

Ward 6 NPA Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Location: Department of Public Works, 645 Pine Street

Or on zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/81027856568>

6:00 Community Dinner – join us for great (free!) food and a chance to connect with your neighbors

6:30 Call to Order,

- Introductions
- Announcements
- Public Forum

6:45 City Council Reports, Becca Brown McKnight and Buddy Singh, invited

7:00 Report out on Community Survey about overdose prevention center, Theresa Vezina,

7:30 How to reduce fossil fuel use in your home, Jacob Flanigan

8:00 Future NPA topics -- what issues do you think we should be addressing? Let us know and we'll make it happen!

8:15 Adjourn

What is the NPA?

Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPAs) are grassroots, neighborhood organizations that were established in each of Burlington's wards to encourage resident participation in City government. Working as neighborhood advocacy groups, Neighborhood Planning Assemblies help improve communication between the residents of Burlington and City government through regular meetings scheduled in each Ward. For more information, click [here](#).



Overdose Prevention Center



Introductions and Overview

- What is an Overdose Prevention Center (OPC)?
- What is the status of the OPC in Burlington?
- OPC Services Assessment
- Tonight's Listening Session



Tonight's Listening Session



Preliminary survey results



Evaluation next steps



Discussion with Residents



- What positive impact do you hope the OPC will bring to our community?
- What are your concerns or questions related to the OPC?
- What would you like to see for ongoing communication once the OPC opens?



Services Assessment

Overview

- The City of Burlington contracted with Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) to inform the Services Assessment report required by the OPC Guidelines.
- Purpose is to engage people with living experience and the wider Burlington professional and residential community to help inform the City and VCJR in the implement of the OPC.

Evaluation Activities to Date



In-person surveys with people with 49 people with living experience*



Online community survey completed with over 1500 responses*



Ongoing tracking of community engagement activities

*Preliminary findings only include quantitative data. Qualitative (open-ended) data will be shared in final report

Who did we hear from?



49 individuals
completed the in-person
PWLE Survey

All respondents used an illicit substance within the past 30 days

84% of respondents reported not having a stable place to live, with **80%** unsheltered

86% used drugs at least once per day

43% used drugs alone most of the time or always

47% had at least one overdose in the past year.



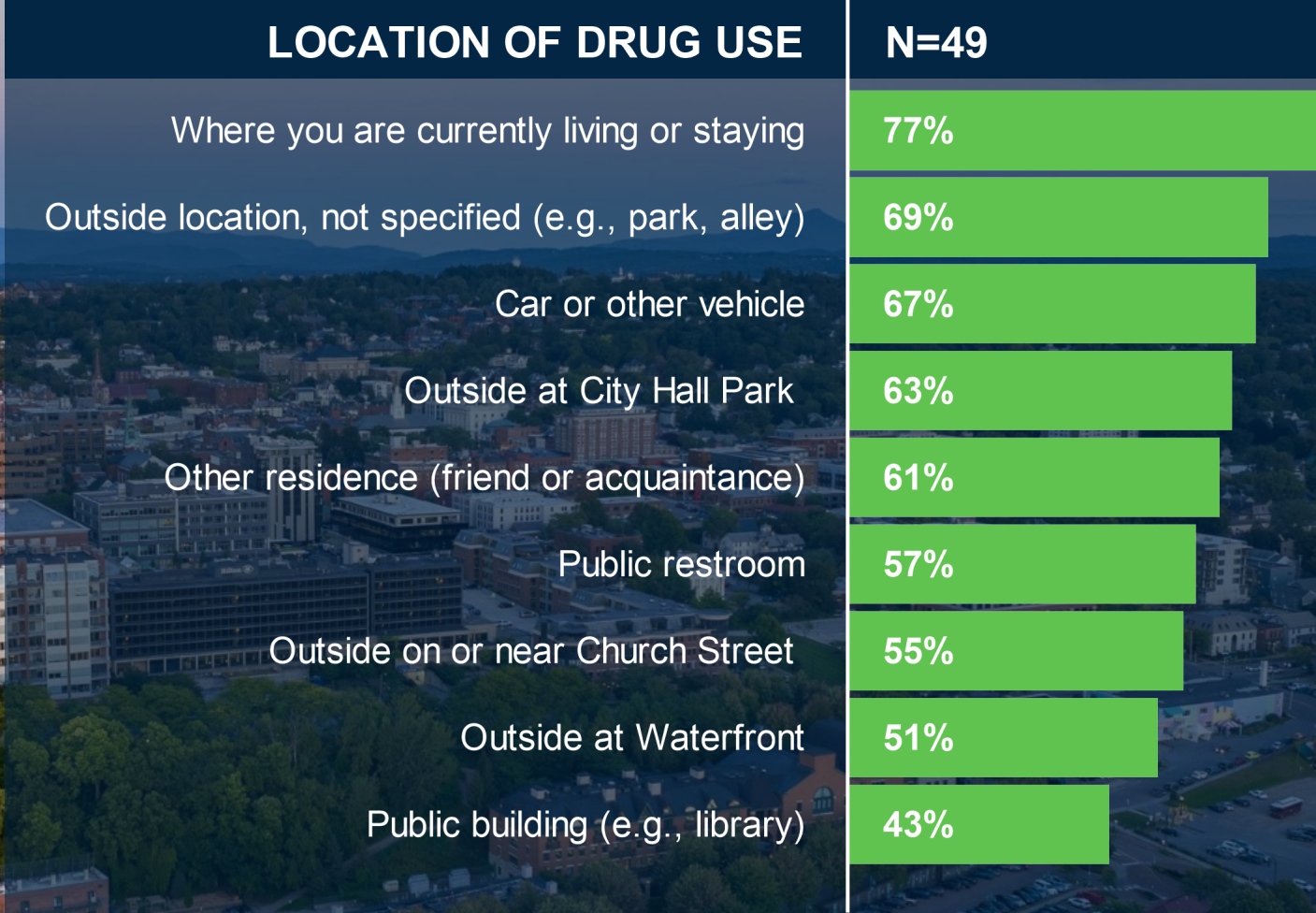
1505 respondents
completed the online
community survey

75% of survey respondents identified as Burlington residents, **45%** work in Burlington, and **2%** are Burlington business owners

8% identified as a person who used to use or currently uses non-prescription opioids or stimulants



Where are people using drugs in Burlington?



Utilization and Perception of the OPC



PWLE utilization of the OPC

Of the 49 respondents, **92%** responded that they would consider using the OPC once it opens, with **73%** responding that they would use the OPC always or most of the time.

Community Perception of the OPC

On scale of 1 (least helpful) to 10 (most helpful), the most selected answer was **10**, the median answer was **7** and the average answer was **6.3**

Respondents' Preferred OPC Location

PWLE survey: How likely would you be to use an OPC at various locations?

Community survey: Where should an OPC be located in Burlington to be most effective?

- **Downtown Burlington** was the most selected response on both PWLE and community surveys
- The **ONE** and **Riverside/Intervale** area were a the 2nd and 3rd choices on both surveys



Location Factors *(from community survey)*

When asked which are important factors when considering the vicinity of the OPC:

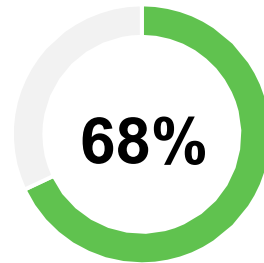
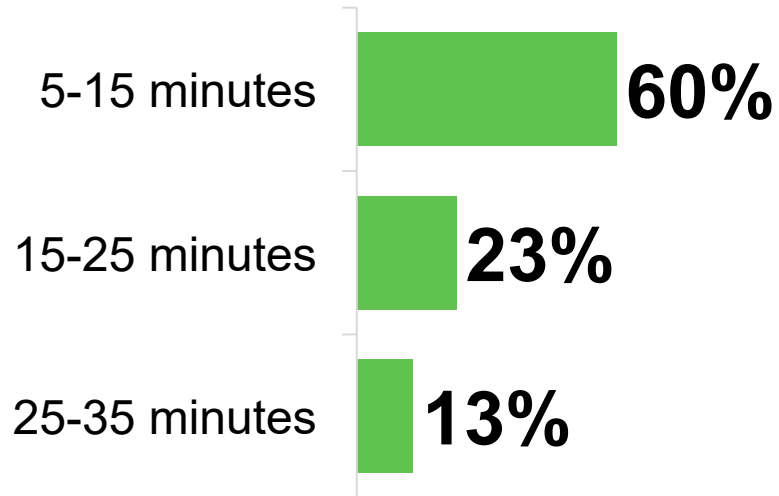
Accessibility for potential clients was the most common response (52%), followed by proximity to **schools/playgrounds** (40%), other **support services** (40%), and **transportation** (38%)



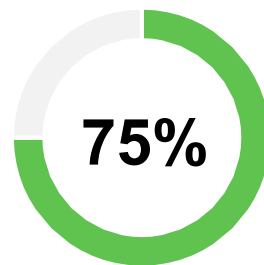
Access to the OPC (PWLE survey)



Time PWLE are willing to travel to access an OPC:



68% of PWLE responded that they would be likely or very likely use a **free shuttle** if it were offered between downtown and the location of the OPC



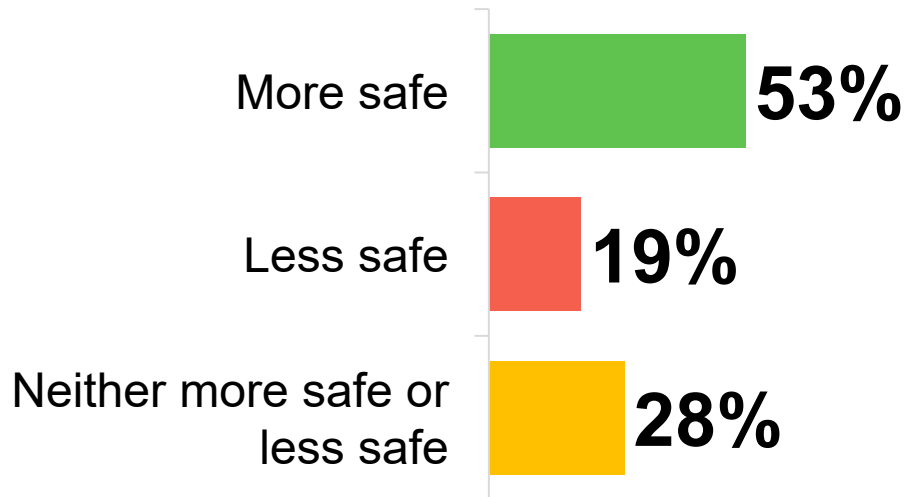
75% of PWLE responded that they would be likely or very likely to use the OPC if it was a **mobile van** that traveled around Burlington.



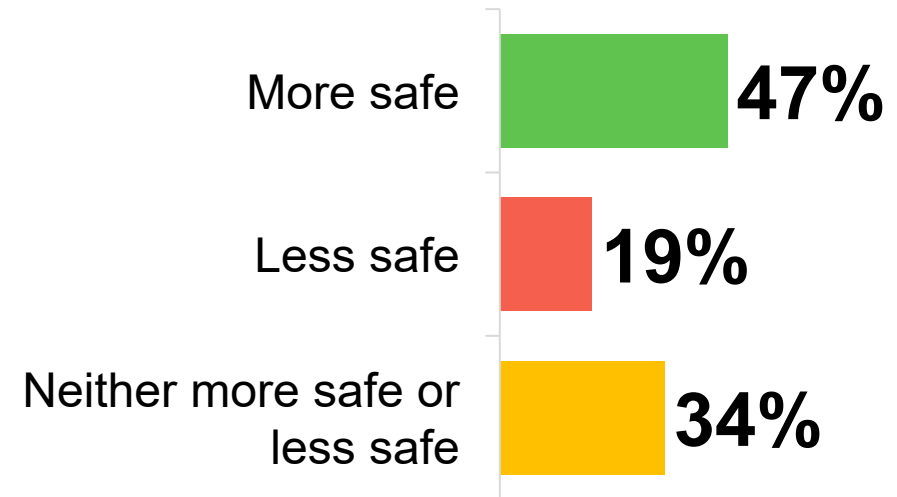
Security and Safety at the OPC (PWLE Survey)



How would a security guard inside the OPC make you feel?



How would a security guard outside the OPC make you feel?



Public Health Outcomes

Community survey respondents ranked the order of importance of seven identified public health outcomes (in order of most importance to least)

1. Prevent overdoses and save lives
2. Reduce the number of people using drugs outdoors and in public spaces
3. Help connect people to drug treatment and health and social services
4. Less burden on emergency rooms, police, fire, & EMS by reducing overdose-related calls
5. Reduce crime in the area surrounding the overdose prevention center
6. Reduce number of syringes or other litter related to drug use discarded in public
7. Reduce HIV and hepatitis C transmission due to syringe sharing



Services and Supports

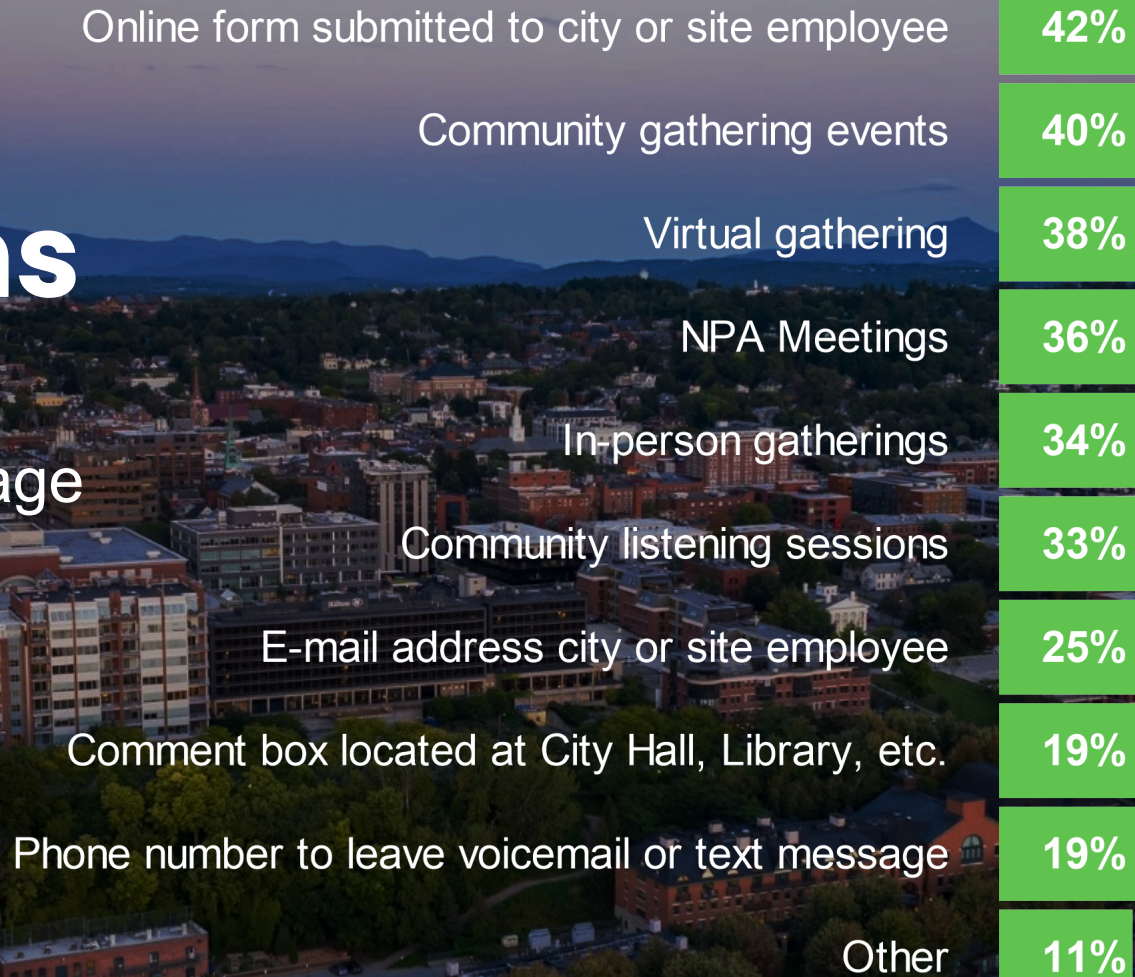
- The majority of **PWLE respondents** reported that proposed OPC services such as medical care, STI testing, bathrooms and showers, peer support, drug checking, on-site buprenorphine, mental health and drug treatment referrals, and support with basic needs are important or very important
- **Community survey respondents** ranked possible OPC services: Referrals to drug treatment, Mental health services or referrals, on-site buprenorphine treatment, bathrooms, and peer support were noted among the most important services to offer at the OPC



Ongoing Community Conversations

Community survey:

How would you want to engage in community conversations around the OPC?



Next Steps

- Continued engagement at NPA meetings, focus groups, attendance at community meetings, and interviews with people with living experience
- Final report with findings to inform the Services Assessment in April
- Hiring OPC Project Manager
- Link to [Annual Progress Report](#)



For More Information



Link to [Annual Progress Report](#)

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Discussion Questions

- What positive impact do you hope the OPC will bring to our community?
- What are your concerns or questions related to the OPC?
- What would you like to see for ongoing communication once the OPC opens?



Fossil Fuels

How to stop burning them
in your home



Why it is Important

Fossil Fuel appliances are:

Big ticket items

- They last a long time (hopefully)
- Locks us in to that fuel for a long time

Stuck With It

Just need 1 appliance that uses fossil fuels and we are stuck maintaining the infrastructure for that fuel.

- There is a cost just maintaining access to a fuel
- Incentivises using that fuel for more than one appliance



Why make a plan to replace them Now?

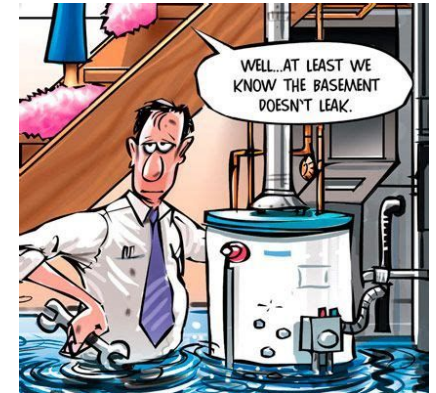
Great Options

Lots of great options and Incentives that weren't available before

Otherwise, Emergency!

Most people replace these appliances when they break

- When it is an emergency it is hard to change to something else



The Things

What are we talking about?

In Your Home (4)

- Dryer
- Stove
- Hot Water Heater
- Furnace/Boiler

Outside Your Home (~2)

- Car
- Lawn equipment

Other Important things we won't talk about

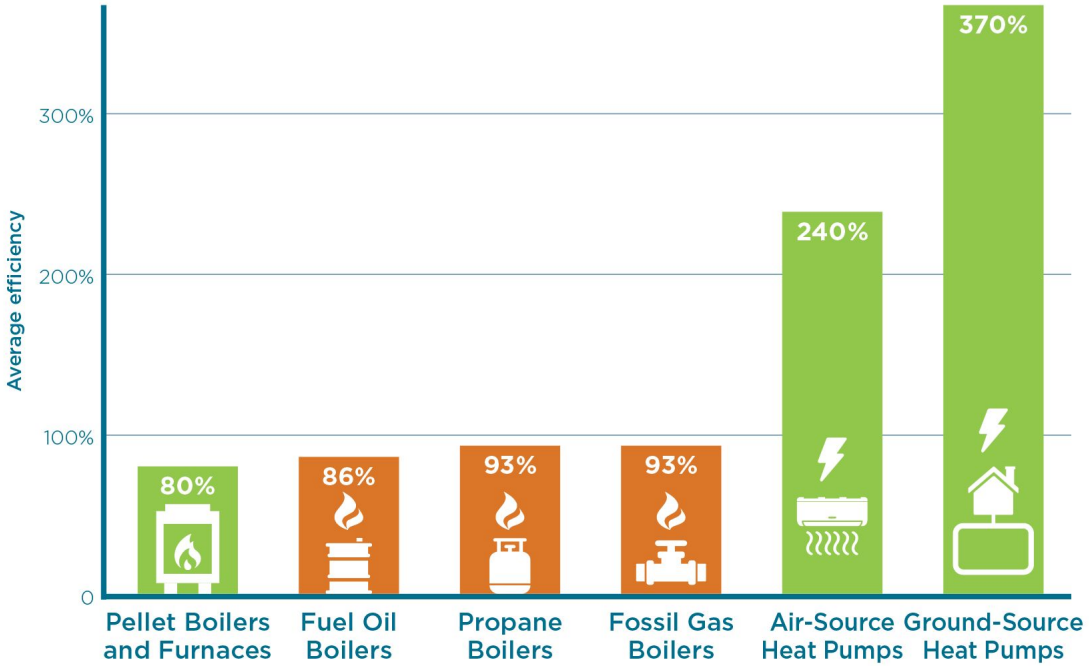
- Efficiency
- Biofuels



Heatpump, Heatpump, Heatpump

How much heat
Could a heatpump heat
If a heatpump
Could pump heat

Average efficiency: New residential heating systems



Sources: Pellet stoves, air-source heat pumps, and fuel oil, propane, and fossil gas boiler efficiencies: Vermont Public Utility Commission, TAG Tier III Annual Report, 2021. Ground-source heat pumps: US Energy Information Agency, "Updated Buildings Sector

Incentives

Burlington Electric Department (BED) Rebates

- To switch from fossil fuels appliances to Electric
- To switch to more efficient electric appliances

~~Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Tax Credits~~

- ~~● Renewables, Heatpumps, insulation, electrical upgrades, EVs~~

~~Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Electrification Rebates for Low/Moderate Income (LMI)~~

- ~~● VT gets \$58,555,020 to dole out~~
- ~~● Not available yet! Still working out procedures~~

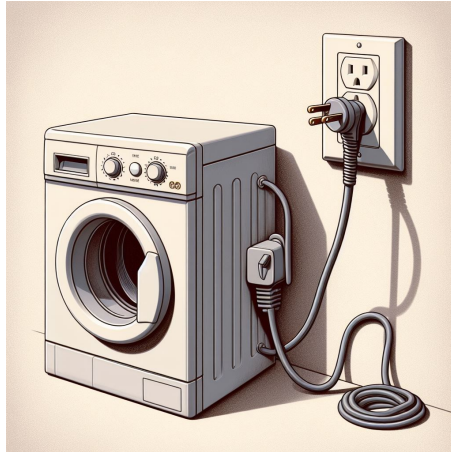
Dryer

Electric Dryer

- If you already have one your already done!
- If you are replacing a gas dryer
 - Purchase cost is the same as a gas dryer
 - Need an electrician to install a 240V outlet
 - Could trigger need for an electrical service upgrade



- No Incentives



Dryer

Clothesline

- By far the cheapest option
 - Takes some more time
 - Need space inside in the winter
- No Incentives

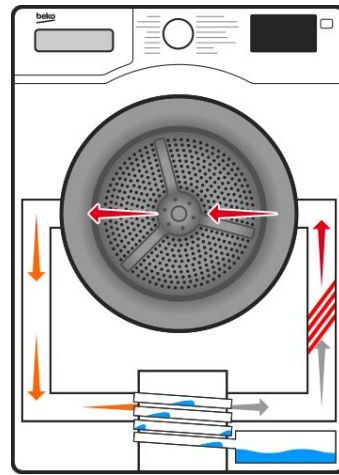


Dryer

Heatpump dryer

- Looks and feels like any other dryer
 - Works like a dehumidifier
- Many can plug into standard 120V outlet
- No vent needed
- Often come as washer/dryer combo
- Has condensate that needs to be emptied
- Takes longer to dry

Makes it a great option for apartments



Advantages of a Heat Pump Dryer

- Does not need to vent outside.
- Energy use is reduced 28% compared to standard dryers.
- Air is not as hot, so it is gentler on clothes.

*Drying times will be longer than a conventional dryer



Let's talk about the \$

- Uses ~40% less electricity than conventional electric dryer
- Likely don't need any electric upgrades
- \$400 Rebate from BED
- ~~\$860 LMI Incentive from IRA - Still pending~~
- Costs twice as much as electric or gas dryers
 - But BED rebate gets us back down to striking range

BOO

BED

- \$200 - Hybrid Heatpump
- \$400 - Full Heatpump

IRA

- ~~*up to \$860 LMI Incentive from IRA~~

Stove

Electric Stove

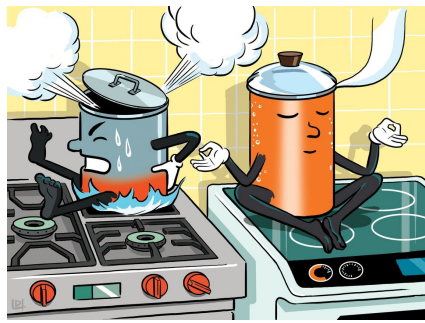


- If you already have one your already done!
- If you are replacing a gas stove
 - Purchase cost is the same as a gas stove
 - Starts ~\$500
 - No CO emissions into your home
 - Need an electrician to install a 240V outlet
 - Could trigger need for an electrical service upgrade



- No Incentives

Stove



Induction Stove

- Knocks the socks off gas and tradition electric
 - Cooks faster
 - More responsive
 - Can set to lower temperatures
 - Even heat
 - Easy to clean
 - Safer
- If you are replacing a gas stove
 - Costs twice as much as electric or gas stove
 - No CO emissions into your home
 - Need an electrician to install a 240V outlet
 - Could trigger need for an electrical service upgrade
 - Requires the use of steel or iron pots
 - If a magnet sticks to the bottom they work



Because surface never gets super hot you can clean spills while still cooking

BED

● \$200

IRA

● *up to \$840 rebate for LMI

Stove

Induction Hot Plate

- Inexpensive \$60-\$200
 - Works on 120V outlet
 - Can supplement use of existing stove
 - Portable, can use in other locations
-
- No Incentives



Stove

Other ways to Cook without fossil fuels

Can usually find one for free when college students leave, or for cheap at a reuse store

- Microwaves
 - super efficient!
 - Electric Kettles
 - Fastest way to heat up water! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpoXFk-ixZc>)
 - Toasters
 - Toaster Ovens
 - more efficient/faster than heating up a full size oven
 - Air Fryers
 - Crock Pots
 - Rice Cookers
 - Bread Machines
-
- No Incentives

Hot Water Heater

Types of Electric Hot Water Heaters

- Resistive
 - Cheap to buy, expensive to operate, fast reheat
 - Needs 240V circuit
- Hybrid (both resistive and heatpump)
 - More expensive to buy, less expensive to operate, fast reheat
 - Needs 240V circuit
 - Some dehumidification
- Heat Pump
 - More expensive to buy, cheap to operate, slowest to reheat
 - Can plug into 120V outlet
 - Some dehumidification

What determines how much hot water I have?

- Tank size
- Re-heat power
- Water temperature

Heatpumps heat water up slower than electric resistance or gas so to compensate a larger tanks size and/or setting the tank to a higher temperature is used to achieve the same amount of hot water.

-higher tank temperatures don't mean scalding tap temperatures.

Modern Heat pump hot water heaters have mixing valves so that extra hot tank temperatures are mixed with cold water so tap temps are within expectations (if set correctly).

Heatpump hot water heaters BED

- \$500-\$800 (depends on efficiency),
- +\$400 for LMI
- +\$300-\$600 through contractor (depends on efficiency)

IRA

- ~~≈30% of cost tax credit (\$2000 cap/yr)~~
incentive from IRA
- ~~≈up to \$1750 rebate LMI incentive~~
from IRA



Lease/On Bill Financing

More Exciting than the Title and Image suggests!

- VGS leases Heatpump hot water heaters
 - Lease payments are added to the gas bill
 - VGS owns it and therefore if it breaks they fix it (and it is usually faster for them to come out to your house than a plumber)
 - Great option for landlords/renters
- VGS Also leasing Hybrid centrally ducted heatpumps
 - But only the ones that still have backup gas and aren't cold climate rated, aka don't do much :(
- BED on-bill financing for commercial customers
 - For ventilation, emergency swap outs, facade alterations. (limited fed covid money)
- VHFA - Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP)
 - Pay on your utility bill
 - Can add in costs for heat pumps and hot water heating to a weatherization project



Furnace/Boiler

Types of Electric Heating Systems

- Resistive
 - Cheap to buy, expensive to operate, fast reheat
 - VT efficiency code prohibits resistance heat for most applications
- Hybrid (both resistive and heatpump)
 - More expensive to buy, less expensive to operate, fast reheat
 - Includes Air Conditioning
- Heat Pump
 - More expensive to buy, cheap to operate, slowest to reheat
 - Includes Air Conditioning

Electric Resistance Heaters

- Baseboard
 - Electrician installs
 - Except in special cases, not allowed by VT efficiency code
- Space heaters
 - Super cheap to buy \$30-\$100
 - Super expensive if heating whole house
 - Really great to heat one room



- No Incentives

Heatpumps

So Many different kinds!

- But the outside compressor probably looks something like this
- Cold climate models rated to work in -15F temps
- Can integrate electric resistance backup



Window Unit

- Like your window AC but can provide heat as well
 - Options for 120V (normal wall outlet) and 240V
 - \$500-\$3000
 - Great option for renters/trailers/smaller areas
 - Not super common yet. More and better options are coming to market
 - Efficiencies/capabilities can vary greatly model to model
- Typical style
 - Likely cheapest, somewhat loud
- Saddle style
 - More efficient and quiet. Also leaves more of your window for use
- “Portable” style
 - Works in windows the other two can't fit in
 - Louder and less efficient (the double hose versions are more efficient than the single hose versions)



BED

- \$100 (energy star most efficient)

IRA

- ~~*30% of cost tax credit (\$2000 cap/yr) incentive from IRA~~
- ~~*up to \$8000 rebate LMI Incentive from IRA~~

Mini Split

- Most common
- Most efficient
- Typically just one room but can do multiple rooms as well
- Don't work well with small rooms (<10'x10')
- The one most contractors are used to

BED

- \$1350-\$5450 (depends on tons)
- +\$500 for LMI
- +\$1000-\$2000 through contractor (depends on tons)

IRA

- *30% of cost tax credit (\$2000 cap/yr) incentive from IRA
- *up to \$8000 rebate LMI incentive from IRA



Furnace Replacement (Centrally ducted)

- Straight swap in replacement for a gas furnace
- Fewer experienced contractors
- Existing ducts may need to be upsized

BED

- \$1250-\$6250 (depending on efficiency)
- +\$400 for LMI
- +\$1000-\$2000 through contractor (depending on efficiency)

IRA

- ~~30% of cost tax credit (\$2000 cap/yr) incentive from IRA~~
- ~~up to \$8000 rebate LMI Incentive from IRA~~



Old Furnace

Replaced With

Heatpump Heat Exchanger

Boiler Replacement (Hydronic - baseboard or radiant floor)

- swap in for a gas boiler
 - Likely need to swap out radiators as well
- Very few experienced contractors in VT
 - More common in UK and Australia

BED

- \$2000/ton
- +\$400 for LMI

IRA

- ~~30% of cost tax credit (\$2000 cap/yr) incentive from IRA~~
- ~~up to \$8000 rebate LMI incentive from IRA~~



Questions

Resources/Thanks To

- **Burlington Electric Department**
 - <https://www.burlingtonelectric.com/rebates>
 - Brian
- **Rewiring America**
 - <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator>
 - Great compilation of the IRA incentives
- **Technology Connections Youtube**
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVL_LNjSLJTQ&t=2s
 - Great resource explaining how this technology works and its pros and cons
- **Mr. Electricity**
 - <https://michaelbluejay.com/electricity/>
 - Outdated but awesome website explaining how you can save on utility bills
- **Energy Action Network**
 - <https://eanvt.org/annual-report/>
 - Incredible organization that, among other things, tracks VT's progress in reducing GHG emissions



Fossil Fuel Free Pledge

I, the undersigned, pledge that I will no longer purchase

Fossil Fuel Dependent Equipment

(appliances, heating systems, vehicles, etc)

I pledge that I will be **proactive** in identifying how I will transition away from my current fossil fuel burning equipment so that when the opportunity arises **I am prepared** and do not have any excuses to break my pledge. If I find that there is no possible way for me to not buy fossil fuel burning equipment I pledge to buy the most efficient option available and buy it used if possible.

<https://www.fossilfuelfreeequipmentpledge.org/>

Insulation

- Plastic windows
- Window Inserts
- curtains
- Latch windows
- Caulk window trim
- Spray foam holes
- Door seals
- Threshold sweep
- New windows
- New doors
- Basement insulation
- Attic insulation
- Wall insulation
- White roof

Heat flows 3 ways

1. Conduction
2. Convection
3. Radiation

Special Loans

- Efficiency Vermont - Home energy Loan
 - Low to no interest for low and moderate income households

NPA 2&3 march 2024 presentation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbRU01bRKvU&list=PLijLFn4BZd2N95y-kUzewx0ZN0Tf8rLo_&index=2