

PRIORITIZING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Strong and Vibrant Communities

Load Management and Storage



- **WHAT:** As part of the Governor’s Climate Change Mitigation Package, the Administration is proposing to invest \$2 million in load management and storage.
- **WHY:** Implementing strategies related to energy storage and flexible and grid-interactive loads (such as electric vehicle chargers and heat pumps), at both the utility- and customer-scale, are essential to optimizing utilization of renewable energy assets. Grid evolution is a core theme of the Comprehensive Energy Plan.
- **WHO:** With this funding, income sensitive customers would be able to access incentives and incentive rates to purchase electric equipment for heating, cooling, and transportation. Focus will be placed on areas of the state where solar and other renewables have saturated the available headroom on the electric infrastructure, and where additional renewable development is constrained without expensive upgrades. In addition, investments will be made in load control and management platforms to enable smaller municipal and cooperative utilities to capture and share benefits of load management, and it will support municipal back-up electricity storage installations.
- **HOW:** Allocate funding to the Public Service Department to distribute pursuant to RFI/RFP process to best deliver these basic services to income sensitive Vermonters. It is anticipated that the beneficial electrification equipment would be paired with controls and upstream platforms operated by utilities (or third parties in partnership with utilities) to “soak up” renewable overgeneration, as well as provide operational flexibility for utilities to manage the grid in a manner that avoids costly regional transmission and capacity charges.
- **FUNDING:** \$2 million is in the Governor’s FY23 recommended ARPA budget. The Public Service Department currently has a Request for Information (RFI) out to spend \$5 million of currently allocated (FY22) ARPA dollars for this purpose; this RFI will also inform use of the additional appropriation and the expected funding the Department of Public Service will be receiving money from IIJA which earmarks \$2.5B for states.

###