

Electricity Policy & Programs Review - Budget

PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2023



Context

Vermont currently has several programs and policies that have helped to increase the amount of renewable electricity in the state.

These include:

- The **Renewable Energy Standard (RES)**, which requires electric utilities to buy a specific amount of electricity from renewable energy resources
- The **Standard Offer** program, a program to deploy small-scale renewable energy by having State government manage purchasing of the energy, and
- The **Net-Metering** program, which allows Vermont homes, businesses, and communities to generate their own power, such as by putting solar PV on their homes

In order to meet State renewable energy goals and greenhouse gas reduction requirements, the [2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan](#) recommended that the State should:

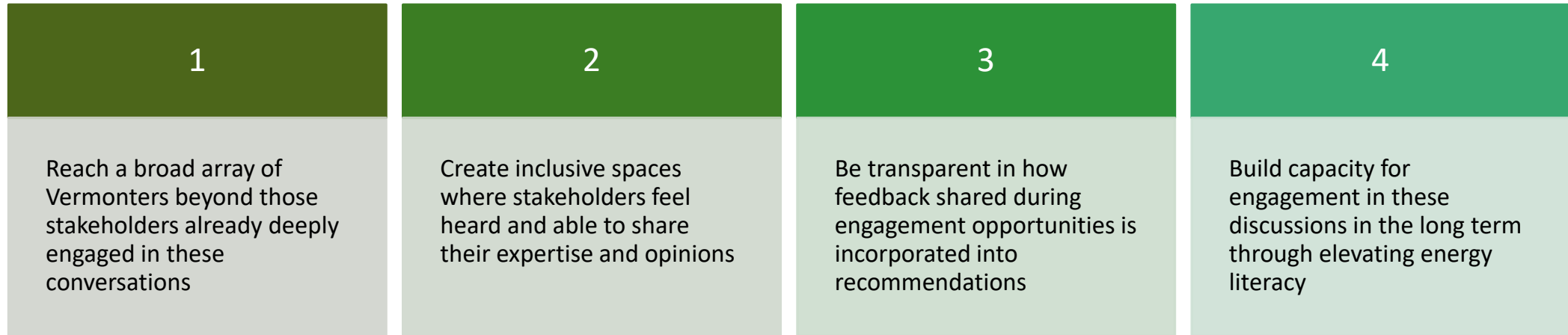
“Consider adjustments to the Renewable Energy Standard and complementary renewable energy programs comprehensively, through a transparent and open process....The considerations should include:

- *Consideration of a low-carbon or carbon-free standard, in addition to a 100% renewable energy standard;*
- *Consideration of a cohesive set of programs to support the standard “ (pg. 270)*

This recommendation is consistent with recommendations included in the [2021 Climate Action Plan](#).

Goals for the Public Engagement Process:

The Department views public engagement as core to the success of this effort and through this process the Department hopes to:



Public Engagement Plan

This budget is part of an effort by the Public Service Department **to review our current state electricity policies and programs**, as recommended by the state Comprehensive Energy Plan and Climate Action Plan.

After opportunities to comment on the scope and design of a review process, the Public Service Department released a Public Engagement Plan consisting of three phases.



Budget Request

Est. Budget	Description*
\$150,000	<u>Comprehensive polling services</u> Funds to hire a contractor to support comprehensive statewide polling
\$100,000	<u>Partner Engagement</u> Support for targeted outreach to communities with partner organizations (ex. regional planning commissions, community-based organizations), including support for time to co-design outreach opportunities, compensate participants as appropriate, translation services
\$25,000	<u>Facilitation Services</u> To support interactive workshops and/or public hearings
\$25,000	<u>General Outreach Funds</u> Miscellaneous funds to support tasks like advertising, printing, language access services, compensating speakers for events, IT needs
\$300,000	<i>Total Budget</i>

*Note: These budget allocations may shift throughout the public engagement effort as needs evolve