

**2009 Report on Act 200 of 2008,  
Section 8(3)**

**Relating to Establishment of a School Energy  
Grant Program**

**Report to the House and Senate Committees on Institutions**

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**Submitted by:**



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## Introduction

A pilot School Energy Opportunity Grant Program (SEOG) was established by the 2008 Capital Appropriations Bill (Act 200). In implementing this program, it was the goal of the commissioner of education to identify five or more school districts to receive funding necessary **to evaluate and define specific opportunities** for cost-effective building retrofits to save energy dollars while improving occupant comfort and health.

Section 8 (3) of Act 200: Establishment of a school energy grant program to pay the costs of conducting comprehensive energy engineering analyses of school buildings by qualified engineers. Under this pilot program, the department of education shall award grants to Vermont public schools for an amount equal to 100 percent of the cost to conduct an energy engineering analysis. Grant awards shall not exceed \$10,000 per application; however, school districts retain the right to spend more than \$10,000 on the energy engineering analysis, but shall in this instance be solely responsible for the additional costs incurred. The commissioner of education shall develop guidelines and selection criteria necessary to implement the pilot program, and shall report to the senate committee on institutions and the house committee on corrections and institutions on or before January 15, 2009 and again on or before January 15, 2010 on the status of the pilot project, including the total number of grants awarded, the dollar amount of each grant awarded, and the outcome of each grant recipient's energy engineering analysis: 50,000.

## Process

School districts were invited to send a representative to a training session held in September 2008, and districts were invited to submit applications by October 31, 2008 for the grants. The department gathered specific information related to each applicant's building, its maintenance history, and energy use in order to calculate an Energy Use Index. Applicants using the most BTUs per square foot were given serious consideration, and other mitigating factors, such as low energy use indices due to failed or missing heating and ventilation systems, were considered.

### Five \$10,000 grants were awarded:

Bellows Falls Middle School

Bingham Memorial School (Cornwall)

Hazen Union High School

Ludlow Elementary School

Waits River Valley Union School

### Applications were also received from:

Beeman Elementary School

Craftsbury Academy

E. Taylor Hatton School (Morgan)

Lowell School

Orange Center School

Rumney Memorial School

Shrewsbury Elementary School

South Burlington High School

South Royalton School

Stowe Middle High School

The Newton School (Strafford)

Thetford Academy

Tunbridge Central School

## Status

Grant recipients are required to contract with an energy engineer to complete a defined scope of work. All five recipient school districts report that their RFP process is basically complete and they are on track to sign contracts with engineers by the end of this month.

The comprehensive energy analyses funded by this grant program will be completed by June 30, 2009.