

VERMONT ELECTRIC

CO-OP LIFE



Putting Safety First at VEC - Some Reflections from VEC's Safety Manager

By Rebecca Towne

At VEC our mission is to provide safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services to our members. "Safe" is intentionally the first word in that commitment and we work to keep safety a top priority.

VEC's Safety and Facilities Manager John Varney has been at the co-op since 2013 and will be retiring in March. John has been a critical part of strengthening our safety culture, leading the facilitation of teams, helping us respond to incidents and focusing on proactive prevention.

Importantly, John has been a key role-model, encouraging each of us to take responsibility for the safety not only of ourselves, but our colleagues as well. Thanks in large part to John's leadership at VEC we talk about safety regularly, share ownership of safety practices, and support each other to make smart safety decisions every day.

Perhaps our safety lessons spill into your life too – whether it's through one of our team members, learning from our safety share at annual meeting, or seeing safety tips on social media. Every day we all make decisions that impact safety – to go grab that step ladder, instead of standing on a chair, drive a little slower, use safety glasses during yard work, or wear ear protection at a loud concert. I want to thank John for his work making us safer at VEC and hope you make safety your priority too.

Recently we took some time to talk with John about his work at VEC on the eve of his departure.

What have been your roles and responsibilities here at VEC?

There are two main categories: safety and facilities. Safety involves lots of things, but overall entails instilling and enhancing a company-wide safety culture to minimize risks and injuries. And I don't need to remind anyone that working in the electric sector comes with very significant risks. On the facilities side, it's day-to-day building maintenance issues and major capital improvements – our recent construction of a new Newport facility is one example. These often involve months of planning and follow through.



John Varney

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VEC's New Hybrid Bucket Trucks Are Easing Work and Saving Money

VEC has recently put into service two new hybrid bucket trucks to serve the Grand Isle and Richford districts.

The trucks have large batteries that supply power to the truck's boom and bucket so that when lineworkers are making repairs or upgrades, the truck's diesel engine doesn't need to run. Like any electric vehicle, the truck's battery can be charged with a

standard vehicle charger. In addition, the battery is also charged when the truck is moving.

Grand Isle district lineworker Chris Connelley who runs one of the trucks says overall he's pleased with the way the truck operates and sees two main benefits of the rig's set up: fuel savings and quieter operation.

He estimates that under normal operations the truck uses about a third of the diesel fuel as a standard bucket truck because of the reduced idling time. "We fill the truck up with diesel maybe every three days, where you might be filling up a traditional truck every day," he says. On the battery side, he says the travel to and from jobs tends to fill the battery to the point where on most days, it's mostly recharged when it returns to the shop.

Connelley also says that while the truck is at a work site, communications between workers in the bucket and people on the ground – whether they are fellow VEC lineworkers, members, even motorists – is far easier because the engine isn't running. He noted that the lack of idling is especially helpful when working for periods in dense residential areas or trailer parks when the engine noise can be annoying to people over time.

"The noise-related benefits – it just improves communications all around, and helps you be aware of your environment," he said.

"Overall, this truck is more efficient and makes our jobs easier and we're glad to have it as part of our fleet," he said.



Grand Isle District lineworker Chris Connelley in the back of one of VEC's new hybrid bucket trucks. The trucks make less noise when they are on site working, and fuel use is reduced significantly.



VEC's new hybrid bucket trucks, above, look like traditional trucks, but electricity powers the boom. Below, the truck's large battery system, and its interaction with the truck's diesel engine, can be controlled on this simple dashboard display.



Planning to Upgrade Your Electrical Panel?

Be Sure to Contact VEC Ahead of Time

If you're planning to upgrade your electrical panel to accommodate more power, or "load" at your property, please be sure to call VEC before taking any action. You might be unwittingly incurring extra costs for an upgraded service transformer by increasing your electric usage.

"An upgrade to your electric panel may seem like a simple change that has no effect on your electric utility, but this upgrade can have potentially expensive implications if the transformer serving your property needs to also be upgraded to handle the new load," said VEC's System Engineer Paul Pikna. "This doesn't mean that VEC can't support the additional load. What it does mean is that it's a good idea for members to contact VEC so both parties understand the implications of upgrading your panel."

Depending on what additional load you anticipate putting on your home's electrical panel (cold climate heat pumps are a great example) it is possible that both your electric panel and the service transformer would need to be increased in size.

Transformers are the large canister-like devices on utility poles (or sometimes they're in green boxes on the ground) that drop electricity voltage levels so electricity is suitable for use in a home or business. Transformers can serve one, or a few different services depending upon the situation, and need to be sized appropriately for the expected load. There isn't a one-size-fits-all transformer and if a transformer is overloaded for an extended period of time, it can fail causing interruptions to electric service and additional costs to replace.

"If you are planning to upgrade your electric panel, please contact us to determine whether a new transformer would also be required," Pikna said. "We want to avoid surprises for our members and at the same time keep the transformers across our system sized appropriately. This is all possible by having a quick conversation with VEC during the planning process of upgrading electric panels," he said.

If you have questions about a system upgrade at your home or business, you can find information at vermontelectric.coop. Click on "Electric Service & System, then "Getting or Changing Service." You can also email Paul Pikna directly at ppikna@vermontelectric.coop.



If you are increasing the size of your electrical panel (above) it's possible the transformer outside your home, like these below, might need to be upgraded too. If you are planning to upgrade your panel, please contact VEC to avoid potentially unexpected expenses.



Here's a Rundown on VEC's 2026 Energy Transformation Incentives



Have you checked out Vermont Electric Co-op's incentives recently?

These incentives, available through VEC's Energy Transformation Program, are designed make the purchase of electricity-powered equipment more affordable for members. The program also benefits the entire co-op membership over time because the incentives pay for themselves through additional electric sales for the co-op overall.

Almost 7,000 VEC members have taken advantage of incentives since the co-op began offering them in 2017.

Since the program began, VEC's incentives have eliminated the consumption of almost 24 million gallons of fossil fuel. That's the equivalent of taking over 42,000 cars off the road for a year.

Specifically, VEC offers credits on members' electric bills for the purchase of:

- **Electric vehicles:** For plug-in electric vehicles, \$250; all-electric vehicles, \$500. For both types, there is an additional \$500 for income-qualified members. (Vehicles may be new or used, purchased or leased).
- **EV chargers:** VEC offers a free Level 2 EV charger. If members have purchased a charger, VEC offers a \$250 bill credit. In both cases, members agree to not charge during high demand times.
- **Public/workplace/multi-family charging stations:** \$500 per connection
- **Heat pumps:** For ductless, ducted, air-to-water, and ground source heat pumps as well as heat pump water heaters, an incentive is available either at the point-of-purchase or as a rebate through Efficiency Vermont. A \$150 per unit thermal efficiency credit is available if the system was installed in a building that meets thermal efficiency criteria.
- **Pellet stoves:** Incentive is available at the point-of-purchase through participating dealers.
- **Other machinery:** residential lawn mowers, \$50; commercial mowers and electric forklifts, \$1,000
- **Heat pump pool heaters:** \$600 for units that meet efficiency criteria
- **Induction cooktops:** \$100 (Not available for portable induction cooktops.)

VEC also offers custom incentive opportunities for members who want to replace fossil fuel equipment and reduce carbon emissions, through electric service upgrades or line extensions. These projects often serve commercial facilities like sawmills or sugaring operations, for instance.

Learn more about these opportunities at vermontelectric.coop/energy-transformation-programs or by calling 1-800-832-2667.

Three Seats are up for Election This Year on VEC Board of Directors

Are you interested in the energy sector and serving your community?

The Board provides leadership and direction for VEC by governing the fiduciary well-being of the Cooperative, helping to develop and approve short-term and long-term strategic plans, and supporting a diverse energy portfolio while shaping VEC's energy future by fulfilling the Cooperative's mission and vision.

To be eligible, a candidate must be a VEC member and have a principal residence within VEC service territory and in the district or zone they are running to represent. Candidates must collect 15 or more signatures from members within their district. The board generally meets in the afternoon on the last Tuesday of each month at VEC's main office in Johnson.

Directors, who are elected to serve four-year terms, receive a stipend and mileage reimbursement for attending meetings and have training opportunities to learn more about energy issues and the cooperative utility model. The board election results will be announced at the VEC Annual Meeting May 9.

Below is a list of the seats that are open in 2026 and the towns they represent:

District 3: Albany, Craftsbury, Glover, Greensboro, Irasburg, Jay, Lowell, Newport Town, Troy, Westfield

District 4: Bakersfield, Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Fairfax, Fairfield, Fletcher, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, Waterville

District 5: Bolton, Essex, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Milton, Richmond, Shelburne, Starksboro, St. George, Underhill, Westford, Williston

VEC welcomes a diversity of ideas and experience. To learn more visit vermontelectric.coop/about/vec-board-of-directors-election or use the QR code at right.



VEC's current Board of Directors. Back row from left to right: Rich Goggin (president), George Lague, Mark Woodward, Charlie Van Winkle (treasurer), and Jeff Wilson. Front row, left to right: Tom Bailey, Jody Dunklee (secretary) Paul Lambert, Bonnie Pratt, Carol Maroni, and Bill Gilbert. Not pictured: Ken Hoepfner.

VERMONT ELECTRIC CO-OP

2026

CALL FOR BOARD CANDIDATES

THE BOARD:

- PROVIDES LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION
- GOVERNS THE CO-OP'S FINANCIAL WELL-BEING
- SHAPES VEC'S ENERGY FUTURE



SAVE THE DATE

VEC Annual Meeting of the Membership will take place on the morning of May 9 at Smugglers Notch Resort. There will be a free member breakfast, updates from VEC leaders, and more.

Stay tuned for more info!

Board Member Bonnie Pratt Reflects on Service



Bonnie Pratt of Cambridge was first elected to the VEC Board of Directors in 2020 and was re-elected last year. She serves the West-Zone at Large District which includes the towns of Alburgh, Bakersfield, Belvidere, Berkshire, Bolton, Cambridge, Eden, Enosburg, Essex, Fairfax, Fairfield, Fletcher, Franklin, Georgia, Grand Isle, Highgate, Hinesburg, Huntington, Hyde Park, Isle La Motte, Jericho, Johnson, Milton, Montgomery, Morristown, North Hero, Richford, Richmond, Sheldon, Shelburne, South Hero, Starksboro, Stowe, St. Albans Town, St. George, Swanton, Underhill, Waterville, Westford, Williston. Below she offers some thoughts about her experience on the Board.

What motivated you to run for the Board?

I decided to run for the Board of Directors because I wanted to make a difference in the community. When I first ran for office five years ago, I had recently graduated from UVM with a PhD in Natural Resources where I studied the energy system transition. The job I took right after graduating, and which I still hold, is for a software company that works with electric utilities across North America. We run customer-facing programs for smart thermostats, batteries and EVs to keep costs down and enable the use of renewables. This felt like a useful set of skills and expertise to assist in determining the long term strategic plan for our electric co-op. I was also eager to learn more about how our electric co-op makes decisions.

What are the rewards of serving?

I enjoy being able to dig into complicated issues and bring fresh ideas to the table. It has been a privilege to get to know the Senior Leadership Team

at VEC and understand what goes into their decision-making processes. I have also enjoyed getting to know fellow board members who each bring something different to the table but share a desire to represent their community and make a positive impact. I have particularly enjoyed my work with the Community Fund, where local non-profits can request funds to support community projects. Most of the money from that fund comes from members who choose to round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar so a maximum of \$12 a year per member can be aggregated to support food shelves, recreation boards, and other groups of community members (Find out more at vermontelectric.coop/community-fund).

What are the challenges?

Sometimes the meetings last five hours, and that is a long time to sit in a room and listen to speakers.

What surprised you when you began serving?

I was surprised by how welcoming the veteran directors were. They encouraged me to ask questions and made an extra effort to help me feel comfortable. It's a great group of motivated people who want to help their friends, families and communities as best they can.

Do you have advice for someone considering running?

I'd encourage you to reach out to existing board members to share your interest and learn more about member responsibilities. On a practical level, make sure that you can get one Tuesday afternoon off a month. It is also helpful if you are interested in business and curious about the power industry.

A Look at Electricity Usage, and How You can Manage it to Save Money

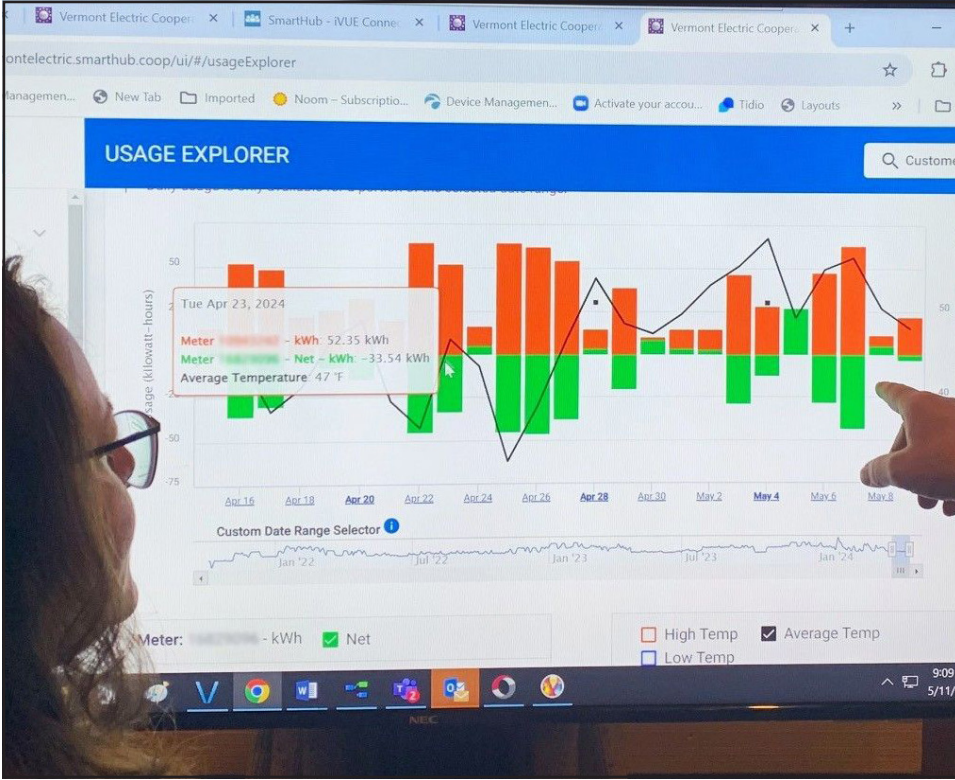
What’s the best way to track your energy usage? What are the big energy users in the average home? What are the most common mistakes people make in trying to save electricity?

These are just some of questions we tackled in our latest innovation webinar “Save Energy, Save Money: Harnessing Tech to Lower your Electric Bill.” You can watch this and other webinars we’ve hosted on demand any time at vermontelectric.coop/innovation-focus

In the hour-long session focused on saving energy our experts advise the following:

- **Sign up for our online portal SmartHub.** Information is power and the ability to track your usage is fundamental to being able to manage it and reduce it.
- **Weatherize your home, even with simple weather stripping.** A leaky house, no matter how you heat it, can affect energy bills including electricity.
- **Reduce hot water use.** When doing laundry, if you can wash clothes in cold water, do so. Take showers instead of baths and use low flow shower heads and aerators.
- **Replace lights with LED bulbs.** There are lots of different types available.
- **Buy efficient appliances.** Typically, large appliances like refrigerators or washing machines and dryers, will last decades, so investing in an energy efficient model now can pay off over time.
- **Minimize electric space heaters.** This time of year, you see them for sale in many places, but be aware they can really rack up high usage.
- **Use plug strips on entertainment devices.** In particular home office equipment – copiers or printers – can have pretty high standby losses if they are on all day and overnight. A plug strip that allows you to shut off the power to them can help reduce their load when they are not in use.
- **Hang clothes to dry if it’s convenient.** Clothes dryers can be big energy users.

There’s more in our Innovation Webinar Series. We look at how we use drones to keep our system resilient, what sources of power we plan to buy in the future, and we also offer a look behind the scenes in our control center. You can watch all of these on demand at: vermontelectric.coop/innovation-focus



Knowledge is power and VEC's online portal SmartHub, shown above, can help you track and manage your electricity usage.

Sign up for Paperless Co-op Life

A reminder: If you prefer, you can opt out of getting the print version of this newsletter and instead receive only the digital edition.

Sign up here: vermontelectric.coop/forms/paperless-co-op-life-sign-up

INNOVATION SERIES

SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY:
HARNESSING TECH TO LOWER YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

WEBINAR

ANGELA DANIELS
BILLING & MEMBER TECHNOLOGY
COORDINATOR

DAVE LAHAR
KEY ACCOUNTS MANAGER

WATCH ON DEMAND

VERMONTELECTRIC.COOP/INNOVATION-FOCUS

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Meter Replacement Project Continues to Roll

VEC’s meter upgrade project which began last year continues, and by mid-winter VEC will have replaced about 1,100 old meters with new state-of-the-art, radio frequency (RF) meters in the Cambridge and Waterville areas.

Through 2026, crews will be deploying the next batch of meters, working in the Champlain Islands, as well as in the Highgate Springs area and in and around Smugglers’ Notch. About 8,000 meters will be installed in this round. It’s expected the project, which will involve changing out all of the system’s 40,000-plus meters, will take multiple years.

Generally, this replacement is necessary to support VEC smart grid systems that ensure efficient and effective communications between members’ meters and VEC.

Specifically, RF meters offer improved outage management data for our crews which can speed up restoration during outages. The system has the ability to potentially spot individual, unreported outag-

es and the new meters also can improve power quality for members. The new meters will continue to allow members to use our online portal, SmartHub.

“We’re pleased with the how the project is going,” said Dave Lahar, Key Accounts Manager at VEC. “So far, the new meters we’ve installed are communicating with greater speed than the older meters, and they have integrated with our system well,” he said.

The system being replaced is known as a Power Line Carrier (PLC) system and communicates over existing power lines to provide two-way communications between VEC substations and meters. The new system works similarly to modern cell phone communications.

You can read more about this project and what it means to you here: vermontelectric.coop/electric-system/advanced-metering-infrastructure

For questions about this project, contact Dave Lahar at dlahar@vermontelectric.coop

NOTICE: RF METER PROJECT

During 2026 meter change-outs will be implemented across VEC service territory. If you are home when the technician arrives to change the meter, you will be alerted and there will be a temporary power interruption. Once the meter is changed the power will be restored and your service will continue as usual. If you are not home, a door-hanger will be left to inform you that the meter has been changed. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sets RF standards and oversees use of radio communication devices. If for some reason you prefer to not have an RF meter installed, you may opt-out, at no additional charge, by contacting us to obtain an opt-out form, at 800-832-2667 or via email at support@vermontelectric.coop. Members that opt-out will need to read and submit their meter readings monthly, will not be able to be included in the automated Outage Management System (so an outage may go undetected until reported), and will not be able to access interval and daily read data through the SmartHub app.

Paperless Options? We've Got 'Em!

VEC offers several easy ways to go paperless—helping you reduce clutter at home while receiving timely updates from your co-op.

Our newest option: Paperless voting for the Board of Directors. When you opt in, we'll email your voting materials and ballot so you can participate during years when your district or zone has an election. You can sign up by using the QR code in the announcement on this page.

You can also sign up for paperless billing through SmartHub. If you have a SmartHub account, simply log in and go to Settings > Paperless Billing, then toggle on "Go Paperless." Don't have a SmartHub account yet? You can sign up at vermontelectric.coop/smarthub.

Another great option is paperless Co-op Life. When the newsletter is published, we'll send you a digital version with direct links to all the stories. You can sign up here: vermontelectric.coop/co-op-life.

Need help signing up for any of VEC's paperless options? Contact our Member Services team during normal business hours at 800-832-2667, and we'll be happy to help you get set up!

ONLINE VOTING FOR DIRECTOR ELECTIONS



LEARN MORE & SIGN UP HERE:



DRAFTY HOME?
HIGH HEATING BILLS?



The Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) May be Able to Help

- ✓ Low monthly payments added to your electricity bill
- ✓ No credit check required
- ✓ Up to 75 % of project costs

More at vhfa.org/wrap

Energy Improvement Financing Available

Are you thinking about weatherizing your home but are wondering how to pay for it? The Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) may be able to help you. WRAP is intended to assist both homeowners and renters in Vermont in pursuing energy-saving projects by allowing them to pay for the costs over time through a low-interest monthly charge on their utility bill. WRAP can finance home weatherization projects like insulation and air sealing as well as heat pumps, electric water heaters, and advanced wood heating systems.

You can learn more here:
<https://vhfa.org/homeowners/WRAP>

CEO UPDATE Continued from page 1

Safety has been woven into the fabric of all we do at VEC. How have you accomplished that?

It's been multi-faceted. Most of our meetings, company-wide, start with a "safety share." One person shares a safety-related tip or experience that hopefully can help others avoid an accident or an injury. Supervisors check on people who are working in the field to be sure of safe practices, and we use "tailboards" – documented discussions among crew members before starting a job. These conversations are designed to identify risks and minimize the chance of injury. We do monthly safety meetings at all the districts. We have a "learning opportunities" program – a shared online system where we share near-misses, from both work life and at home, and analyze how they can be avoided in the future. We have a safety committee that meets regularly, as well as several complementary safety teams including a safety communications team that's charged with getting the word out about safety generally to the entire company.

What would you say are the most important aspects of creating a safety culture?

What's absolutely key to our safety culture is this: reporting safety problems comes with no penalties or repercussions. We have created a culture of openness and candor across the company regarding safety. No one is reprimanded for a poor safety choice. Instead, the safety missteps are seen as learning moments and opportunities for improvement. This focus on safety is a group effort, that we are all in this together, and people should not be embarrassed about reporting a lapse in safety practices – this has been critical to our success.

What have been some of the highlights of your time here at VEC?

There are two big ones: The first is getting VEC certified in the national OSHA Voluntary Protection Program, or VPP. VEC is the only electric utility east of the Mississippi that has this prestigious designation that requires rigorous safety protocols, and we are just one of three companies in Vermont of any type that have the designation. I'm also very proud of the capital projects we have accomplished, including upgrading our Richford facility, the construction of our Newport facility, and more. On average we have completed about 10 capital projects per year over the 13 years I have been at VEC.

I am very proud of VEC's safety program, our low rates of injury and the fact we have continued to be qualified in the VPP program for going on eight years. It takes a lot of commitment from across the company to keep our safety record strong. It's been a team effort with people from across the company engaging and committing to this effort.

There are lots of ways people can add safety to their daily lives, whether at work or at home. What simple advice can you offer to members for adding safety to their daily lives?

Overall, at its core, safety is actually pretty simple: stop, and think, and be sure you have the right tool or equipment to get the job done. Often in my experience injuries are caused by people moving too fast. They want to get the job done quickly. Maybe they are under a self-imposed deadline. They know they need, say, the step ladder that's in the cellar rather than a foot stool they have handy, but they use the foot stool and if they have to reach too high that can cause problems. One of the rewards of my work at VEC is hearing that the safety culture we have created here has permeated into employees' family lives as well. That makes me feel good. It's deeply rewarding to have been part of a successful program to keep our employees, as well as our members, safer.

How to prepare for a virtual home energy visit



Research is one of the first steps in every home improvement project. Need to un-clog the sink? Google it. Need a new kitchen appliance? Search for an energy-efficient one at your local retailer. Need to address that pesky draft in your house? Ask an expert.

Knowledge really is power when it comes to solving your home's biggest issues and making your space more energy efficient. A virtual home energy visit empowers homeowners and renters with the information they need to make informed decisions. "It was easy," says one Barre couple who got a virtual home energy visit in 2021. "I wish all things were that easy."



What's a virtual home energy visit?

A virtual home energy visit is a video call between you and an energy expert. The expert can identify opportunities to improve the comfort and energy efficiency of your home. In other words, they know where to look and what questions to ask. They're a neutral source of information, so you can rest assured that they won't try to sell you anything. Efficiency Vermont offers free virtual home energy visits to Vermont homeowners and renters all year long.

Virtual home energy visits typically take 1.5 hours, and they can be scheduled at your convenience. You'll give the energy expert a tour of some important aspects of your home, like your heating system, your electrical panel, and your basement. You might also show them copies of your energy bills so they can understand how much fuel or electricity your home uses annually.

Based on the learnings from the virtual home energy visit, you might decide to pursue a comprehensive home weatherization project. Those projects require an additional on-site home assessment by a contractor to qualify for incentives.

Benefits of a virtual home energy visit

A virtual home energy visit is a no-brainer.

- Get expert advice from the comfort of your home
- See a holistic view of your home's energy consumption and understand how the different systems work together
- Receive customized advice on how to address your home's specific issues or areas for improvement
- Walk away with a personalized list of next steps to help you prioritize your projects
- Did we mention it's free?

When should you have a virtual home energy visit?

There's never a bad time to have a virtual home energy visit. Our energy experts are available year-round to answer your questions and help you prioritize your next projects. That said, here are some times when a virtual home energy visit might be especially helpful:

- **While issues are visible:** It's best to schedule your visit when the energy expert will be able to see any specific issues you're having. For example, if your basement is wet in the spring or if you have an ant issue every summer, schedule your visit during that time.
- **When moving into a new home:** Did you just buy a house, or start renting a new place? It's a great time for a virtual home energy visit to get the lay of the land and learn about your new home.

- **Before starting a new project:** We recommend getting a virtual home energy visit before embarking on a big home improvement project. You might gain new or deeper information which can help inform your priorities and approach.

How to prepare for your virtual home energy visit

Once you've scheduled your visit, take a few minutes to prepare your space and gather some documentation. A little bit of preparation goes a long way toward getting the most out of your virtual home energy visit.

- **Identify your goals:** To maximize the value of your virtual home energy visit, spend some time in advance thinking about your goals. Do you have specific issues that you want to address, like drafty rooms, dampness, or pest problems? Maybe you're thinking of buying an electric car or a heat pump and wondering whether your home has enough electrical service to handle the additional load. Or do you just want to learn how to make your home more energy efficient? Understanding your goals will help guide the conversation with the energy expert.
- **Charge your phone or tablet:** You'll be giving the energy expert a tour of your home, so make sure your device is fully charged.
- **Write down your home information:** Be prepared to share the following information.
 - Age of the home
 - Home type (farmhouse, ranch, colonial, etc.)
 - Number of occupants
 - Number of heating and cooling zones
 - Heating sources and fuel type(s)
 - Presence of energy-intensive appliances or devices (such as heat pumps, electric space heaters, chest freezers, or medical equipment)
- **Clear a path:** Make sure that you have easy access to your electrical panel, heating system, and water heater. If you want to discuss your attic or basement, make sure those spaces are easily accessible, too. For example, if you'd like the energy expert to see your attic, set up a ladder ahead of time. For dark spaces, please have a flashlight handy.
- **Gather documentation:** Have copies of your energy bills (ideally for the past 12 months) so the energy expert can understand your home's annual fuel and electricity usage. The bills should show the quantity (in gallons) of fuel used and the quantity (in kWh) of electricity used. Since energy prices vary, the quantity of fuel and electricity helps establish a stronger baseline than the amount you paid in any given year.

Ready to schedule your visit?

Schedule your personalized Virtual Home Energy Visit from Efficiency Vermont today efficiencyvermont.com/rebates/list/home-energy-visit



Important Annual Notice Regarding Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Electric Utility Rights-of-Way

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under [PUC Rule 3.600](#) pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW). Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. **Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.**

If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000' of an electric utility right-of-way:

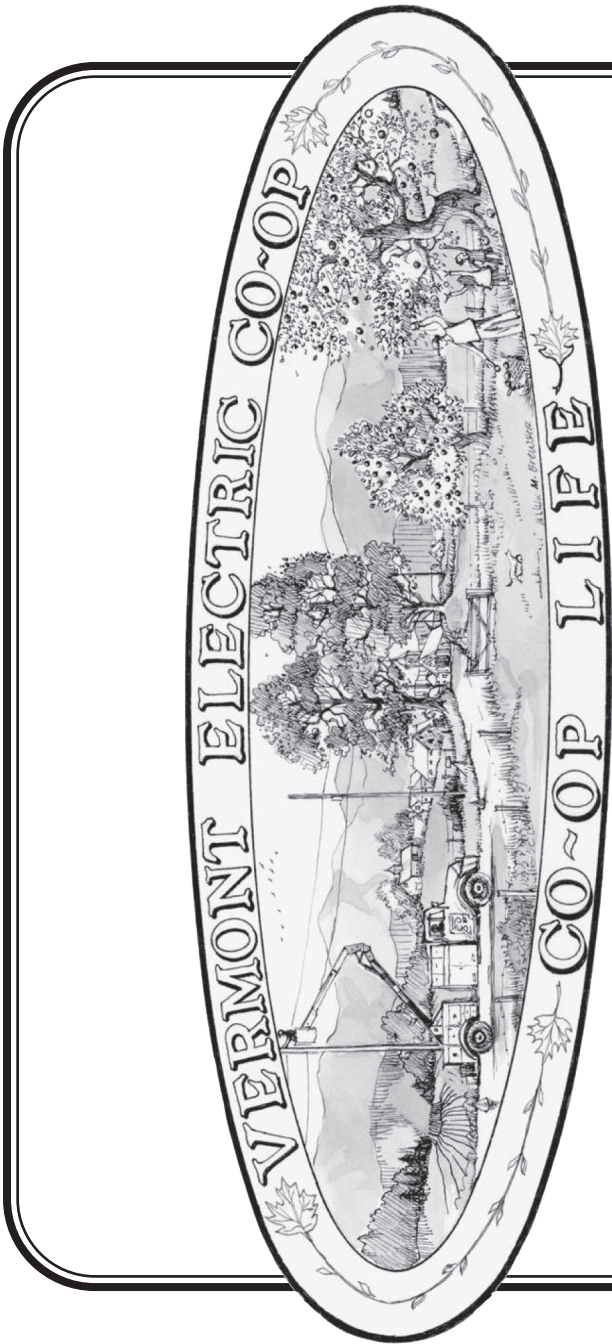
1. **Sign up to receive written notification** from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000' of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15th, 2026 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
2. **You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware** of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
3. **Watch and listen for public service announcements** in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
4. **Check with your local electric utility** regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
5. **You have the right** to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
6. **You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **distribution lines**, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
7. **You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **transmission lines** or **sub-transmission lines**, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

Vermont Electric Co-op 42 Wescom Road, Johnson, VT 05656 800-832-2667 or 802-635-2331	Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431	Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496
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Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15th, 2026.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List					
Name		Town/City of Affected Property			
Street Address		Home Phone Number			
Town		Work Phone Number			
State	Zip Code	O.K. to use work number? (circle one)	Yes	No	
Electric Utility Account Number		Best time to contact you			
Affected Property: Year-Round Residence Summer Residence Commercial Property Water Supply Organic Farm Land Other (Circle all that apply)					
Line/Pole Identification: Utility Initials		Pole Numbers			
Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification. MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15TH, 2026					



Winter 2026

Volume 83 Number 1



Last year VEC purchased two hybrid bucket trucks and they are now in operation around our territory. The trucks are powered with traditional diesel engines, but the boom and bucket can be operated using a battery that's installed in the truck. When the trucks are set up and working, they do not need to idle their engines in order to power the boom. The effect is a reduction in diesel fuel use and minimized noise at work sites. Lineworker Gabe Baraw, above, often runs this hybrid truck in the Grand Isle District. Read more inside.



Vermont Electric Cooperative Inc.
42 Wescom Rd.
Johnson, VT 05656

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