

Community Facilities & Economic Impact Initiative Grants

Success Story: Illuminating White Mountains Regional High School with Green Energy

\$70,500

USDA Economic Impact
Initiative Grant

\$36,900

USDA Community
Facilities Grant

\$34,388

Eversource/State of NH
Energy Efficiency Grant

\$53,522

Contribution from White
Mountains Regional SD

92,528kWh / \$12,954

Energy / Cost
Annual Savings

18,250

People positively
impacted

Student-LED Re-Volt

The students at White Mountains Regional High School (WMRHS) decided to stand up and lead the way in their community's fight against climate change. The school's high energy consumption and the T8 fluorescent bulbs populating classrooms and hallways are relics of its 1966 origin. With help from teachers, students developed a two-phase action plan, calling for (1) a modern lighting retro-fit throughout the school and (2) a solar array to capture renewable energy and offset power costs.

A Surge in Partnerships

To secure project financing, WMRHS students turned to a number of partners in the energy sector and found willing collaborators. With guidance from Clean Energy New Hampshire, they applied for funding from Eversource, New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority and USDA Rural Development—and succeeded. With a generous contribution from the White Mountains Regional School District, the plan to increase energy efficiency and lower operational costs was put into play.

The Future Looks Bright

Energy upgrades are projected to save 92,528 kWhs and \$12,954 each year, and after maintenance reduction is factored in, total savings are estimated to be over \$20,000 annually. A 13% return will pay off the project in roughly 8 years, while the savings generated by transitioning to LEDs and solar energy can be redirected to improve student outcomes. In addition, various project elements will inform WMRHS's Science, Technology, Math & Engineering (STEM) curriculum.

For program regulations and requirements, please go to the USDA RD [CF](#) & [EIIIG fact sheets](#)

