

# Energy Projects: From Inspiration to Action

Vermont Energy Conference  
December 1, 2012



New England  
Grassroots  
Environment Fund

[www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org)





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# A Word About Necessity, Independence, & Opportunity







Photos:  
J Dundorf

# Our Mission

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) seeks to energize and nurture long term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable communities.



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# NEGEF's Small Grants Program



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# *How NEGEF Defines Grassroots*

Groups, formal and informal, working at the neighborhood or municipal level that have.....

- No more than 2 full time employees and
- Annual operating budgets under \$100,000
- Are NOT statewide projects

Most groups are all-volunteer with budgets under \$10,000 a year

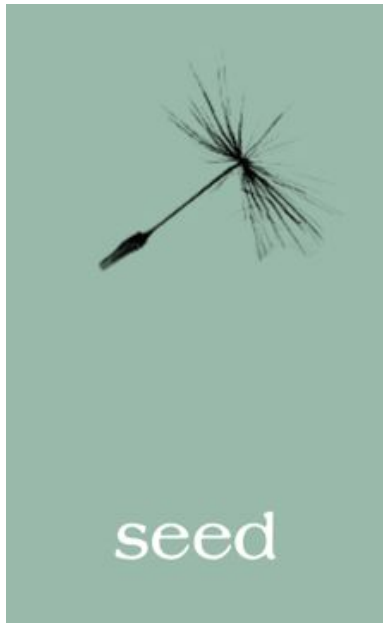


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# NEGEF's Small Grants Program



- \$250 - \$1,000
- rolling online application
- dedicated to help innovative, largely volunteer groups launch projects and build the group.



- \$1,000 - \$3,500
- online application deadline: March 15 & September 15
- dedicated to help established groups increase capacity, collaborate, and leverage impact.



- 2013 program launch
- individual stipend grants for innovative grassroots leaders to sustain their volunteer work, gain professional leadership development.



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# Getting Organized



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# Key Organizing Steps

*Caution: Avoiding Them Means Being LESS Effective In the Long Run!*

1. Form or enhance your leadership group.
2. What's your vision, mission and goals for your energy planning process?
3. Who's Missing? Early and broad participation is critical to success.
4. Energy Planning: Conduct an energy inventory, audits and renewable energy assessment.
5. Report Your Findings: Builds Support
6. Draft a Energy Chapter in your Master Plan



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# What Do You Want to Accomplish? One-Off Project or Multiple Efforts?

- Mission: Answers the question: Why does your group exist?
- Vision: Answers the question: where do you hope to go in the future and what it will look like?
- Goals: Are specific to the groups mission, what you wish to accomplish from your efforts



# Who's Missing?

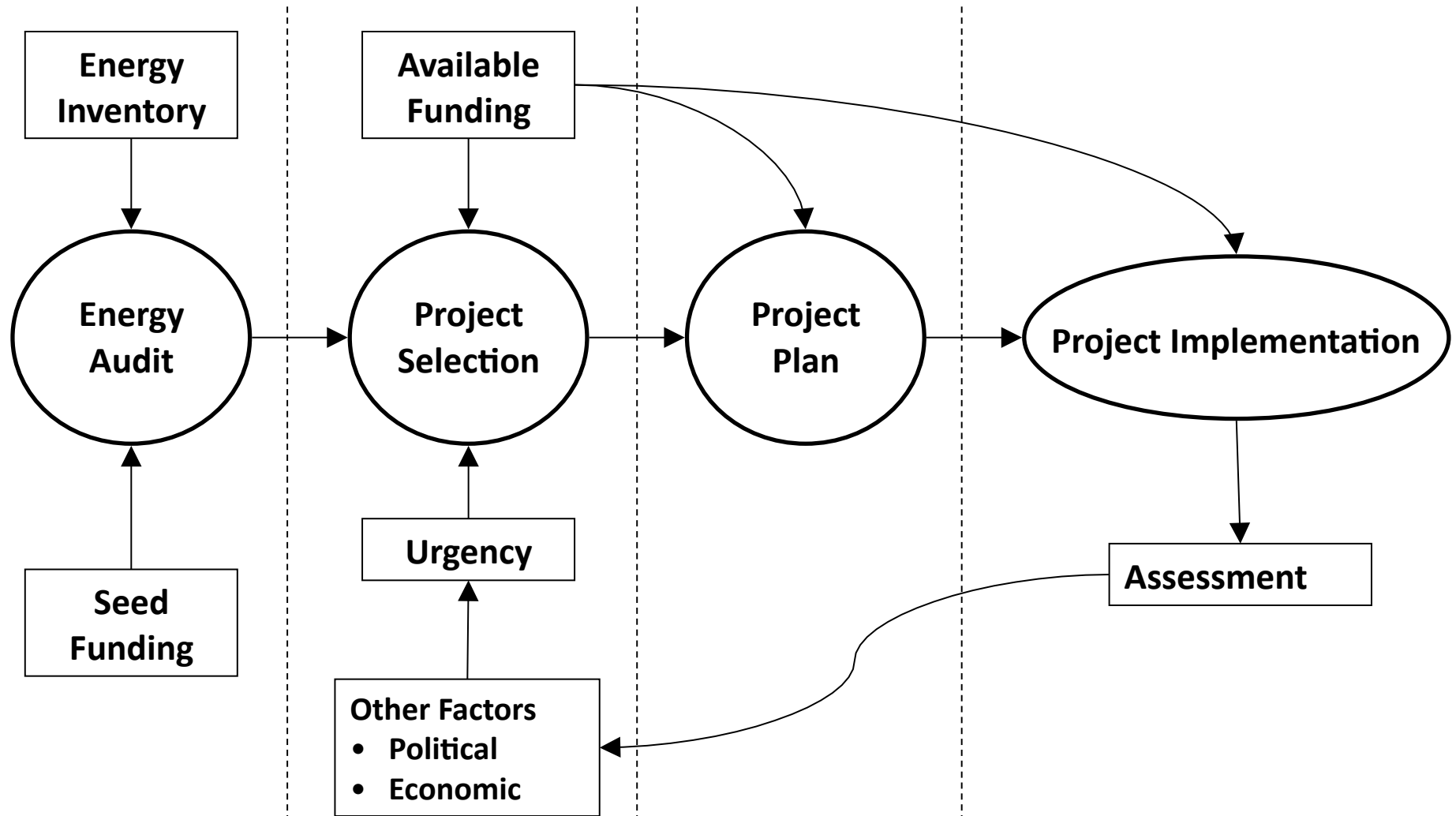
## Who Can Help Reach Your Goals?

- Town and School Representatives
- Public Safety Staff and Volunteers
- Engineers and Consultants
- Builders and Contractors
- Public Relations/Communications Professionals
- The Town/Island Go-To Person
- Civic Groups, e.g. Historical Society
- Youth and Seniors!



# Energy Planning:

## Local Energy Project Decision Tree



Compliments of the NH Local Energy Work Group

# Energy Planning: Some Key Tools

- Energy Inventory: *Prioritize, Prioritize, Prioritize!*
  - [EPA Portfolio Manager](#)
  - [Small Town Carbon Calculator \(STOCC\)](#)
  - [Energy Star Cash Flow Opportunity Calculator](#)
- Town Yearly [Energy](#) Report: *How are we doing?*
- Energy Chapters and Energy Plans:
  - [New Shoreham/Block Island \(RI\)](#)
  - [Atkinson, NH](#)



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# More Resources to Give YOU the Power

NH Local Energy Work Group – [nhenergy.org](http://nhenergy.org)

- Local Energy Solutions Conference
- Local Energy Solutions Training Series
- LEC newsletter
- Guides & Handbooks
- Case Studies



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# Two small NH Towns' Energy Planning & Action:

## *The Power of Community Engagement*



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# Temple, NH



Slides compliments of Bev Edwards, Temple Energy Committee

# Plainfield, NH



Photo credit: EPA, Region 1: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/plainfieldschool.html>

# Elements of Community Engagement

## ➤ Storytelling and Trusted Messengers

*It's how we learn everything important!*

## ➤ Neighbor-to-Neighbor Initiatives

- [Sustainable Energy Resource Group \(SERG\)](#)
- [Green Sneakers \(ME\)](#)
- [Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge \(CT\)](#)



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# Elements of Community Engagement

➤ Find Out What Residents Care About

*What's YOUR town's context?*

➤ Keep It Positive and Relevant

*Building a World We Want to Live in  
Not Fighting the One We Don't Want  
to Live In!*



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# Energy Raisers



Photo credit: SUNREI



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QUESTIONS?

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