**Thetford Energy Committee 2016 Annual Report**

The Thetford Energy Committee (TEC) appreciates the cooperation and involvement of our town residents. The accomplishments listed below are shared steps to meet the current and future energy needs of our families and buildings.

**2016 Accomplishments**

**Community Solar Efforts**

The TEC continued working on development of community solar arrays on the closed Post Mills landfill and land adjacent to it. We conducted numerous meetings with the Thetford Select Board, neighbors of the landfill, and a number of state agencies to determine the legal, financial, and structural feasibilities of using the landfill. The Vermont Law School Energy Clinic has provided considerable assistance on the legal ramifications of the proposed project. Our goal is to have the project completed in 2017.

**Volunteer Assisted Weatherization**

TEC completed our second Volunteer-Assisted Weatherization (VAW) project, installing improvements on a low-income resident’s home in Post Mills. We completed extensive air sealing throughout the home, added insulation to the basement walls, and installed a new heat pump hot water heater. These efforts reduced air leakage by 40% and projected heating use by 27%, for $500 savings per year. We thank all the community volunteers who provided labor on this job as well as the **Ompompanoosuc Community Trust** for raising funds and all the donors who contributed for this effort, **Building Energy, Fogg’s Hardware and Building Supply, Bethel Mills and Bargain Building Products** who provided discounted pricing on the weatherization materials, **Brent Mellen and Building Energy** for providing energy audit services, volunteer oversight and overall program assistance, **Efficiency Vermont** for providing incentives through the Do-It-Yourself track of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program, **Thetford Treasurer, Jill Graff,** for handling deposits and payments and the **Thetford Select Board** for their support of this project.

**Free LEDs**

TEC distributed about 430 free LED light bulbs to income-qualifying homeowners through the Thetford food shelf, town churches and the Thetford Elderly Network.

**Community Energy Dashboard**

TEC entered information about energy-related projects, actions, stories and case studies that have taken place in Thetford in the Vermont Energy Action Network’s Community Energy Dashboard (CED). You can find stories about some of Thetford’s past energy programs at <http://www.vtenergydashboard.org/stories?communityIds=229>

**Weatherize Thetford**

Thetford was selected to be one of 14 towns participating Vital Communities’ Weatherize Upper Valley, with a goal of doubling the number of homes weatherized in town annually in the first five months of 2017. Participating homeowners get a FREE home energy walkthrough and proposal from participating energy contractors, a chance at winning up to $2,500 toward the cost of home energy improvements and guidance from community volunteers throughout the process. For more information go to <http://vitalcommunities.org/energy/weatherize/> or contact Bob Walker, bobwalkervt@gmail.com, 802-785-4126 or Mike Kiess, michaelkiessvt@gmail.com, 802 299 5864.

**Community Outreach and Education**

TEC continued to educate town residents on energy saving and renewable energy opportunities through workshops on Zero Energy Now and community solar, postings to the listserv and our regular monthly notices in the Thetford town newsletter.