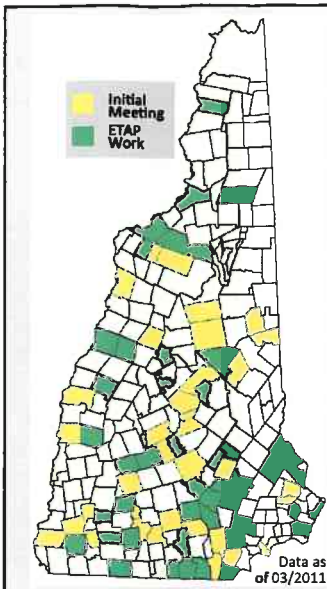


# Energy Technical Assistance & Planning For New Hampshire Communities

Funded by the ARRA Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant



## ETAP: Energy Efficiency Success Stories from New Hampshire Municipalities

Since June of 2010, the Energy Technical Assistance & Planning for New Hampshire Communities (ETAP) program, has met with over 90 cities, towns and counties in the state. We've started or completed work with over 60 of those communities. We've assisted them by:

- helping them measure their energy use
- identifying energy issues and improvement opportunities and
- providing the technical assistance to move projects forward to completion

All the services are provided at **no charge** to your community. Here are some stories of how cities and town have benefited from the program. For more information, contact your local Regional Planning Commission. Call (603) 225-3060 x14 , or go to [www.etaphc.com](http://www.etaphc.com).



**Nashua, NH:** In November 2010, the City of Nashua asked ETAP to evaluate current buying practices for electricity. Since its annual electricity bill is \$2,750,000, the City wondered if it could save money by soliciting bids from competing energy suppliers.

ETAP's technical assistance provider, Peregrine Energy Group, worked with the City's Purchasing Department and the Office of the Mayor to analyze all municipal electrical accounts and drafted a request for proposals from qualified bidders. In December, 2010 the City released the RFP, requesting bids for 12- and 24-month time periods.

Peregrine handled all the technical details of the competition. They fielded questions from prospective bidders, drafted responses posted on the City's website, and reviewed and compared the offers from competing suppliers, including their proposed contract terms and conditions. Peregrine has the needed expertise and experience to advise Nashua on which contract offered the best value.

As a result, Nashua executed two-year contracts that will reduce electricity expenses by \$250,000 per year. This is a savings of 9 percent against the current total price for electricity and a savings of 22 percent against the cost for generation only (excluding transmission and distribution).

**Hampton, NH:** The Hampton Energy Committee (HEC) has been concerned for several years with the inefficient heating, cooling, and lighting systems operating in the Town's historic Lane Library. HEC contacted ETAP technical assistance provider, the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC), who organized a meeting with the HEC, Library Director, Library Trustees, Town Manager, to talk about the current and future needs of the library. The decision was made to do an on-site assessment of the Library, the Town Office building, and Hampton's main fire station, which Peregrine was able to do all in one day.

Peregrine Energy Group has provided the HEC with recommendations for new heating and cooling systems and for lighting throughout the building. Peregrine also assisted the HEC with drafting a "design/build" Request for Proposals for heating, cooling, and lighting. The ETAP program will also assist the HEC and town officials with reviewing the submissions to ensure the work proposed for the library provides energy cost savings for the long-term.

In addition to their focus on improving the energy efficiency of the Library, the HEC is working with the RPC to develop a plan for short- and long-term energy conservation projects. The Committee meets monthly and often has guest speakers on a wide variety of sustainability topics. These meetings are broadcast on the local cable access channel in order to pique community interest and inform residents of energy conservation opportunities.



Interested in having your municipality participate in this free program?  
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Over for **MORE**  
success stories...





**Colebrook, NH:** The town of Colebrook saw a great opportunity to utilize the North Country's abundant and local biomass resources for a combined heat and power (CHP) plant for the town. The proposed plant would use local green wood chips and replace numerous oil and propane boilers in a new heating and power district in the center of the town. The proposed plant would be utilized for municipal buildings as well as businesses and residences. Before a plant of this type can move out of the planning stage, the town has to find money to do a feasibility study and has to figure out how it can afford to build the proposed biomass plant.

Colebrook lacked the staff or the time to research grant opportunities and write grant applications for this project, but ETAP was able to provide assistance with this process. CLF Ventures, the lead consultant in the ETAP program, is currently assisting the town, by identifying funding opportunities and writing several grant applications to NH-based sources to fund this feasibility study.

**Swanzy, NH:** Like many communities in New Hampshire, the Town of Swanzy has been working hard to reduce energy costs by identifying ways to improve the energy efficiency of its municipally owned buildings. One of these measures undertaken was the completion of decision grade audit of the Carpenter House, a two hundred year old farmhouse owned and managed by the Town as an elder care facility. The Town applied for, but did not receive, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds. It was around this time that the town heard about ETAP and contacted the Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) to request technical assistance.



After an initial meeting with representatives from the Town, Peregrine Energy Group conducted on-site assessments of 8 buildings, including the Carpenter House, to evaluate current energy use and identify opportunities for cost reduction. The ETAP program produced a detailed report that outlined recommendations and next steps to save energy, improve occupant comfort, and make needed infrastructure maintenance. The report included detailed cost estimates for suggested capital improvements and the estimated cost savings from these upgrades. Swanzy used these recommendations and cost estimates to allocate funding at this year's town meeting and hopes to apply for a low interest municipal energy loan through the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) to make necessary improvements. Part of the funding the Town receives will go towards insulation at the Carpenter House. As Swanzy moves forward in planning for and implementing energy cost saving measures, the ETAP program will continue to provide technical assistance through the ETAP program.



**Pittsfield, NH:** Route 28 is a major commuting artery for communities east of Concord. The Town of Pittsfield has had its eye on a piece of property near its downtown that would be a perfect place to locate a Park-and-Ride. This facility would serve commuters in Pittsfield, Barnstead, Chichester, and other surrounding towns, as well as drawing traffic off of Rt. 28 and into downtown Pittsfield. Park-and-Rides provide meeting points for people who want to carpool or "rideshare," thus reducing the number of single occupancy vehicles on the road and saving energy. The Town had found a site, but needed technical assistance to undertake an engineering and permitting study.

The staff of the Central NH Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC), an ETAP technical assistance provider, met with Pittsfield officials to talk about how ETAP could support Pittsfield's park and ride plans. The ETAP program provided the funding, and the CNHRPC developed a Request for Qualifications in March 2011 to find a firm to do the work. The study should be ready by June. With a design in place and preliminary permitting completed, Pittsfield will be ready to move ahead with securing financing and construction for the Park-and-Ride.

**Dover, NH:** The City of Dover has already done extensive energy efficiency work on its municipal buildings, but was looking for planning assistance that could help the entire community save energy. ETAP assistance provider Strafford Regional Planning Commission is currently working with the City of Dover on a regulatory audit to assist in this effort.

The regulatory audit will analyze the city codes in terms of regulations related to energy efficiency. This review of regulations will determine if Dover's code encourages, discourages, or does not affect energy efficiency opportunities within the city. Recommendations will be provided to the City, and the information will be used in Dover's Sustainability Plan.

ETAP also scheduled a site visit to the Dover Armory Building. The ETAP program did a high-level energy assessment and made recommendations for energy efficiency improvements.



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