

Betsy Hardy

My name is Betsy Hardy. I'm the Coordinator of Vermont Interfaith Power and Light, a non-profit working to address the climate crisis with communities of faith statewide.

For me, and others we work with, this is a moral and spiritual issue. The climate crisis is seriously impacting people and ecosystems worldwide. And the poor are being hurt first and worst. Our actions, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, is a large part of what's causing this crisis. We need to take significant steps to turn this around. Reducing use of energy through conservation and energy efficiency is very important. And it's also important to switch from using fossil fuels to using clean, renewable energy.

My home in Richmond is also the office of VT Interfaith Power and Light. It has a solar array on the roof, and is now being heated by cold climate heat pumps. Fossil fuels are no longer needed at my house.

In recent years, the legislature has passed good legislation, such as the net metering bill, to help Vermonters go solar. I hope you will continue to encourage, not thwart, solar energy in Vermont.

Along with energy conservation and energy efficiency, solar and other renewables offer ways to take significant steps to address the climate crisis. Community solar arrays are also important; not everyone has good solar access on their property. These arrays provide safe, clean, renewable solar energy for Vermont communities.

Please continue to encourage solar energy.