

Island Affordable Energy Project

Project Partners

[Island Energy Task Force](#)

The Island Energy Task Force is an active group of islanders that promotes the discussion and public exchange of ideas and initiatives to address energy efficiency, affordability and conservation on the Fox Islands. Topics of focus include solar-heating/water, municipal composting, energy auditing, electric thermal storage, smart grid applications, sustainable forestry management, gasification and other relevant energy topics. The Island Energy Task Force convened the Island Affordable Energy Project and is working as the project lead. For more information on the IETF please contact islandenergytaskforce@gmail.com.

[Island Institute](#)

The Island Institute is a 26 year-old non-profit organization that partners with island and coastal communities to ensure that they remain vibrant places to work, live and educate children. As rising energy costs threaten the viability of these communities, the Institute has established [Maine Coast Community Wind](#), a program that provides technical, financial and environmental expertise to communities seeking to develop solutions to local energy challenges. The Island Institute provided permitting, financing and community outreach support to the [Fox Islands Wind](#) project. The Institute is currently partnering with the Island Energy Task Force to provide technical, project management, community outreach and fundraising support for the Island Affordable Energy Project.

[VCharge](#)

VCharge is a start-up company formed in 2009 by partners Jessica Millar and Dave Durfee. VCharge develops energy management software designed to improve the integration of renewables onto the power grid, and to lower the cost of energy to consumers through the use of fuel substitution. VCharge's current work with Steffes heaters in another energy pilot in New England uniquely qualifies the company for this project. VCharge is committed to developing products that will enable a transition in the heating and transportation sectors to price responsive electrical power usage and in doing so, to preparing the grid for 70% renewable energy penetration.

Other Project Partners

Steffes Corporation

Steffes Corporation is the premier provider of Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) products, both for residential and commercial/industrial use. In addition to the Steffes room units provided in this pilot, Steffes offers larger “boiler-sized” residential units (3100/4100/5100) that can be used in conjunction with either forced hot air or hydronic home heating systems. With over four decades of experience in manufacturing and engineering, the motto at Steffes is “commitment to innovation.” Steffes Corporation and Thermal Energy Storage of Maine (see below) contributed the ETS units for this pilot.

Thermal Energy Storage of Maine LLC

Thermal Energy Storage of Maine (TESM) was established in 2008 to bring Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) technology to Maine. TESM is the Manufacturer’s Representative in Maine for the Steffes Corporation.

Bay Computer Associates

Bay Computer Associates (BCA) provides engineering services to VCharge under the supervision of BCA chief scientist and VCharge CTO Dave Durfee. BCA is an engineering consulting firm with over two decades of experience in designing software and electronic products. Customers of BCA range from Fortune 500 firms to startups. BCA’s communications experience includes data and telephony communications interface electronics and software designed for Motorola and Vanguard Networks. The company also has extensive experience in performing system risk and hazard analysis. Mission critical products developed by BCA range from commercial business applications to medical devices.

Fox Islands Electric Cooperative

The 2,000-member Fox Islands Electric Cooperative was established in 1975 to serve the residents of North Haven and Vinalhaven. The Coop owns and operates the Fox Islands Wind Project, buying and selling all of the project’s output. While the Coop is not one of the main Island Affordable Energy Project partners, it is being briefed on the pilot’s progress and consulted on next steps.

Kevin Desmond

Kevin Desmond, a Vinalhaven-based master electrician, is providing support to the pilot.