

My name is Patrick Infurna, I'm a resident of South Burlington and a cofounder of Vermont Green Football Club, a minor-league, pre-professional soccer team based in Burlington since 2022. I'm here today to give some background on Vermont Green FC, our mission, and why we would support any and all initiatives for potential future Vermont Green speciality license plates.

Vermont Green is on a mission to not only bring the highest level of men's and women's soccer to the state of Vermont, but to build a culture that prioritizes environmental sustainability, consciousness, and stewardship. The Club believes that soccer can be a powerful catalyst for a more environmentally sustainable and socially just world.

From the start, our goal in building this club—from our branding to our business practices—was to be an authentic reflection of the community that we played in, and a medium for community gathering and expression. For us, championing sustainability and promoting a respect and love for the outdoors is crucial to that authenticity. We wanted the Green to look, feel, think, and speak like Vermont, and to unequivocally uphold the values of our state. We have always believed that bringing high level soccer to the state was not enough, and that building a lifestyle and identity around the game was our path to permanence in Vermont culture.

With this identity at the forefront of our mission, we have had the pleasure and the privilege of incredible community support since before our first match in 2022. We have had success on the pitch, boasting winning seasons every year, and the club has attracted local, national, and international attention and accolades. In just four seasons, the club has been featured in The New York Times, BBC, the Guardian, ESPN, and numerous other outlets that have praised the rising prominence of Vermont soccer culture. We are proud to be part of a culture that has been built in conjunction with the incredible success of the University of Vermont's men's and women's soccer, our local youth clubs, and the outstanding enthusiasm for the game shown by Vermonters.

In 2025, the team completed a miraculous undefeated season, winning our first USL League Two championship, beating out 144 other teams in the United States to this prestigious title. There were one million little pieces that propelled the club to this feat, but one thing that we are 100% certain played a role was our now-famous homefield advantage. Every single playoff on the way to the championship was sold out within seconds, and the national championship game at Virtue Field boasted an estimated attendance of over 5,000 people, with only half of that number actually being ticketed and in the stands. The rest were gathered on the grassy hill to the north of the stadium or anywhere else they can find a vantage point.

On August 2nd of this year - "8/02" - Vermont Green FC defeated Seattle Washington's Ballard FC in the USL League Two national championship. It was a seminal moment in the growth of our club and our movement, as the match was shown on WCAX Channel 3 in hundreds of Vermont bars, restaurants, and establishments. The match was the highest viewed USL League Two final in the over 30 year history of the league. Lifting the trophy was a physical reward, but the realization that the club had become a part of the everyday life of so many Vermonters was the true sign of success, and our gratitude to this state is indescribable.

When Treasurer Pieciak and his team approached us about the idea of Vermont Green collaborating with the State of Vermont on an official state license plate, we were obviously energized to give this our attention. We see this as an exciting opportunity for our mission, raising significant funds for organizations that promote outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship, but also gives Vermonters the opportunity to show their pride in a team that we hope will continue to represent the state, its people, and its values on the national and international stage. With the World Cup coming to the United States this summer, and the soccer obsession truly taking hold in this country, there is no better time than now to double down on a game that Vermonters have fallen deeply in love with.