer

Type of entity

- Municipality/Town
- Non-profit organization
- Business
- Town Energy Committee (formally associated with the town)
- Town Energy Committee (independent from the town)
- School
- Other:

How much are you applying for? Minimum: \$500 - Maximum: \$4,000

Your answer

Provide a short (4 sentences or less) summary/description of the project you are applying for this grant for.

Your answer

What geographic area are you planning to serve with this project?

Your answer



What population(s) are you targeting with this project?

Your answer

List any partners who are currently taking part in this project.

Your answer

List any partners who you hope will take part in this project.

Your answer

Please provide a brief explanation for how this project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or bring Vermont closer to its renewable energy goals. (4 sentences or less)

Your answer

Please provide a general budget for this project. Include total projected expenses and intended revenue sources.

Your answer

Please describe who will be responsible for implementing this project and how you have adequate capacity to handle logistics and other aspects of implementation? (4 sentences or less)

Your answer



Narrative: In 400 words or less, please address the following questions: - What is innovative about this project? Will it address the needs of low-income and/or historically marginalized Vermonters and if so, how? How can this project serve as a model for others? What else are you excited to share about this project?

Your answer

One goal of this grant program is to highlight local projects that are "moving the needle" on Vermont's climate and energy goals. If you receive a grant, are you willing to work with VCRD to share publicly the story of your project?

- Yes
- No
- Other:

Submit

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