

2025 Sept. 18 NH Network Energy Working group saved chat

14:59:28 From Mary Beth Raven to Everyone:

September Topic: Opportunities for Community Outreach and Engagement

Two thirds of NH energy committees report they are already engaged in community outreach efforts and are interested in doing more. Let's compare notes, share what works and what's challenging, and imagine what's possible in the year ahead.

Guest Speaker: Sofia Reali and Jessica Williams from Window Dressers, a Maine-based organization that coordinates volunteer-led "builds" across Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Teams sign up their neighbors to receive custom-built window inserts, receive custom cut pieces ready to assemble, and host community build days to put the inserts together. The inserts are priced to generate enough revenue to cover the cost of a portion of window inserts for lower income neighbors.

15:11:24 From Zeke Schmois (EL, Automation) to Everyone:

Double pane storm window!

15:11:34 From Zeke Schmois (EL, Automation) to Everyone:

That's an important point imo

15:21:20 From Zeke Schmois (EL, Automation) to Everyone:

Normally you hear the pitch that a storm window (single extra pane) can increase the u-value (1/R-value) from around 1 for an average single pane window, down to 0.5. This is huge, but a double pane window with argon inside can have u-values averaging 0.25.

Consider that Window Dressers inserts are double paned, that's then closer to a u-value of 0.3! That's basically the insulation value of a brand new (off brand) double pane window. Of course inserts are not as durable and the view is slightly obstructed, but that's a huge energy win for an extremely affordable price.

We really need to drive this point within our communities. I'd love to see a publicly available calculator that can take a few inputs (total sqft of windows, type of existing windows) and output energy saved, then converted to money depending on heating source

15:24:09 From Aimee Ruitter, Gilmanston, NH to Everyone:

Have you worked with scout or school groups?

15:26:39 From Katherine Thorndike/Sandwich to Everyone:

Can small towns do workshops together?

15:26:58 From Sarah Brock, Clean Energy NH to Everyone:

Yes!!

15:30:23 From Zeke Schmois (EL, Automation) to Everyone:
Exeter is doing one and will include all of our smaller towns

15:30:27 From Gabrielle, Tamworth Energy Cmty to Everyone:
Tin Mountain in Albany NH has done Window Dressers for some years, and they serve surrounding towns. I don't know how they do their outreach, or how many they've served.

15:37:57 From Gerald Burns to Everyone:
Ted Mead Ted, do you want to mention the coaching program launch?

15:38:18 From Sofia Reali - WindowDressers to Everyone:
Thank you so much for having me! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out. sofia.reali@windowdressers.org

15:40:18 From Sarah Brock, Clean Energy NH to Everyone:
I wonder if we could publish some of those stories...

15:43:59 From Gabrielle, Tamworth Energy Cmty to Everyone:
Where is the Hub located, and who is eligible to take part?