

Community Energy Efficiency Campaign

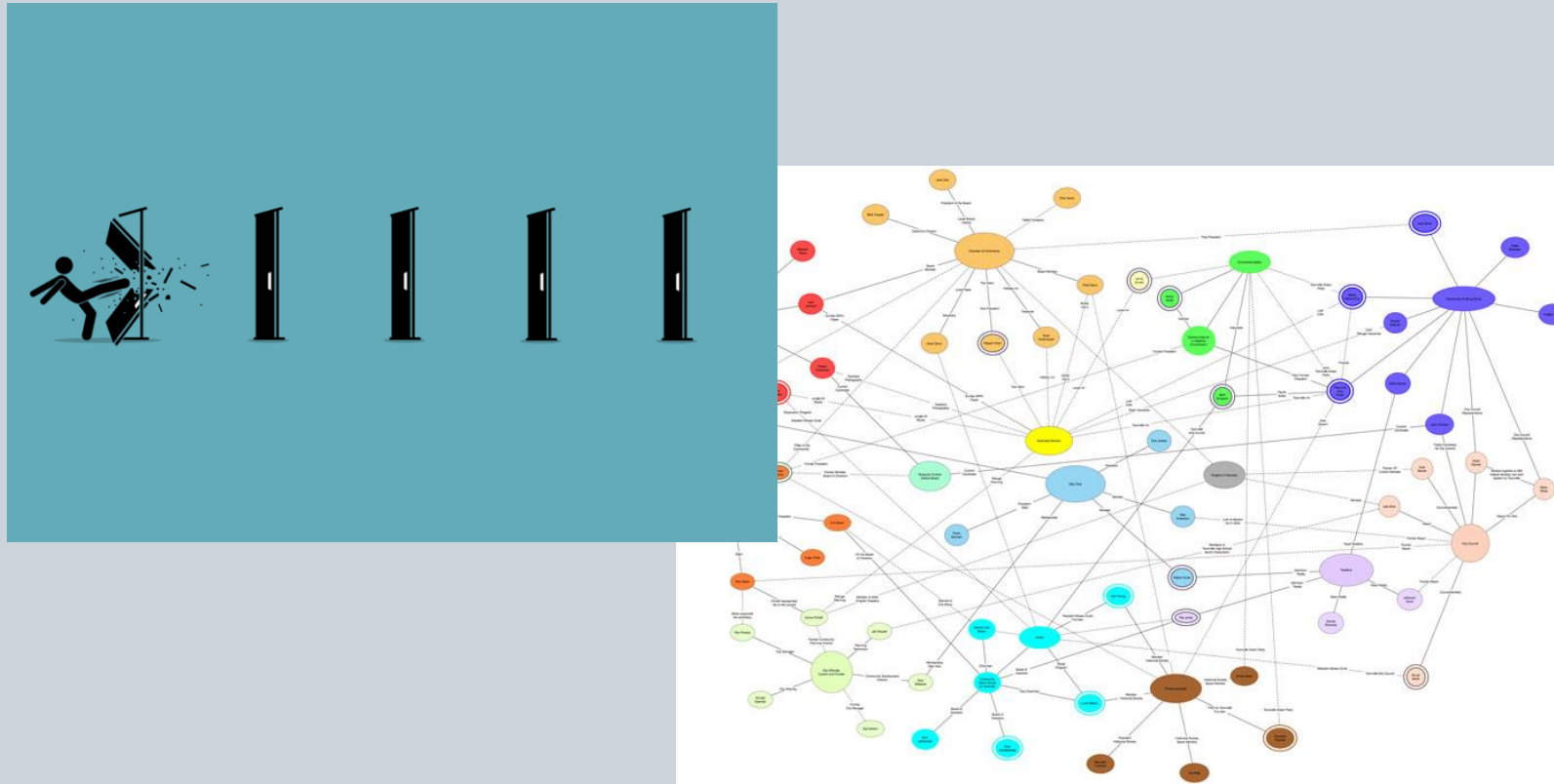
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Why is a Community Campaign Important



What is a Community Campaign

Goal: To encourage as many residents as possible to consider home energy efficiency projects



What is the Role for Local Volunteers

**Provide a
team leader**

**Visibility and
Outreach**

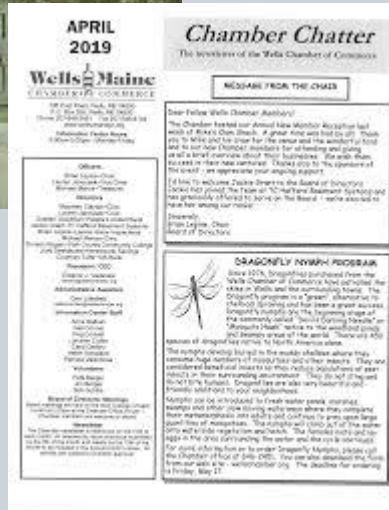


APRIL 2019

Wells & Maine
 COUNTY-WIDE COVER STORY

100 First Main Street, Wells, ME 04090
 Phone: 207.633.2121 • Fax: 207.633.2134
 www.wellsmaine.org

A large, white, classical-style building with a prominent portico supported by columns, likely a government or institutional building. The building features a dark roof, multiple windows, and a central entrance. A flagpole stands in front of the building. The foreground shows a paved area and some landscaping.



What is the Role for Local Volunteers

Host Events



WEATHERIZE
Plainfield Cornish 2020

Weatherize Plainfield Cornish 2020

Kick Off Presentation and Sign Up

Wednesday Jan 22, 2019 7pm
Plainfield Elementary School (Music Room)
92 Bonner Rd, Meriden NH 03770

What is Weatherize Plainfield Cornish 2020?

Cost-effective weatherization projects include air sealing & insulation. NH Saves estimates that installing efficiency upgrades can save 20% or more on annual energy costs.

What does it mean to "Weatherize" my home? Weatherizing your home involves making physical home improvements - such as insulation and air sealing - to reduce energy costs improve comfort and resolve problems like ice dams, moisture, mold, cold spots and drafts.

Experienced Contractors are certified by the Building Performance Institute and qualified with the NH Saves Home Performance with Energy Star

What is the Role for GrowSmart Maine



Timeline

RFP for Communities: Released	September 1, 2017
Information session for interested communities at the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich, VT (light refreshments provided)	Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 6:30 – 8 pm
RFP for Communities: Proposals due	Monday, October 2, 2017 Sent via email by 5 pm
Communities selected and applicants notified	Week of October 9, 2017
Initial Volunteer Team Meetings with Vital Communities	Between October 9 & 20
Contractors selected and campaigns given the "all clear" to move forward	November 1, 2017
Joint campaign planning meeting with all volunteer teams and partner contractors	Mid-November
Campaign launches with broad public announcement	Week of January 1, 2018
Campaign launch events	In the second two weeks of January 2018
First phase of volunteer outreach (host events, generate sign-ups, host \$100 audit)	January – March 2018
Encourage action	March (exact date to be selected with team input)
Participants	March – May 2018
End partner	May (exact date to be selected with team input)
	June 2018
	Summer 2018
	Spring, Summer, Fall 2018

Overall Program Coordination



What is the Role for GrowSmart Maine

Financing Your Home Energy Project

General Tips to Keep in Mind:

- **Start with state-supported programs** – Vermont and New Hampshire both have energy loan programs with discounted rates for homeowners who participate in the Efficiency Vermont and NHSaves home energy rebate programs. More information below.
- Many lending institutions offer loans specifically designed for energy-related projects, like home energy upgrades or solar installations. Just ask about “energy” or “green” loans. These tend to be traditional lending options with certain perks (e.g. better rate, longer term).

Just meet credit and income requirements to be eligible for any loan. In some cases, the interest rate and term depend on customer credit, amount borrowed, etc.

Lenders’ websites to get more information or, in some cases, begin the loan application process online.

Speak with a knowledgeable loan adviser about your specific situation to determine what financing options make the most sense for you.

Appropriate loan type often depends on the amount being borrowed; it is helpful to have a cost estimate from a contractor prior to seeking approval for an energy audit will include cost estimates, and your contractor can help you narrow your project scope if you need to stick to a budget.

General information about specific lending institutions, Vital Communities is in no way endorsing or recommending particular financing partners or products. As such, you may enter into, we urge you to read and understand the “fine print” and seek expert advice as necessary.

Ask your contractor about financing options. They have helped other customers through the process and can likely answer some of your questions as well.

Outreach Materials and Funding

Tips for Selecting a Weatherization Contractor

For residents hiring a contractor on their own, [not](#) participating in the NHSaves program

Important Notes

- You are hiring a contractor who will BOTH complete your energy audit, **AND** if you choose to move forward, complete/coordinate your weatherization project.
- All Weatherize Maine contractors are certified by the national Building Performance Institute and subject to quality assurance checks by NHSaves or Efficiency Vermont.
- All Weatherize Maine contractors commonly work in Maine and our surrounding communities. Because there are relatively few weatherization contractors statewide, it is common for companies to travel long distances. The right contractor for you may or may not be the closest contractor.
- Don't judge a company by its website. The best way to determine whether a company is a good fit for you is to call. Or attend a contractor meet and greet event.

If You Are Participating in the NHSaves Program

When your rebate application is approved, **NHSaves will assign you a qualified contractor** who regularly serves your community and has availability to serve you in a timely manner. When a contractor completes a weatherization job through the NHSaves program, they must adhere to pricing and quality expectations set by NHSaves, and are subject to regular quality assurance checks.

You may, if you wish, request a specific contractor when submitting their NHSaves application. To do this, select your preferred contractor from the “Preferred” drop-down list and send to the signature field.

Homework Before You Get Started

Draft a brief summary of your home and weatherization priorities to share when you speak with prospective contractor(s). Include:

- Age, square footage, and style (e.g. cape, ranch, farmhouse)
- Brief description of insulation (e.g. type, age, condition, windows, if known)
- Your top concerns/priorities (e.g. reducing drafts, addressing ice dams, saving money, etc.)

Questions to Ask

1. **Who does the energy audit?** If possible, try to speak with the person who does the energy audit.
2. **What else does your company specialize in, besides weatherization?** Some companies are all weatherization all the time. Others are general contractors and home builders who also do energy audits and weatherization.
3. **Who does the work? Do you have your own crews?** Some companies have all their own crews and equipment. Other companies have energy auditors on staff and manage your project like a general contractor, hiring the right sub-contractors to meet your needs.
4. **How far out are you scheduling energy audits right now?**
5. **How far out are you scheduling jobs right now?**

This guide was created by Vital Communities in November 2018. Contact [vitalcommunities.org](#) with



What is the Role for GrowSmart Maine



**Volunteer
Support and
Prizes**



Questions



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