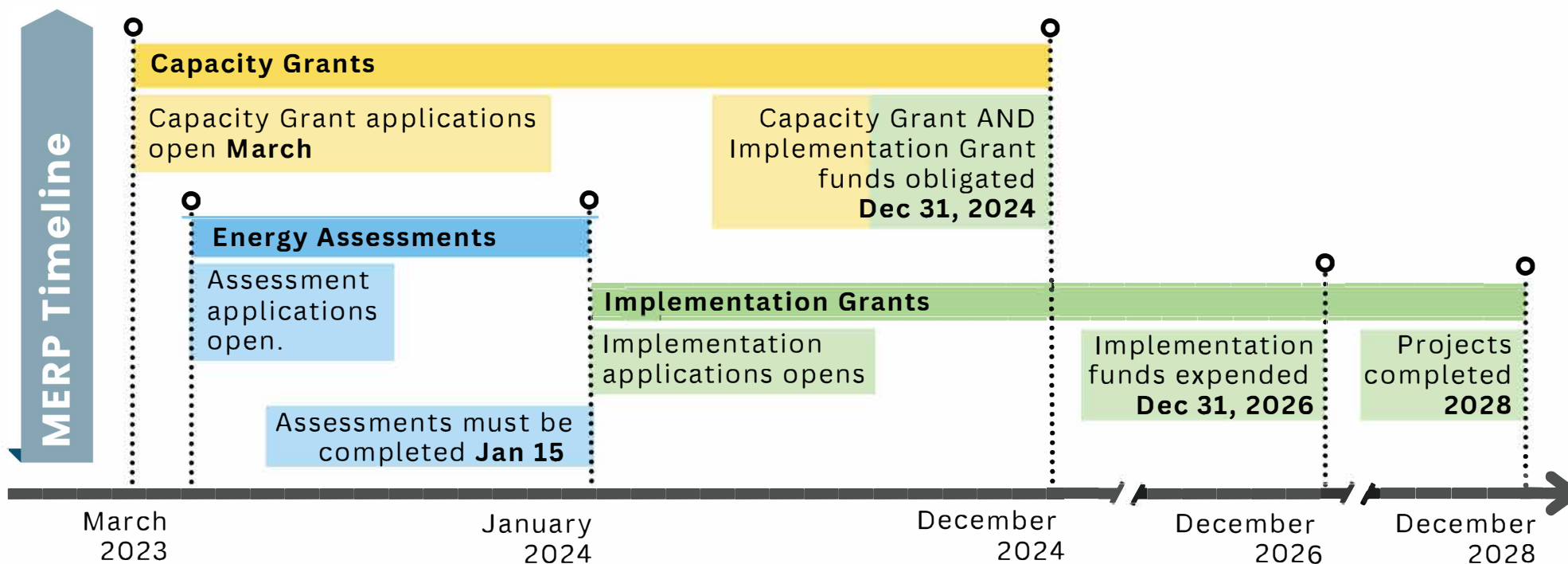




# Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)



The Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) will provide staff support, application and technical assistance, and funding to help communities become more energy resilient, reduce energy use and operating costs, and curb greenhouse gas emissions by promoting renewable energy, battery storage, electric vehicle charging, weatherization, thermal improvements, fuel switching, and enhanced building comfort in municipal buildings and facilities. Passed on June 2, 2022, Act 172 provides \$45 million to promote dependable and sustainable connections to critical municipal services for all Vermonters. **Existing buildings owned by cities, towns, fire districts, incorporated villages, and all other governmental incorporated units except for school districts, are eligible for MERP.**



# MERP Program Components

Questions? Contact NRPC Energy Planner - [mvalenta@nrpcvt.com](mailto:mvalenta@nrpcvt.com)

## Community Capacity Grants

These grants provide up to **\$4,000** to support energy resilience community capacity building. Selectboard approval for proposed projects is required.

### Potential Uses:

- Hire a grant writer
- Host educational events
- Purchase promotional materials
- Start an energy committee

To use these funds efficiently, applicants are encouraged to develop projects shared across multiple municipalities.

## Free Energy Assessments

Towns can apply for energy assessments of any municipally-owned building(s), except schools. **As assessment is required to be eligible for the MERP Implementation Grant.** These assessments will provide recommendations and cost estimates for HVAC and thermal envelope improvements, weatherization, renewable energy equipment, battery storage and EV charging equipment.

Two levels of building energy assessment are available:

### Level 1 (~1.5 hrs)

Goes beyond Efficiency VT municipal energy walkthrough. Building documents **not** required.

### Level 2 (~2-4 hrs)

Investment grade energy audit. Includes all Level 1 aspects. Building documents **required**.

If you don't have the documents (utility bills, architectural drawings, etc.) for a Level 2 assessment, or you want something simple to swiftly access the MERP Implementation Grant, consider a Level 1 assessment. Covered municipalities may apply for either.

## Implementation Grants

Each municipality can apply for a maximum of **\$500,000** for building renovation projects regarding weatherization, thermal efficiency, and supplementing or replacing fossil fuel heating systems with more efficient renewable or electric alternatives. These funds can be split across several eligible buildings, under one project grant. The MERP Implementation Grant is designed to reach communities most in need of improving their energy resilience and experiencing high energy burdens.

## Revolving Loan Program

Still in development. Will require a Level 2 assessment to qualify.

For more info:  
[bgs.vermont.gov/  
municipal-energy-  
resilience-program](https://bgs.vermont.gov/municipal-energy-resilience-program)

