

**Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review**

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

- 1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

We hold monthly phone calls during the fuel season (November through April) with our federal partners. The Fuel Director sends out a request for agenda items and provides items himself. See attached as an example.

- 2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.**

There are around 60 people on the email list serve. Some participate on a regular basis while others want to see the agenda and then decide whether to participate. (see attached email listing). There is no per diem paid.

- 3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.**

This is a collaborative call to hear of things that are taking place on a federal level as well as what is playing out on a local level. Information is shared.

- 4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?**

If this collaboration did not occur, we would not have a way to share information on what is happening in regards to the LIHEAP program on both the federal and state levels.

- 5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance? Some items get more discussion.**

This call is occurring monthly in collaboration with the federal government. It is important for them to know what is happening on the state/ground level of heating assistance.

- 6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?**

It is unclear how this could be more effective or efficient.

- 7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?**

The information we discuss is all related to Fuel assistance. We are the best suited to share information between the feds and those on the ground.

- 8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?**

(N/A)

- 9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?**

(N/A)

- 10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?**

(N/A)

- 11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?**

The monthly call is occurring regularly and people feel they have a chance to hear and share what is happening on their level.

H.E.A.T Force Email List

Angie Lanfear <angie.lanfear@greenmountainpower.com>;
B Burgess <bburgess@unitedwaysvt.org>; bcorrigan@vermontgas.com;
Boyle, Lynn <Lynn.Boyle@vermont.gov>;
Cheryl Waterhouse <CWaterhouse@capstonevt.org>;
[Chris Saunders@leahy.senate.gov](mailto:Chris_Saunders@leahy.senate.gov);
Christine Johnson <cjohnson@capstonevt.org>;
Colette Seeley <Colette.Seeley@greenmountainpower.com>;
Compton, Caryn (Sanders <Caryn_Compton@sanders.senate.gov>;
Dana Baker <dbaker@svcoa.net>;
David Mickenberg <mickenberg@gmail.com>;
debby@vermontfuel.com;
Drake Turner <dturner@hungerfreevt.org>;
Duquette-Hoffman,
Jason <jason.duquette-hoffman@vermont.gov>;
E Lebowitz <elebowitz@agewellvt.org>;
ed@disabilityrightsvt.org; e
rharm@burlingtontelecom.net;
Fischesser, Sadie <Sadie.Fischesser@vermont.gov>;
Flint, Carol <Carol.Flint@vermont.gov>;
Gendell, Billy (Budget <Billy_Gendell@budget.senate.gov>;
George Twigg <George.Twigg@mail.house.gov>;
gini@vermontelders.org;
[Graham Forward@leahy.senate.gov](mailto:Graham_Forward@leahy.senate.gov);
Haley Pero <haley_pero@sanders.senate.gov>;
HBrookman@broc.org;
Helmstetter, Jane <Jane.Helmstetter@vermont.gov>;
HSchmidtke@sevca.org;
jdemers@cvoeo.org;
Jennifer Plouffe <jplouffe@svcoa.net>;
Jim Ryan <jim.ryan@vtneto.org>;
jmaillot@zoo.uvm.edu;
[John Tracy@leahy.senate.gov](mailto:John_Tracy@leahy.senate.gov);
Jones, Deanna <Deanna.Jones@vermont.gov>;
jstamour@burlingtonelectric.com;
[Katarina Lisaius@sanders.senate.gov](mailto:Katarina_Lisaius@sanders.senate.gov);
[Katherine Long@Leahy.senate.gov](mailto:Katherine_Long@Leahy.senate.gov);
Kathryn Toomajian <kathryn_toomajian@leahy.senate.gov>;
kathyb@vsha.org;
Kelley_Goulette@sanders.senate.gov;
Kelsey Kobelt <Kelsey_Kobelt@leahy.senate.gov>;
Klamm, Lynne <Lynne.Klamm@partner.vermont.gov>;
kmlafayette@aol.com;
Lauder, Kelly <Kelly.Lauder@vermont.gov>;
Legare Belcher,
Suzanne <Suzanne.LegareBelcher@vermont.gov>;

lschlegel@cvcac.org;

Martha Stevens <martha.stevens@vtneto.org>;

mary.morris@greenmountainpower.com;

matt@vermontfuel.com;

mbelliveau@leg.state.vt.us;

Michael Benvenuto <mbenvenuto@vtlegalaid.org>;

Michael Sirotkin <sirotkin.senate@gmail.com>;

MMcGinniss@lawlinevt.org;

Odessa Kilby <Odessa@cvaa.org>;

Peterson, Christine <Christine.Peterson@vermont.gov>;

Prior, Kristin <Kristin.Prior@vermont.gov>;

psmith <psmith@vermontgas.com>;

PTaormina@aarp.org;

Pzabriskie@cvcac.org;

Rachel Cummings <rcummings@cvaa.org>;

Rampone, Emily (Sanders <Emily_Rampone@sanders.senate.gov>;

Sandy Bennett <sandy_2of8@yahoo.com>;

Sarah Lee <sarah@unitedwaysvt.org>;

Sheila@vermontelders.org;

Sherrie Pomainville <spomainville@broc.org>;

Sojourner, Lily <Lily.Sojourner@vermont.gov>;

Steve Finner <steve@finner.info>;

Thomas, Katie (Sanders <Katie_Thomas@sanders.senate.gov>;

Toni Smith <toni.smith@vtneto.org>;

Wilcox, Geoff <Geoff.Wilcox@vermont.gov>

From: [Giddings, Richard](#)
To: [Tousignant, Nicole](#)
Cc: [Giddings, Richard](#)
Subject: Heat force call agenda for tomorrow.
Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 2:02:00 PM

Hi Nicole, this is a draft agenda that I just wanted to run by you before I put it out there to the list serve folks. I have confirmed with Matt Cota and Geoff Wilcox on their two items.. **The notes in red are just my notes.**

- 2018-2019 Budget overview. (High level only) The notes in red are just my notes.
 - **Special thanks to Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders, and Representative Welch for their continued support increasing the total LIHEAP benefit to Vermonters. In August 2018 Washington approved another 50 million Nationally. Vermont saw an increase in Federal \$ of 1.474 Million. (FY18 was 18,972 award to FY 19 20,446, 280 award).. Thank you again to our delegation.**
 - **In FY 18 our budget we had 3.7 Million in Carry forward which allowed for us to pay out a higher benefit. For the FY 19 budget we had only \$700,00.**
- Seasonal Fuel Assistance
 - **Approximately 13.5 Million is designated toward seasonal assistance, to date we have paid out \$671,894 in wood and pellet benefits in September 2018. Another 9.7 million (will update based on what final numbers look like tonight) will go out to 160 Certified Fuel Dealers which is the seasonal benefit for approximately 13,000 Households. Seasonal benefit average will be \$680 (around a 20% reductions from last year.) In FY 18 we spent around 14,750,000. (Decrease of 1.35 Million = \$103 difference in Monthly benefit on average to HH.)**
- Crisis Fuel Season
 - **Starts 11/26/18. Caps are funded at the same amount as they were last year. A little over 2 Million Caps are bring staff on board and will be up and running by the 26th..**
- After Hours Program
 - **Starts 12/1/18 through 4/7/18 5 PM- 7 AM 7 days a week**
- Energy Assistance Discount Program
 - **Since 12/17 2012 we have taken in 59,231 applications and of that 42,895 have been eligible. (72%) GMP deal is 25% off monthly bill and arrears forgiveness component 150% of FPL . Vermont Gas System offers 20 % off monthly bill up to 185% of poverty.**
- Tank Regulations (Matt Cota- 5-10 minutes)
- Emergency Heating System Grant Program (Geoff Wilcox 5 minutes)
- Questions

Richard Giddings

DCF- Economic Services Division
Director of Heating and Utility Assistance Programs
Richard.Giddings@vermont.gov
Phone # (802) 786-5986

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