

Granite Street Neighborhood Utility Elevation Assistance

A quick guide for participating households

Flooding has affected Granite Street Historic District many times, and we know how disruptive and stressful that can be. The Town of Hardwick received funding to help Granite Street Historic District households in the FEMA mapped floodplain elevate critical building utilities above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). This work is focused on safety, faster recovery after floods, and reducing damage to essential systems.

This program helps buildings recover more quickly after a flood. It does not stop flooding or remove flood risk.

What kinds of improvements are included

This program typically helps with elevating or relocating:

- Electrical panels and service equipment
- Furnaces, boilers, and hot water heaters
- Fuel tanks and related connections
- Generators and related electrical work
- Platforms, supports, and anchoring needed to meet code

All work must meet building and floodplain requirements and be elevated above BFE as defined by the Town.

What to expect – step by step

1. Sign-up & agreement

Participating households will sign a simple agreement with the Town that explains what the program covers and what each party is responsible for.

2. Home visit

The Town (or a contractor working with the Town) will schedule a visit to look at your existing utilities, understand past flooding, and talk through practical options for elevation.

3. Planning the work

Using information from the site visits, the Town will develop a proposed scope of work for each home. Projects may be grouped or phased so funding can be used fairly and efficiently.

4. Permits & coordination

The Town will handle required permits and reviews, including floodplain and historic considerations where needed.

5. Construction

Once scheduled, the work will be completed by qualified contractors. You'll receive advance notice and the Town will coordinate timing to reduce disruption as much as possible.

6. Wrap-up

After the work is finished, the Town will confirm that utilities were elevated to the required height and provide documentation for your records.

What homeowners help with

- Allowing reasonable access for site visits and construction
- Taking care of elevated utilities after installation
- Covering any costs outside the approved scope (if applicable)
- Understanding that this work reduces damage risk but does not prevent flooding

A few important things to know

- Program funding is limited and must be shared across participating households
- Not every requested improvement may be possible within the available funding
- Elevating utilities may support future mitigation efforts, but does not guarantee flood insurance changes

Questions?

If you have questions or want to talk through your situation, please contact Kristen Leahy in the Zoning and Floodplain Office at 802-472-1686 or zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov.

The Town of Hardwick will do our best to keep this process clear and predictable.