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VERMONT

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May 5, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy,

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the Fiscal Year 2023 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
UNITED STATES SENATOR

**Sanders, Bernard(I-VT) Energy and Water Development
Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

Recipient Name	Project Purpose	Project Location	Amount Requested (\$000)
Bennington Museum	This funding will allow Bennington Museum to complete the second phase of an HVAC improvement project to meet local regulations, improve safety, and increase energy efficiency. The Museum would use the funds to implement a complete HVAC control and energy management system. This would include new zone valves, existing control valves, air handling units, and a fan coil unit, as well as refurbishing the steam boiler. The Museum would be outfitted with eight, digitally-managed zones which would allow for selective conditioning of the structure. Updating equipment and creating climate controls is immediately necessary both for safety reasons and to meet local regulations. Aside from allowing the museum to remain open to the public, this project will also vastly improve energy efficiency, benefiting the environment and providing substantial cost savings for the Museum.	Bennington VT	\$34
Brandon Senior Citizens Center	With the requested funding, the Brandon Senior Citizens Center will install a solar array to reduce the building's energy costs and carbon footprint as well as enhance the building's energy resiliency. The Center is a community hub, and for older residents, it offers essential services such as foot clinics, meals, and social activities. This project is part of the Brandon Senior Center's ongoing efforts to be more environmentally friendly, and to improve this essential community hub for future generations.	Brandon VT	\$7
Mount Abraham Unified School District	With the requested funding, the Mount Abraham Unified School District will install a solar array at Mount Abraham Middle/High School. The school will also install 15 electric vehicle chargers which will be powered in large part by the solar array. The solar array will also support the electrical needs of the irrigation system and support the school's energy needs, which will reduce their electricity bills. Finally, the school will integrate the solar array into the district's middle and high school science and community curricula.	Bristol VT	\$1,149
Goethe Community Trust, Inc	With the requested funding, the Champlain Club Community Arts Center will install energy efficiency measures to reduce this historic building's energy usage and carbon footprint. The Champlain Club Community Arts Center, in the heart of Burlington's Old North End, is a 120-year-old social and community gathering spot that faces difficulty with efficiency upgrades due to the need to work within historic preservation guidelines. This funding will allow the Center to replace its inefficient gas-fired furnaces with air source heat pumps, replace its gas water heater with a heat pump water heater, and restore the building envelope along with sealing and insulation. This work will all be done in concert with the Vermont Department of Historic Preservation requirements.	Burlington VT	\$169
Stowe Electric Department	The requested funding will help the Town of Stowe Electric Department carry out a high-efficiency storm window insert project to serve low-income residential customers in the Lamoille County communities of Stowe, Hyde Park, and Morrisville. Funds will cover the costs of building 200 pine inserts for use in residential homes. The window inserts will be measured by volunteers supervised by staff from Stowe Electric and Efficiency Vermont. The wood frames and plastic inserts will be assembled during a Community Build in October 2022 at the Green Mountain Tech and Career Center (Hyde Park) and Stowe High School.	Lamoille County VT	\$8
Town of Richmond	With the requested funding, the Town of Richmond will install energy efficiency measures in their town center building to make the build net zero ready, thereby reducing the town's overall energy usage and carbon footprint. The Town will replace the building's fossil fuel-powered HVAC system with heat pumps, and replace current lighting and windows with more efficient options. It will also complete air barriers for the exterior shell of the building, and add insulation and air sealing.	Richmond VT	\$1,845
Paramount Center. Inc	With the requested funding, the historic Paramount Theatre will install comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades in its theatre building and the adjacent, four-story Richardson building, the latter of which is currently unusable as a community gathering space in part due to inadequate insulation. The Theatre will install a network of high-efficiency heat pumps, an energy star integrated water heating system, and energy recovery ventilation – all coordinated by an updated building controls system – to reduce both buildings' energy usage and carbon footprint. The Theatre will also install high-efficiency plumbing fixtures to further reduce water	Rutland VT	\$500

heating energy consumption and upgrade the building's insulation to improve overall energy efficiency.

City of South Burlington	With the requested funding, the Bartlett Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility will replace its existing fossil-fuel powered heating systems with efficient, cold-climate heat pump units, which could reduce the facility's carbon footprint by 25 percent and heating energy use by half. The system will include a single outdoor condenser unit for each building, and indoor evaporator units placed in each room that requires conditioning. The critical nature of a wastewater treatment facility requires a back-up heat source for buildings served by cold weather heat pumps, which will be provided by a back-up electric resistance heating and tied into the heat pump controls to operate during extreme cold outdoor conditions when the heat pump cannot fully condition the space.	South Burlington VT	\$350
South Hero Library Foundation	With the requested funding, the Worthen Library in South Hero will install 125 230-watt solar panels (approximately 29 kilowatts in total) that would produce up to 85 percent of the library's annual electric usage and save up to \$5,000 a year in energy costs. The Library will also add powerwall storage so that it can also function as a shelter in case of widespread power failures. Built in 2019, the Worthen Library was initially intended to be a net-zero project, but due to rising construction costs, elements such as solar panels had to be cut from the budget. However, the building is essentially "solar ready", so installing the panels will be a relatively simple "plug-and-play" process.	South Hero VT	\$57
Rutland West Neighborhood Housing Services	With the requested funding, HEAT Squad, a service of NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, will expand clean heating and energy efficiency options, including heat pumps and efficient electric appliances, across Vermont's most energy-burdened regions. HEAT Squad will provide grants to 75 low-to moderate-income households for electrification and efficiency upgrades, as well as expand their staff capacity to perform more energy audits and provide more technical assistance to households seeking to lower their fuel dependence and carbon emissions by installing electrification or efficiency upgrades. HEAT Squad aims to reach 75 households through energy auditing and electrification education to include strategies for efficient, safe and affordable homes, lowering fossil fuel dependence and carbon emissions. This funding will also allow HEAT Squad to train and educate local contractors and electricians to be better informed and trained in whole-home electrification.	Statewide VT	\$450
Clean Energy Group, Inc	With the requested funds, the Clean Energy Group will install solar energy and battery storage systems at several community health centers in Vermont. These systems will provide resilient and reliable backup power to the health care facilities through grid disruptions, as well as utility bill cost savings throughout the year. Clean Energy Group could use this funding to also install energy efficiency options to further optimally size solar and battery storage systems and further reduce facility operating costs. These installations will create a more resilient health care system in Vermont and help ensure prolonged grid outages do not lead to negative health impacts and preventable deaths. Clean Energy Group has years of experience advancing these types of installations, both in Vermont and across the country.	Statewide VT	\$500
Washington Electric Cooperative	This funding would allow Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) to install the modern metering infrastructure necessary to increase deployment of renewable and high-efficiency energy technologies, such as heat pumps. Additionally, advanced meters, and the infrastructure to support them and manage the data they produce, will lead to better power delivery to WEC member homes and businesses. WEC will be able to communicate with its members' meters and manage supply and load. Modern meters will also enable differential rates for technologies like electric vehicles and heat pump water heaters, as well as "time-of -use-rates," which help reduce the need to build new power plants and save member owners money.	Statewide VT	\$2,500
Washington Electric Cooperative	With the requested funding, Washington Electric Cooperative will install a utility-scale battery storage system at its Jackson Corners substation. This battery will provide grid stability and manage power at a location with a large amount of member-generated power, and it will reduce the Cooperative's need to buy expensive power at peak times. Washington Electric Cooperative is a 100 percent renewable, member-owned utility that serves nearly 12,000 members in some of the most rural parts of Vermont. The size of this utility, and the relatively high rates needed to support power infrastructure in such a rural area, limit Washington Electric Cooperative from installing this type of energy resilience measure without financial assistance.	Statewide VT	\$3,000

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority	With the requested funding, the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) will advance a network of two to three megawatt batteries on or near the existing sites of a number of commercial and industrial customers throughout the state. The various sites are at different stages of land acquisition, engineering, and pre-construction, and the request would advance specific sites through the pre-construction phase within 12 months. Specifically, the request would support permitting, interconnection studies, site work, and pre-construction activities at four sites across Vermont. VPPSA seeks funding to do all preliminary site work at the Magris Talc Mill, Okemo Mountain Ski Resort, Encore Salvage Yard Solar, and Ethan Allen manufacturing facility. Should any of the sites not move forward after initial site work, funds would be used to scope additional candidate sites that have been identified by VPPSA.	Statewide VT	\$1,600
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board	With the requested funding, Evernorth will construct two 500-kilowatt community solar projects that will serve about 500 low- and moderate-income renter households across Vermont. This funding will allow the projects' beneficiaries and affordable housing buildings and their residents to receive the undiluted benefits of solar power generation without loan repayment obligations. Households connected to the solar arrays will see utility bill reductions of up to 80 percent, or up to \$270,000 per year in collective savings. These projects will also allow Evernorth to further transition its portfolio to electric heating options like heat pumps, which is currently difficult due to the upfront financial burden these efficiency measures place on low-income households.	Statewide VT	\$1,957
Stowe Electric Department	With the requested funding, Stowe Electric will install a modern hydroelectric power station as part of a broader project to stabilize a historically important mill. The requested funding will cover a portion of the construction costs for the hydroelectric project, which will ease the financial burden to Stowe Electric's ratepayers and provide Vermonters the long-term benefits from additional renewable power generation. This project will leverage Stowe's ability to operate and manage behind-the-meter generation projects, which will guarantee operations and maintenance, and employee training opportunities. This will improve system resiliency, ease power supply cost fluctuations to ratepayers, and offer underserved people a generation credit to reduce their energy bills. Funding this project will also provide an equitable opportunity to Stowe Electric's low-income customers to participate in energy transformation projects that will reduce their energy burden.	Stowe VT	\$672