



# Improve community resilience and reduce energy costs by promoting energy efficiency and conservation.

Energy efficiency and conservation are two of the easiest strategies that towns can adopt to save both energy and money. The cost effectiveness is well-documented: a study commissioned by the Vermont Department of Public Service, for instance, found that for every energy efficiency dollar spent, \$4.60 of savings are achieved. Efficiency and conservation save dollars and can make community members less vulnerable to changes in energy prices.

**TIPS FOR ACCURATE SCORING:**  
Contact **Efficiency Vermont** for data, resources, tools and incentive information  
Talk with Selectboard and School Board members about energy improvements in public buildings  
Ask the town manager or town clerk about building energy code compliance

## A. Have energy audits and improvements been undertaken on all municipal buildings and facilities?

- Yes, we have implemented most or all of the recommendations.....  3
- We have audited some municipal buildings and facilities, but have only implemented a few or none of the recommendations .....  2
- No, we have neither completed energy audits nor made improvements..  1

## B. Has your town addressed the efficiency of municipal and school lighting?

- Yes, we have improved the efficiency of lighting in one or more of our municipal and school buildings, and/or have installed energy efficient streetlights/traffic lights.....  3
- We have examined, or examined and are on our way to implementing, changes to indoor or outdoor municipal lighting .....  2
- We have not examined municipal lighting at all.....  1

## C. How does your town review building energy code compliance?

- We require the VT-Residential and Commercial Building Energy Standard (RBES/CBES) certificate, or a third-party equivalent, in order to issue a Certificate of Occupancy.....  3
- We attempt to inform property owners and area contractors about building code requirements, or we request, collect, and file VT-RBES certificates, but we do not require the RBES/CBES certificate in order to issue a Certificate of Occupancy .....  2
- We are not actively involved in reviewing building energy code compliance .....  1

## D. Has your town adopted building energy standards for residential and commercial buildings that go beyond state standards?

- Yes .....  3
- We have adopted standards that go beyond state requirements for either residential or commercial buildings, but not for both .....  2
- No.....  1



**Efficiency vs. conservation**

Energy conservation means taking steps and adopting habits that decrease the amount of energy used (i.e., turning off a light when you leave the room). Energy efficiency means using improved technology to decrease energy demand (i.e., using a compact fluorescent light bulb).

**E. Municipal water supply and wastewater treatment systems are among the most energy-intensive facilities in communities. If your community has such a system, has it implemented efficiency measures at your local wastewater facility or implemented other water-saving programs locally?**

- Yes .....  3
- We have taken a few steps (i.e. education) but have not gone further .....  2
- No .....  1

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

| Scoring                      | Suggested Steps for Building Resilience   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 13-15<br>Resilient Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use EPA's <b>Portfolio Manager</b> to monitor the energy use of upgraded buildings. Ensure enforcement of energy codes. Develop municipal procurement policies.</li> </ul> |
| 8-12<br>In Transition        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require RBES certificate before issuing Certificate of Occupancy. Bring stakeholders together to discuss developing <b>improved energy codes</b>.</li> </ul>               |
| 5-7<br>Needs Your Attention! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit municipal buildings and begin identifying <b>inefficient or unnecessary lighting</b> around town.</li> </ul>   |