



# Efficiency Vermont

## STATE BOOSTS ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES IN NORTHEASTERN VERMONT

Montpelier, VT – The State of Vermont’s Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS), working closely with a coalition of other organizations, has achieved a significant reduction in energy usage at state correctional facilities in northeastern Vermont — an important first step in realizing BGS’ long-term commitment to efficiency improvements and energy saving. These projects represent early success by BGS showing real progress in support of Vermont’s Climate Change Action Plan for state government.

As with any large organization, it can be a complicated undertaking to identify and implement efficiency improvements across multiple facilities. In this situation, BGS collaborated with numerous entities to plan and achieve meaningful change in energy savings around the state.

“This initiative involved a phenomenal amount of cooperation between various organizations and individuals, and we’re very proud of how seamlessly the work was completed,” said Lauren Washburn, buildings engineer with the Department of Buildings and General Services.

Thanks to a \$125,000 “Rebuild America” federal grant, BGS was able to secure assistance from an engineer to identify and quantify energy-saving opportunities at more than a dozen courthouses and correctional facilities across the state. The engineer created energy consumption benchmarks, as well as project cost and savings estimates. The Rebuild America project was sponsored by the Vermont State Buildings Energy Efficiency Partnership, which includes the following organizations: the Department of Public Service, the Department of Buildings and General Services, Efficiency Vermont, Burlington Electric Department, Vermont Gas Services, the Alliance for Climate Action, and other Vermont state agencies.

Identifying improvement opportunities was just the beginning. Prioritizing projects and planning for their implementation is where the real work began. In particular, Efficiency Vermont helped BGS evaluate the recommendations put forth from the Rebuild America grant. Technical assistance from Efficiency Vermont included independent review of savings estimates, financial analysis to inform decision making, and support for action plan development and project installation. Financial incentives were provided to help the state offset a portion of the project costs. Efficiency Vermont also works to ensure that state employees are knowledgeable about the latest in energy-efficient lighting, HVAC, and controls.

Two correctional facilities in northeastern Vermont — the Caledonia Community Work Camp in St. Johnsbury and the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport — were the focus of the significant energy-efficiency upgrades. All of the work was completed, under the leadership of supervisor Al Simard, by the Buildings and General Services maintenance staff: Gary Champney, Randy Burke, Frank Lamere, Kari Demars, Paul Remick, Mike Dustin, and Maury Tinker.

At the Caledonia Community Work Camp, Buildings and General Services maintenance staff upgraded lighting and ventilation systems to improve security and increase energy efficiency. Specific tasks included improving ventilation control systems in the kitchen and carpentry shop, installing highly efficient High-Performance T8 lights in common areas and storage barn, and replacing more than 100 incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) in the living units.

After an initial evaluation of the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport, the Buildings and General Services maintenance staff got busy swapping out old and inefficient bulbs for new ones. Workers installed more than 100 High-Performance T8 lights and almost 500 CFLs in the living units and closets.

“Every incandescent bulb in the entire facility is gone,” said Al Simard of Buildings and General Services. “This was a great training project for my staff because we used our in-house maintenance staff to achieve significant energy savings, and we’re already seeing our energy and lighting bills going down.”

The building control system at the correctional facility also was upgraded so that the ventilation system can be turned off when spaces are unoccupied. In this way, energy savings are achieved, while maintaining health and safety standards related to indoor air quality.

In addition, Buildings and General Services is in the process of setting up energy use tracking software that will include a database of all state buildings in Vermont. The system will allow engineers to track heavy energy users and make timely recommendations on energy efficiency upgrades.

“We can monitor the work we’ve done in Caledonia, Newport, and other locations to make sure we’re having a positive impact,” said Lauren Washburn of the Buildings and General Services engineering group. “Newport is ahead of the game, and the results are very encouraging for other districts around the state.”

Buildings and General Services is planning additional energy efficiency initiatives, including adding kitchen exhaust hood controls that vary the amount of exhaust needed based on temperature, smoke, and steam, rather than always running at the maximum setting. Another project includes installing occupancy sensors to turn off lights when rooms are not being used.

The energy efficiency improvements implemented at both the Caledonia Community Work Camp and the Northern State Correctional Facility are projected to save over \$15,000 each year.

The State of Vermont was able to purchase energy-efficient lighting at a reduced rate through its state purchasing contract. In addition, the Efficiency Vermont rebate is processed automatically, saving both time and paperwork.

“It’s been a real pleasure and a team effort working with the state to boost energy efficiency in the correctional facilities,” said Nicole Carpenter, project manager for Efficiency Vermont. “Buildings and General Services is making tremendous strides in establishing a long-term plan to reduce its operating costs. We look forward to a continued partnership to help the Vermont be a leader in energy efficiency for its state buildings.”

*Efficiency Vermont was created by the Vermont Legislature and the Vermont Public Service Board to help all Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen the economy, and protect Vermont's environment. Efficiency Vermont is currently operated by Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC), an independent organization under contract to the Vermont Public Service Board. VEIC is a Vermont-based nonprofit organization founded in 1986. For more information, contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or visit [www.encyvermont.com](http://www.encyvermont.com).*

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