

ECO AmeriCorps

2024-2025



Energy Navigator Program Outreach Partner

Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County, 122 Green Mountain Place, Middlebury, VT 05753

Our mission is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Addison County in a timely and equitable manner, while promoting and supporting a just transition to a healthy and sustainable local economy.

Position Supervisor: Jean Terwilliger, CEAC board member

I (Jean) am a board member, leading the Residential Energy Navigator Program.

The Role:

The purpose of the Energy Navigator Program is to connect Addison County residents to a clean energy future and the resources available to help them make progress towards that goal. Our research in the last year has shown that many Addison County residents are confused about steps to take in making their homes more resilient and energy efficient, get stuck along the way, or are just worried about getting by day to day. The ECO AmeriCorps service member will provide community outreach to over 1000 residents and one-on-one outreach to 100-150 residents over the course of 11 months, to provide information regarding weatherization and energy retrofits and resources to support that effort. The service member will also provide environmental stewardship education while gaining a deep understanding of the opportunities and barriers to moving to a clean energy future. A summer 2025 project could include weatherizing homes for low and moderate income (LMI) residents.

There is potential for future placement in green jobs including as an energy auditor, in environmental policy and planning, weatherization contracting, and sustainability communications and outreach.

This position will significantly increase, perhaps double, the community outreach and one-on-one coaching capacity of the organization and will allow the service member to explore expanding capacity for LMI weatherization projects in Addison County.

Addison County as a whole is making good progress towards heat pump adoption, but much less progress towards the weatherization needed to make heat pumps most effective. Addison County also has pockets of more significant energy burden, where LMI households need extra assistance to make needed upgrades. Addison County only has one weatherization contractor listed as part of Efficiency Vermont's EEN list. The polling that we have done in our community suggests that there is a real interest in this type of one-on-one support as individuals struggle to make sense of their options and to understand how to pay for these improvements.

The goals of this position for the ECO AmeriCorps member are to:

- Gain knowledge of home energy audits, resilience planning, "green" weatherization techniques, and clean energy systems.
- Conduct 40+ community outreach events with assistance from Program Manager and community volunteers, with goal of 20-30 attendees at each event.
- Conduct 100-150 personal home energy coaching visits to plan resilience, weatherization and clean energy retrofit projects, with focus on LMI households.
- Organize volunteers and train volunteers on how to conduct home energy and resilience coaching visits.

Essential Functions:

1. Quickly absorb technical information about buildings, and how to weatherize and retrofit homes for clean energy systems.
2. Clearly communicate technical information in a non-technical way to residents, community leaders, and volunteers.
3. Speak persuasively in front of community groups and lead discussions.

Secondary Functions:

Plan for and lead a volunteer/ECO member weatherization team for the summer of 2025 to expand capacity for LMI and DEIJ weatherization projects in Addison County.

Desired Qualifications:

- Able to quickly absorb technical information about buildings, and how to weatherize and retrofit homes for clean energy systems.
- Outgoing personality, interest in learning new technical things and about people.
- Ability to communicate with empathy and accept constructive feedback.
- Able to walk several miles per day (unless member has car), climb a ladder, willing to go into hot attics and low, wet, buggy basements.
- Able to pass a background check and keep information confidential.
- Spanish language skills a plus.

DEIJ

CEAC recently updated and revised its mission statement, including specific mention of DEIJ principles. CEAC's current mission "is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Addison County in a timely and equitable manner, while promoting and supporting a just transition to a healthy and sustainable local economy."

We have further committed to "ensuring that CEAC's programs and services are provided justly to those with the fewest resources or who have been and will be impacted the most by climate disruptions."

CEAC conducted a comprehensive climate action planning process during 2021 and 2022, resulting in the adoption of A Climate Action Plan for Addison County, VT in June 2022. The planning process included many stakeholder interviews and meetings, including DEIJ groups such as the NAACP of Rutland area, SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice), Migrant Justice, Addison Allies, New Frameworks (affordable housing) and others supporting migrant farmworkers, and HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects), Addison County's foremost service organization for low-income people.

Climate Resiliency

Almost by definition, weatherization and other energy improvements make homes more resilient to storms and other climate-related disruptions. Tighter homes hold heat (and coolness) better during outages and cold-climate heat pumps also provide cooling in warmer months, which will be more prevalent as the climate warms.

Electrifying heating and cooking also makes homes safer from less indoor air pollution from the burning of fossil fuels.

We expect continued progress to make battery storage more affordable over the next few years. In some homes, it may make sense to have wood heat back up options available.

Networking

The service member will have opportunities to network with multiple town energy committees and leadership groups, local service and business organizations, regional energy efficiency organizations, contractors who do residential weatherization, mechanical and electrical work, as well as with individual community members.

Misc.

Addison County Regional Planning Commission, the site host for CEAC's ECO Americorps member, also hosts a water quality ECO Americorps service member, and employs a former ECO Americorps member as an energy planner.

No specific safety equipment will be required, raincoat and sturdy shoes would be useful.

A reliable vehicle would certainly be helpful, but not required.

Hybrid- some office based, mostly community based. Having a car or an E-Bike would be helpful in this rural area, but public transportation could be adequate for outreach activities with some planning.

Middlebury (population ~8500) and Addison County (pop. ~37,000) are fairly rural areas, but offer a wide range of opportunities for connecting. Housing is tight, and CEAC would work to secure appropriate housing as soon as we knew we would be hosting a service member. Homesharing could be one way of providing an immediate community connection.

CEAC board members can help with the following and other connections in the community:

- a. Outdoor recreation: opportunities for community connections in the active Green Mountain Club chapter, bike club with weekly rides, nordic and downhill skiing, as well as water sports and activities.
- b. Connect service member with multiple other Americorps members in the county.
- c. Arts, Music, Theater: Many opportunities to attend or participate in live music and theater-community theater, chorus and band, lots of live music particularly in the summer.
- d. Middlebury College offers many events and activities that are open to the general public. The College also has multiple environmental studies programs and initiatives, many of which include community partner organizations (including CEAC).
- e. Wide variety of local churches and spiritual communities that would welcome a young person.
- f. Game shop with gaming groups, coffee shops, book store, libraries.
- g. LGBTQIA young adult community connections.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Be a US citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident alien of the U.S.;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation (there is no upper age limit);
- Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate or be willing to work towards their GED as part of their service-year successful completion requirement. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps. If a member has a documented medical reason/professional opinion why they cannot finish high school, they might be eligible; call in this case;
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check;
- Must submit to Agency of Human Services checks, i.e. Adult Abuse and Child Abuse Prevention;
- Be committed to the ECO AmeriCorps program, and its ethic of service and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way

To Apply: [My AmeriCorps - Home Page](#)

Position begins September 17th, 2024 and ends August 15th, 2025

The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual

orientation, political affiliation, veteran's status, religion or creed.



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