

# Stowe Electric Department S.65 Testimony

Jackie Pratt, General Manager





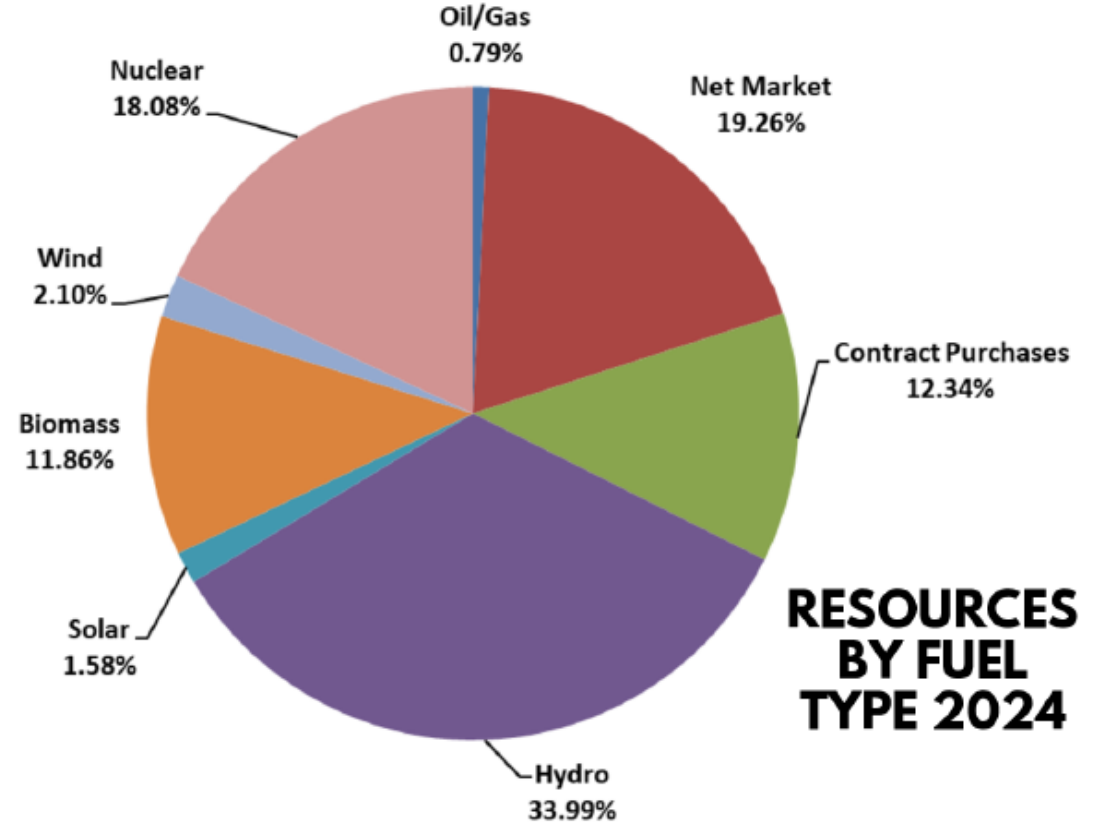
# About Stowe Electric

# 2024 Stowe Electric Statistics



## FACTS & FIGURES

- Established 1911
- 18.9MW Peak Demand
- \$16.7MM FY24 Revenue
- 4,667 Total Meters
- 87% Carbon-Free
- 93% Net-Positive Score
- 22 Full-Time Employees
- APPA Certified Smart Energy Provider



# 2024 Stowe Electric Statistics



## MILES OF PLANT

Stowe Electric has 91.38 miles of overhead and 84.14 miles of underground distribution lines totaling 175.52 miles. Stowe Electric operates three substations: Lodge, Houston, and Wilkins.



## 4 out of 5

## METERS ARE RESIDENTIAL

81% of SED customers are residential and 19% are commercial. Mountain snowmaking, local businesses, and hospitality operations are included within the commercial customer base.



## COMMERCIAL SALES

Although commercial meters make up just 19% of SED's customers, they represent 62% of retail revenue. \$16.7MM Total = \$6.3MM Residential; \$7.9MM Commercial; \$2.5MM Snowmaking.



# Stowe Electric Rebates & Incentives

- Heat Pumps\*
- Electric Vehicles
- EV Charging Stations
- E-Bikes
- Battery Storage
- Smart Thermostats
- Yard Equipment
- Induction Cooktops
- Weatherization\*
- Wood & Pellet Heating\*
- Demand Response – EV Telematics & Smart Home Devices



\* Programs w/EVT  
Green = Coming Soon



# Efficiency Vermont Heat Pump Program

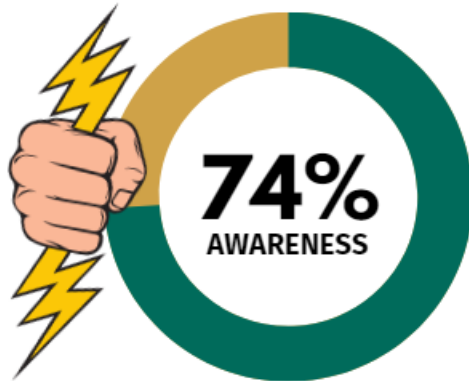
- Stowe Electric has the **highest percentage of customer participation** in EVT’s Heat Pump programs. **More than 5% of Stowe customers received Heat Pump rebates in 2024.**

Utility	Total Cust	Ducted #	% of Cust	Ductless #	% of Cust	HPWH #	% of Cust	A2W HP #	% of Cust	Ground #	% of Cust	Total Rebates	% of Cust
GMP	273,000	1,191	0.44%	6,672	2.44%	589	0.22%	22	0.01%	16	0.01%	8,490	3.11%
<b>SED</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1.11%</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>3.89%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.15%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.02%</b>	-	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>5.17%</b>
VEC	41,000	104	0.25%	13	0.03%	98	0.24%	8	0.02%	-	0.00%	223	0.54%
VPPSA	31,000	72	0.23%	539	1.74%	63	0.20%	4	0.01%	2	0.01%	680	2.19%
WEC	12,000	16	0.13%	182	1.52%	26	0.22%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	224	1.87%

- In total, Stowe Electric has issued **1,055 Heat Pump rebates since 2019** – that’s equivalent to 23% of customers!

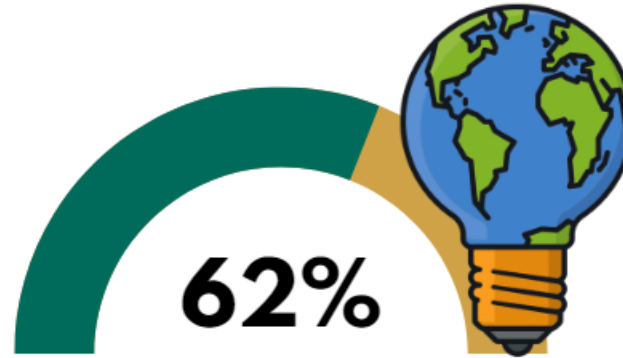


# Stowe Electric 2023 Customer Survey



## BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION

74% of survey respondents were already aware of “Beneficial Electrification” prior to the survey. **43% were familiar with SED’s electrification rebates.**



## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

62% believe Beneficial Electrification will reduce their environmental impact. **32% say Beneficial Electrification will also help save money.**



**1 out of 4**

## HAVE HEAT PUMPS

25% of participants already have heat pumps. **13% plan to purchase heat pumps in the future.** 34% have no plans to purchase heat pumps. 28% don’t know.

2023 Stowe Electric Survey conducted by GreatBlue Research. 373 responses gathered April 24 – June 2, 2023.

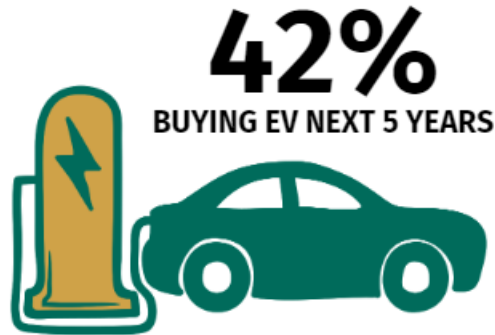


# Stowe Electric 2023 Customer Survey



## SOLAR ADOPTION

**10% already have solar installed at their home.** 17% plan to add solar in the future. **Of those planning to install solar, two-thirds say they'll do it within the next five years.**



## ELECTRIC VEHICLE ADOPTION

41.6% say they plan to purchase an electric vehicle in the next 5 years. **An additional 27.6% anticipated purchasing an EV more than five years from now.**



## ALREADY HAVE EVs

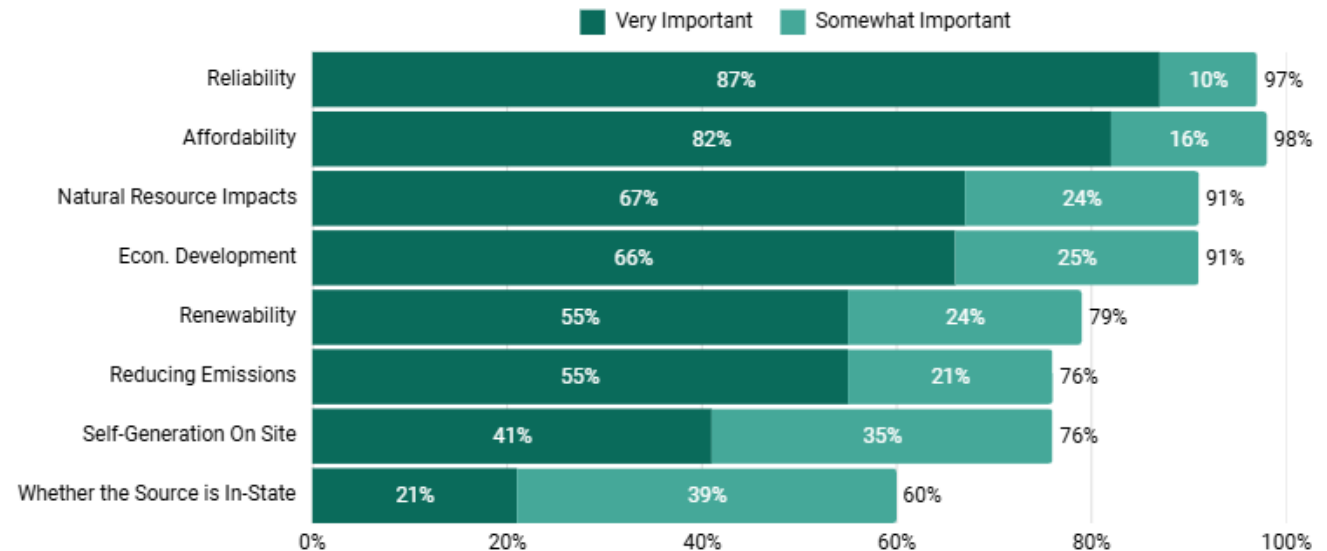
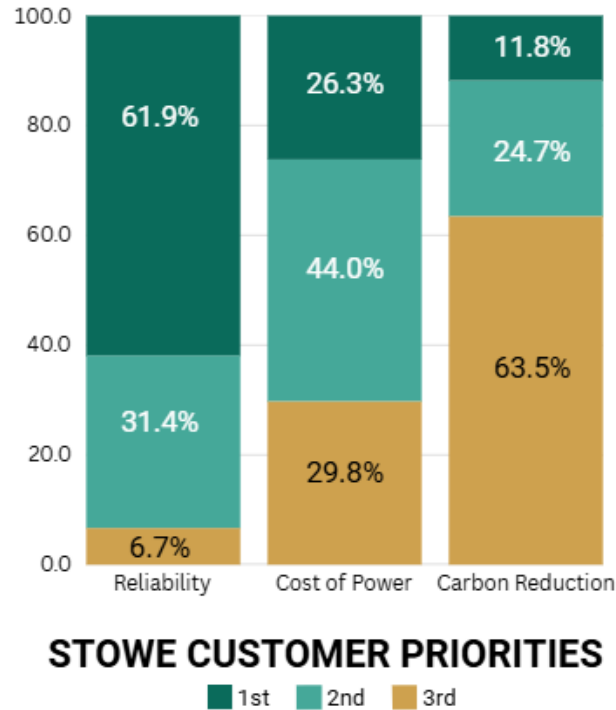
10% of participants already have an EV. **Stowe Electric has a network of 10 public Level 2 and Level 3 EV chargers located throughout our service territory.**

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# Customers Prioritize Reliability & Affordability



**2023 STATEWIDE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE SURVEY**  
 700 Vermonters were asked to rank the importance of power supply priorities.  
**Reliability and Affordability were #1 and #2. Reducing Emissions ranked #6.**

2023 Department of Public Service Report: [vt-psd-clean-renewable-electricity-review-report](https://www.psd.vermont.gov/2023-annual-report)





# Stowe Electric Testimony

S.65: An act relating to Energy Efficiency Utility jurisdiction.

# Electrification & Decarbonization

- Expanding EEU jurisdiction to allow for incentives and programs targeted at electrification in addition to energy efficiency **will help accelerate decarbonization.**
- An equitable clean energy transition will rely on a robust, reliable, resilient electric utility sector.
- **Electricity accounted for only 3% of VT 2024 GHG emissions.**
- Evolution to expand beyond efficiency is a reasonable next step for EEUs in Vermont.

2024 VT Emissions by Sector: [EAN-APR-2024-updatedJan2025.pdf](#)



# Minimizing Electric Ratepayer Impacts

- **Reliability & Affordability are the top priorities for Vermonters.**
- Expanding EEU jurisdiction to prioritize GHG reductions is going to require revenue, which is **funded by *electric ratepayers*** through the on-bill Energy Efficiency Charge. **This sends the wrong price signal** for those shifting from fossil fuels to electricity.
- **Elimination of “least-cost integrated planning”** prioritizes GHG reductions over all other factors – including cost (p. 7 lines 13-15). This will drive up the EEC and **exacerbate the affordability crisis for Vermonters.**



# Minimizing Electric Ratepayer Impacts

- Vermont's **RES Tier III already provides a framework** for utilities to incentivize fuel shifting and beneficial electrification.
- EEU capture of similar credits could complicate RES compliance by **eroding the ability of utilities to meet Tier III requirements.**
- Competition for these credits between the EEUs and the utilities as well as additional administrative burdens are likely to **further increase costs for electric ratepayers.**



# Value of Local Control & Utility Expertise

- Shifting oversight for core utility programs such as demand management and battery storage to the EEU is a **major policy change that is likely to bring unintended consequences.**
- Retaining oversight of demand response and beneficial electrification **allows utilities to “right size” programs for the communities they serve** and best support the specific operational needs of each distribution utility.
- Allowing the EEUs to allocate funds **in support of demand response, battery storage, and beneficial electrification** is one thing. Giving them oversight and control of how utilities implement these programs is another.



# Continued Collaboration is Essential

- The proposed changes **eliminate the need for the EEUs to collaborate with the utilities.**
- Deletion of lines 1-3 on Page 11 means the EEUs are **no longer required to promote their programs *in conjunction with demand management strategies*** offered by the utilities.
- Removal of lines 4-5 on Page 11 **further erodes collaboration** between the DUs and the EEUs.



# Evaluation of Potential Impacts is Critical

- Stowe Electric generally **supports the evolution of EEUs** to be able to target beneficial electrification measures in addition to energy efficiency.
- A thoughtful approach to modifying EEU jurisdiction **requires collaboration with the utilities** to ensure both **costs and oversight** of programs are assigned appropriately and effectively.
- Thorough analysis of this bill's impacts on electric ratepayers **in relation to the outcomes and signals intended** is crucial to avoiding unintended consequences.





# Questions?

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