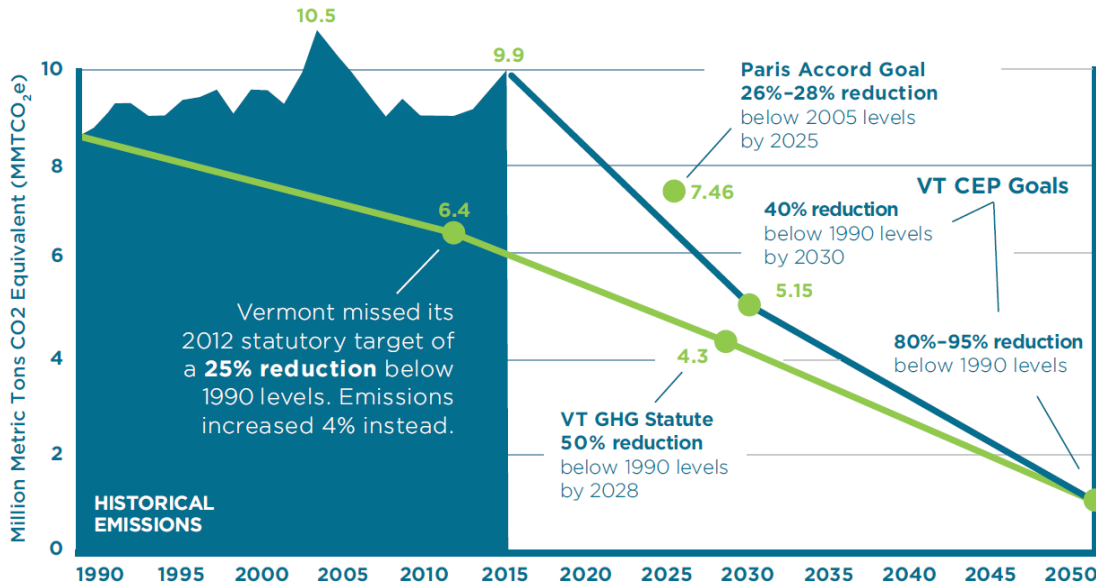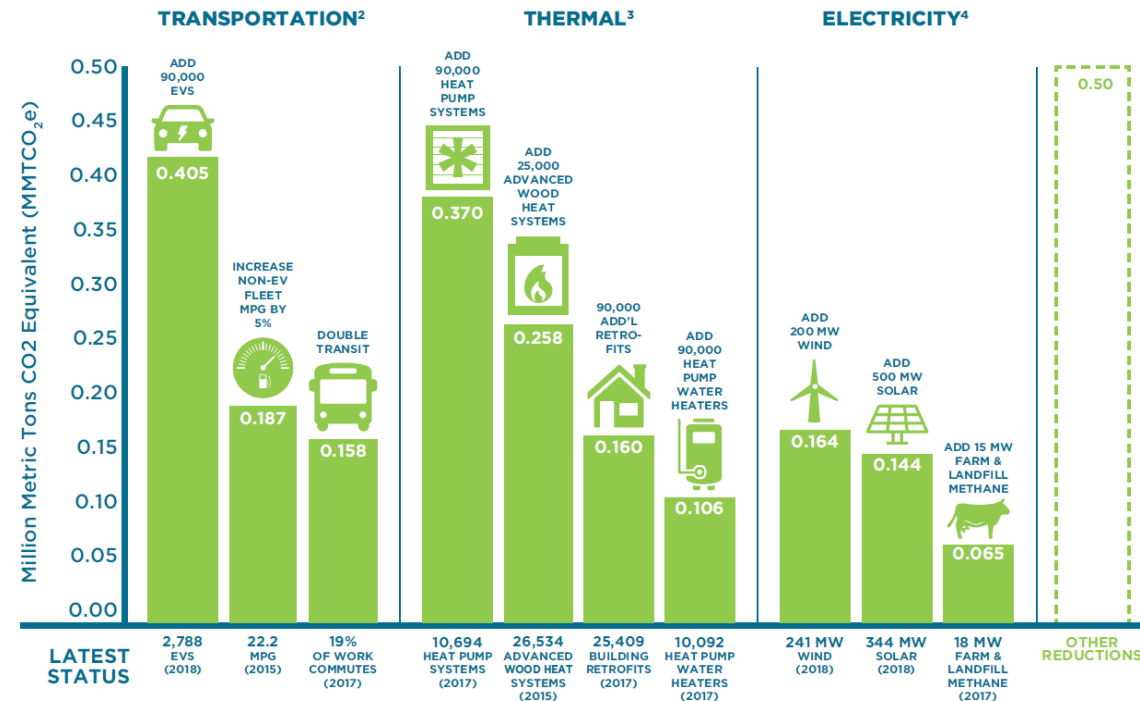# Community Scale Renewable Energy

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Senate Natural Resources & Energy

Major issues work on community renewables could address

- The state's renewables policies are leaving many Vermonters out
  - Renters and others who do not own a good solar site
  - Vermonters who are low income
  - Municipalities and other public entities with substantial energy needs
    - Merging school districts
- Slowing pace of renewable energy deployment in Vermont
- Little new renewable energy deployed because of Vermont's policies

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Source of problem

- Increased costs, reduced rates under "net metering 2.0" functionally ended residential group net metering "community solar"

- End of residential group net metering (see above)
- No solar program specific to low-income Vermonters

- 500 kW customer cap under net metering 2.0

- Functional ban on wind development
- Increased costs, reduced rates under net metering
- Limited requirement for new renewables under RES

- Tier 1 of RES requires no new renewables to be built
- Tier 2 only requires 25-30 MW deployed a year

Problem

➡️ Renters, etc. not well-served

➡️ Low-income Vermonters not well-served

➡️ Municipalities, etc. not well-served

➡️ Renewable deployment in VT is down

➡️ VT policies largely not getting additional, new renewables built

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Potential Solutions

- 100% Renewable Energy Standard requiring:
  - More in-state generation
  - Far more new renewables
- Lifting or eliminating the customer cap in net metering for municipalities and other public entities
- Modifying net metering to reopen residential group systems
- Creation of a new "mid-size" renewable program to complement net metering and the standard offer program

  NOTE: Without modification to the Renewable Energy Standard, any new or expanded in-state renewable program will result in the PUC attempting to reduce other renewable deployment. (2018 net metering biennial update – PUC final order, p31-34)

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