

# One for the books

## Meriden Library Gets Efficient



### Program Highlights

#### The Challenge:

Design a new library that provides equal opportunity for all to gather comfortably and determine an efficient way to operate the new space solely with electricity to meet the town's R100 initiative.

#### The Solution:

Use Liberty's NHSaves program to determine the best way to design the new building to maximize efficiency, reduce carbon footprint, and save on future energy bills.

#### Savings Overview:

- Over \$16,000 in energy efficiency incentives from Liberty's NHSaves program
- Yearly estimated energy savings of 18MWh (over \$3,000)

#### About the Project:

Meriden, New Hampshire is home to about 530 granite stater, a prestigious boarding school, and now, **a brand new, energy-efficient library.**

Recognizing the old library was not in compliance with accessibility standards and had an uncomfortable atmosphere for visitors, the town reached out to Liberty for help designing a new structure that would meet the town's "Ready for 100" (R100) initiative. R100 is a commitment for town facilities to move to electricity from 100% renewable sources by 2030, and 100% of all energy from renewables by 2050.

To support this initiative, Liberty, through their NHSaves program, provided technical assistance in the areas of energy modeling, design review, and post construction analysis, all of which were crucial components of the design to be able to meet the R100 goals.



*Pictured above - The interior of the new library offers an abundance of open spaces and book shelves that comply with accessibility requirements.*

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# Meriden Library Gets Efficient

### The Goal:

The goals were simple – to provide a warm and inviting space for people of all abilities to gather comfortably, and to fully operate the building using only electricity in order to meet the town’s R100 initiative.

### The Outcome:

The project began in November 2021 with the demolition of the old library. Construction of the new library began in the spring of 2022, and the library opened its doors on April 10, 2023.

The new facility met energy-efficiency goals by being well-insulated, installing high-efficiency windows and doors, LED lighting, three thermal zones including air-sourced heat pumps, and energy-recovery ventilators. Through Liberty’s NHSaves program, the town received more than \$13,800 in incentives for the construction of the building as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and \$2,400 towards technical assistance.

### Additional Project Highlights:

- New curbing and sidewalks for improved safety for pedestrians and vehicles
- Two wheelchair-accessible bathrooms
- A 30-person community room and a smaller meeting room

“Working with Liberty’s NHSaves program and their design partner Resilient Buildings Group enabled us to make informed choices, resulting in a comfortable and efficient building delivered within our budget, especially with the added help of the incentive money,” said Jennifer Lenz, Meriden Library Trustee.

To find out what incentives are available for your home or business, visit [www.libertyenergyandwater.com](http://www.libertyenergyandwater.com), enter your state and town, then navigate to the “Smart Energy Use” section of the website, or visit [www.NHSaves.com](http://www.NHSaves.com).



*Pictured above – new library interior boasts a sun-soaked comfortable atmosphere with modern architecture that is both nice to look at and energy efficient.*