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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Committee on Finance  
FROM: Melissa Bailey, Director, State Energy Office  
DATE: April 10, 2025  
SUBJECT: Energy Storage Access Program (ESAP) Summary

### Energy Storage Access Program

**Total Amount:** \$7,000,000

**Timing:** Grants signed in May 2024 after competitive RFP; grant agreements end in December 2026

**Funding Source:** Originally ARPA Revenue Loss, with all but \$130,000 reverted to state funds, as authorized by Act 185 of 2022, Section G.600(a)(5)

**Purpose:** “Load management and storage efforts to assist Vermonters with low and moderate income customers to purchase electric equipment for heating, cooling, and vehicle charging. In addition, investments will be made in load control and management platforms to enable smaller municipal and cooperative utilities to capture and share benefits of load management and funding for municipal back-up electricity storage installations.”

**Future Funding:** Not expected

#### Grant Summary

**Battery Joint Project by Vermont Public Power Supply Authority, Burlington Electric Department, and Washington Electric Coop (\$2,954,000):** Each utility is installing battery energy storage systems at low- and moderate-income households and—as funds allow—up to 13 municipal buildings for resiliency purposes. Battery storage is offered at no cost to residential customers and funds may be used to cover a portion of needed residential electric service or service panel upgrades.

**Load Management Platform Joint Project by Vermont Public Power Supply Authority, Burlington Electric Department, and Washington Electric Coop (\$1,157,000):** Each utility is choosing load management software platforms, allowing those utilities to actually manage loads and deliver ratepayer benefits. While BED is managing the grant, VPPSA and WEC are participating and benefiting equally. The load management software interacts with battery systems installed under the joint project above.

**Battery Project by Green Mountain Power (\$1,500,000):** GMP is installing battery energy storage systems for low- and moderate-income customers with a focus on



customers using critical medical equipment. GMP is also providing battery power to part of the Salisbury Square affordable housing project in Randolph. GMP is targeting 100 to 150 installations and the grant covers required home electric service upgrade costs as needed.

**Load Management Platform and Battery Project by Vermont Electric Coop (\$1,389,000):** VEC is installing energy storage systems for low- and moderate-income households with battery energy storage systems at their place of residence. Like GMP, batteries are offered at no cost to residential customers and funds may be used to cover electric service upgrades. VEC will also install one municipal building battery for essential services. VEC is also using funds to procure a Distributed Energy Resources Management System (DERMS) for load management of system assets including integrated forecasting and analytics. This load management reduces electric system costs to ratepayers by maximizing power supply benefits without sacrificing participating customer resilience and reduces carbon emissions by charging when the grid is cleanest.

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