

Summary of 2023 Annual Energy Report
Vermont Department of Public Service

Appendix A: Progress toward 2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) Recommendations

Ch. 3 Equity

- Dept. of Public Service has proposed a State Energy Program-funded budget to support staff training on issues of energy equity and facilitate the development of Dei strategy. Implementation in 2023.
- Act 154 makes environmental justice a core criterion in evaluating disproportionate environmental burdens and access to environmental benefits when making decisions.
- Dept. proposed funding to State Energy Program funding for community engagement as required by Act 154 to commence in 2023.

Ch 4. Grid Evolution

- Act 55 of 2021 requires utilities to implement EV rates by June 30, 2024
- ...

Ch. 5 Transportation and Land Use

Vehicle Electrification

- Expansion of EV market share through incentives
- Managing electric grid impacts of EVs
- Increase targeted use of low-carbon fuels

Ch. 6 Thermal and Process Energy Use

- Reduce thermal energy demand
- Weatherization at scale “Clean Heat Standard”, S. 5
- Encourage efficient buildings and equipment
- Clean Heat Standard
- Cleaner tech. and fuels

Ch. 7 Electric Resource

- Further Decarbonization of the electric sector
- Consider design options for carbon-Free or 100% Renewable Energy Standard

Ch. 8 Finance

- VT State finance institutions should investigate optimal structures needed to deploy low-cost capital to meet energy and GHG emission reduction goals.

Appendix B: Report on Vermont Renewable Energy Programs

Section 8 of Act 56 of 2015 created Vermont’s Renewable Energy Standard, requiring Vermont’s electric distribution utilities (“DUs”) to require a minimum quantity of renewable energy credits (“RECs”) or similar attributes, and to achieve fossil-fuel savings from energy transformation projects.

Three phase plan of public engagement to implement core recommendation of the Comprehensive Energy Plan:

Phase 1: Awareness and Capacity Building, (November 2022 – March 2023), focus on broad outreach, especially frontline and impacted communities, and create educational opportunities.

Phase 2: Policy and Program Review (April – August 2023), focus on reviewing existing programs and policies through continued stakeholder engagement & technical analysis.
Phase 3: Recommendations and Reporting (September – December 2023), Finalizing and drafting recommendations and produce summaries of the process.

- The department expects the results to be published in time to inform the 2024 legislative session.

Appendix C: Report on Vermont Net-Metering program

Permit customers to generate their own power from small scale renewable systems. (1998)
15 kW or less. Farms can have more, 100 kW.

Economic Development: “While net-metering is one of the most expensive resources available to meet Vermont’s renewable energy goals, it does employ many Vermonters. According to the 2022 Vermont Clean Energy Industry Report prepared by the Clean Energy Development Fund, the number of Vermont jobs associated with renewable energy overall at the end of 2021 was expected to be 5,656, with 1,750 of these jobs in the solar industry. This was nearly a 3% increase in solar jobs over 2021 but remained significantly lower than solar jobs in 2017 timeframe. That said, renewable energy workers that spend 100% of their time on renewable energy have increased substantially – from 58% in 2016 to 67% in 2022.” (p. 115)

- Net-metering has made important contributions, past time for an overhaul of the net-metering compensation structure.

Appendix D: Report on the Vermont Small Hydropower Assistance Program

Established to determine whether hydropower projects might qualify as “low impact”, and to help such projects obtain a permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Two applications in 2022:

- 15 kW project involving restoration of Reservoir Road Dam in Westfield, VT.
- 150 kW project in Rutland, VT, on Otter Creek.