

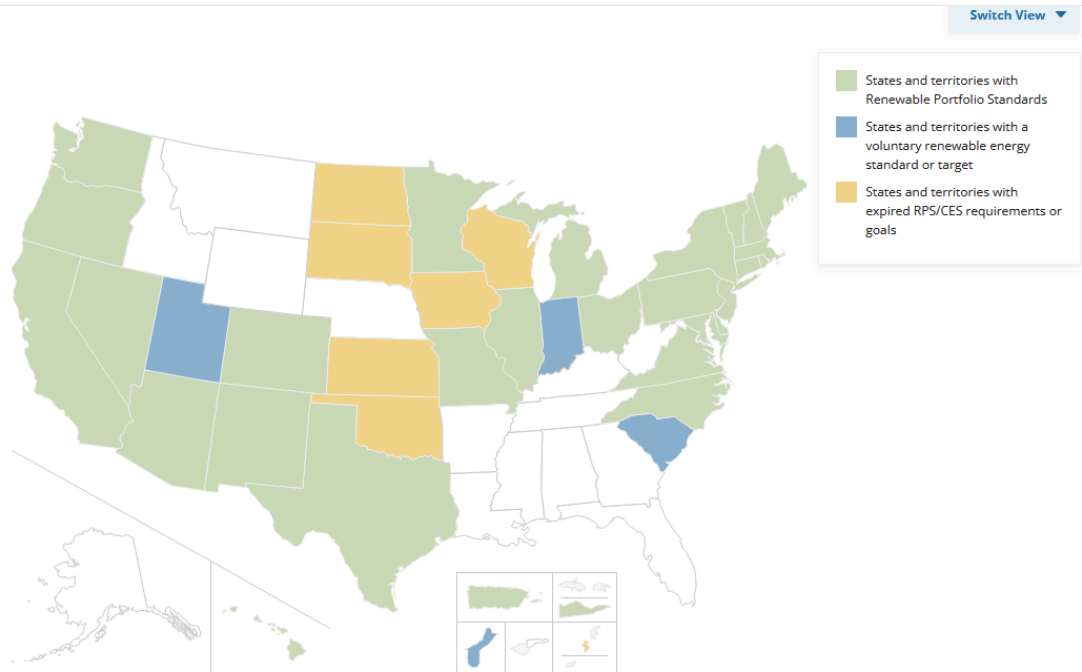
Rep. Laura Sabilia - H.289 testimony for Appropriations

As of November 2022, 36 states and the District of Columbia have established an RPS or a renewable energy goal. Vermont established: 2005 (voluntary target); 2015 (standard).



Foundation Careers

Resources News E



Legislative Working Group: Act 33 of 2023 creates the Legislative Working Group on Renewable Energy Standard Reform is created to draft legislation to be considered by the General Assembly during the 2024 Legislative session.

“On or before July 15, 2023, the Joint Fiscal Office may retain the services of one or more independent third parties **to provide facilitation and mediation services** to the Working Group, and **data analysis recommendations** at the direction of the legislative members.”

“The Department of Public Service **shall** be invited to advise the Working Group on the **results of its ongoing public process to review the Renewable Energy Standard** and any other items as needed.”

required membership list below and bold testified in our committee at least once

- Senator Christopher Bray
- **Representative Amy Sheldon**

- Senator Anne Watson
- **Representative Laura Sibia**
- **Jeffrey Cram - Senior Manager and Deputy Director of Facilities Engineering, GlobalFoundries**
- **William Driscoll - Vice President, Associated Industries of Vermont**
- **Michael Lazorchak - Regulatory Compliance Manager, Stowe Electric Department**
- **Shana Louiselle - Communications and Public Relations Manager, Vermont Electric Power Company**
- **Brian Evans-Mongeon - General Manager, Village of Hyde Park**
- **Candace Morgan - Director of Corporate Affairs, Green Mountain Power**
- **Ken Nolan - General Manager, Vermont Public Power Supply Authority**
- Christopher Pearson - Sierra Club
- **Louis Porter - General Manager, Washington Electric Cooperative**
- Brian Shupe - Executive Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council
- **Darren Springer - General Manager, Burlington Electric Department**
- **Peter Sterling - Executive Director, Renewable Energy Vermont**
- **Rebecca Towne - Chief Executive Officer, Vermont Electric Cooperative**
- **Ben Edgerly Walsh - Climate and Energy Program Director, Vermont Public Interest Research Group**
- **Mia Watson - Special Programs Manager, Vermont Housing Finance Agency**
- Chase Whiting - Staff Attorney, Conservation Law Foundation

Coming out of this work and leading into the session this group developed a consensus position that builds off the existing RES - a standard which has encouraged our regulated utilities towards long term power purchasing contracts by our regulated utilities rather than the dependence on volatile fossil fuel spot markets that has driven costs in many other states. Vermont has the second lowest electric rates in New England.

This consensus proposal is:

- An **agreement** between utilities, environmental advocates and renewable industry which takes into account the DPS work which members participated in. This bill respects the priorities that Vermonters identified affordability, reliability, and reducing carbon emissions. It does this by:
 - **Tailored** to each utility
 - Increases **resilience** by increasing distributed renewable generation
 - Specifically provides **new offsets** for old net metering renewables (except for our investor owned utility) which is especially beneficial to our most rural utilities as they work to harden the grid
 - Keeps existing renewable generation definitions in place and requires new load growth to be met with new renewables and storage
 - Eliminates offsite group net metering. And requires DPS, Utilities and Affordable Housing Community to report back on how to ensure a replacement renewable energy program for affordable housers
 - Includes **reporting** language on meeting the goals of the RES that was requested by DPS

Cost drivers on utilities:

- Inflation
- Variability and instability in energy costs
- Climate change adaptation
- Labor

Witnesses we heard from:**Vermont Utilities**

- Josh Castonguay, Vice President: Chief Innovation and Engineering Executive, Green Mountain Power
- Andrea Cohen, Manager, Government Affairs and Member Relations, Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Warren Coleman, Lobbyist, MMR on behalf of GlobalFoundries
- Jeffrey Cram, Senior Manager and Deputy Director of Facilities Engineering, GlobalFoundries
- Brian Evans-Mongeon, General Manager, Village of Hyde Park
- Justin Johnson, Lobbyist, Vermont Electric and Washington Electric Coops
- Michael Lazorchak, Regulatory Compliance Manager, Stowe Electric Department
- Shana Louiselle, Communications Manager, Vermont Electric Power Company
- Candace Morgan, Director of Corporate Affairs, Green Mountain Power
- Ken Nolan, General Manager, VPPSA
- Louis Porter, General Manager, Washington Electric Coop
- Hantz Presume, Manager, Transmission Planning, Vermont Electric Power Company
- Rebecca Towne, Chief Executive Officer, Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Amber Widmayer, Regulatory Specialist, Burlington Electric Department
- Dylan Zwicky, Leonine Public Affairs, Partner, GMP
- Darren Springer, General Manager, Burlington Electric Department

Vermont Group Net Metering:

- Mia Watson, Special Programs Manager, Vermont Housing Finance Agency
- Maura Collins, Executive Director, Vermont Housing Finance Agency

Scott Administration on siting:

- Billy Coster, Director of Policy and Planning, Agency of Natural Resources

Vermont Electric Regulators:

- Elizabeth Schilling, Staff Attorney, Vermont Public Utility Commission
- Anne Margolis, Deputy Planning Director, Department of Public Service

- TJ Poor, Director of Planning, Department of Public Service

Vermont Ratepayers:

- Vermont Utilities **PLUS**
- TJ Poor, Director of Planning, Department of Public Service
- Maura Collins, Executive Director, Vermont Housing Finance Agency
- Ben Edgerly Walsh, Climate & Energy Program Director, VPIRG
- Bill Driscoll, Vice President, Associated Industries of Vermont

Mia Watson, Special Programs Manager, Vermont Housing Finance Agency

Vermont Renewable Energy Industry Sector:

- Peter Sterling, Director, Renewable Energy Vermont