



Efficiency Vermont's Efficiency Vermont: 2025 Best of the Best Awards Sisler Builders, Inc., Stowe, VT & J.W. & D.E. Ryan, Inc., Vergennes, VT

Efficiency Vermont

On April 2 and 3, Efficiency Vermont held its annual Better Building by Design conference. One of the highlights of the conference is the announcement of the Efficiency Vermont Best of the Best award. This year thirteen businesses were recognized across three categories. The categories are Efficiency Excellence Network (EEN), residential new construction, and commercial new construction. Winners will be highlighted over the next year in *Green Energy Times*.

This issue will highlight the two winners in the EEN category. Sisler Builders won the EEN Partner of the Year Award. J.W. & D.E. Ryan won the EEN Leadership Award.

Sisler Builders, Inc., Stowe, VT

Steve Sisler began his company in 1983 after earning his degree in industrial economics from Union College in Schenectady, New York. For the past 40 years, he and his crews and teams of subcontractors have been building high-quality custom homes and remodels in the north-central Vermont ski country, where there is a vigorous market for second homes. Sisler employs 30 people, including his son, Luke, who is a partner in the business and is dedicated to continuing the good work.

Sisler Builders is a big proponent of investing in energy efficiency during construction. The company is dedicated



The Sisler Builders team wins the Best of Business, Energy Efficiency Network Partner of the Year award. (Efficiency Vermont)



to meeting and, when feasible, exceeding the Residential Building Energy Standards. "The more you spend up front on good design, quality materials and workmanship, and a tight envelope, then the operational savings are enormous," Steve Sisler said in a 2024 interview.

This philosophy is shared by the company's expert builders. "In the past ten years we have not had an ACH50 blower door test rating over one air change per hour, and often less for our new homes. The national standard is three," explained Sisler. "We achieve our results by testing the building envelope three times during construction. First, when all the mechanicals are in but before the interior

paneling, so we can more easily fix any issues that show up. Second, after the drywall, appliances, and fireplaces are in. Third, at the finish, so we can give our customers the certificate and bragging rights to their friends."

Sisler Builders has been an EEN member since 2015, and it is a strong partner to Efficiency Vermont through its weatherization and custom home new construction work. The Sisler team is very engaged, taking great pride in their services and customer experience. Their collaboration with Efficiency Vermont has helped promote efficiency in both new construction and existing homes. Mike D'Muhala, the Home

Performance Division Manager, shared that "during retrofits in existing homes, we almost always reduce air leakage by 40-50%."

Efficiency Vermont is pleased to honor Sisler Builders and its decades of work servicing Vermont customers with the Best of the Best 2025 - EEN Partner of the Year Award for its demonstrated engagement with Efficiency Vermont programs and commitment to the principles and concepts needed to advance energy efficiency practices.

J.W. & D.E. Ryan, Inc., Vergennes, VT

J.W. & D.E. Ryan, Inc., has operated continuously from the same location since 1887, when it opened under the name

R. Hudson. The business has remained in the same family since it opened. Founded by Robert Hudson, the business originally dealt with stoves and tinware and transitioned to J.W. & D.E. Ryan Plumbing and Heating in 1909. Timothy C. Ryan, son of Robert J. Ryan, joined the business in 1974, purchased it in 1979, and manages it to this day. Many employees working at J.W. & D.E. Ryan, Inc., have been with the

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Tanya Scuteri (Vice President) and Tim Ryan (owner) of J.W. & D.E. Ryan win the Best of Business, Energy Efficiency Network award for leadership. (Efficiency Vermont)