

## **S. 267 ENERGY RESILIENCY & DIVERSITY ACT 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD**



As we move to electrify and decarbonize our heating and transportation energy needs, we must simultaneously expand deployment of clean, local renewable power to control energy costs and meet our climate commitments. **Vermont needs a resilient, diverse, and true 100% renewable electricity standard with strong verification mechanisms consistent with our neighboring states.**

Only through improving the integrity, transparency, and effectiveness of Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard can we create a resilient energy system for our communities, grow local economic opportunity, and meet our climate pollution reduction commitments.

At a time when many other states are implementing 100% clean energy standards, Vermont's energy framework & laws have failed to keep pace, and even unintentionally inhibiting local economic and climate progress. Implementation of the **current Renewable Energy Standard limits local (in-state) renewable generation to just 10% of the power Vermont needs.** .

**A 100% Renewable Energy Standard will provide a myriad of benefits for Vermonters:**

- ✓ **Local renewable electricity creates climate resilient communities & great self-reliance,** increases energy choices, and improves access to innovative advanced energy technologies for all Vermonters.
- ✓ **Local renewable electricity creates jobs for Vermonters and keeps money in our state.** A fully transformed clean energy economy offers tremendous opportunity for entrepreneurship, good-paying jobs and social justice. Billions of dollars are currently spent on imported energy & dirty fossil fuels that go to foreign and other out-of-state sources. **By keeping more of that money local, and putting Vermonters to work installing projects, we will grow our economy.**
- ✓ **Local renewable electricity reduces fossil fuel consumption.** Unfortunately, only a small portion of the energy Vermonters use comes from local renewable energy. **Replacing costly and inefficient fossil-fueled vehicles and heating with efficient electric and wood options is essential, and must be paired with renewable electric generation.**
- ✓ **Vermont's current law is inadequate, slowing local resilient renewable energy deployment and local economic opportunity.**

It is time for Vermont to legislate a true 100% renewable and resilient energy standard, something that governments from Washington D.C. to Washington state have already done.



## **S. 267: ENERGY RESILIENCE & DIVERSITY ACT – 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD**

Updates are needed to Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard to:

- Require 100% renewable electricity by 2030
- At least double local (in-state) renewable electricity to 20% by 2030 (Tier II)
- Improve grid efficiency and energy resiliency by requiring dispatchable renewable electricity (local renewables + storage or demand response, etc.) (Tier II b)
- Clarify that nuclear & fossil fuel do not qualify as energy transformation (Tier III)

### **Addresses these problems:**

- ✘ Electricity costs are increasing due to regional transmission & ISO-NE charges.
- ✘ Current RES implementation limits efficient, local distributed renewable energy to just 10% of Vermont's needs, stifling self-sufficiency, local economic opportunity, & climate resilience.
- ✘ Vermont is experiencing more frequent and intense storms due to climate change which reduces electricity reliability and increase costs for everyone.
- ✘ Existing grid is grossly inefficient (just 43% efficient) & vulnerable.
- ✘ Vermont imports 60% of its electricity, consuming almost four times as much energy as it produces overall, sending hundreds of millions out of the state every year.
  - Vermont could generate at least 50% of the electricity it needs in state with renewable technology available today.