



Evolve Panton

**2017 NESEA Conference
Boston, MA**

March 8, 2017



Who We Are

- Founded in 2000
- Statewide energy efficiency utility
- Administered by VEIC, under appointment of Public Service Board
- Offices in Burlington, Barre, and Rutland



Overview

Green Mountain Power and Efficiency Vermont are partnering on a community-wide effort in Panton, Vermont to reduce energy costs, improve system reliability, and boost community vitality



Program Drivers

- Utility carbon reduction requirements under Act 56 – Renewable Energy Standards (RES)
- Moving beyond the logjam of home weatherization
- GMP-EVT innovative partnership between state's investor-owned utility and state's efficiency utility

Vermont's RPS Law

- Underpinnings - State's comprehensive energy plan of 90% renewables by 2050
- Under Tier 3 of RES law:
 - Utilities responsible for reducing their customers' total fossil fuel emissions
 - Focus on transportation and heating – generates 3/4s of state's CO2 emissions
- Utilities can potentially provide weatherization, heat pumps, and EVs

Goals

- Achieve significant energy improvements savings in large % of Panton homes
- Gather data and evaluate results to determine viability of replication in other communities



Customers Barriers

- Lack of customer awareness about energy improvement opportunities
- Lack of trust in contractors
- Customer reluctance to incur personal debt
- Customers not believing savings will materialize

Addressing the Barriers

- Pay-through-savings: pay all or part of energy improvements through the savings generated
- Savings guarantee
- 3rd party advisors – GMP and EVT staff educating customers about opportunities
- One-stop shop: eVolve Panton contracting with contractors to do the work

Scope of Energy Improvements

- Focus on “Total Energy”
 - Thermal and electrical efficiency improvements
 - Efficient heating and cooling systems, e.g. cold climate heat pumps
 - Replacement of inefficient appliances, including heat pump water heaters
- Solar encouraged



Pay-through-Savings Model

- Use energy savings to pay for energy improvements
- Customer pays monthly charge equal to or less than existing energy bills
- Some customer contribution likely
- eVolve Panton will pay for the upfront costs of completing the work; serve as primary contractor
- Intent is to also provide savings guarantee

Home Energy Visits

- EVT and GMP staff conducting home energy visits
- Focus on total energy in terms of opportunities
- If efficiency opportunities found – energy audit scheduled
 - Efficiency improvements as the foundation for any pay-through-savings model
- Data plugged into financial model to determine pay-through-savings opportunity

Status/Results to Date

- 67 home energy visits completed
- 40 audits scheduled or completed
- 25 closed or referred to other programs
- Customer offer in final stages of development
- 1/3 of homes in town engaged at this point

eVolve Panton Timeline

- Community outreach launched Aug 2016
- Initial home energy visits made Sep 2016
- Initial customer offers made March 2017
- Work completed for initial customers July 2017
- 2nd phase of community outreach April 2017
- Completion of Panton Work Dec 2017

Where to from Here



- Finalize pay-through-savings model
- Putting systems in place to operationalize
- Document and evaluate results
- Consider new communities to expand
- Regulatory approval pending

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