

Dear Alex,

I live in a grid-tied solar PV home in Weston, Vermont which has produced more power than it uses on an annual basis for 18 years. We run all of our plug loads for our household, my office and two electric cars. We are not wealthy, but have just set our life priorities focused on reducing our environmental footprint. As a Vermont citizen, we used federal and state incentives to solve a small portion of the climate problem and help build Vermont's electric capacity at my expense which also reduced the capacity burden for Vermont's utility companies.

We are currently at 432 parts per million (PPM) of atmospheric CO2 and growing at 3.6 PPM per year. A heavy majority of legitimate global climatologists understand that a limit of 450 PPM must not be exceeded which many believe to be a non-recoverable tipping point for Earth's ecosystems and a downward spiral of living biodiversity. A little math shows how shockingly urgent a situation we find ourselves: $450 \text{ PPM} - 432 \text{ PPM} = 18 \text{ PPM}$. $18 \text{ PPM} / 3.6 \text{ PPM per year} = 5 \text{ years}$. That means we have 5 years (by early 2031) to reduce all human atmospheric carbon to nearly zero... An impossible task? Maybe, but every single effort reduces the degree of damage our planet is beginning to face.

Any sane society who functions in their own best long-term interest would see that we should not be shrinking public funding to reduce CO2 level escalation. That includes supporting those citizens willing to take it upon themselves to help solve the problem with their own money. If we understand the concept of taxing what is not in our best interest and rewarding what is, the logical step should be to not only offer government aid and incentives to those citizens, but to INCREASE those incentives as the climate situation intensifies. The Vermont state government in recent years has not only failed to do so in the face of reality, they have gone in the opposite direction, continually reducing incentives over time. This would be considered completely illogical and counterproductive to any civilized society. Instead of increasing incentives to encourage citizen engagement, the Vermont PUC is attempting to cynically make the problem solution more difficult. In light of the future dissolution of trade between Canada and the United State, the odds are high that Canada will keep all of Hydro Quebec's electric capacity for themselves in upcoming years. Every watt we can now create from in-state solar, wind and hydro renewable energy sources (nuclear power is NOT renewable) will be vital both economically and environmentally. Sometimes we have to smartly invest a little money in order to save a great deal of money later. The line of thinking of the Vermont Public Utility Commission on this topic over recent years has been tragic and perfectly wrong.

Not only should bill H.716 pass in the Committee and House vote, a new bill should be introduced to reverse the trend and schedule regular annual incentive increases based on growing levels of greenhouse gases, not fashionable budget priorities which are always far, far, far less important.

Sincerely,

Keith Dewey, AIA, LEED AP+, Certified Passiv Haus Designer, Efficiency Vermont EEN Member

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