

Solar Siting Task Force Overview

Charge: From Act. 56, Section 26.g - *The Task Force shall study the design, siting, and regulatory review of solar electric generation facilities and shall provide a report in the form of proposed legislation with the rationale for each proposal.*

Membership:

Commissioner of Public Service or Designee: **Commissioner Christopher Recchia (Chair)**
Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or Designee: **Commissioner Noelle MacKay**
Secretary of Natural Resources or Designee: **Secretary Deb Markowitz**
Representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns: **Karen Horn**
Representative of the Vermont Planners Association: **Sharon Murray**
Representative of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies: **Adam Lougee**
Representative of Renewable Energy Vermont: **Andrew Raubvogel**
Representative of an electric distribution utility: **Robert Dostis**
Landscape architect: **Mitch Lefevre**
Vermont resident with public policy and environmental and energy expertise: **Sam Swanson (Vice Chair)**

Number of meetings: The Committee has met 9 times with a first meeting on July 28. There will be a final meeting on Thursday, January 21.

Invited Participants: The following individuals provided testimony to the Task Force, in order of appearance -

Dr. Asa Hopkins, Director of Planning and Energy Resource Development, Public Service Department, on State Energy Goals, Portfolio Options, and Solar Land Use Implications

David Raphael, Landscape Architect and Planner, LandWorks, on Solar Aesthetics Guidance

Lou Borie and Jon Groveman, Natural Resources Board and **Jeannie Oliver**, Public Service Department, providing an overview of Act 250 and Section 248

Sharon Murray, Vermont Planners Association, on Overview of VSA Title 24 Chapter 117, State Land Use Goals and Energy

Peter Rothschild, New Haven Planning Commission, on Town Experience and Suggestions for Solar Development

Chad Farrell, Encore Redevelopment, on Developer Experience and Suggestions for Solar Development

Jeannine McCrumb - Charlotte Town Planner, **Ron Bouchard** - Shelburne Planning Commission, **Peter Rothschild** - New Haven Planning Commission, and **Mel Adams** - Randolph Town Manager – panel discussion providing town perspective

Tom Garden - Triland Partners, **Rod Viens** - GroSolar, **Luke Shullenberger** - Green Lantern Development, and **Nathanial Vandal** - Green Peak Solar – panel discussion providing developer perspective

Jim Sullivan - Bennington County Regional Commission, **Taylor Newton** - Northwest Regional Planning Commission, **Chris Sargent** - Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission – providing an overview and update on the Regional Energy Planning Pilot

Jon Copans , Asa Hopkins, and Anne Margolis of the Public Service Department – providing an overview of the Public Service Board’s draft Net Metering Rule.

Diane Bothfeld - Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets Deputy Secretary, – providing an update on Agricultural Soils and Solar Development

Public Participation: The Task Force also heard from many stakeholders through verbal and written public comment. Thirty-five members of the public spoke over the course of the Task Force’s meetings, and the Task Force received an additional 122 written public comments.

Task Force Materials: All Task Force Materials including agendas, minutes, public comments and draft proposals can be found here: <http://solartaskforce.vermont.gov/>