

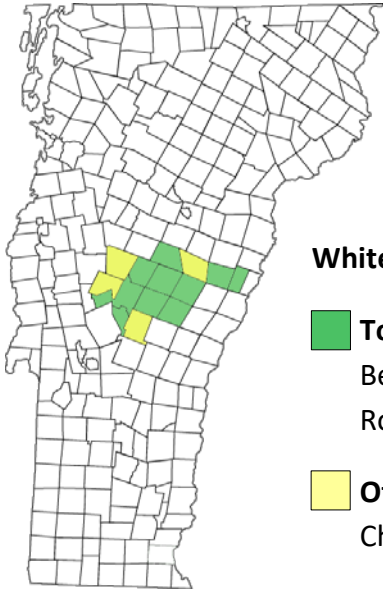
# White River Valley Region

Climate / Energy Intermunicipal Regional Coordinator  
Report and Action Plan  
**May-September 2023**



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**Vermont Council on Rural Development**



**White River Valley Region:**

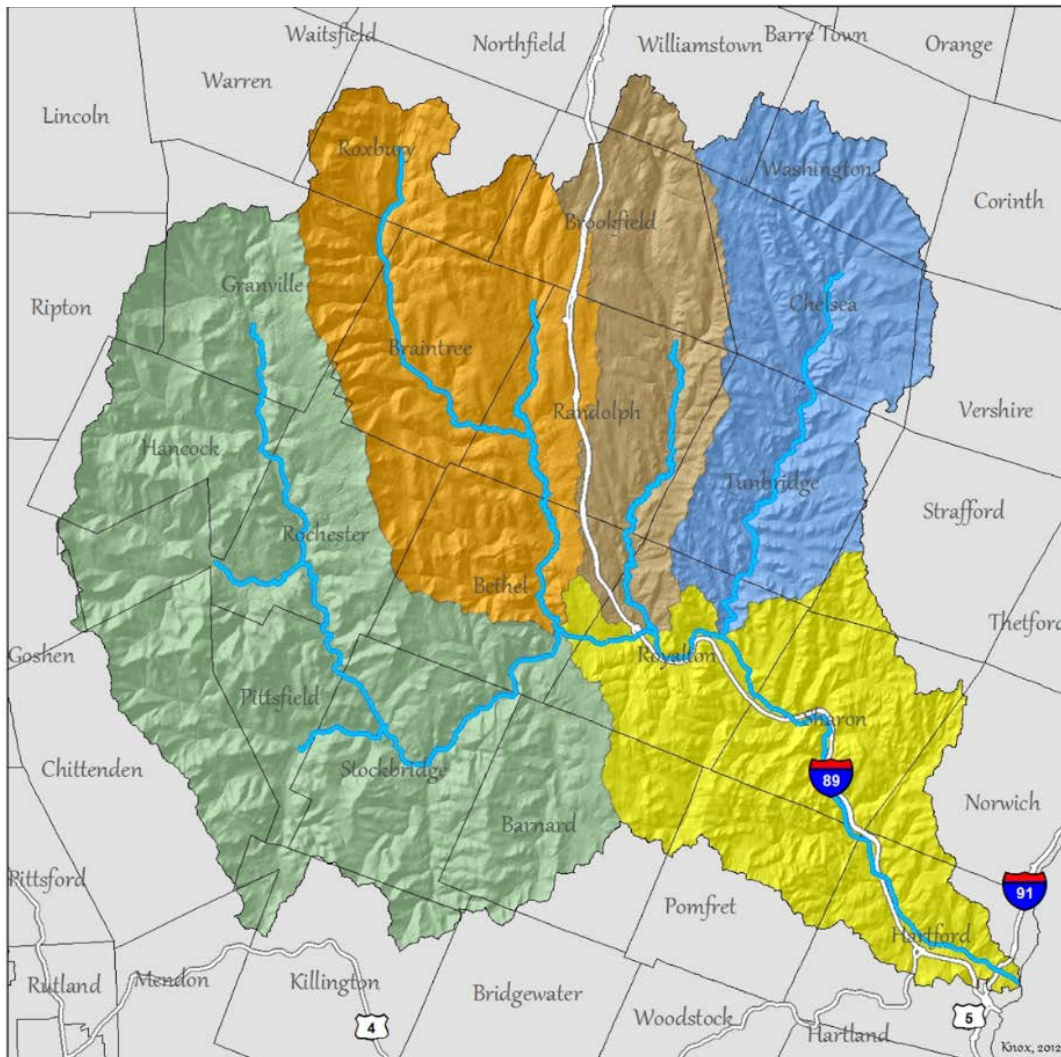
**Towns Participating in this Effort:**

Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Pittsfield, Randolph, Royalton, Rochester, Tunbridge, Vershire, and West Fairlee

**Other Towns Invited to Participate:**

Chelsea, Granville, Hancock, and Stockbridge

**White River Watershed Sub-Basins**



*White River (HU 01080105)*

*First Branch White River (HU 0108010504)*

*Headwaters White River (HU 0108010501)*

*Second Branch White River (HU 0108010503)*

*Third Branch White River (HU 0108010502)*

*White River (HU 0108010505)*



# Table of Contents

I. Introduction.....	5
II. The White River Valley Process .....	6
III. Top Priority and Other Opportunities.....	8
IV. Action Plan .....	11
V. Regional Assets and Challenges.....	14
VI. Regional Data Sets.....	16



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# I. Introduction

The Vermont Council on Rural Development's (VCRD) Climate Economy Resilient Communities Program is designed to help communities build and implement priority actions that increase economic vitality and affordability in a time of climate change. Through this program, VCRD supports three to five communities per year working on local climate action solutions by providing community engagement processes, strategic planning, and/or project implementation.

In the fall of 2023, the Bethel Energy Committee applied to the program on behalf of towns in the White River Valley (WRV). The application identified the need to come together as a region to put in place a regional coordinator initially modeled after the existing 7-town Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) housed under Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC).

The overarching goals of the effort are to:

- Goal 1: Bring WRV energy committees/coordinators together to build a regional network for potential collaboration, to learn and share resources.
- Goal 2: Understand and identify gaps in the existing structures for Town Energy Committees, Energy coordinators, EX: RPCs, Volunteers, Town Administrators, Selectboards, in order to implement energy/climate/resilience projects and understand possible structures to support the work.

The White River Valley process was designed to pull in energy committees, selectboard members, and other town selected representatives to discuss ways to identify and move steps forward to hire a Regional Coordinator.

At the center of all this work has been the Bethel Energy Committee member Nicole Cyr who is deeply committed to the energy mitigation and resilience of the broader region. Thanks also go to all who participated in meetings and/or surveys for their advice and guidance along the way.

The Climate Economy Resilient Communities Program is made possible thanks to the generous financial support of VLITE and the Jane's Trust Foundation.

## II. The White River Valley Process

Fourteen towns in the White River Valley region were invited to participate in the process including: Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Chelsea, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Randolph, Royalton, Rochester, Stockbridge, and Tunbridge, Vershire, and West Fairlee. The selectboards and/or energy committees from those towns were asked to identify representatives to engage with the process on behalf of their town. VCRD facilitated the process each step of the way.

The following representatives participated in the process by attending meetings in person or on Zoom, by sharing input through online surveys, and/or by receiving updates about the process to share with their town's selectboard: Pat Barnes, Vershire Energy Committee; Vicki Blanchard, Brookfield Town Administrator; Nicole Cyr, Co-Chair, Bethel Energy Committee; John Dettwiler, Royalton; Dave Eddy, Bethel Selectboard; Helen Flannery, Brookfield; Jeff Gephart, Leader, Valley Energy and Climate Action Committee, Rochester; Jill Gifford, Stockbridge Admin Assistant; Kim Grout, Admin Assistant to Randolph Town Manager; Kathy Hassey, Royalton; Marsha Hopkins, Pittsfield; Delsie Hoyt, West Fairlee Selectboard; John Kidder, VTC, Randolph resident; Therese Kirby, Bethel Town Manager; D. Gene Kraus, Bethel Selectboard; Ann Kuendig, Pittsfield Selectboard; Trevor Lashua, Randolph Town Manager; Will Lyon, Chelsea Selectboard; Charlie McMeekin, Braintree Selectboard; Susan Mills, Randolph Energy Committee; Megan O'Toole, Co-Chair, Braintree Selectboard; Victoria Paquin, South Royalton Town Administrator; Scott Putney, Bethel Energy Committee; Larry Satcowicz, Randolph Selectboard; and Todd Tyson, Tunbridge Energy Coordinator.

### May 25, 2023 Meeting

The first meeting was held at the Bethel Town Hall on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2023. Participants brainstormed the region's **Assets, Challenges, and Opportunities**. Nine **Ideas for Action** emerged from the discussion (see section III, page 8). After the meeting, all participants were invited to add additional ideas for action and vote for their priorities through an online survey.

### July 25, 2023 Meeting

Before the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, survey results were compiled, and five ideas rose to the top for discussion and prioritization. On July 25<sup>th</sup>, representatives came back together to discuss, champion, and prioritize the list of five ideas to pursue as a region:

- Establish a Structure to Hire an Intermunicipal Regional Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordination and Outreach
- Showcase Weatherization and Home Systems Replacement
- Improve Transportation Options in the Region
- Develop Communication, Education and Awareness on Climate Issues

Through a discussion and voting exercise, participants chose to prioritize an effort to **Establish a Structure to Hire an Intermunicipal Regional Coordinator**. Participants noted that prioritizing this action would provide the backbone that would enable the implementation of other actions and hence should be the starting point to move these initiatives forward. The group then dove into action planning and identifying the steps for immediate action. A recording of the meeting is available at: <https://youtu.be/J29NbBs2Af0>.

## September 14, 2023 Meeting

At the third meeting, held September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, participants and a team of regional resource partners joined together to help the group hone in on the steps and process needed to implement the work to Establish a Structure to Hire an Intermunicipal Regional Coordinator.

The Regional Resource Partners who participated in the conversations will continue to serve as resources for the group as the work moves forward:

- **Harry Falconer**, *Planner and Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) coordinator*, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC), [hfalconer@trorc.org](mailto:hfalconer@trorc.org), 802.457.3188 x3013.
- **Jeff Grout** existing Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator housed under TRORC, [jgrout@trorc.org](mailto:jgrout@trorc.org), Tel: 802.457.3188 x3008.
- **Anna Guenther**, *Project Manager*, Vital Communities, [anna@vitalcommunities.org](mailto:anna@vitalcommunities.org), 802-291-9100 x117.
- **Erica Hiller**, *Project Manager*, Vital Communities, [erica@vitalcommunities.org](mailto:erica@vitalcommunities.org), 802-291-9100 x119.
- **Mike Reiderer**, *Community Relations Manager*, Tri-Valley Transit, [mreiderer@trivalleytransit.org](mailto:mreiderer@trivalleytransit.org), (802) 728-3773.

## What's Next

As this report is compiled, area leaders are stepping forward to lead the group toward developing a job description, budget, and presenting to select boards for considering the opportunity to partially fund the position in the town budget. While area residents hold the keys to the success of this endeavor, VCRD will continue to provide support as needed.

This initiative set challenging but strategically achievable goals, and there is much work to do, but the regional group is organized and ready to get to work.

Special thanks to Nicole Cyr and Megan O'Toole who have stepped forward to co-chair the work moving forward. If you'd like more information on the regional effort or to get involved, please contact Nicole at [nac12161@vermontstate.edu](mailto:nac12161@vermontstate.edu).



### III. Top Priority and Other Opportunities

On July 25, 2023, regional representatives selected the following priority for action:

#### **Establish a Structure to Hire an Intermunicipal Regional Coordinator**

A task force could form to outline possible channels to hire a regional coordinator. This group could generate a job description for a regional coordinator for energy, climate change, community engagement, and/or volunteer coordination. Some possible roles for the coordinator position could include being a continuous point person as volunteers rotate through committees, help track town energy use and savings, identify areas where the town can save money, coordinate demonstration projects, and apply for grant opportunities. The group could review possible structures for how the paid position would operate. This group could also work with TRORC to develop a cost/benefit analysis for the position. Possible Structures to explore include, but are not limited to, duplicate existing IREC model in 7 towns with TRORC as host; hire a consultant, ad-hoc, micro-gig for regional projects or campaigns; create a town based position that multiple towns contribute to; or others. The framing of the position is critical for broad support and individuals need to see how it will impact them. Some questions to ask include: What does the position look like? Having a regional staff person is pretty broad – what would we want to narrow that position to? Possible ways to structure the position to make it affordable to all towns (example: per capita fee). Example job descriptions from other initiatives have been gathered and can be expanded upon.

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#### **Other Opportunities:**

The opportunities listed below reflect other potential ideas for action. Though these opportunities weren't chosen as the top priority through this process, community members may find the list useful as they look to expand on current projects, take on new ones, and/or create a workplan for the regional coordinator.

#### **Volunteer Coordination and Outreach**

A task force could form to explore structures to coordinate volunteer efforts. This group could coordinate the many committees around the region, could combine efforts, outline shared goals, and create cohesion between projects and initiatives. This could begin by having a list of local committees assembled in one spot and could expand into shared initiatives, paid staff, etc. The group could take on generating a web of volunteers for the climate actions (some examples include Barnard and Tunbridge/Sharon) throughout the White River Valley that are available for specific tasks and includes support to the volunteer-led energy committees. The task force could develop methods for organizing existing volunteers, generate a database of individuals as well as the multiple locations (such as Rotary meetings, Chamber of Commerce). This group could develop outreach strategies and information for committees to use when recruiting volunteers and structure education of volunteers in how to meet people where they are, engage in one-on-one conversations effectively, listen to residents' issues and areas of concern, and translate those ideas to a broader audience. This group could develop information on best practices on volunteer retention and how to make meaningful "asks" to potential volunteers. This group could also work to publicly recognize volunteers within the region through existing platforms such as front porch forum, facebook, newspapers, or community events. This task force could investigate structures where there is a direct point person (potentially paid) that oversees the regional volunteers.



## **Climate Campaign and Advocacy**

A task force could form to create a trained group of volunteers to canvas about the opportunities available to weatherize homes, purchase community solar, install heat pumps, etc. The group could focus on face-to-face interactions through door-to-door, on the ground canvassing, similar to a community outreach campaign such as VPIRG who hires college students every summer. This group could also explore opportunities to creatively educate around and advance climate initiatives in the region. This group could research, coordinate and partner with existing groups and organizations such as energy committees and the 350 VT regional event planned in June (and future ones) focused on education around combustion and non-combustion sources of energy: 350White River Node <https://www.350vermont.org/nodes>.

## **Develop Communication, Education and Awareness on Climate Issues**

A task force could form to make a valley wide virtual communication location for posting events, information, and volunteer opportunities, such as one facebook page, newsletter, and/or other communication channels. This task force could generate and document stories to connect people to climate change as it relates to them. Community/regional gatherings could be organized to make it fun and create socialization opportunities— these could include festivals, food, music on the greens, etc, where everyone is invited and encouraged to attend and connect across towns. This group could structure a regional education campaign that provides easy to understand ways for people to engage and access resources. This group could also develop a regional White River Valley identity that connects residents and builds the opportunity for eco-friendly tourism.

## **Showcase Weatherization and Home Systems Replacement**

A task force could form to make a showcase project highlighting weatherization and electric mechanical system change over. The project could be available to the public through hands-on exploration, participation, and space for questions. This could be within the school system, habitat for humanity, Efficiency Vermont, or community group. One example would be a whole house weatherization project and mechanical system electrification in the center of Royalton, Bethel, or other centers. This could include visual information, available to people passing by or through social media, about the process and schedule workshops for community members to participate.

## **Create a Regional Climate Action Plan**

A task force could form to create a valley-wide Climate Action Plan that begins with an analysis of the region and generates possible actions steps for regional implementation. The group could coordinate directly with each town, town plan, and past reports, to align energy and climate goals into regional approaches. The plan could include the creation of a town/s policy to review life cycle costs of equipment when making decisions on purchases for the town to upgrade to electric, efficient, renewable sources. TRORC could be a bridge between towns and support regional planning activities.

## **Collect, Track, and Coordinate Regional Data**

A task force could form to develop a valley-wide process to track and inventory Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and integrate it into daily town operations. It could help with prioritization and decision making, such as determining what new equipment to purchase including looking at the life-cycle costs and not just the upfront costs. This could include coordinating and requesting Efficiency Vermont data by zip code to see the trends of adoption of weatherization, heat pumps, etc. This group could create a regional compilation of the feedback and questions at tabling events – compiled in a shared database of what’s heard throughout the year in order to share with select boards, voters, etc. This could include looking at processes with municipalities to easily receive comments from residents such as an online form. In order to process the concerns the town/coordinators are hearing, there could be an annual regional review and convening on what actions could address those concerns.

### **Establish a Regional Food/Farmer Network**

A task force could develop a regional food/farmer network to benefit local agriculture, community gardens, and conservation initiatives. The network could include shared resources, maps, regional branding, or other ways to promote the local food scene. Pollinator gardens could be used as a catalyzing action to connect people concerned about the issue of climate and food, and develop place based visible solutions. This group could coordinate events, educational workshops, or tours of local farms and backyard gardens.

### **Improve Transportation Options in the Region**

Transportation represents a significant portion of household budgets and Vermont's carbon emissions. Providing alternatives to the car is also important for young people, seniors, and others who don't drive. As technology has advanced, providing flexible transportation in rural places is within reach. Working closely with Tri-Valley Transit, a committee could chart a course towards the goals of increasing ridership on existing transit and developing other flexible options for better service, both for local trips and longer ones.

## IV. Action Plan

Developed at the July 25<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meetings

At the July 25th meeting participants worked with a facilitator and a resource team to develop step-by-step action plans and a list of human and financial resources to help achieve their goals. Next, participants will take ownership of the work, and begin the exciting process of turning ideas into action.

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### Establish a Structure to Hire an Intermunicipal Regional Coordinator

Community co-chairs: **Nicole Cyr** and **Megan O'Toole**

Facilitator: **Laura Cavin Bailey**, *Climate Economy Program Manager*, VCRD

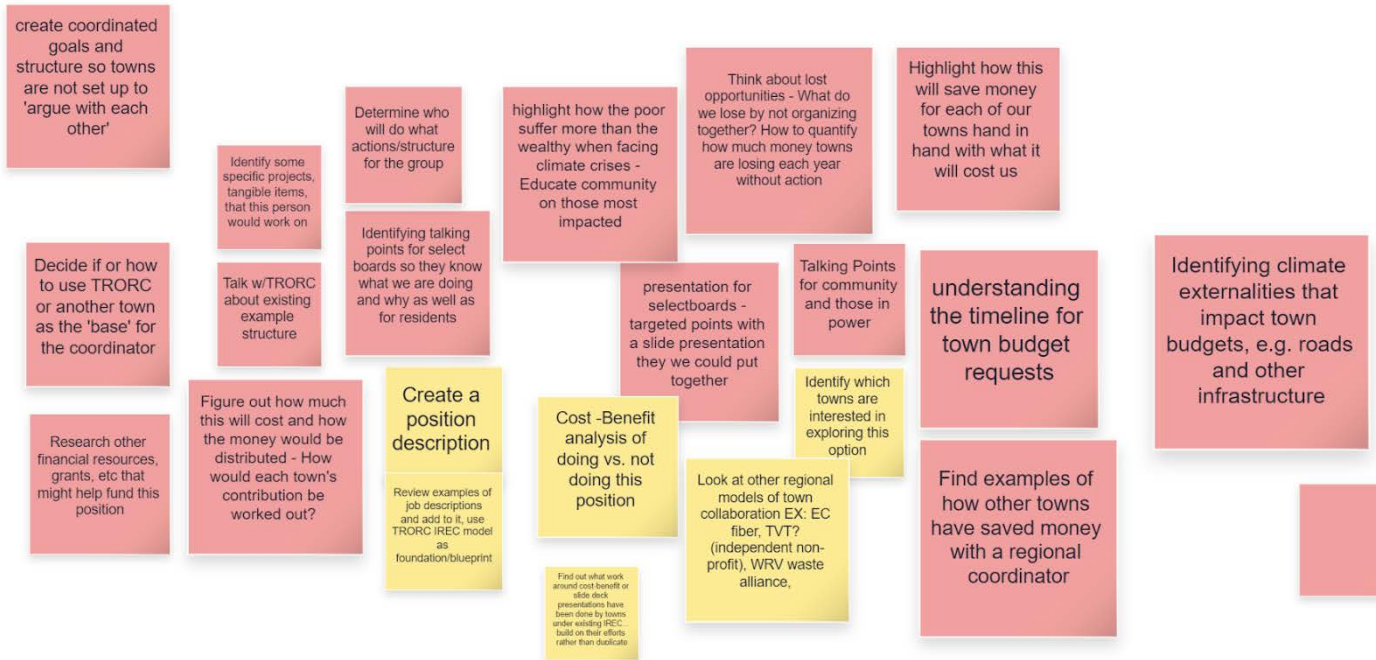
Resource Team Members: **Harry Falconer**, *Planner and Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) coordinator*, Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC)  
**Jeff Grout** existing Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator housed under TRORC  
**Anna Guenther**, *Project Manager*, Vital Communities  
**Erica Hiller**, *Project Manager*, Vital Communities

A task force could form to outline possible channels to hire a regional coordinator. This group could generate a job description for a regional coordinator for energy, climate change, community engagement, and/or volunteer coordination. Some possible roles for the coordinator position could include being a continuous point person as volunteers rotate through committees, help track town energy use and savings, identify areas where the town can save money, coordinate demonstration projects, and apply for grant opportunities. The group could review possible structures for how the paid position would operate. This group could also work with TRORC to develop a cost/benefit analysis for the position. Possible Structures to explore include, but are not limited to, duplicate existing IREC model in 7 towns with TRORC as host; hire a consultant, ad-hoc, micro-gig for regional projects or campaigns; create a town based position that multiple towns contribute to; or others. The framing of the position is critical for broad support and individuals need to see how it will impact them. Some questions to ask include: What does the position look like? Having a regional staff person is pretty broad – what would we want to narrow that position to? Possible ways to structure the position to make it affordable to all towns (example: per capita fee). Example job descriptions from other initiatives have been gathered and can be expanded upon.

#### Priority Action Steps: (yellow below)

1. Look at other regional models of town collaboration EX: EC fiber, Tri-Valley Transit (independent non-profit), WRV waste alliance.
2. Review examples of job descriptions and add to it, use TRORC IREC model as foundation/blueprint.
3. Create a position description.
4. Identify which towns are interested in exploring this option.
5. Find out what work around cost-benefit or slide deck presentations have been done by towns under existing IREC... build on their efforts rather than duplicate.
6. Cost-Benefit analysis of doing vs. not doing this position.





## Other Potential Actions: (pink above)

- Create a universal calendar of community events including Town/County/State events.
- Talk w/TRORC about existing example structure. See the Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator #2 Memo 6.6.23 from TRORC (link on next page).
- Figure out how much this will cost and how the money would be distributed - How would each town's contribution be worked out?
- Develop presentation for selectboards - targeted points with a slide presentation they we could put together.
- Understand the timeline for town budget requests.
- Highlight how this will save money for each of our towns hand in hand with what it will cost us
- Find examples of how other towns have saved money with a regional coordinator.
- Think about lost opportunities - What do we lose by not organizing together? How to quantify how much money towns are losing each year without action.
- Identifying climate externalities that impact town budgets, e.g. roads and other infrastructure
- Highlight how the poor suffer more than the wealthy when facing climate crises - Educate community on those most impacted.
- Identifying talking points for select boards so they know what we are doing and why as well as for residents.
- Identify some specific projects, tangible items, that this person would work on.
- Talking Points for community and those in power.
- Determine who will do what actions/structure for the group.
- Decide if or how to use TRORC or another town as the 'base' for the coordinator.
- Research other financial resources, grants, etc that might help fund this position.
- Create coordinated goals and structure so towns are in alignment of the position.

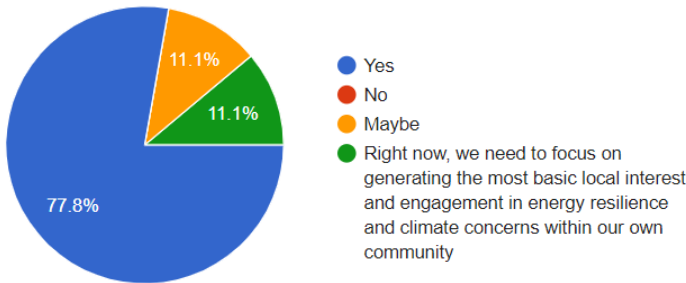
# Resources

1. List of existing job descriptions for reference and adaptation–  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zGWlrgY15vd8bWhDNNgM\\_snB0vO2c7cbNvh2p3Hco8s/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zGWlrgY15vd8bWhDNNgM_snB0vO2c7cbNvh2p3Hco8s/edit)
2. Folder with compiled of existing job descriptions –  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1Jkp\\_VXznz\\_aLNSvuDETdtvANKCrVBGsM](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1Jkp_VXznz_aLNSvuDETdtvANKCrVBGsM)
3. Memo from Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission related to the creation of a shared energy coordinator position for the towns of the White River Valley –  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nadzn4jxb4bzqrJt2YxL0tNdhLIT8KM9/view?usp=sharing>

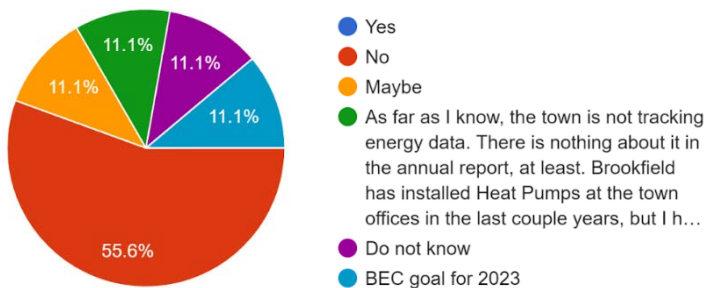
This Memo outlines a brief description of the existing Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator position, a list of potential duties that fall under their scope of work, and an outline of the possible financial structures that could be used to create a new shared energy coordinator position.

4. MERP funds and Regional Energy Tracking: A follow-up survey was sent to the full participant group. Nine respondents from the following towns participated: Brookfield, Royalton, S. Royalton, Braintree, Bethel, West Fairlee, Pittsfield. Here are the responses:

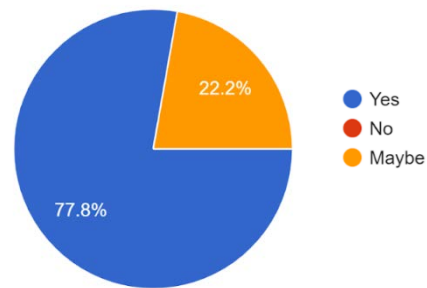
**Would you be interested in exploring ways to pool the MERP mini-grant money to launch the initiative to Establish a Structure to Hire an Intermunicipal Regional Coordinator? (9 responses)**



**Is your town tracking energy data? (9 responses)**



**If not, would you be interested in a regional energy tracking initiative? (9 responses)**



## V. Regional Assets and Challenges

The May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting at the Bethel Town Hall brought together area representatives to develop the following documented list of assets and challenges. Ideas for action were also brainstormed and developed into a list of potential ideas for action (see Section III, page 8).

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### What are the Assets in this Area?

Themes: natural resources, regional support services/schools, local/regional/state resources, past reports

- Town by town energy committee
- Some energy committees being part of (or not part of) the selectboard
- Organized Bethel Town Energy Committee
- Some towns have energy chapters in town plans (Act 174 language-Enhanced Energy Plan) List of towns here: [https://www.vapda.org/uploads/1/3/1/8/131894470/vermont\\_municipalities\\_with\\_an\\_affirmative\\_determination\\_of\\_energy\\_planning\\_compliance\\_as\\_of\\_january\\_2021.pdf](https://www.vapda.org/uploads/1/3/1/8/131894470/vermont_municipalities_with_an_affirmative_determination_of_energy_planning_compliance_as_of_january_2021.pdf)
- Regional energy committee support -not a town energy committee, independent from towns -Valley Energy and Climate Action Committee (VECAC)
- Conservation Committees
- Town forest and other town properties, including work with foresters
- White River Partnership – group of volunteers concerned with ecology and the river, water quality
- Regional planning commission (TRORC), Vital Communities
- Statewide resources: VECAN, 350 Vermont (overlapping same region, provides a lot of good information that TECs and Selectboards and leaders need access to), Efficiency VT
- Efficiency Vermont has data on incentive deployment and can provide that information by zip code or by region if asked, Bekah Kuster at Efficiency Vermont is point person for the region.
- Many towns are in the same supervisory unions – 16 towns in our SAU – Schools districts/ schools as assets for education, outreach (Randolph is in different)
- Orange Southwest SAU (Randolph, Brookfield, Braintree), all others are in White R Valley SAU
- Used to be the same representative district
- Good environment, beautiful river, mostly clean air and water and lots of trees
- Working Communities Challenge White River Valley Consortium (14 towns) focused on housing
- Lyons Clubs, Rotary Clubs,
- BALE <https://www.balevt.org/>
- Tri Valley transit <https://www.trivalleytransit.org/>
- Community Action Agencies: Capstone, SEVCA,
- Energy Fairs (Bethel)
- Weekly Herald newspaper
- Vermont Law School
- Energy clinic
- Vermont Technical College, John Kidder (engineering dept)
- Idea to have students be available in the form of a “technical support unit”
- Supportive local legislature - 3 of the 5 members of the senate natural resources committee in this area, have another senator and a number of house members who are allies around energy
- General interest in volunteerism
- Total population of 16,000
- Unique area in Vermont, unique in the world – small towns in the WRV, share social resources like events and resources, health and safety like police and hospitals
- Bethel for All (B4A) plan/process <https://bethelvtstrong.org/bethelforall>
- VCRD reports of past convenings: [Randolph Region Re-Energized \(R3\)](#) and [Rochester Area Climate Initiative \(RACI\)](#) - Pittsfield, Stockbridge, Rochester, Hancock, and Granville
- Town meeting format translates into informed voters
- Town meeting voters agreeable to budget additions (Bethel)
- Vast majority of people aren’t at town meeting, may be reflective of the people in town meeting instead of reflective of the whole town’s needs – if we went to Australian ballot may be some different results – challenge and an asset.

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### What are the Challenges?

Themes: town decision making, education, volunteers, connections

- Struggling to get organized for a starting point as a region around climate/energy
- No town budget for renewable energy, energy audits, or weatherization



- No cost/benefit analysis for renewable energy, energy audits, or weatherization to share with selectboards and residents
- Town purchases are based on lowest upfront cost (not the lifetime operating costs)
- Tax dollar constraints (Actual and perceptual)
- Risk averse and short on opportunities for analysis
- Lack of expertise and leadership to know what to do, where to spend resources and what benefits will arise
- Selectboard removed from community conversations
- Disconnect from state mandated pathway for climate action and the local actions
- Some towns do not have energy chapters in town plans (Act 174 language)
- Vast majority of people aren't at town meeting, may be reflective of the people in town meeting instead of reflective of the whole town's needs – if we went to Australian ballot may be some different results – challenge and an asset
- People are skeptical of government, tension between state level and local level policy
- Cultural Climate - people depend on government to solve problems instead of community
- Mindset of climate change as a global issue and no personal connection
- Education and awareness = huge challenge
- Poverty –all low income towns-
- Can result in reviewing upfront costs regardless of outcome
- Lack of volunteerism
- People are time poor and lack space to volunteer
- Hard to get, and then, keep volunteers
- Lack of volunteer coordination and point person
- Interpersonal skills – no one is interviewed to be a volunteer, you don't know their soft skills or if they're going to speak to you with respect, or spread misinformation
- Recruiting volunteers challenge- most people don't know how to do it and be successful
- Non-connectedness between individuals, between towns, fragmented
- Loneliness epidemic (surgeon general declared)

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## Reflections from the Resource Team

- TRORC will put together examples of what an energy coordinator would look like provide a few funding structures that channel through TRORC.
- Include options for what this person might focus on (education outreach, grant and demonstration projects, coordinating volunteers has been mentioned a few times). Do we want a full time, part time? Consultant route and not go through TRORC?
- Funding the position could be scaled to population, to hours, town budget, to scope of work. Harry is a resource for MERP program implementation so towns in the region should lean on him as a “mini-IREC.” With tracking savings and outcomes it would provide towns with an understanding of what the cost/benefits could be for more support from a coordinator.
- The discussion was not narrowly defined by energy projects, energy but also community resilience, climate resilience, community cohesion and volunteers. That important thread shouldn't be lost as a way to think about the new staff position.
- Good existing plans from the Community Visit “RACI” from VCRD, and Bethel Forward – R3, RACI, Bethel For All. Look at how those plans have been used, implemented, or ignored?
- Poverty as a challenge; Also an asset – creative – closest to the solutions.
- Sometimes there are people who want to talk about municipal things - what's happening with the library, with the town garage which is using a lot of energy – just getting in front of people and trying to educate people in any way.
- Meet people where they are.
- People are time poor – this is a reality we must be sympathetic toward.

## VI. Regional Data Sets

These data sets were developed by Nicole Cyr to provide context for the White River Region town demographics based on US Census data.

- [Table 1 WRV Income and Travel Time to Work](#)
- [Table 2 WRV Resources](#)

**Table 1: WRV Median Incomes and Travel Times to Work**

Town	Population	Median Income (Household)	Travelers to Work (total)	Travel > 20min	Travel time > 20min (%)	Travel > 40min	Travel > 40min (%)	Region
Granville	373	51,250	129	84	65%	34	26%	Upper WR
Hancock	479	64,449	222	174	78%	42	19%	
Rochester	1099	62,941	446	215	48%	82	18%	
Pittsfield	440	58,382	240	145	60%	47	20%	
Stockbridge	733	71,250	314	218	69%	118	38%	
Braintree	978	66,319	460	274	60%	122	27%	Middle WR
Brookfield	1383	67,212	565	378	67%	117	21%	
Randolph	4774	70,000	2,318	1,234	53%	585	25%	
Bethel	1942	65,768	930	529	57%	195	21%	
South Royalton	2755	67,000	1,179	656	56%	194	16%	
Tunbridge	1337	68,929	700	531	76%	276	39%	1st Branch WR
Chelsea	1272	59,821	452	288	64%	94	21%	
Vershire	727	62,333	357	276	77%	134	38%	
West Fairlee	762	69,821	351	270	77%	87	25%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>19054</b>	<b>64,677</b>						
Norwich	3584	121,509	1,577	683	43%	65	4%	IREC Towns (TRORC)
Woodstock	3011	104,716	1,246	761	61%	219	18%	
Sharon	1616	76,293	736	578	79%	135	18%	
Barnard	1043	73,621	544	339	62%	130	24%	
Strafford	1223	98,083	616	375	61%	115	19%	
Thetford	2763	81,750	1,441	956	66%	99	7%	
Bradford	2789	66,100	1,248	789	63%	252	20%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16029</b>	<b>88,867</b>						
Barre town, VT	7848	74,977	4,259	1,710	40%	666	16%	
Hartford, VT	10600	61,678	4,809	1,693	35%	334	7%	
Vermont	645,570	72,431	263,683	134,199	51%	42,194	16%	
United States	331,893,745	69,717	126,746,081	72,896,876	58%	24,163,527	19%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 2: WRV Resources

Residents/Volunteers				Energy Committees								
County	Basin 9 (White River)	Town	Population (2021)	Median Income (2021)	Major Roads	Energy Burden Score	Town Plan Act 174 (2021)	Town Manager	Select board	Model	Selection	TRORC Report Card (2021)
Upper WRV												
Addison	Upper	Granville	373	51250	100	Moderate			3	Valley Climate & Energy Action Committee	Volunteer	D
Addison	Upper	Hancock	479	64449	100, 125	High			3	Valley Climate & Energy Action Committee	Volunteer	C-
Windsor	Upper, West	Rochester	1099	62941	100	Moderate	Yes		3	Volunteer Energy Coordinator	SB appointed	C
Windsor	Upper, Tweed River, Middle	Stockbridge	733	71250	107, 100	Moderate			3	Valley Climate & Energy Action Committee	Volunteer	C-
Rutland	Tweed River	Pittsfield	440	58382	107, 100	High			3	Volunteer Energy Coordinator (vacant)	SB appointed	C-
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3124</b>								
1st - 3rd Branches WRV												
Orange	3rd	Braintree	978	66319	12, 12A	Moderate	Yes		5	Energy Committee (no longer active)	SB appointed	C-
Orange	2nd	Brookfield	1383	67212	12, 12A	Moderate			5	Energy Committee (no longer active)	SB appointed	C-
Orange	3rd, 2nd	Randolph	4774	70000	I-89, 12, 12A, 14	Moderate		Yes	5	Energy Committee (no longer active)	SB appointed	C-
Windsor	2nd, 3rd, Middle	Bethel	1942	65768	I-89, 12, 14, 107	Moderate	Yes	Yes	5	Energy Committee	SB appointed	C
Windsor	2nd, 1st, Middle WR	South Royalton	2755	67000	I-89, 14, 110	High			5	Citizen Action Group	Volunteer	C-
Windsor	1st	Tunbridge	1337	68929	110	Low			3	Volunteer Energy Coordinator	SB appointed	C
Orange	1st	Chelsea	1272	59821	110, 113	High			5	Energy Committee (no longer active)	SB appointed	C
			<b>Total</b>	<b>14441</b>								
Upper Ompompanoosuc												
Orange	Upper Omp	Vershire	727	62333	113	Moderate			3	Energy Committee	SB appointed	C-
Orange	Upper Omp	West Fairlee	762	69821	113	Moderate			5	Selectboard and Planning Commission	Elected, SB appointed	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1489</b>								

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Table 2: WRV Resources (continued)

Town	Local Services					Regional Services							
	School District	Police	Hospital Service Area	Ambulance Service	Food Shelf	Tri-Valley Transit	WRV Chamber of Commerce	Rotary	The Herald	TRORC	White River Partnership	WRV Consortium (Vital Communities)	Capstone Community Action
<b>Upper WRV</b>						xx = bus stop					xx = Quintown	xx = participating non-member	
Granville	WRVSU	State (Roy)	Rand	WRVA		x			x	x	xx	xx	x
Hancock	WRVSU	State (Roy)	Rand	WRVA	Veggie Van	xx	x		x	x	xx	xx	x
Rochester	WRVSU	State (Roy)	Rand	WRVA	Federated Church	xx	x		x	x	xx	xx	x
Stockbridge	WRVSU	State (Roy)	Rand	WRVA		xx	x		x	x	xx	xx	x
Pittsfield	WRVSU	State (Rut)	Rand	WRVA		x		Bethel	x	x	xx	xx	x
<b>Total</b>													
<b>1st - 3rd Branches WRV</b>													
Braintree	OSSD	OC Sheriff	Rand	WRVA		x	x	Randolph	x	x	x	x	x
Brookfield	OSSD	OC Sheriff	Rand	WRVA		x	x	Randolph	x	x	x	x	x
Randolph	OSSD	Town	Rand	WRVA	Prince St.	xx	x	Randolph	x	x	x	x	x
Bethel	WRVSU	State (Roy)	Rand	WRVA	White Church	xx	x	Bethel	x	x	x	x	x
South Royalton	WRVSU	Town	WRJ	SoRo Rescue	RT 14	xx	x	Bethel	x	x	x	x	x
Tunbridge	WRVSU	OC Sheriff	WRJ	SoRo Rescue	Tunbridge Church	xx	x	Bethel	x	x	x	x	x
Chelsea	WRVSU	OC Sheriff	Rand	First Branch	United Church	xx	x		x	x	x	x	x
<b>Total</b>													
<b>Upper Ompompanoosuc</b>													
Vershire	Rivendell	OC Sheriff	WRJ	UVA	Town Center building	x			x	x			x
West Fairlee	Rivendell	OC Sheriff	WRJ	UVA	VT 113	x				x			x
<b>Total</b>													





**Vermont Council on Rural Development**

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The White River Regional Energy/Climate Conversations is part of the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD)'s Climate Economy Resilient Communities Program – a community-driven process with local leaders, VCRD, and other regional partners to provide assistance through community engagement processes, strategic planning and/or project implementation.