

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.



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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.