



Helping Large Vermont Institutions Decarbonize

In recent years, Vermont energy policy has focused on reducing emissions that contribute to climate change. VGS regularly works with owners of buildings of all sizes to take advantage of the latest technology to reduce their carbon footprint. Several of these projects have been in the headlines recently, showcasing the ways VGS is partnering with businesses and large institutions to support their decarbonization goals.

In September, an innovative electric boiler project at Jay Peak Resort in Jay, Vermont was brought online. Jay Peak had previously relied on propane to heat structures on its campus, including its Hotel Jay and Pump House Indoor Waterpark facilities. However, by integrating an electric boiler into its existing system, the resort is expected to recognize a 60% reduction in propane use. VGS provided financial resources to help fund the project as part of its efforts to understand how combustion and electric heating solutions can be paired together to support commercial and industrial energy users' needs. Earlier in 2023, VGS launched a centrally ducted heat pump product, which deploys a similar concept to integrate a heat pump into a forced air furnace system via a smart thermostat.

What makes the Jay Peak project so exciting is its use of integrated controls, and an innovative software system from Medley Thermal/Antora Energy that monitors the cost of electricity and propane, allowing the resort to utilize the most

affordable energy source in real-time. In addition to saving money, the system will dramatically shrink the resort's carbon footprint. All told, Jay Peak estimates the carbon savings are equivalent to taking 500 cars off the road annually. Scaling hybrid solutions for commercial and industrial applications is an important strategy to reduce emissions in large buildings in Vermont.



A look inside Jay Peak's boiler room, where a newly upgraded electric boiler system is helping to cut the resort's carbon emissions.

In addition to upgrading to more efficient heating systems, another tool available to large institutions is cleaner fuel sources, like renewable natural gas (RNG). RNG is created from the methane produced by organic materials in landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, and farms across North America. Recently, the University of Vermont made progress on a plan to become climate neutral by 2030. In October, UVM announced that the George D. Aiken Center

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was its first building on campus to reach this milestone. Part of the energy mix that made it possible was RNG provided by VGS's voluntary RNG program.

At the announcement, UVM's Director of Sustainability, Elizabeth Palchak, heralded the accomplishment noting, "[t]his was a collective effort that could not have been accomplished without Burlington Electric Department (BED), Vermont Gas Systems (VGS), our university engineers, and our students." VGS is proud to support UVM's efforts and is also partnering with the college to explore other technologies, such as geothermal solutions, for future use on campus.

These types of partnerships are critically important to making progress and reducing emissions. At the same time, providing large institutions with cost-effective solutions creates a range of options. As VGS works with large customers, there are many technologies that will serve to reduce emissions. These include hybrid systems, such as the Jay Peak electric boiler, alternative supply like the RNG used at UVM, and existing approaches like comprehensive weatherization and efficiency strategies. Looking to the future, VGS is exploring more options, including geothermal, district energy, and piloting green hydrogen solutions.

Comprehensive Sustainability Plan

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
2023 - 2040



UVM recently launched a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan (pictured above), in which VGS is cited as a partner for efficiency improvements and exploring new technologies.

Winter Reminder: Clear Vents & Meters

This winter, you can do your part to keep your home heating system operating safely. Follow these tips to keep your gas meter and heating vents clear of snow and ice:

- Carefully remove large icicles hanging over your meter, piping and appliance vents.
- Use a broom—not a shovel—to clear snow from your meter, piping and vents. If your meter gets encased in ice, call VGS and we'll assist with ice removal.

For more meter and vent safety tips, visit <https://vgsvt.com/besafe/meter-vent-safety/>

Detecting & Reporting Dangerous Odors

Did you know natural gas has a distinctive smell for a reason? The odor comes from a harmless substance that's injected into the gas so its scent will alert you to its presence should a leak occur.

If you smell or suspect a leak, move to a safe environment, do not switch on any lights or appliances, leave your doors open as you exit the building, and immediately call 911. Do not assume that someone else will report the condition.

To learn more, visit <https://vgsvt.com/besafe/report-leak/>.

QUESTIONS? GET IN TOUCH

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