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# Efficiency Vermont Update

Energy Efficiency Modernization Act (S. 137)

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# Who we are

- Statewide\* energy efficiency utility
- Help Vermont transition to more affordable, low carbon energy use through education, incentives, and support for our clean energy workforce
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR – Sustained Excellence partner



# Program Impact

**Over \$3 billion**

Lifetime savings from 2000-2021

**Over 13 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e**

Lifetime avoided from 2000-2021

**2.8 million cars**

Equivalent impact of GHG emissions avoided

**36% lower**

Vermont's average energy bills, below the national average

**9,909 jobs**

Vermont's energy efficiency jobs – 62% of the clean energy workforce

**482 businesses**

Efficiency Excellence Network members

# S. 137 Background

## 2020 legislation – Energy Efficiency Modernization Act (Act 151)

- Allows Efficiency Vermont and Burlington Electric Department to implement programs, measures, and services that **reduce GHG emissions** in the **thermal energy or transportation sectors**, or both
  - Up to **\$2 million** per year, from existing budget
  - Must have nexus with **electricity** usage
  - Must be **additive/complementary** to existing efforts
  - Pilot **2021-2023**
- Efficiency Vermont Act 151 program focus areas:
  - **EV supply chain development**
  - **EV consumer awareness and education**
  - **Low-income heating electrification**
- Plan approved by VT Public Utilities Commission and pilots launched in 2021 & 2022

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/S.337>

# Transportation

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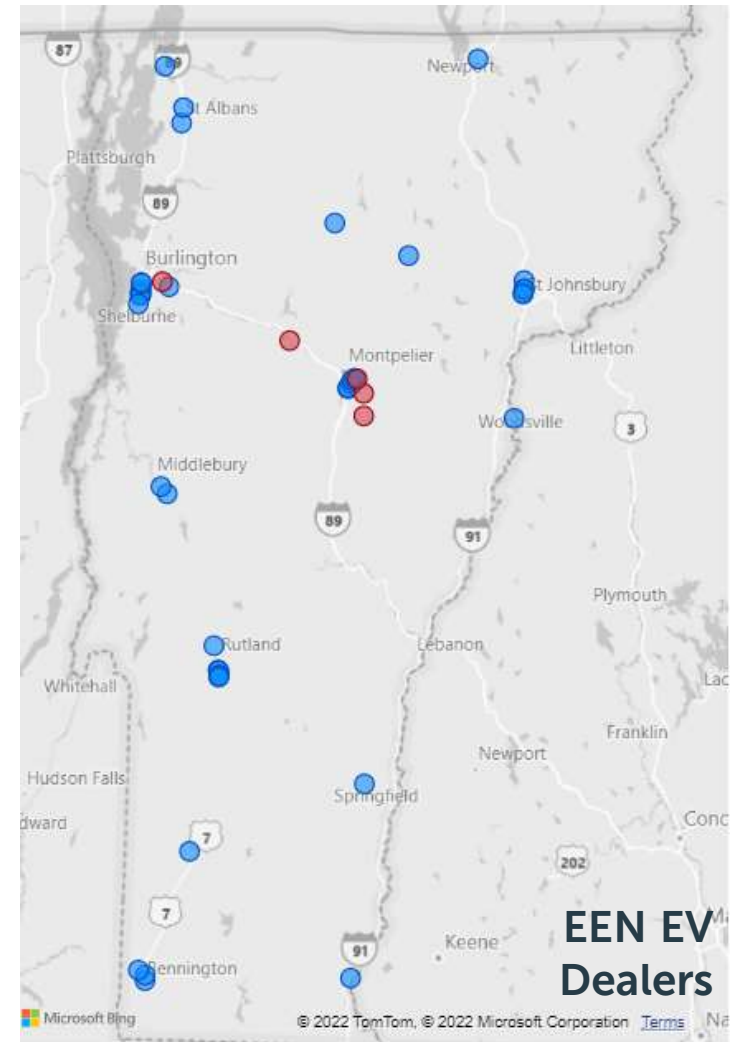




# EV Dealer Program

Support the adoption of plug-in EVs across Vermont by creating a network of new and used car dealers committed to promoting EVs

- Pilot program launched in fall 2021 and will run through end of 2023, in conjunction with statewide EV education campaign
- 51 participating dealers representing 12 counties
  - 45 new car dealerships (NCD)
  - 5 used car dealerships (UCD)
- Program benefits include funding for EV infrastructure, dealer/salesperson incentives, training and education, marketing and promotional support



**EEN EV Dealers**

Dealer Type ● NCD ● UCD 6

# Program Participation To Date

- **51** EEN EV Dealers
- **112** sales staff trained
  - 41 EEN EV Dealers represented
  - 18 EV Sales Training sessions offered (in-person and virtual)
- **34** dealers have accessed program incentives
- **26** EV readiness (infrastructure) projects supported
  - 19 charging station projects
  - 6 EV service tools & equipment projects
  - 1 OEM EV certification project
- **715** EVs supported



*DCFC at an EEN EV Dealership*



# EV Campaign

Statewide, multi-channel ad campaign in partnership with Drive Electric Vermont

## Key Activities

- Ads tailored to every step of an EV consumer's journey, from awareness to consideration and decision-making
- Blogs, web resources
- [EV comparison tool](#) – compare fuel efficiency, available incentives, and total cost of ownership
- [Research](#) on Vermonters' car-shopping behaviors and preferences

## Web Engagement

- Users: 164% increase since start of campaign
- Sessions: 165% increase
- Pageviews: 183% increase



# Drive Electric Vermont

## Campaign Tactics

- Video ad series (3)
- BTV installation
- Bus wraps in Chittenden County, White River Jct., and Middlebury
- Ads in various channels: broadcast, streaming, digital display, social media, Front Porch Forum
- Seven Days partnership
- Point of sale materials at EEN EV Dealerships



# Thermal

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# Low-income Fuel Switch Pilot

Launched in October 2022

## What

Partnership with electric utilities:

- Install approx. 300 cold climate heat pumps to offset fossil fuel heating
- Serving low income (below 80% AMI) customers, already served by Weatherization agencies

## Why?

- Reduce energy burden for low-income customers
- “Look back” to address gap that has existed since the creation of Tier 3
- Assists utilities in meeting new Tier 3 low-income goals

## How

1. OEO refers clients
2. EVT qualifies to ensure heat pump is a good fit and will reduce customer’s costs
3. EVT assigns contractor
4. Contractor bills EVT, once project is completed
5. EVT reports electric and Tier 3 savings; bills each utility for their portion of the cost

# Impact so far

## Launched in October 2022

- 295 Customers enrolled
  - Customers in every VT county
  - 89% outside of Chittenden County
  - 108 projects completed (as of 4/11)
- Average total per project cost ~\$6,100
- Electric panel upgrades needed in ~40% of homes served
- 147 Customers waitlisted (pending continuation of program in 2024)
  - Wait list in place to ensure we don't exceed utility project/budget caps



**// You are an angel...I just can't believe it!**

**Low-income Fuel Switch  
Customer**  
Brandon

# S. 137

## Includes updates agreed by Electric Utilities, Regulators

### Section a:

- Extends the pilot
- Clarifies that pilots can only continue if EEU budgets rise no faster than inflation
- Allows EEUs to account for another potential extension of the pilots in planning for 2027-9

### Section b(5):

- Allows more flexibility to support additional thermal projects, based on utility priorities and funding availability

### Sections b & f:

- Addresses BED-specific needs related to budget flexibility (these provisions do not apply to Efficiency Vermont pilots)

# Questions?

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