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Reduce energy use and carbon emissions through energy planning.

Comprehensive energy planning can be undertaken locally to tackle the global problems of climate change and ever-rising energy costs. An important first step is to collect data on energy to help your town set clear goals and monitor progress. Having a dedicated energy committee or coordinator, documenting your town’s energy use and associated carbon emissions, or considering innovative energy financing tools, such as the property assessed clean energy (PACE) program, are examples of other steps you can take.

TIPS FOR ACCURATE SCORING:

Review town plan

Talk with the selectboard or town manager about existing committees in town, and their duties

Look at the town report or annual budget to learn about energy spending and funds

A. Does your town have an Energy Committee or appointed Energy Coordinator?

- Yes, we have an active energy committee and/or energy coordinator that leads energy planning and implementation, or another committee, such as the conservation commission, has taken on these responsibilities 3
- We have an energy committee or coordinator, but they are inactive or meet infrequently..... 2
- No..... 1

B. How has your town included energy use data into the town plan to inform decision making?

- We have comprehensive energy use data compiled for electrical, heating, and transportation uses, and have incorporated this data into our town plan 3
- We have some energy use data compiled for certain uses, but not all, and do not incorporate it into the town plan..... 2
- We do not have any energy use data compiled 1

C. Has your town conducted a carbon inventory for electrical, heating, and transportation uses, and included it in the town plan?

- Yes 3
- We have only conducted a carbon inventory for some energy use categories..... 2
- No..... 1

D. Does your town plan for clean energy investments or energy reduction measures in the capital budget or annual budget?

- Yes, we have a reserve fund to pay for all or some of the anticipated energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, and allocate money annually for smaller improvements 3
- We have not spent municipal funds on energy projects and improvements, but we plan to do so in the next year or have spent grant money on projects and improvements 2
- No..... 1





“In an age of climate change, we need communities that are resilient to storms and flooding. We also need to plan for extended power outages, interruptions in heating fuel, and shortages of water during times of drought. Resilient buildings and communities will make it possible to maintain livable conditions in the event of these situations.”

- *Alex Wilson, founder of BuildingGreen, Inc. and founding chair and active member of the Dummerston Energy Committee*

E. Is your town a property assessed clean energy (PACE) approved district?

- Yes 3
- We have yet to approve a PACE district, but plan to hold a vote in the coming year..... 2
- No, we have not approved a PACE district, and have no plans to hold a vote..... 1

Score: _____

Scoring	Suggested Steps for Building Resilience
13-15 Resilient Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze, refine and expand energy use data. Undertake surveys to determine energy use for residential, municipal, and commercial sectors. Use that information to inform strategic next steps.
8-12 In Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve PACE and devote funding for energy investments in the capital or annual budget.
5-7 Needs Your Attention!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start an Energy Committee or appoint an Energy Coordinator and begin addressing energy issues. Ask your RPC for help on data collection.