

Home Energy Information Guide

Here is everything you need to know about getting a Vermont Home Energy Profile (VHEP) for your home. This guide provides step by step instructions on how to use Energy Estimator, powered by [HELIX¹](#) and [ClearlyEnergy²](#) to create your profile.

With this guide, you can create your VHEP in four easy steps:

1. Register and Create a Login
2. Claim your home
3. Review and edit (optional) your home features
4. Create your VHEP

Vermont Home Energy Profile (VHEP) Guide

Step 1: Getting started

- Go to the [Site](#)
- Register and create a login

CLEARLYENERGY
VERMONT HOME ENERGY PROFILE
HELIX

Login / Register

Vermont Home Energy Profile

Understand energy costs to guide home improvement decisions or highlight high performing features. The Vermont Home Energy Profile empowers owners and buyers to make informed decisions about their investment.

By Address By Parcel ID

Please log in or register before creating a Vermont Energy Profile

street apt/unit #

city zip code VT Search

Brought to you by a collaboration of Vermont Residential Energy Labeling Stakeholders and HELIX. Where home energy performance creates market value.

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- You will receive an email from ClearlyEnergy with the subject line “Confirm ClearlyEnergy Registration”. Be sure to check your junk folder if you do not see it in your main inbox. You will need to confirm your account and login.

¹ <https://neep.org/initiatives/energy-efficient-buildings/green-real-estate-resources/helix>

² <https://www.clearlyenergy.com/>

Once you have logged in

- You can search for your home by address or Parcel ID.
 - A Parcel ID is a number assigned to parcels of real property by the tax assessor of a particular jurisdiction for purposes of identification and record-keeping.
- **If your home was found in the system:** When you hit search, a screen will appear stating the address has been verified.
- On the same screen, you can review the four easy steps to creating a profile: 1) Register and Create a Login, 2) Claim your Home, 3) Edit Home Features, 4) Create Vermont Profile
 - From here, you can fill out information about your home for better results (shown in Figure 1)
 - Next steps are to review Step 2: Claim Your Home, then click **Start Your Profile**

Four Easy Steps to Creating a Vermont Home Energy Profile

The buttons at the top of the page will guide you to the next step:



1. Register and Create a Login

You will receive an email from ClearlyEnergy with the subject line “Confirm ClearlyEnergy Registration”. Be sure to check your junk folder if you do not see it in your main inbox. You will need to confirm your account and login.

2. Claim Your Home

In order to claim your home, be sure to login and find your address. Press the “Claim Your Home” button in order to edit your home’s features and create the Vermont Home Energy Profile.

3. Edit Home Features

You will see a pencil icon next to the features you are now able to edit. You can optionally update information about your home, its energy systems or enter utility and fuel costs.


4. Create Vermont Profile

After you have updated your home features, click the “Create Profile” button to generate your Vermont Home Energy Profile. Once you have created your profile, you will be able to view and download it by clicking on the “View Profile” button.

- **If your address was not found in the system,** you will be brought to a screen, like below, to calculate your home’s average energy use.
 - You will have to include the address, year the home was built, size, type of home, and primary heating fuel. There are additional metrics you can choose to fill in.

No Data Was Found For This Home

Please use this energy calculator to find out your home's energy use, and receive personalized strategies to cut those costs!



ABOUT YOUR HOME

For a better result, we need a bit of information about your home

Parcel ID (optional)

Street address

City

State

Your zip code

Your home was built In?

What is the size of your home?

Describe your home?

Is the home divided into multiple units? No Yes

Your home is heated primarily with?

Optional:

Number of bedrooms?

Number of full & half baths?

Your cooling system is? Window A/C
 Central A/C Heat Pump None

Do you have solar panels (photovoltaic) on your home? No Yes

Do you have a? Swimming Pool Hot Tub
 Both Neither

By checking the box, you agree the following: (i) I am the utility account holder or have the authority to act on behalf of the account holder; (ii) I will provide correct information to the best of my ability and (iii) I will comply with the ClearlyEnergy [Terms of Use](#)

Do you wish to prevent other users from editing the home's energy features? By checking the box, the home's energy features will not be editable by others for a period of 30 days.

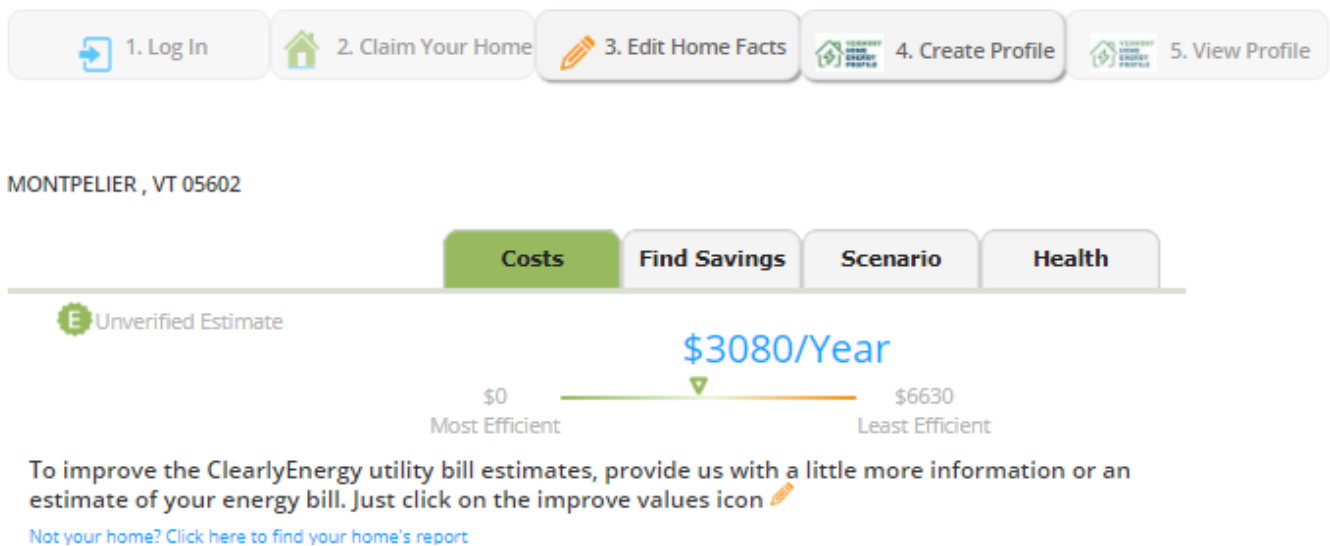
Step 2: Claiming Your Home


Before you are allowed to edit the home's information and create a Vermont Home Energy profile, you will be asked to "claim" your home. When you press Claim Your Home, you will be prompted to review two statements.

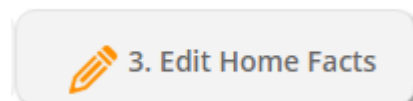
- By checking this box, you are confirming that you are the property owner or can act on behalf of the property owner (e.g. seller's agent, energy professionals completing the VHEP on behalf of the homeowner). Additionally, you are confirming that you will provide correct information to the best of your ability. **This first box must be checked in order to edit your home's features.**
- The second box should be checked if you want to prevent other users from editing the home's energy features. By checking this box, the home energy features will be locked from editing by others for 30 days. After 30 days the home is unlocked. Do not check this box if you plan to have other users (spouse, contractor, etc.) modify your home data.
- Once you check the box(s), click **Start Your Profile**.

Step 3: Editing Home Features

When your address is found or filled out (pictured above), you will be brought to the following screen, which will display the baseline home energy cost estimate. This is calculated using home features from public tax assessor data and HELIX data when available, or from the inputs provided at the previous step.



You will see a pencil icon next to the features you are now able to edit. You can optionally update information about your home, its energy systems or enter utility and fuel cost. 



- Review the assumptions about your home such as insulation levels, heating system information, and appliances. To update any features and reflect the current state of your home, you will need to be logged in and have claimed your home.
- Click on the pencil icon to make edits.
- Once you have made edits, click **Update Values**.

Home Features

- Update general home facts
 - This will allow you to indicate if you have completed a professional energy audit, indicate the size, age, and type of home you have (e.g. single family standalone home), specify if your home is divided into multiple units, describe your basement (if applicable), if you have a programmable thermostat, if association fees cover utility costs, and if you have an electric vehicle/charging station, a hot tub or swimming pool.
- Enter utility and fuel costs
 - This section allows you to enter actual utility bill information that will calibrate the tool's energy cost estimate. You can also indicate primary space and water heating fuel, the number of people living in the home, and the temperature you keep the home during the winter and summer.
 - **Note:** The tool's energy cost estimate is an asset-based score which considers the **physical assets** of a home such as the existing insulation levels, HVAC systems, and hot water systems. Asset-based scores do not consider the operational aspects including thermostat temperature, number of occupants, etc. Inputs for the utility bill section are used to normalize results for those aspects and other considerations like weather.

Heating Costs

- Update heating equipment and insulation details. If you know the answers to these questions, feel free to fill them in. If you are unsure, you can leave them blank. This page includes information on your heat system(s), any secondary/back-up heating systems, hot water heater, windows, attic and wall insulation, and overall air tightness of your home.

Cooling Costs

- Many homes use window air conditioning units or central air conditioning. By editing this section, you are able to indicate what type of air conditioning your home uses, if any.

Lighting & Other

- Here you can indicate what type of bulbs you use in your home, as well as the use (low, normal, high) of devices and electronics (TVs, microwaves, fans, humidifiers, computers).

Appliances

- You can edit the number of kitchens in your home. This is important if you have an in-law suite, or if the building is multifamily.
- Refrigerator: indicate the type and age of your fridge, as well as if it is ENERGY STAR certified. If you have a second fridge or freezer, you are able to indicate that here as well.
- You can indicate if you have a dishwasher, as well as how old it is and if it is ENERGY STAR certified.
- You can identify the type of clothes washer you have, as well as if you have a clothes dryer.
- You can also identify the primary fuel you use for cooking (e.g. gas stove, electric stove).

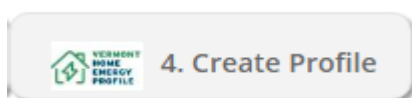
Solar

If you have solar on your property and it did not automatically appear, you can edit this section and select yes to fill in the details. You will need the following information:

- Directions the panels face
- If any shade covers the surface
- Capacity (or maximum generation the system can produce) (kW)
- If the panels are owned or leased
- When the system was installed
- If there is battery storage

Step 4: Create your Vermont Home Energy Profile

After you have updated your home features, click the “**Create VT Profile**” button to generate your Vermont Home Energy Profile. This button only appears after you have claimed your home.



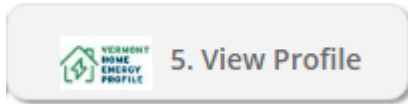
You will be brought to a screen to review your home values. This provides a chance to look over all the details you updated and the opportunity to go back and edit home features, or to create the Vermont Home Energy Profile. At the bottom of the page, you will be prompted with two boxes.

The **first box must be checked to generate the VHEP** and ensure the information provided is correct to the best of your knowledge on the date the profile is created. The **second box** asks if you would like to make the profile accessible for use by home buyers and real estate professionals – if yes, leave the box unchecked. If you would like to keep the VHEP and its contents private, check the second box.

Lastly if you are a third party completing the VHEP, please provide who you are completing the profile on behalf of.

- Click “**Submit**”. The tab now has a live link to create the Vermont Home Energy Profile as a PDF document.

You have now completed your Vermont Home Energy Profile!



The Vermont Home Energy Profile will be used in your real estate transaction process to provide an estimate of annual costs for operating this home. The VHEP also documents the following:

- Energy consumption and cost estimates
- Energy upgrades completed or certifications received when applicable
- Recommended energy saving actions
- Resources for additional energy savings opportunities, rebates and financing

The Vermont Home Energy Profile is a collaboration of Vermont Residential Labeling Stakeholders and The Energy Estimator, powered by HELIX and ClearlyEnergy. **If you have any questions about this process, please contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990-.** Any specific questions about the Montpelier home energy information policy, please contact the city at xxx-xxx-xxxx

Figure 2: Front Page of the VHEP

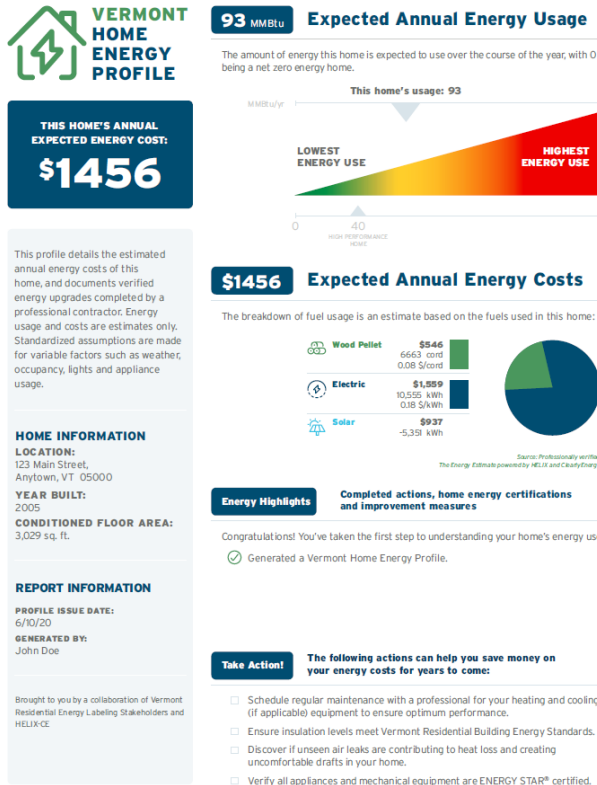


Figure 3: Back Page of the VHEP

Total Energy Usage

Components of a home and associated efficiency values.

	LOWEST ENERGY USE	HIGHEST ENERGY USE
INSULATION & INFILTRATION	All cavities filled plus insulation covering framing, air sealing	Vermont Energy Code
HEATING & COOLING SYSTEMS	ENERGY STAR Certified or better	10-15+ years old, no annual maintenance
LIGHTS & APPLIANCES	ENERGY STAR Certified or better	Incandescent bulbs, conventional appliances
RENEWABLE ENERGY	Sized to off-set all or most consumption	None

Expected Annual Energy Use

All sources of energy used in this home (electricity plus fuels such as oil, gas, propane and/or wood) are converted to a common unit of energy called MMBtu, which stands for one million British Thermal Units. A low MMBtu identifies a home as energy efficient with lower energy costs and a smaller carbon footprint.

- 1 MMBtu =
- 7 gal fuel oil
 - 10 therms of natural gas
 - 11 gal of propane
 - 293 kWh of electricity
 - .05 cords of wood

Additional Resources:

- Burlington Electric Department:** www.burlingtonelectric.com
 - Drive Electric Vermont:** www.driveelectricvt.com
 - Efficiency Vermont:** www.efficiencyvermont.com
 - Go! Vermont:** www.connectingcommuters.org
 - Renewable Energy Vermont:** www.revermont.org
 - Vermont Department of Public Service:** www.energysaver.vermont.gov
 - Vermont Gas Systems:** www.vermontgas.com
 - Vermont Weatherization Program:** www.dcf.vermont.gov/beo/weatherization
- If you have questions about this profile, contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or info@efficiencyvermont.com

Home Energy Labeling Information eXchange (HELIX) Energy Estimate

HELIX, sponsored by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership, hosts third-party certified home energy data to be used by realtors and lenders to properly value energy efficiency. www.neep.org/home-energy-labeling-information-exchange/helix

Clearly Energy generates energy estimates based on homeowner inputs and publicly-available data (home age, size, heating system type and fuel) or an energy model from a professional who has visited the home. Standard assumptions are used for variable factors such as weather and occupancy. Average fuel prices are obtained from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and the VT Public Service Dept. Historic fuel bills can inform costs but are specific to prior occupancy and weather. www.clearlyenergy.com

Montpelier Home Energy Information Ordinance

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How does this policy work?

Starting **TBD**, 2021, the Vermont Home Energy Profile will be required as a part of the residential listing process. Residents can use Energy Estimator to generate the VHEP in three simple steps. The estimated energy use and a link to the PDF VHEP will be required in each real estate listing.

Why is the City of Montpelier requiring this?

The energy performance of a home should be known before the home is purchased. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide information to homebuyers about residential building energy performance. This information is designed to protect consumers, to enable more knowledgeable decisions about the full costs of operating homes and to motivate investments in home improvements that lower energy bills, reduce carbon emissions, increase comfort, safety and health for homeowners, and provide information to the City of Montpelier useful for reaching their Net Zero Energy goal.

- **Homeowners** can identify energy- and cost-saving recommendations for home improvements, and receive a better valuation of existing energy efficiency features and improvements in the real estate market when selling their home.
- **Prospective homebuyers** will gain more information about the operational costs of owning the houses under their consideration and receive a better valuation of existing energy efficiency features and improvements. This information can also be used in negotiating a mortgage rate.
- **Real estate professionals** will be better informed on how energy efficient a home is, enabling them to more confidently market energy efficiency features.

The VHEP provides more transparency to homeowners, prospective buyers, and real estate professionals on the estimated energy use and costs of a home. This is similar to getting the miles per gallon (MPG) when looking at different cars in the market.

Does this ordinance apply to "for sale by owner" homes?

Yes. The homeowner is responsible for ensuring the Vermont Home Energy Profile (VHEP) is included in any online listings and at open houses hosted by the owner. All required listings include any printed advertisement, internet posting, or publicly displayed sign, including but not limited to NEREN MLS, Picket Fence Preview, Redfin, Zillow, Trulia and other third-party listing services. The only exemptions will be made for a building sold through a foreclosure, trustee, deed-in-lieu, or any pre-foreclosure sale.

What if someone lies on the form?

To ensure accountability, the name of the person who fills out the information for the VHEP is included in the report. In addition, the person claiming a home agrees to the following:

- They are the utility account holder or have the authority to act on behalf of the account holder.
- They will not provide incorrect information.
- They will comply with the Terms of Use.

In addition, the homeowner signs off on the information included in a listing. If the buyer finds information misrepresented, they could take legal action against the seller.

What about the variability of energy prices?

The VHEP captures the estimated energy costs at the time the report is generated. It is true that energy prices may vary and the actual cost of energy may differ slightly from the estimated costs.

Will I need a separate energy visit before I list my house for sale?

No, Energy Estimator does not require an in-person assessment. This tool is used to streamline the process and make it as easy as possible for homeowners.

What if my expected annual energy cost is not what I expected it to be?

The estimated energy cost is an asset-based score. An asset-based score considers the **physical assets** of a home such as the existing insulation levels, HVAC systems, and hot water systems. Based on these assets and standard weather and occupant assumptions, Energy Estimator can estimate annual energy use, associated costs, and more. This estimated cost may be different than your actual energy bills, which are based on your energy consumption behavior (e.g. thermostat temperature, number of occupants, etc.)

For how long is my home's profile valid?

Printed and electronic VHEP reports are valid for two (2) years from the assessment date to ensure the reports reflect current and accurate information since fuel prices change regularly. Following the expiration date, a seller listing a home publicly for sale is required to have the Vermont Home Energy Profile reissued.

VHEP reports are void and invalid after an alteration or remodel of the home that affects the heated square footage, the quality and type of windows, insulation, HVAC equipment, or other changes that are reasonably expected to impact the Vermont Home Energy Profile and associated estimates of energy use. Other changes can include remodeling a basement or attic space. These changes require a new Vermont Home Energy Profile to be obtained prior to publicly listing the covered building for sale.

Do I have to pay for a VHEP?

No. There is no cost to the homeowner in Montpelier to complete a VHEP report.

What if I have a high estimated energy cost?

By including the VHEP in the listing, prospective buyers can make better informed decisions, but having a higher estimated cost of operation does not necessarily mean buyers will be deterred from your home. Studies around the country have shown that homes that provide standardized energy information, like VHEP, sell faster than

homes without this information.³ Homebuyers like having energy information, similar to having MPG information when buying a car. In addition, providing energy information with recommendations influences new homeowners' decisions about energy renovations. This will help improve the housing stock of Montpelier

What is included in the Vermont Home Energy Profile (VHEP)?

The VHEP includes the estimated energy cost per year as well as the estimated energy use broken down by fuel type. This includes the primary heating fuel. In Energy Estimator, a homeowner can indicate if there are secondary heating sources. The profile will also acknowledge any green certifications or home energy labels that are associated with the home. Recommendations for next steps after generating the VHEP are listed in the VHEP. There is also information on how to contact Efficiency Vermont to follow up with an in person audit or to learn about local rebates and incentives for energy efficiency improvements.

What if I have already completed an energy audit with an energy score?

You are still required to complete the VHEP using Energy Estimator. Energy Estimator will pull certification and energy rating information from HELIX and include this in the profile to recognize the work you have already done.

Are there resources available to help me lower my estimated energy cost for my home?

Yes! Efficiency Vermont has several resources available to help Montpelier residents complete home energy improvements. In fact, your profile will provide recommended next steps for improving the efficiency of your home, including contacting Efficiency Vermont. Consider checking out Efficiency Vermont's [Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program.](#)

What does ClearlyEnergy do with my data? Will it be sold?

None of your data will be sold. The data pulled into the VHEP is publicly accessible data (www.clearlyenergy.com/vermont). Any edited features by the homeowner are stored within Energy Estimator, but are not shared. Energy Estimator shares the VHEP with HELIX, which then shares the VHEP with parties such as MLS, which is subject to privacy restrictions.

³ <https://www.tias.edu/en/knowledgeareas/area/real-estate/article/homes-with-an-energy-label-sold-100-days-faster>