
BUTTON UP BRIEFS



Check out what Bristol residents have done for cost savings and greater home comfort with energy audits, weatherization, efficiency measures and renewable energy sources using available rebates and financial incentives, local contractors, or do-it-yourself improvements.

Town of Bristol showing Holley Hall, the town green and houses beyond.

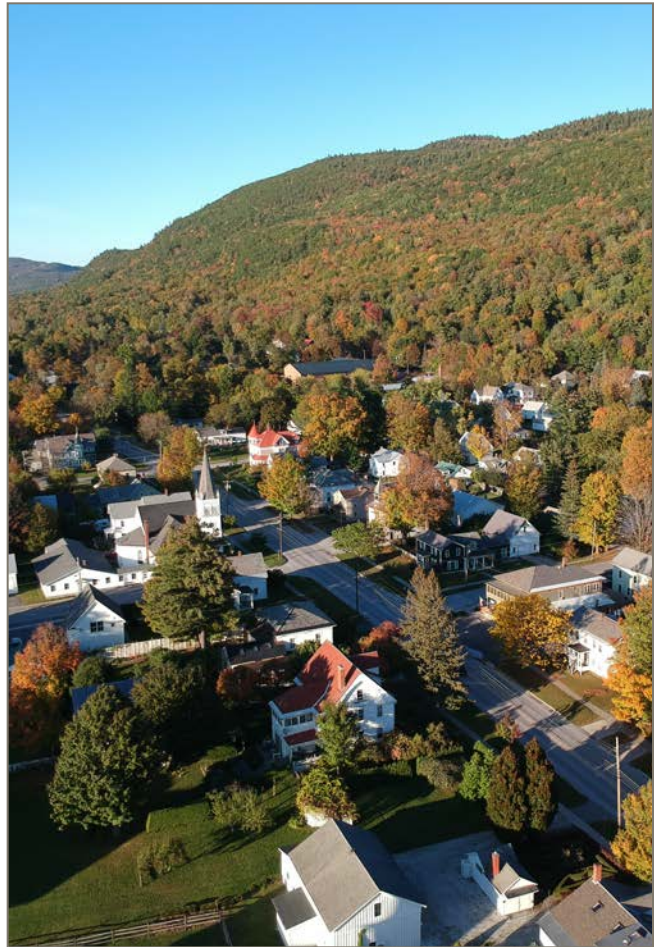
“Our 1850 home, bought in 2012, was improved over the next 5 years, first by having an energy audit, then sealing attic edges with foam and insulating the attic to R50, adding vents and an attic window, sealing and foaming basement crawl space, and foam insulating basement perimeter. We installed a small wood stove, hybrid water heater, replacements for 6 leaky windows, a mini split heat pump, and solar panels on the garage roof. Oil use declined over 50% in 2017 and our solar production covered the increase in electric use and the monthly financing for solar panels and heat

pump. We financed them with no up-front cost through Sun Common and Green Mountain Power, who also maintain the units. Our home is now less drafty, first level floors are warmer, and woodstove and heat pump are “warming spots” in winter. The hybrid water heater dehumidifies the basement and the heat pump provides AC in summer. Equally important to us is reducing fossil fuel use, a responsibility we take seriously.”

—Richard Butz, East St, Bristol

“We have 1/3 heat cost savings with an 8 year

payback. After an audit, work in the attic included removing old fiberglass insulation, foaming the attic floor leaks, building a collar to seal chimney, and blowing in 4’ of cellulose insulation to R50. An exterior door and a window was sealed in the basement. On the main floor a few exterior doors were sealed with flexible tapes. The cost of work was \$15,000 minus \$2,500 in EVT rebates = \$12,500. Benefits included total heat cost down 1/3, saving \$1,600 per year (-\$1,300 oil, -\$300 wood pellets). The house is warmer and less dry in winter, cooler in summer; no more humidifier or AC is needed. Our home’s value if sold is higher for its energy efficiency. Using less fossil fuel there is less environmental impact, and by hiring a resident contractor we’re stimulating the local economy.”



North Street, Bristol.

—Bob Donniss, Maple St, Bristol

“Do-it-yourselfers, Jane and John Doe, renovated their circa 1922 house in 2011 by installing insulation and replacing windows and siding.

Buying a wood pellet stove in 2011 reduced their oil cost by approximately half. After installing a split-type air conditioner/heat pump in the living room and a hybrid heat pump water heater in the basement in 2016, the oil burning furnace is turned off for 6 months of the year and they can dehumidify and air condition in the summer.

Although electricity usage rose, Bristol Electronics installed a photo-voltaic array (solar panels) on their roof to produce the electricity to power their home and active kitchen. Along with Jane’s greenhouse producing year round food and John harvesting local fish and game in season, the couple is quite self-sufficient and enjoy living close to the earth.”

“It was several years ago, but I recall... we had an audit and afterwards did some insulating ourselves. We hired help for some additional work. As a result our upstairs is so much toastier in the winter and we saved a lot on our fuel oil and wood bills.”

—Peggy Chatelain, W Pleasant St, Bristol

“My home in Bristol was built prior to 1918. In March 2015, I had an Energy Efficiency Assessment completed. As a result of that assessment, I had my basement, the attic and a crawl space insulated. Not only did I no longer have to deal with frozen pipes, my fuel oil usage dropped significantly! After using 480 gallons of fuel oil in 2015, in 2016 I only used 196 (284 fewer gallons) and this past winter, that was extremely cold and seemed to go on forever, I used 271 (209 fewer gallons). Since the cost of fuel oil fluctuates and the winter temperatures and length varies, I can't compare the cost year to year in the same way, but I can say that in 2015, I spent \$1547 and the following years, I've spent \$370 (2016) and \$731 (2017). Now, that's what I call savings!! I highly recommend having an Energy Efficiency Assessment done on your house if you haven't already. While it may take a few years to recoup the cost of making your home more energy efficient, I believe you'll notice the difference in energy used, and money spent, within months.”

—Patricia Hunt, Lawrence Lane, Bristol



View of Bristol town green and downtown.

“Our household chooses to cut back on our carbon footprint while economizing. My husband and I reduced our fuel usage during the cold months by sealing our doors and windows, closing off unused spaces and keeping cold air out of our entryway. When I shed my coat and shoes at the door I don a sweater and slippers, a la Mr. Rogers, and set the thermostat at 65. After a detailed \$100 energy audit we learned we can further reduce our fuel consumption by 38% with more serious

insulation of our old basement and by investing in heat pumps. We already purchase our electricity through Sun Common and keep our eyes on the latest renewable energy technologies, which will only get better and cheaper as fossil fuels rise in cost due to their limited supply and the price—both environmental and economic—of extraction and delivery.”

—Alice Leeds, Maple St, Bristol