

Public Service Department

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

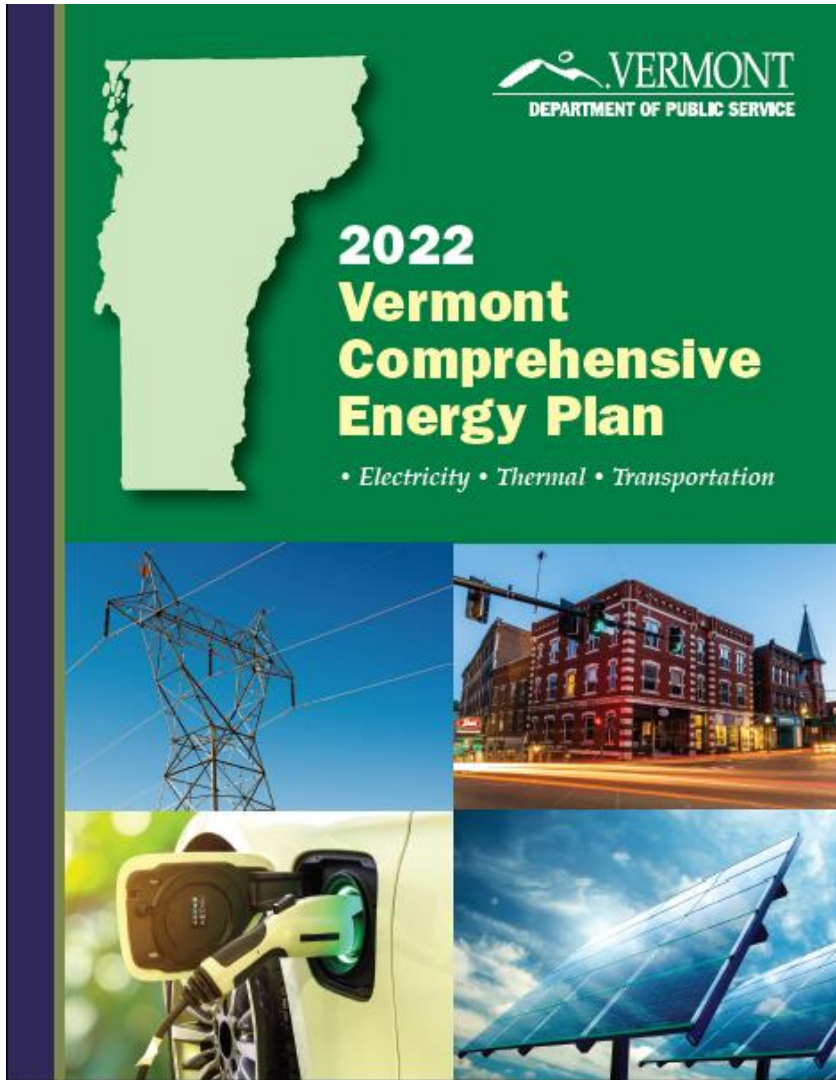
1/19/2023



Public Service Department

Represents public interest in energy, telecommunications, water and wastewater utility matters

Mission: Serve all citizens through public advocacy, planning, programs, and other actions that meet the public's need for least cost, environmentally sound, efficient, reliable, secure, sustainable, and safe energy, telecommunications, and regulated utility systems in the state for the short and long term.



Planning Division

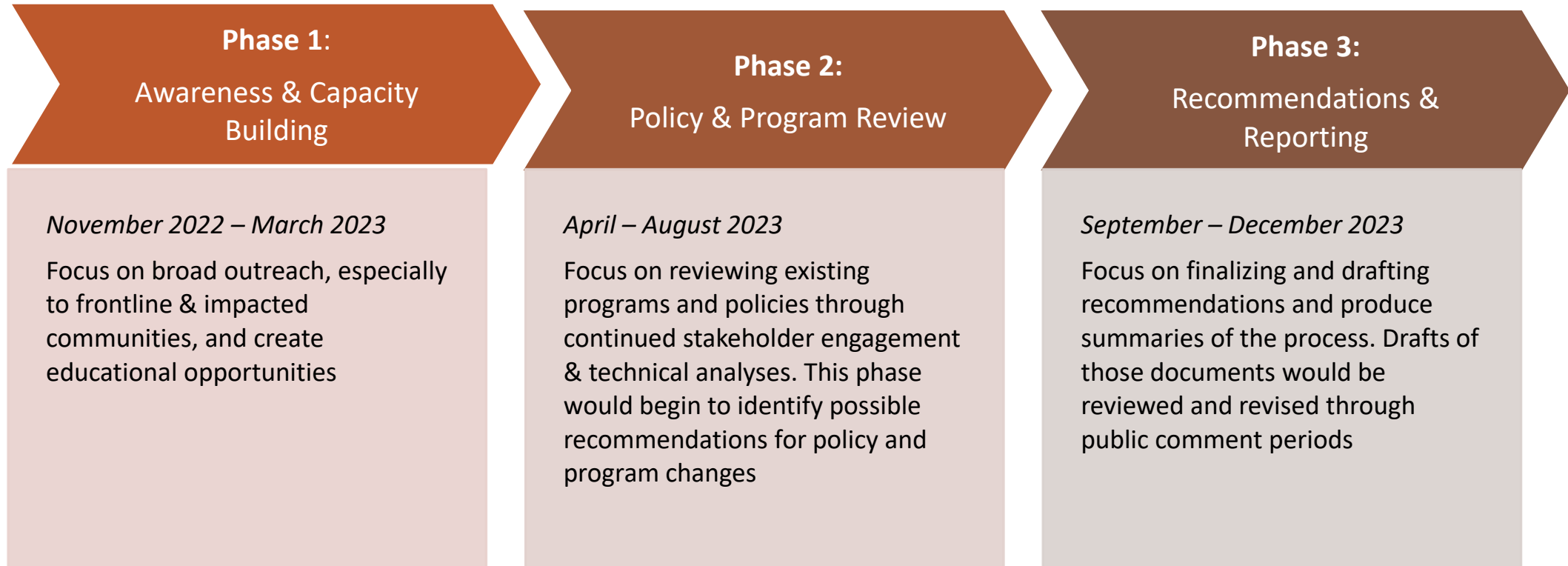
Developing the [Comprehensive Energy Plan/Electric Plan](#)

- Addresses electric, thermal, transportation sectors and is updated every 6 years (due January 2022) 30 V.S.A. §§ [202](#) and [202b](#)

[Annual Energy Report](#), including Net-Metering Report and Renewable Energy Standard Report – Annually 1/15

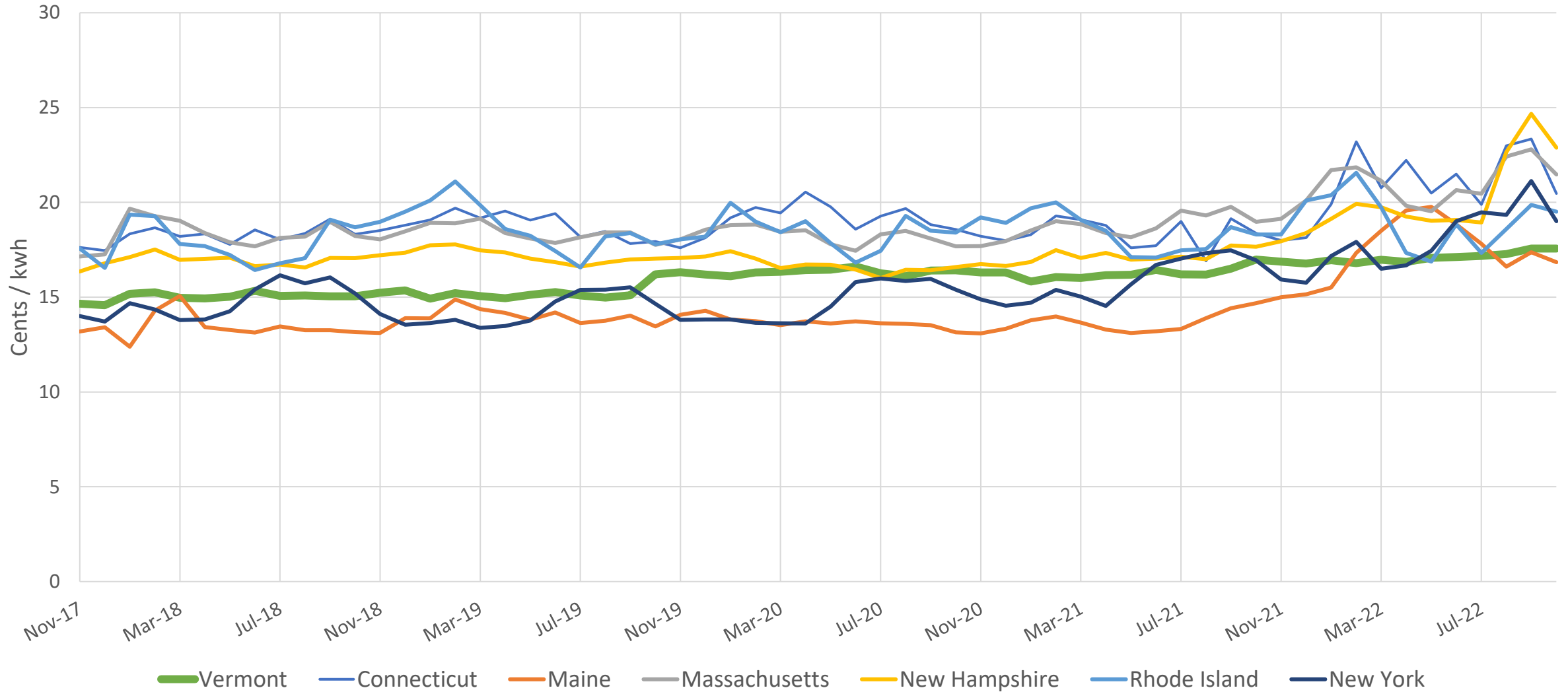
Electric Sector Review: Public Engagement Plan Overview

The Department proposes to review renewable electricity programs and policies through a process with three core phases:



The Department expects the results of this process would be published in time to inform the 2024 legislative session.

Average Monthly Retail Cost of Electricity (All Sectors)



Grid Evolution & IIJA

Integrated Transmission and Distribution Planning, effectuated regionally (via ISO-NE, regional state collaboration) and locally (Vermont System Planning Committee, Integrated Resource Plans, Alternative Regulation Plans, and Innovative tariffs, etc.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- Formula State Energy Program grants to support electric transmission and distribution planning as well as other programs that save energy & reduce carbon (\$3m). Submitted proposal to Dept of Energy.
- Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (\$1.6m) Appropriated to Buildings and General Services to support State Energy Management Program, including municipal resilience projects
- Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program (\$775k) Appropriated to Buildings and General Services to Support State Energy Management Program
- Grid Resilience State formula grant, PSD applying for funds from DOE to reduce number and duration of utility outages
- Competitive Solicitations - GRIP

Division of Efficiency and Energy Resources



Evaluation and Verification of Efficiency and
Distribution Utility Savings



Building Code Updates



State Energy Office



Transportation Nexus to Electricity: Rates and
Load Management

Vermont's Energy Efficiency Utilities



Funded through an energy efficiency charge (EEC) on each customer's monthly bill

- Efficiency Vermont
- Burlington Electric Department
- Vermont Gas Systems (VGS)

Budgets are approved by the Public Utility Commission every 3 years through the **Demand Resources Plan Proceeding**

EEC is set to acquire “all reasonably available, cost-effective energy efficiency savings.”

Primarily electric efficiency services with some funds explicitly available for thermal and process fuel efficiency.

ARPA Funded Programs

\$67 Million allocated to DPS for Climate Investments through 2023 Budget

- \$35 M to grant to EVT for moderate income weatherization
- \$20 M to support home electric upgrades for low- and moderate-income households
- \$5 M to install heat pump water heaters for low- and moderate-income households
- \$7 M to support storage installations and load management

Inflation Reduction Act - \$58 M

The home energy performance-based, whole house rebates (HOME Program)

- \$29 Million for Vermont through State Energy Office
- Incentives for comprehensive energy savings projects
 - Tiered incentives based on income level and energy savings

High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program

- \$29 Million for Vermont through State Energy Office
- Point of sale rebates for households earning up to 150% AMI

State Energy Office Activities

One-time IJA funding will be used to support:

- **Development of a Community Engagement Plan**
 - Consistent with Act 154/Environmental Justice
- **Weatherization Workforce Training**
 - Necessary to support sustained investment in Thermal Sector
- **Innovation Grants**
 - To Regional Planning Commissions, municipalities, energy committees, small rural utilities
 - Advance projects consistent with CEP goal

Vermont Department of Public Service & Public Advocacy

Department is directed by Title 30

- Section 2(a): “supervise and direct the execution of all laws” relating to public service entities.
- Section 2(a)(6) represent “the interests of the consuming public in proceedings to change rate[s]”
- Section 2(b) broadens that focus, stating that “In cases requiring hearings by the PUC, the Department, through the Director for Public Advocacy, shall represent the interests of the people of the State, unless otherwise specified by law.”

Planning: Long range plans guide the evolution of energy and telecommunications industries in Vermont.

Regulating: Representing the public interest (as developed in the various plans) as a party in virtually all cases before the Public Utility Commission (PUC)

- Party petitions PUC to construct energy or telecom facility ([30 V.S.A. § 248](#) for Certificate of Public Good), and regulated utility rate and service changes
- Initiate proceedings upon own motion, Initiate

Telecommunications and Connectivity

What we do:

The Telecommunications Division's primary purpose is to ensure Vermonters have access to modern telecommunications services. The Division does this by providing technical support on Dockets before the PUC, broadband mapping (other GIS support), telecommunications and broadband policy planning, State tower licensing, and community outreach. The Division also manages the Vermont Universal Service Fund.

Current dockets and projects: Vtel Cable CPG, 10-Year Telecommunications Plan, FCC Broadband data challenges, Mobile Wireless Mapping.



Thank you
