

# **Town Energy and Climate Action Guide**



Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network

March 2007

*Produced by*  
Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network (VECAN)

*A project of the*  
Alliance for Climate Action  
New England Grassroots Environment Fund  
Sustainable Energy Resource Group  
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation  
Vermont Natural Resources Council

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This is a publication of VECAN and a living document. We recognize the growing network of energy and sustainability efforts underway in communities across Vermont. Your comments and suggestions are welcome on successful community-based activities not presented in this guide.

Please assist us by making this guide a useful tool to help inform and advance energy-saving and greenhouse-gas emission reduction strategies in Vermont communities by sending your comments and suggestions to [jmiller@vnrc.org](mailto:jmiller@vnrc.org).

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# **ABOUT VERMONT ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK**

The Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) is a project of the Alliance for Climate Action, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Sustainable Energy Resource Group, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, and Vermont Natural Resources Council.

VECAN and its project partners are working collaboratively to develop, inform, and strengthen networks of people to plan and implement energy-saving, greenhouse-gas emission reduction strategies at the local level.

VECAN developed this Town Energy and Climate Action Guide to provide communities with suggested tools and resources to form volunteer town energy and climate action committees. The purpose of the Action Guide is to provide useful information on “how to” get started, ideas on various energy-saving techniques, and suggestions for advancing them in your community.

To help support and strengthen the growing network of grassroots energy efforts, VECAN has assembled a list of community-based projects and activities underway in two dozen Vermont communities. It is our intent to inspire and encourage both communities and concerned citizens to implement successful strategies. VECAN invites everyone to help achieve shared goals for greater energy efficiency of buildings and operations, greater use of renewable resources, and reduced use of fossil fuels.

# **WHY FORM A TOWN ENERGY OR CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE?**

Dwindling oil supplies, high fuel prices, and a warming planet are problems that concern most Vermonters. Many want to take action now to reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency, and develop new sources of clean, renewable power.

Scientists predict that by the end of the century, temperatures in New England will equal those of Virginia or Georgia, putting at risk Vermont's valued natural resources including fall foliage, annual snowfall, and the maple syrup industry.

A growing number Vermont communities are exploring ways to address this critical problem. They have formed grassroots committees and are developing plans and implementing programs that save money, save energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Promisingly, Select boards are enabled by the state of Vermont to appoint an energy coordinator and energy committee as an official resource to town planners. Energy coordinators and committees can serve the community well in helping to suggest specific goals and objectives and implementation strategies that can foster sustainable development that benefits the community as a whole.

Grassroots energy and climate action committees are an important way to help inform decision makers and voters on how to advance cost-effective strategies to save energy and reduce waste. By implementing new initiatives and strengthening policies in communities throughout the state, Vermont can set a course toward a sustainable energy future for others to follow.

# FORMING COMMUNITY ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEES AND MOVING FORWARD

Forming a local energy or climate action committee is relatively straightforward. Outlined below and in the sidebar are suggested steps and ideas on how your group might approach the planning and implementation process to help mitigate growth in greenhouse gas emissions.

## Organizations, Models, Approaches

### Municipalities

- **Alliance for Climate Action**—Helps communities with greenhouse gas emissions assessments and offers tools, programs and strategies for action plan implementation.
- **Clean Air-Cool Planet**—Works with municipalities, universities, colleges and businesses to assess greenhouse gas emissions and encourage actions to reduce them.
- **ICLEI**—International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives offers carbon emissions software to estimate municipal emissions and steps ranging from making a municipal commitment to monitoring and reporting results.
- **Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG)**—Assists communities with forming and supporting town energy committees and programs.
- **Vermont Natural Resources Council**—Offers technical land use planning assistance and organizing support.

### Household, School, Business, Congregation, Individual

- **10% Challenge**—Program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10 percent by offering online emissions calculators, programs, resources and tools to encourage voluntary actions.
- **Vermont Interfaith Power and Light**—A coalition of congregations across Vermont, which provides free energy assessment for buildings and initiatives for congregants. Organizing member households to apply Low Carbon Diet
- **Vermont Earth Institute**—Offers discussion courses, sustainable living networks, and coordination of local household discussions on living more sustainably.
- **SERG**—Conducts home performance assessments and provides free web-based home performance calculator

### Advocacy – Policy Reform at the Local and State Levels

- **VNRC**—Land use, environment, climate change
- **VPIRG**—Energy, climate change, consumer interest
- **Sierra Club**—Cool Cities Program
- **Vermont Peak Oil Network**—Post-oil solutions.

Communities have taken a variety of approaches to advance local energy projects and initiatives. Selected models and approaches, including organizations that can help, are suggested in this guide. Committees are encouraged to consider the best structure and approach for their desired project. For example, if your community is interested in conducting a community-wide inventory of greenhouse gas emissions it might want to include a group of municipal officials and volunteers.

Most efforts will include public education, outreach and advocacy. Several statewide organizations can assist in building local support for policy reform at the local and state levels. Explore the ‘Resources’ section of this guide for an expanded list of helpful references.

Below are suggested steps to help achieve your project goals and objectives.

## Getting Started

### 1. Assemble a great committee

The first important step is to identify citizens representing various constituencies in your community who are interested in working on energy and climate change issues. Secure their support and establish a coalition of partners who will lend capacity, diversity, and expertise to your efforts.

Identify a project champion. Often the most successful projects occur when there is a community champion who helps to see the project through by providing vital outreach and public relations support.

Identify an individual willing to chair the committee. This job includes calling meetings, drafting agendas, and keeping the process moving. This person could be the same as the project champion or someone different.

### 2. Select the best structure for your committee

There are numerous ways to approach this process. Identify the most appropriate group structure that will help advance your town's energy or climate action project. The structure of your group may depend on such factors as buy-in from your local government, the municipality's capacity to "staff" the committee, volunteer capacity, the complexity of the project, or the most strategic way to advance your short- and long-term goals. Three basic structures for committees are:

- **An ad hoc citizen energy and climate action committee.**  
Organize a group of concerned citizens with varied expertise and a passion for the issue. Ad hoc citizen committee, the most grassroots type of committee, are commonly formed when communities wish to accomplish finite tasks.
- **A subcommittee of an existing municipal committee (i.e. work under a planning or conservation commission)**  
Vermont communities are currently enabled to plan for their energy future (24 VSA, Chapter 117). This statute provides communities with the ability to work with local commissions to help legitimize activities and to encourage adoption of policies that lead to energy-saving and renewable energy opportunities in town plans, bylaws and initiatives. Step 3 provides guidance on elements of an energy plan.

### Take Stock

In taking stock in your community, ask about the energy saving and emission reduction actions that may be underway or planned in your community.

Energy committees are encouraged to check in with community officials and decision-makers to identify opportunities and/or problems. Find out who is responsible for decisions and how to plug in to existing or planned processes. Note that municipalities are juggling multiple demands. Furthermore, they are governed and enabled by state statute and the process is quite structured.

Energy committees are encouraged to ask for guidance on how to suggest appropriate actions and project initiatives moving forward.

Many communities have established a conservation commission to assist planning commissions with natural resource and conservation matters. If your community does not have a conservation commission, consider forming one and making renewable, local energy efforts a primary focus of its work. Climate change will continue to have a direct impact on Vermont's diverse natural resources.

- **An independent municipal committee or task force appointed by and responding to the Select Board or City Council.**

As noted above, state-enabling legislation allows communities to assess and establish strategies and policies that help chart the community's energy future. In addition, '*Select Boards are further enabled to appoint a Town Energy Coordinator (24 VSA, Section 1131) for a one-year term to help coordinate existing energy resources, study and evaluate sources of energy, make periodic reports to the Select Board, and advance specific project initiatives.*'

When considering the best form for your community's energy or climate action committee, weigh the options. For example, an official town-appointed committee may have more legitimacy in the public's eye, more direct access to the Select Board, and funding for initiatives. If the Select Board or City Council is not ready or willing to advance a proposed project initiative, however, it might be more beneficial to form an ad hoc committee. Or, if the planning or conservation commission needs help exploring ways to advance renewable energy solutions, a subcommittee of one of those bodies, which can focus solely on different energy-saving strategies, might be the best fit. Ultimately, any committee structure you choose should help plan and implement projects and lead to rational policies, goals, and objectives for adoption at the municipal and state levels.

### 3. Do your research and inventory

Conduct some initial information gathering to explore areas where the community might save energy. Some communities choose to conduct an inventory of energy use in the town (i.e., electricity, thermal, and transportation energy usage). Having a baseline of data can be helpful later to track progress in energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Identify potential creative, cost-effective, and innovative solutions for your community to consider. Look at the town's comprehensive plan to make sure there is an energy chapter and see what it enables. If it needs to be more progressive in its vision, find out when the plan is due to be revised and get involved in the process. Municipalities are required to develop an energy plan. The 'Municipal Energy Plans' sidebar below provides more specifics about what an energy plan might include.

Also, know what projects are planned or soon to be happening that may affect your community's energy use. For example, find out whether the community is planning to purchase any equipment, build a new facility, or start a municipal planning or capital improvement project. This process will help identify opportunities and potential barriers

to implementing best practices and use of ENERGY STAR and resource efficient technologies.

It's important to note that successful projects often fit into a broader municipal initiative or sustainability strategy and complement, not burden, those already underway. Projects that don't impose undue financial costs on already strapped local governments are often easier to advance. That requires creative thinking. And that's where energy and climate action committees come in.

Energy and climate action committees can play a greater role in providing decision-makers with salient facts and information so that they establish and implement policies that are cleaner, greener, and save money. Offer solutions your municipality might not be considering. Investigate funding sources for projects and paybacks from savings on investments.

Put forward reasoned, well-crafted proposals that integrate opportunities for decision makers. For example, make the case for clean energy alternatives through facts and cost-savings estimates to the Select Board or School Board when they are considering purchasing equipment or making improvements to facilities and operations.

#### **4. Set achievable goals — both short-term and long-term — and stick to them**

Keep the list of goals succinct and to the point. As much as possible, align your priorities with the priorities of the governing body you are trying to influence. Finally, it is helpful to make connections to broader sustainable development goals and projects at the regional and state levels.

#### **5. Develop salient messages and a communications plan to disseminate them**

It is important to develop a clear communications plan. Your plan might be multi-layered and involve several stakeholders and the community. This often results in more legitimacy among the public, more direct connection with Select Boards, and greater

## **MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLANS**

All Vermont towns are required to include a municipal energy plan within their comprehensive plan. The Vermont Planning and Development Act recommends that a town energy plan include, "an analysis of energy resources, needs, scarcities, costs and the problems within the municipality, a statement of policy on the conservation of energy, including programs such as thermal integrity standards for buildings, a statement of policy on the development of renewable energy resources, a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy." (Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 117, Section 4382, subsection 9)

Energy plans lay out, in general terms, the direction the municipality should move in terms of conservation, efficiency and renewables. This in turn forms the basis by which the energy committees can act, to develop and implement programs that pursue these goals. Therefore, an important early step in any town energy or climate action process is to review the energy chapter in your town's comprehensive plan and make sure it is pointing in the right direction.

One source for assistance in developing or updating a municipal energy plan is your regional planning commission (RPC). Your RPC should have on file energy plans of neighboring towns and might help in redrafting your plan in accordance with statute.

access to financial support from the community and beyond. Message is critical too. The most powerful messages that will help your work gain traction are clear, concise, and compelling. Successful marketing connects the message with what people care about most.

Positive, persistent, and proactive messages help too. People respond to and act on different reasons for conserving energy and switching to renewables, including slowing climate change, saving money, protecting public health, creating “green” jobs, and weaning ourselves off fossil fuels. Know and articulate the different issues so that you can appeal to as broad a spectrum of public concerns as possible.

## **6. Dive in! Implement Strategies and Encourage Action**

Now that you've formed your committee, taken stock, gathered information, and established your goals, you can begin to implement your projects and strategies. How?

- Initiate your projects and seek resources and funding as necessary.
- Identify and secure creative funding opportunities to support the energy and climate action activities you want your community to implement.
- Recruit new members and broaden your network of partners. Recruitment might be selective depending on the projects you undertake. Reach out to business owners, the faith-based community, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Legions, and other important stakeholders to advance your projects.
- Periodically re-evaluate your progress, goals, and new opportunities.
- Celebrate your progress and recognize employers and others who are making great strides toward achieving shared goals.

# **How CAN VECAN SUPPORT YOUR COMMITTEE EFFORTS?**

VECAN's goal is to create, support, and empower local energy and climate action committees throughout Vermont to reduce the state's dependency on foreign, non-renewable energy sources and move toward a clean energy future.

VECAN provides a framework to help communities advance energy-saving projects. Serving as an information and networking 'hub', VECAN will consult with communities as they form and sustain energy committees. VECAN can help your committee by:

- Offering direct, hands-on technical and organizing expertise
- Networking support for the sharing of successful examples
- Adapting and developing useful tools, templates, and tested strategies to help make your community efforts more successful
- Helping connect local efforts to regional and statewide initiatives to make cleaner, greener energy opportunities more readily available and publicly supported

# PROGRAMS, STRATEGIES, AND INITIATIVES

To follow are brief summaries of several strategies and initiatives town energy committees might advance. We have grouped strategies and initiatives into four categories: efficiency, transportation, miscellaneous and education campaigns. We have listed the programs outlined under these categories from easier (i.e., lower cost, less labor intensive, quicker payback) to the more difficult or complicated undertakings. This is an initial guide. Immediate community needs, resources, and interests should affect project choices.

Please feel free to contact VECAN or those listed with each initiative for more information and details on conducting specific strategies and initiatives. To find out more about the projects and resources below, refer to the sections in this Action Guide titled "Town Energy Committee Resource List" and "Existing Vermont Committees - Projects and Contact Information."

## EFFICIENCY

### **EFFICIENT BUILDINGS — AUDITS AND RENOVATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL, MUNICIPAL, EDUCATIONAL, COMMERCIAL, AND SPIRITUAL SPACES**

Make sure municipal, residential, commercial, and important public spaces, including schools and places of worship, are as energy efficient as possible. This is an important first step. Committees use energy audits and building performance assessments to provide information on cost-effective energy retrofits that can save energy and money. Communities can also form their own Home Energy Assistance Teams of trained volunteers to implement simple weatherization measures in homes of those in need and community buildings. Below is a list of entities and resources that provide energy audits and assessments. Find the contact information for these and other valuable efficiency resources in the "Resource" list at the back of this document.

#### **Entities Providing Energy Audits and Assessments**

- Burlington Electric Department (for Burlington only)
- Home Performance with Energy Star Contractors
- Efficiency Vermont
- Sustainable Energy Resource Group
- Vermont Gas Systems
- Vermont High Performance Schools Initiative
- Vermont Interfaith Power & Light
- Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity
- Vermont Small Business Development Center
- Vermont Superintendents Association-School Energy Management Program



## PROMOTING EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

Work with your local municipality in a proactive way to make certain that new development in town is as sustainable and energy efficient as possible. This might begin with amended policies for new development. Planning commissions, development review boards and zoning boards of adjustment can help by first greening their town plan and zoning and subdivision bylaws. Examine the plan and bylaws to remove obstacles and create opportunities for energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, and compact land use patterns. For example consider:

- Promoting the use of climate friendly street trees
- Making water-conserving landscaping mandatory
- Identifying suitable community sites for renewable energy development
- Protecting wind resources
- Increasing height limits for wind turbines
- Advocating for use of biomass, combined heat and power and development of community energy systems to serve several buildings
- Creating effective agricultural zones (i.e. 1 dwelling unit/100 acres)
- Establishing energy criteria for developments and new homes such as:
  - Incentives for developers, including density bonuses
  - Subdivisions which make use of solar orientation
  - Low carbon or net zero energy use homes and businesses
  - Promoting mixed use development

Suggestions for town officials include:

Have the zoning administrator distribute information about the following programs to individuals and businesses seeking building permits:

- Commercial Buildings Energy Standards - All new commercial construction must meet minimum efficiency standards. Contact the Public Service Department at 802-828-4020 for a copy of the Vermont Guidelines for Energy Efficient Commercial Construction or visit [http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy-efficiency/ee\\_commstandards.html](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy-efficiency/ee_commstandards.html). For more information on how to meet or exceed the new commercial standards, visit [www.efficiencyvermont.com](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com)
- Vermont Residential Energy Building Code – This code mandates all new construction meet a certain level of energy efficiency. Contact Energy Code Assistance Center at 1-888-373-2255 for more information.
- Energy Star Homes Program - Direct new home and commercial building permit applicants in town to this great resource. For more information, call 800-893-1997, visit [www.vtenergystarhomes.com](http://www.vtenergystarhomes.com) or email [info@vtenergystarhomes.com](mailto:info@vtenergystarhomes.com).
- Efficiency Vermont – EVT provides technical assistance and incentives to promote efficient new buildings. Contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or visit [www.efficiencyvermont.com](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com).

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building rating system – LEED design standards provide architects and contractors with energy-efficient design and green building guideposts. For more information contact the Vermont Green Building Network at [www.vgbn.org](http://www.vgbn.org).

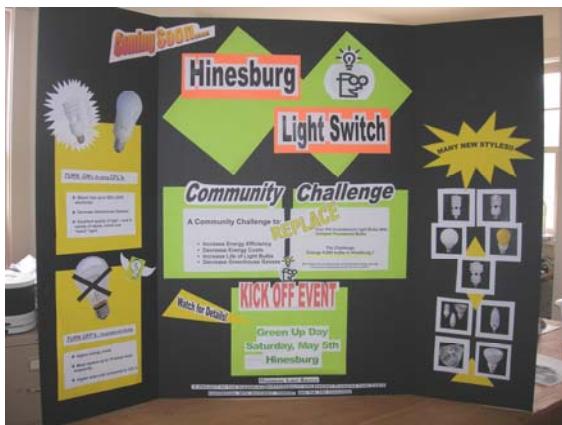
Encourage your local planning commission to adopt basic performance-based standards that will ensure that all new buildings are constructed to a minimum efficiency level. For example, work with your planning commission to adopt language in your town or village plan and bylaws that require “all new construction to be designed and constructed to exceed Society of Heating Refrigeration Air Conditioning Engineers, ASHRAE 90.1, standards by at least 30 percent.”

State law mandates that new buildings meet the Vermont Residential Energy Building Code and that a certificate of compliance be posted in the home at completion of the project and filed with the town and state within 30 days of completing construction. To assure compliance, towns can take the proactive measure of requiring receipt of the certificate of code compliance prior to permitting occupancy. For more Information contact SERG or Energy Star Homes at 800-893-1997 or visit [www.vtenergystarhomes.com](http://www.vtenergystarhomes.com).



## CHANGE A LIGHT CAMPAIGN

A great way to increase community awareness and achieve very cost-effective electric savings in your community is to sell compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) or to undertake a community-wide “change a light” campaign. CFLs use about 1/3 the electricity and last 8-10 times longer than incandescent bulbs at comparable light levels. Over its lifetime, each CFL will save users \$40 to \$70 in electric savings and release 1/3 to 1/2 fewer tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere.



Communities across Vermont have had tremendous success in organizing CFL “change-a-light” campaigns. In Manchester, concerned citizens, business leaders, the town, legislators, and area school teachers and students undertook an aggressive campaign to help save energy. The goal of the campaign, which became known as the “Manchester Challenge,” was to replace 40,000 incandescent light bulbs with more energy-efficient CFLs.

Organizers exceeded their goal, changing out 45,000 light bulbs and saving the community approximately \$2 million in energy use over the life of the bulbs. A number of Manchester residents replacing all the bulbs in their home reported a 20 percent reduction in electric bill-over \$300-\$400 in energy savings annually. Project organizers give large credit for the success of this effort to the diversity of local leadership who championed it. For more information on organizing CFL sales, contact SERG at 802-785-4126 or email SERG@valley.net or call Efficiency Vermont’s Bob Murphy at 888-921-5990 x1018 or [bmurphy@veic.org](mailto:bmurphy@veic.org).



## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is the fastest growing greenhouse gas emissions sector, representing almost half of the total greenhouse gas emissions generated in 2000 statewide. There are many forces at work, including Vermonters' heavy reliance on the single occupant vehicle to travel. To address this challenge, there are several aspects to consider, including legislative/regulatory; infrastructure; alternative fuels; clean vehicles, transportation systems management; policy changes and public awareness. Reversing the disturbing growth rate in vehicle miles travelled, and the trend of solo driving, will require vigilance and creative approaches.

An important solution to address this problem is to guide future development to downtowns and town centers where a mix of uses allows residents to live, work, shop and play in their community. This will help reduce the use of the single-occupant vehicle and length of vehicle trips. Advocating for dense downtown centers that include a mix of commercial, retail, office, and residential space is a great goal. Vehicle miles travelled and trip length can be substantially improved with a diverse transportation system that includes a mix of commuting choices, including public transportation and ridesharing.



Energy committees might begin to assess and characterize the transportation sector (e.g., length of vehicle trips, journey to work, number of vehicle registrations and opportunities for alternative commuter choices) to help determine a benchmark and emissions reduction target moving forward. On average, for every mile driven, one pound of carbon dioxide is produced. Vermonters drive an average 17,000 miles per year.

Below are several ideas and approaches to help motivate individual behaviour change to slow the rate of growth in transportation emissions. Additional actions by category are listed at the end of this document.



## COMMUTER CHOICES

Promoting and expanding carpooling, ride sharing, and use of public transportation is an important way to help save energy. Vermont Rideshare has three brokers covering the state.

- Advance Transit covering Windsor, Orange and Windham counties;
- Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) covering Franklin, Lamoille, Chittenden, Washington and Addison counties; and
- Rural Community Transportation (RCT) covering Orleans, Essex, Caledonia, Rutland and Bennington counties.

You can reach any one of them through 800-685-RIDE (7433) or go to the Vermont Rideshare website [www.vermontrideshare.org](http://www.vermontrideshare.org). These brokers will help you work with your communities, employers and committees to provide information on carpool, vanpool and other alternative transportation services and benefits.

For more information about and links to Vermont's 13 public transportation systems and schedules, go to [www.aot.state.vt.us/links.htm](http://www.aot.state.vt.us/links.htm).

Use of park and ride lots should be promoted and committees can help with this. If you don't have a park and ride lot in your community, you might consider identifying an existing lot for temporary use or finding out if one is planned by contacting Vermont's park and ride website for more information at [www.aot.vt.state.us/parknride/](http://www.aot.vt.state.us/parknride/). With specific questions, contact Wayne Davis at 802-828-5609.

Encourage businesses to become an Environmental Protection Agency "Best Workplace for Commuters." This is a voluntary EPA program encouraging employers to establish policies and provide incentives to commute other than single-person vehicles. Visit [www.bwc.gov](http://www.bwc.gov) for more information about becoming a "Best Workplace for Commuters." Contact Susan Berry 802-295-1824 x14 or [sberry@uppervalleyrideshare.com](mailto:sberry@uppervalleyrideshare.com)



### **WAY TO GO! COMMUTER CHALLENGE PROGRAM**



Way to Go! Commuter Challenge encourages the use of less expensive, healthier, and more earth-friendly alternatives to driving solo. The program includes a one-week promotion in May to give individuals and employers incentives to try new ways – bike, walk, bus, telecommute, or carpool to work, school, or play. Make it fun to practice alternative commuting choices all year round. Find out more from [www.waytogo.vt.gov](http://www.waytogo.vt.gov) or contact [pkeating@ccmpo.org](mailto:pkeating@ccmpo.org). For ideas on business outreach and exploring ideas on how to motivate employees in the workplace, contact [dsachs@10percentchallenge.org](mailto:dsachs@10percentchallenge.org)



### **BIKE/WALK TO WORK DAY**

This national event occurs on the 3rd Friday of May each year. The goal is to encourage healthier commutes for employees. Ideally a town recreation department or a large employer will take the lead on this event and offer participants a free casual breakfast or lunch, record commuter miles and a chance to win donated items from local business sponsors. Some employers join a summer-long friendly competition to see whose employees can bike/walk the most miles or days. For more information, go to [www.bike2work-day.com](http://www.bike2work-day.com) or [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org) or contact the local Vermont Rideshare brokers to learn if they can work with you on this event. For Chittenden County, contact [www.localmotion.org](http://www.localmotion.org) for additional project ideas.



## CLEAN FUELS PROGRAM

Town and school vehicles can use alternative fuels to reduce pollution, cut oil use, and save energy. The Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program provides useful information to assist communities in building the case for and advancing a strategy to move your community to cleaner, greener fuels and vehicles. Learn more at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/>. Vermont Clean Cities program is managed at the University of Vermont, Transportation Center. Visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/~transctr/> for more information.

For local experiences with clean fuels contact: Ames Byrd, Norwich Energy Committee, at 802-649-3905 or [Ames.Byrd@valley.net](mailto:Ames.Byrd@valley.net).



## VERMONT BIODIESEL PROJECT

Vermont Biodiesel Project has two main goals: to build demand and increase supply of biodiesel in Vermont. Several pilot projects are underway with consumption heading toward one million gallons in 2006. Contact [netaka@vermontbiofuels.org](mailto:netaka@vermontbiofuels.org) or 802-388-1328 for more information.



## No-IDLING CAMPAIGN

Vermont's asthma rates are the highest in New England. Much of Vermont's deteriorating air quality is associated with tailpipe emissions. Reducing vehicular idling cuts polluting greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and maintenance costs. Vermont schools, public transportation, businesses and general public education are great places to start. Employers can encourage no-idling by adopting a policy to reduce fleet and vendor transportation idling. Get free no-idling information and outreach materials from the Alliance for Climate Action at [www.10percentchallenge.org](http://www.10percentchallenge.org) or from Idle-Free VT at [www.idle-freevt.com](http://www.idle-freevt.com).



For outreach and engagement in Vermont schools, consider joining the "Breathe Better Vermont" campaign. For technical assistance about bus idling and idle-reduction technologies for school buses contact David Love at the Agency of Natural Resources, [david.love@state.vt.us](mailto:david.love@state.vt.us).



## MISCELLANEOUS ENERGY-SAVING STRATEGIES



### SMART TOWN STREET LIGHTING: REDUCING COSTS, SAVING ENERGY, PROTECTING DARK SKIES

Street lighting is one of a town's more expensive utility bills. Most cities and towns currently use old, inefficient light fixtures with drop-down lens fixtures that spill and waste light to the sides and upward to the sky. Through a community-wide streetlight initiative, towns can save money, reduce energy use, and cut down on night time light pollution. For more information contact SERG.

Smart street lighting strategies towns might consider include:

- Removing unneeded lights
- Avoiding street lighting in low-density and rural areas
- Lighting for the task (pedestrian walkways and intersections)
- Upgrading to more efficient lamps and fixtures
- Installing full cut-off fixtures, with lenses that do not extend below the fixture thereby preventing light spillage to the sides
- Placing lights in low-traffic areas on timers to shut off during the middle of the night
- Considering purchasing municipally owned fixtures, rather than leasing them from the local electric utility. This will expand the town's options for lights, fixtures, and controls and could result in financial savings to the town
- Encouraging adoption of zoning bylaw amendments that achieve shared goals for energy conservation, efficiency, and protection of the night sky



### **Mow Down Pollution – Lawn Mower Exchange Program**

Country Home Products, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and the Alliance for Climate Action have teamed up to help households make one greener choice – by exchanging their old gas mower for a cordless electric one at a significant discount. To qualify for the reduced rate, households must pledge to participate in the 10% Challenge and estimate their emissions using the online emissions calculator. For more information visit [www.10percentchallenge.org](http://www.10percentchallenge.org) and for specific details on the Neuton Cordless Electric mower visit: [http://www.drpower.com/CSTM\\_Neuton\\_Home.aspx](http://www.drpower.com/CSTM_Neuton_Home.aspx).



### **Community Energy Group and Bulk Buying**

Form a community energy group to get reduced rates through bulk buying on conservation, efficiency, and renewable products and services. For more information contact [SERG@valley.net](mailto:SERG@valley.net) or Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN) at 802-388-0134 or [gpahl@sover.net](mailto:gpahl@sover.net).



### **Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment**

Government can and should lead by example. With online greenhouse gas emissions calculators and technical expertise, households and businesses can estimate their baseline greenhouse gas emissions. By understanding current emissions, actions to reduce them can be prioritized by sector: transportation, energy efficiency, and solid waste. Work with your municipality to decrease its emissions. This can lead to cost

savings and help make your community more sustainable. Find out how you and your municipality can calculate emissions at [www.10percentchallenge.org](http://www.10percentchallenge.org).

In addition, municipalities can join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives “Cities for Climate Protection” campaign. For more information visit [www.iclei.org/usa](http://www.iclei.org/usa). You can also quantify municipal-wide emissions by utilizing ICLEI’s quantification software. Their easy-to-use emissions management tool provides municipalities a way to create emissions inventories, thereby providing the information necessary to identify the best potential strategies to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions. Find the software at <http://www.cacpsoftware.org/>.



### RECYCLING, COMPOSTING, AND REUSE PROGRAMS

Waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs conserve energy and water and reduce pollution caused by methane created from decomposing trash. For more information contact the Alliance for Climate Action or your Regional Solid Waste District.

Visit [www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/swmdlist.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/swmdlist.htm) for more ideas on state sponsored waste diversion, recycling or composting by sector including business, household and construction. Visit [www.10percentchallenge.org](http://www.10percentchallenge.org) to estimate emissions from increased recycling rates.

Refer to the following section for more information on waste, disposal, and recycling programs including school, classroom and youth programs.



### 'RELOCALIZING' COMMUNITY ECONOMIES AND RESOURCES

In response to the increasing economic, environmental and social costs of our over-reliance on cheap oil, more and more communities are working to build strong networks of locally grown energy, food, goods and services.

In Addison County, citizens are organizing to support a strong local food economy and are particularly focused on helping to develop a small-scale biofuels cooperative.

For more information about the Addison County Relocalization Network's efforts contact Greg Pahl at 802-388-0134 or [gpaahl@sover.net](mailto:gpaahl@sover.net).

Also, find out about the growing ‘localvore’ movement people are joining as a way to reduce the high energy, transportation, and environmental costs associated with getting food from the farm to the table. Contact Robin McDermott at 802-496-3567 or [info@vermontlocalvore.org](mailto:info@vermontlocalvore.org).



## EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS



### BUSINESS OUTREACH PROGRAM/GREEN TEAM FORMATION

More than 125 Vermont businesses have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by joining the 10% Challenge program. Businesses can benefit from measuring and tracking their greenhouse gas emissions online. The Alliance for Climate Action's outreach program offers an online emissions calculator to obtain a baseline estimate and

encourages businesses to choose action strategies that will make a difference to the environment, their image, and their bottom line. Large employers might establish a "Green Team" to help build a culture and institutionalize sustainability for the long term.



The "Carbon Lite Lunch" is a new initiative of the Vermont Earth Institute, in partnership with the Chittenden Solid Waste District and the Alliance for Climate Action. This program is designed to make it easy for employees to learn about ways to save energy and reduce waste in the workplace. Find out more about how your workplace can lighten its carbon footprint by contacting the Alliance for Climate Action. To schedule a Carbon Lite Lunch in your workplace contact [www.vei@valley.net](mailto:www.vei@valley.net). For more information visit [www.10percentchallenge.org](http://www.10percentchallenge.org).

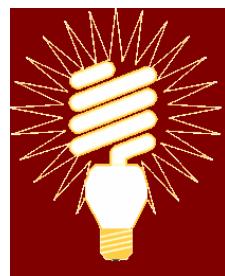


### COMMUNITY ENERGY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Raising broad public awareness will help create momentum and spur action to tackle energy issues and climate change. Three education outreach ideas are listed below. For further suggestions, information and resources refer to the Resource List.

Help spread the word by:

- Establishing an energy resource section in your community library including information and resources on the following:
  - Energy-saving tips
  - Residential and business emissions calculators
  - Wattmeter to measure appliance efficiency
  - Books and DVDs
  - Resource lists of service contractors and organizational websites
- Organizing viewings and discussions of DVDs about climate change, peak oil, and energy conservation. Contact VNRC for suggestions on and access to DVDs on climate change, energy, community development etc. Call 802-223-2328 or email [info@vnrc.org](mailto:info@vnrc.org).
- Staffing information tables with literature and selling CFLs at town fairs, town meetings, and other public gatherings.





## SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Weaving energy and climate change into local curriculum is a powerful and important way to get young people involved. Connect to local educators and school administrators to discuss opportunities to share information or collaborate with students on projects. For assistance and great resources contact:

- Vermont Energy Education Program-free in-school energy education curriculum and hands-on learning tools. For more information visit [www.veep.org](http://www.veep.org) or contact Fran Barhydt at [veep@kingcon.net](mailto:veep@kingcon.net) or 802-626-8346 or Andy Shapiro at 802-229-5676 or [andy@energybalance.us](mailto:andy@energybalance.us).
- Association of Vermont Recyclers—recycling, composting, and toxics programs statewide. For more information, Email: [education@vtrecyclers.org](mailto:education@vtrecyclers.org) or visit [www.vtrecyclers.org](http://www.vtrecyclers.org).
- Vermont Food Education Every Day—local food, school gardens etc. Email [info@nofavt.org](mailto:info@nofavt.org) or visit [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org) to learn more.



## MARKETING AND ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Public awareness of and support for making behaviour changes to save energy and reduce waste is essential to any long-term strategy to move away from greenhouse gas-producing, costly fossil fuels. Help your community better understand why and how each of us can make small but important changes.

Through a community energy committee, undertake a public education campaign. Reach out and engage the public in discussions to help raise awareness and obtain buy-in for the best local solutions. Involve residents, local businesses and other key community stakeholders for their support, participation, and feedback.

The 10% Challenge works with communities and service providers to develop advertising campaigns, including provocative and clever tips to save energy and reduce waste. Contact [info@10percentchallenge.org](mailto:info@10percentchallenge.org) for copies of the print advertisements that might be used to promote energy savings and waste reduction in weekly newspapers.

*Smart Power*, a national non-profit organization, provides clean energy advocates with marketing ideas and strategies to help build broad public support for clean energy. Find out about the resources *SmartPower* provides at [www.smartpower.org](http://www.smartpower.org).

For a comprehensive list of communication strategies for implementing energy and climate action plans visit <http://www.burlingtonelectric.com/SpecialTopics/Reportmain> and refer to Appendix F.

# VERMONT COMMITTEES, PROJECTS, AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Numerous Vermont communities are actively organizing around energy issues at the local level. Below are brief summaries of selected communities, their activities, and who to contact for more information. Continuing updates for these and new committees are posted at [www.SERG-info.org](http://www.SERG-info.org).

**Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN):** This countywide initiative is supporting a small-scale hydroelectric proposal (1MW) in Middlebury and is also actively moving forward on the formation of a Renewable Energy Cooperative for Addison County. A small-scale biofuels cooperative will be the first phase of that larger cooperative initiative. Contact Greg Pahl at 802-388-0134 or email [gpahl@sover.net](mailto:gpahl@sover.net).

**Bennington:** The committee runs a monthly energy column in the local daily newspaper, the *Bennington Banner*, and continues to work with the cable access channel producer on energy shows. The committee got the Select Board to support SERG, Thetford, and Woodstock in their petition to the Public Service Board regarding streetlights. They are looking at and comparing energy usage of town-owned facilities. And they are planning another public screening of the powerful end-of-cheap-oil documentary, *The End of Suburbia*. Contact Scott Printz at 802-442-2898 or [sprintz@benningtonenergy.org](mailto:sprintz@benningtonenergy.org) or visit [www.benningtonenergy.org](http://www.benningtonenergy.org).

**Brattleboro:** The local energy group, Brattleboro Climate Protection, signed up more than 20 local businesses to take the 10% Challenge to reduce energy use by at least 10 percent. They successfully advocated for a switch to biodiesel to power the town's municipal fleet and are sponsoring a no-idling campaign in a local elementary school. They initiated a feasibility study for a biomass district heating system for downtown and organized a showing of *The Great Warming* in a local church. For more information, contact Paul Cameron at 802-251-8135 or [pcameron@brattleboro.org](mailto:pcameron@brattleboro.org).

**Burlington:** Burlington founded the 10% Challenge program - a multi-layered marketing program encouraging households, businesses, institutions, and the city to take voluntary actions to save energy, reduce waste, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10 percent by 2010. Any household or employer can estimate emissions using the Alliance for Climate Action's online emissions calculators and take actions by utilizing resources and participating in special programs. Emissions reduction actions are encouraged in three sectors: energy efficiency, solid waste, and transportation. Current projects underway are a city-wide no-idling project, forums on Burlington's energy future, tabling events, business outreach, a city-wide transportation planning initiative; Legacy Town Meeting; Spring Into Action, an Earth month of events through mid-May and a Energy and Environment Security Task Force appointed by Mayor Kiss. Contact Debra Sachs at 802-865-7330 or email [dsachs@10percentchallenge.org](mailto:dsachs@10percentchallenge.org) or Betsy Rosenbluth at [brosenbluth@ci.burlington.vt.us](mailto:brosenbluth@ci.burlington.vt.us)

**Charlotte:** Inventory/energy assessment of all community buildings, regular meetings hosted by Sustainable Living Network, Charlotte Energy Task Force, and Charlotte Conservation Commission. VECAN participated in meetings and provided guidance and

technical assistance by phone. July Town Fair—featured materials linking energy efficiency and climate change. Local projects: Light bulb promotion and collaboration with local hardware stores. Charlotte School is in the process of developing a plan to improve energy efficiency with the help of town resident and engineering expert Jennifer Chiodo. The Charlotte Town Hall will be the focus of the Charlotte Energy Task Force. For more information, contact Ed Stone, Select Board and Task Force Chair, 802-425-3277 or email [stones138@gmavt.net](mailto:stones138@gmavt.net).

**Greensboro:** Greensboro is in the process of getting permits to use the Greensboro Brook to generate 66 kW of electricity (enough to power about 50 homes). The brook once powered a gristmill and a sawmill that served the community. The generating plant is modelled after a 55 kW plant designed by the same engineer that was installed in Wolcott, Vermont in 1985 and has been providing the local utility, the Hardwick Electrical Department, local, renewably generated electricity ever since. Greensboro is excited about realizing ways to generate jobs from making electricity from local water resources in ways that won't harm water quality and wildlife. Contact Anne Stevens at 802-533-2941 or [astevens@sover.net](mailto:astevens@sover.net).

**Hardwick:** The Hardwick Energy Action Resource Team (HEART) formed in 2006, is working with Efficiency Vermont on a challenge to reduce overall community electric use by three percent and 35 percent of town residents and businesses involved. HEART is coordinating an educational campaign in schools, using public media, development of a web site, logo and tabling at Farmers' Market and special events. They are planning a compact fluorescent bulb campaign, refrigerator challenge, and conducting audits of buildings. Contact: Pam Trieb, 888-921-5990 x1133, or [ptribe@veic.org](mailto:ptribe@veic.org).

**Hinesburg:** Formed the Hinesburg Sustainability and Energy Planning Committee with several community volunteers and town staff involved. Several priorities were identified and subcommittees formed. Hinesburg Light Switch will be launched on May 5, 2007. Other projects include coordination and promotion of transportation alternatives, baseline emissions inventory of municipal buildings, schools and waste water facility. Future project initiatives include an update of the municipal plan with energy language, implementation of the 10% Challenge program, transportation projects to help make the village more pedestrian friendly, use of biodiesel, and helping to promote the Way to Go! Commuter Challenge. For more information contact committee co-chairs, Dawn and Kevin Francis at [francis@gmavt.net](mailto:francis@gmavt.net) or John McConnell at 802-482-5295 or [john@narwhaldesign.com](mailto:john@narwhaldesign.com).

**Londonderry:** Efficiency Vermont did a walkthrough review of the town hall, office, and garage. Recommending full audits - reports are pending. The committee is planning next steps. Contact: Lara Berkowski, 802-824-6517, [lara8@earthlink.net](mailto:lara8@earthlink.net) or Phoebe Mills, [phoebemills@yahoo.com](mailto:phoebemills@yahoo.com).

**Middlebury:** Middlebury Global Warming Action Coalition recently submitted a 10-year plan for substantially reducing town fossil fuel consumption to the Select Board. The coalition is looking to hire a part-time coordinator to help implement the plan. Most recently, the coalition, working closely with Interfaith Power & Light and other local leaders, screened the global warming film *An Inconvenient Truth* in six locations. Over 500 people attended. Contact Connie Bisson at [cooltownmiddlebury@comcast.net](mailto:cooltownmiddlebury@comcast.net) Reverend Paul Bortz at 802-388-2812 or [pbortz@gmavt.net](mailto:pbortz@gmavt.net).

**Montpelier:** Montpelier Energy and Climate Action Committee formed in March 2005. More than 45 citizens signed up expressing interest in energy work. A light bulb promotion was launched in connection with Town Meeting and in collaboration with Efficiency Vermont and a local hardware store. March 2007 Town Meeting Forum involved more than 150 residents, brainstorming ideas, formation of several subcommittees and advancement of projects including Way to Go! Montpelier a month long event promoting use of transportation alternatives. The group continues to meet and is collaborating with city officials to identify energy-saving strategies. Contact Cheryl King Fischer at 802-223-4622 or [fischer@grassrootsfund.org](mailto:fischer@grassrootsfund.org) for more information.

**Northfield:** Northfield citizens are working with representatives from Efficiency Vermont with a goal of reducing the town's overall electric use by 3 percent or more. Some of the programs being considered include: energy audits of homes, businesses, and churches, electric hot water replacement, compact fluorescent bulb promotion, energy education in the schools, low-interest efficiency loans, and bulk sales of efficient appliances. Contact: Bob Murphy, 888-921-5990 Ext. 1018 or [bmurphy@veic.org](mailto:bmurphy@veic.org).

**Norwich:** The town voted in November 2006 to install a new wood chip boiler at the Marion Cross School. The committee now intends to see if it might be feasible to supply heat to the Town Hall and two adjacent churches. A solar panel/ lighting upgrade for the school was approved in March 2006 and put out to bid. The school board has approved the use of B20 biodiesel in the school buses as long as the cost is no greater than \$.10 more per gallon. The committee is coordinating with other towns and school systems in the region to implement biodiesel and looking into the possibility of cleaning up school bus emissions with add-on devices that reduce soot. Contact: Alan Berolzheimer, chair, at 802-649-2857, [bercress@sover.net](mailto:bercress@sover.net) or Ames Byrd, 802-649-1269, [ames.byrd@valley.net](mailto:ames.byrd@valley.net).

**Putney:** Putney formed a committee in July 2006 and is planning the following projects: Energy audits of town buildings; supporting mixed-use and energy-efficient housing development at Basketville Village, and envisioning a nearby Energy Park; a welcome letter for new residents, detailing energy and conservation options for new dwellings and resources for existing structures; micro hydro feasibility study for Sackets Brook; purchase and replacement of street lighting with energy-efficient lights and motion sensors; promoting energy efficiency to Putney businesses. The committee is currently engaged in a compact fluorescent bulb sale with a goal of selling 1000 CFLs. Contact: Daniel Hoviss at 802-387-4141 or [daniel@dosolutions.com](mailto:daniel@dosolutions.com).

**Richmond:** Richmond conducted a green community technology assessment with assistance from Yellow Wood Associates and implemented energy efficiency improvements in their Town Hall. Richmond is advancing "Safe Routes to Schools" project, a program to help encourage use of transportation alternatives for students, including walking and biking. The Planning Commission is interested in establishing rational energy goals and objectives. Community volunteers continue to look for ways to implement the 10% Challenge. Contacts: Town Manager Ron Rodjenki at 434-5170 or Town Energy Coordinator, Jeff Forward, at 434-3470 or [forward@gmavt.net](mailto:forward@gmavt.net). Contact Virginia Clark for information on the "Safe Routes to Schools" project at [vclarke@gmavt.net](mailto:vclarke@gmavt.net).

**Ripton:** Formed subcommittees to work on various efficiency and renewable projects. They are working with Efficiency Vermont to do a review of town buildings and are

currently awaiting building reports. Contact Warren King at 802-388-4082 or [kinglet@together.net](mailto:kinglet@together.net).

**Sharon:** The Sharon Energy committee arranged a free energy audit for the Sharon Elementary School last summer. The school drew up a budget for improvements that were recommended and an energy audit for the remaining town buildings is in the works. The committee cosponsored a poster contest with the elementary school for Green Up Day and second place went to an energy-efficient transportation poster. They sponsored a town forum in June for Sharon Academy seniors to present their proposal for energy in Vermont; developed a resource file on energy and participated in Sharon's Old Home Day parade under the banner "Imagine a World Without Petroleum" with cars run on vegetable oil, a battery run lawnmower, hand pumped flashlights, and farm animals followed by a methane-producing cart. SERG, VEEP, Efficiency VT and Global Resource Options participated in an Energy Display following the parade. The Committee is working on a list of books on energy for the town library. Plans include: energy education programs for the town, encouraging a biodiesel pump at the local gas station. Contact: Nina Swaim at 802-763-2208 or [Nina.Swaim@valley.net](mailto:Nina.Swaim@valley.net).

**Thetford:** The Thetford Energy Committee is pursuing a docket before the Vermont Public Service Board requesting town ownership of streetlights which will save the town money and allow Thetford to install photocell timers and more efficient streetlights which CVPS's tariff currently does not allow. They got the Select Board to agree to test biodiesel in town vehicles and equipment. They are preparing a letter for residents, detailing energy and conservation options and resources. The committee is working with SERG to organize a weatherization workshop to take place this winter and to review the energy chapter for a new town master plan. The committee is also proposing a by-law provision requiring compliance with the state energy building code before occupancy can take place. Contact: Bob Walker at 802-785-4126 or [bobwalker@valley.net](mailto:bobwalker@valley.net).

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

While most of the energy initiatives you undertake are cost-effective, resulting in a profitable return on investment, selected projects and initiatives may require modest start-up funds to implement and sustain. Securing funds and resources needed to undertake projects may make your Select Board more receptive to suggested energy-saving campaigns, methods, and policies.

There are a wide variety of potential funding sources available to support local efforts. Some are summarized below in three general support areas: government, foundation and other. Committee representatives are encouraged to explore the listed contacts for additional ideas of possible funding sources.

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

**Your local municipal budget** – Municipalities have some money to direct toward important community initiatives. Put together a proposal and work with your Select Board to garner local funding support. Demonstrating cost and energy savings to the town will help you “sell” these budget requests to townspeople and officials. Requests for specific project and general committee support from the municipality should be made in late fall for an early spring budget process. Most municipal budgets are passed at March Town Meeting (on the first Tuesday in March) for the new fiscal year which begins the following July.

**Regional Planning Commissions** – Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) provide resources and technical assistance on a variety of planning and sustainability topics. Local committees should make their RPC aware of planning and project activities and in selected cases ask for assistance in gathering energy information of a regional nature. In addition, RPCs might help find additional resources to advance projects and initiatives that meet shared regional goals. Visit [www.vapda.org](http://www.vapda.org) to find the RPC for your community.

**Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization - Transportation for Liveable Communities** – The CCMPO funds planning for transportation projects in Chittenden County that support development or redevelopment activities that are arrived at through a collaborative, inclusive planning process and enhance a community's identity and overall quality of life. Contact Peter Keating at 802-660-4071-x232, [pkeating@ccmpo.org](mailto:pkeating@ccmpo.org), [www.ccmpo.org/BikePed/livablecomm.html](http://www.ccmpo.org/BikePed/livablecomm.html).

**Department of Housing and Community Affairs** – Provides financial and technical assistance to municipalities to identify and address local needs and priorities in the areas of housing, economic development, public facilities, and public services for persons of lower income. One of their main goals is to promote efficient new buildings. Reach them at 802-828-3211, 800-622-4553, or <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Admin/Grants.htm>.

**Renewable Energy Resource Center: Solar and Small Wind Incentives Program** – RERC's incentives program helps accelerate and increase market demand for high-quality solar and small wind systems. For more information visit <http://www.rerc-vt.org/incentives/index.htm>.

**Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund** – In 2005, the Vermont General Assembly established the VEDF to promote the development and deployment of cost-effective and environmentally sustainable electric power resources - primarily with respect to renewable energy resources and the use of combined heat and power technologies - for the long-term benefit of Vermont electric customers. Funds will soon be available to support such initiatives as Audits and Renovations of Town Buildings and Homes, Promoting Efficient New Buildings, Compact Fluorescent Bulb Sales, or Smart Town Street Lighting. Contact Kelly Launder, Energy Program Specialist at [Kelly.launder@state.vt.us](mailto:Kelly.launder@state.vt.us) or call 802-828-4039. Visit <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/> for more information.

**Vermont Agency of Transportation: Safe Routes to Schools** – Grants totalling \$1 million annually for the next five years will be awarded to selected schools by the AOT. Money will be available for education and encouragement programs, as well as to help fund infrastructure improvements including building sidewalks and paths and improvements to road crossings. Contact Jon Kaplan at 802-828-0059, by email [jon.kaplan@state.vt.us](mailto:jon.kaplan@state.vt.us) or go to “Programs” under <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/site.htm> for more information.

## FOUNDATION SUPPORT

**Ben & Jerry’s Foundation** – The B&J Foundation offers competitive grants to non-profit, grassroots organizations that facilitate progressive social change by addressing the underlying conditions of societal and environmental problems and lead to new ways of thinking and acting. B&J grants may be used for a program like the *Way to Go! Commuter Challenge*. Call 802-846-1500 or visit [www.benjerry.com/foundation/](http://www.benjerry.com/foundation/) for more information.

Ben & Jerry’s also has a program called “Community Action Team” support. CAT support is less than \$1,000 of funding and is decided by Ben & Jerry’s employees who live in the area of interest. This pool of funding offers great starter funds to launch local energy projects. Visit <http://www.benjerry.com/foundation> for more information.

**Environmental Support Center** – Offers small grants to local, state, and regional efforts in the Northeast to promote the quality of the natural environment, human health, and community sustainability. For more information, visit [www.envsc.org](http://www.envsc.org) or call 202-331-9700.

**New England Grassroots Environment Fund** – NEGEF offers a small grants program designed to foster and give voice to grassroots environmental initiatives. They provide grants of up to \$2,500 to fuel civic engagement, local activism, and social change for community-directed projects. NEGEF grants may be put toward a Community Energy Group or Commuter Choices. For more information, call 802-223-4622, email [fischer@grassrootsfund.org](mailto:fischer@grassrootsfund.org), or visit [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org).

**New Hampshire Charitable Foundation** – The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation is a non-profit public charity that funds community efforts along the east central border of Vermont and Northern New Hampshire. For Vermont communities in the southeast of the state seeking support for local energy projects, look into NHCF's community-based giving in the Upper Valley region. Find out more about the NHCF's Upper Valley Region giving here: <http://www.nhcf.org/page17081.cfm>.

**Patagonia** - Patagonia funds environmental work and offers grants to organizations that work on the root causes of problems, approach issues with a commitment to long-term change, and build a strong base of citizen support. For more information visit [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com).

**Vermont Community Foundation** – A statewide, non-sectarian public charity that builds and manages charitable funds. Check out VCF's web site for more information on their competitive grant rounds that could support town energy committee work. Call 802-388-3355, email [info@vermontcf.org](mailto:info@vermontcf.org), or visit [www.vermontcf.org](http://www.vermontcf.org) for more information.

## OTHER POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

**Efficiency and renewable energy businesses in Vermont** offer great potential in-kind support opportunities. Creative partnerships with businesses that provide consulting, technical support, renewable energy system installation, and other services could help bring a local project to fruition. Search for renewable energy businesses and experts at Renewable Energy Vermont's web site: [http://www.revermont.org/search\\_result.php](http://www.revermont.org/search_result.php).

**Local businesses** in your community, including banks, grocery stores, and bookstores often provide funding for local initiatives. Contact businesses in your community and ask about their giving.

# RESOURCES

**Alliance for Climate Action/10% Challenge** – Community energy organizing and programs including motivating behaviour change, raising public awareness, and celebrating community progress to achieve target goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, 802-865-7375, [www.10percentchallenge.org](http://www.10percentchallenge.org).

**American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy** – *Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings* (including listings of most efficient products), *Green Book: The Environmental Guide To Cars and Trucks* (yearly), *Guide to Energy-Efficient Office Equipment*, 202-429-0063, <http://aceee.org>.

**Apollo Alliance**—Vermont – A coalition of labor, business, community and environmental groups dedicated to increasing Vermont's energy independence by advocating for clean energy policies in the state legislature. Learn more at [http://www.apolloalliance.org/state\\_and\\_local/Vermont/index.cfm](http://www.apolloalliance.org/state_and_local/Vermont/index.cfm)

**American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)** – Provides training for staff in proper maintenance and operation of mechanical systems. Jay Pilliod, president of the Champlain Valley Chapter, [jpilliod@veic.org](mailto:jpilliod@veic.org), [www.ashraevt.com](http://www.ashraevt.com).

**Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions**—A network of conservation commissions working in communities across Vermont to steward the state's natural resources. Visit [avccvt.org](http://avccvt.org) for more information.

**Association of Vermont Recyclers** – Provides technical assistance to communities and schools, 802-454-8400, [admin@vtrecyclers.org](mailto:admin@vtrecyclers.org).

**Building Green, Inc.**—Authoritative Information on Environmentally Responsible Building Design and Construction. Refer to *GreenSpec Directory: Product Listings & Guideline Specifications*, February 2006. Learn more at: [www.buildinggreen.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com).

**Burlington Electric Department** – Burlington's municipally owned electric utility, offering residents and businesses energy efficiency programs. For more information visit [www.burlingtonelectric.com](http://www.burlingtonelectric.com), email [bedwebmail@BurlingtonElectric.com](mailto:bedwebmail@BurlingtonElectric.com) or call 802-658-0300.

**Biomass Energy Resource Center** – Consults on biomass and cogeneration projects. Tim Maker, 802-223-7770, [tmaker@biomasscenter.org](mailto:tmaker@biomasscenter.org).

**Burlington Climate Protection Task Force** – "The Climate Action Plan," <http://www.burlingtonelectric.com/SpecialTopics/Reportmain.htm> or Debra Sachs, 802-865-7330.

**Citizen Works** – This nonprofit works to strengthen citizen participation in community decision making and has one of the most complete grassroots organizing guides available

on the Internet - *Introduction to Organizing*. Read more about how to structure, build, and sustain a group: <http://www.citizenworks.org/tools/town/tools-town.php>.

**Clean Air-Cool Planet** - Assists municipalities, universities and businesses with greenhouse gas assessments and action. Visit: [www.cleanair-coolplanet.org](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org) for more information.

**Compost Center**—From backyard composting to understanding Vermont's laws, the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation helps inform, provide technical assistance and network to promote composting and source separated organic waste. Visit: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/compost/main2.htm>. For school composting programs, contact: Association of Vermont Recyclers at [www.vtrecyclers.org](http://www.vtrecyclers.org).

**"EarthRight's Guide to Town Energy Planning in Vermont with Model Town Energy Plan"** by Bob Walker, Chris Mason and Alan Aaron. Developed by EarthRight Institute. 1992. For copies of this guide contact: VT Department of Public Service at 802-828-2811.

**Efficiency Vermont** – Financial and technical assistance for energy savings for Vermont residents, businesses, and towns, efficient lighting and appliance rebates, EnergySmart home energy analysis CD, list of home energy auditors and weatherization contractors, municipal services, commercial efficiency standards, energy efficiency improvements to school facilities and operations and more. In addition, explore professional development and training opportunities online. For general information, call 888-921-5990 or visit <http://efficiencyvermont.org> and ask for specific program contact.

**Empowerment Institute** –*Low-Carbon Diet, A 30-Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds* by David Gershon. The book helps determine CO<sub>2</sub> footprints, organize a campaign, and work on this issue in communities, schools, and workplaces. For more information visit: [empowermentinstitute.net](http://empowermentinstitute.net).

**Energy Federation Inc.** (EFI) – Nonprofit selling energy-efficient products and weatherization supplies, 800-876-0660, [info@efi.org](mailto:info@efi.org), [www.efi.org](http://www.efi.org).

**Energy Guide** – Information on efficiency and appliances, [www.energyguide.com](http://www.energyguide.com)

**Energy Star** – Appliance efficiency ratings, [www.energystar.gov/products/](http://www.energystar.gov/products/)

**Energy Star** –"Do It Yourself Guide To Home Energy Sealing." Free. Download from [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home\\_sealing.hm\\_improvement\\_sealing](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_sealing) or order a copy by calling 888-782-7937.

**Fairwind Vermont** — Vermont citizens groups supporting development of sensible wind power in the state. For more information contact: Rob Roy MacGregor, [windfair@sover.net](mailto:windfair@sover.net) or 802-824-3642.

**Green Community Technologies**—an inventory and assessment service to help identify and implement appropriate alternative options to infrastructure investment. Contact Shanna Ratner, Principal, Yellow Wood Associates, [shanna@yellowwood.org](mailto:shanna@yellowwood.org), 802-524-6141.

**Home Energy Assistance Teams** – Existing energy committees offer a great network of leaders who train volunteers to assess local building needs. For more information, contact SERG at 802-785-4126 or [SERG@valley.net](mailto:SERG@valley.net).

**Home Performance with Energy Star Contractors** – Provides audits and retrofit services on a fee-for-service basis throughout Vermont. For a list of certified Home Performance with Energy Star contractors, contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or [www.efficiencyvermont.com](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com).

**Idle-Free Vermont**— A non-profit, grassroots campaign to raise awareness of needless idling while collecting petition signatures to advance enactment of state law. Visit [idle-freevt.com](http://idle-freevt.com) or contact Wayne Michaud at [wmichaud@gmavt.net](mailto:wmichaud@gmavt.net).

**International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection Program** - Assists communities with a five-part program, including establishment of municipal emissions reduction targets, emissions inventory via online software and progress. To learn more, visit: [www.iclei.org/us](http://www.iclei.org/us).

**Kilawatt Partners** – Offers a seven-step procedure for institutions to reduce their energy use and bills. Call 802-985-2285 or visit [www.kilawatt.com](http://www.kilawatt.com) for more information.

**Municipal Energy Program** – This program funds a Municipal Energy Specialist (MES) who provides assistance identifying ways municipally owned buildings can reduce energy costs through conservation and efficiency. Services include facility energy evaluation, assistance identifying contractors to install efficiency upgrades and rebates and financing to pay for upgrades. MES can work with energy committees and municipal planners to prioritize projects and get them incorporated into the Town Plan. Program funded by Rebuild America until August 2007. Call Alison Hollingsworth at 1.888.921.5990 extension 1105.

**New England Grassroots Environment Fund** – A small grants program designed to foster and give voice to grassroots environmental initiatives in the Northeast. Visit [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org) or call 802-223-4622.

**Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships** – Works with press throughout Northeast. Tracks policy moves in energy efficiency. 781-860-9177, [www.neep.org](http://www.neep.org).

**Public Engagement and Grassroots Organizing Resources** - *Engaging Citizens in Vermont's Energy Future* – Prepared by the Snelling Center for Government, Burlington, Vermont, 2006. For more information, visit <http://www.snellingcenter.org/filemanager/filedownload/phpyipE7U/EnagagingCitizensinVermontsEnergyFuture.pdf>

**Renewable Energy Vermont** – Trade association for Vermont renewable energy dealers. Contact REV at 802-229-0099, [perchlik@REVermont.org](mailto:perchlik@REVermont.org), [www.REVermont.org](http://www.REVermont.org).

**Rocky Mountain Institute** – Energy consultants, researchers, and program developers. RMI offers many excellent free energy studies and resources. 970-927-3851, [www.rmi.org](http://www.rmi.org).

**School Energy Management Program** – Provides free assessments of a school's energy efficiency and life-cycle cost analysis for various renewable projects. Contact Norman Etkind, Director, at 802-229-1017, [VSASEMP@yahoo.com](mailto:VSASEMP@yahoo.com), or [www.vtvsaa.org](http://www.vtvsaa.org).

**Solid Waste** – For tips on managing solid waste disposal, recycling products and how to handle hazardous waste, contact your local solid waste district. Find out more at: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/swmdlist.htm>

**Sustainable Energy Resource Group** – Consults with communities on energy organizing, planning, and programs. Conducts energy audits. Provides discounts on efficiency and renewable products and services through its Energy Alliance. Bob Walker, 802-785-4126, [SERG@valley.net](mailto:SERG@valley.net), [www.SERG-info.org](http://www.SERG-info.org).

**USDA rural development — Community development program**—makes loans and loan guarantees for renewable and energy efficiency improvements including grants. For more information visit: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/what\\_is.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/what_is.html)

**Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies** – These regional planning entities provide technical assistance, GIS mapping, and data sources for community and regional planning and economic development. For more information, visit [www.vapda.org](http://www.vapda.org).

**Vermont Biodiesel Project** – A public/private collaboration designed to help accelerate growth of the emerging biofuels industry in Vermont. Netaka White, 802-388-1328, [netaka@vermontbiofuels.org](mailto:netaka@vermontbiofuels.org), [www.vtbiodieselproject.org](http://www.vtbiodieselproject.org).

**Vermont Green Building Network** – Promoting green building in Vermont and the benefits of high performance building design and construction. To learn more and to obtain helpful contact information visit: [www.vgbn.org](http://www.vgbn.org)

**Vermont Community Action Programs** - There are several Vermont programs that provide low-income weatherization and fuel assistance as well as fee-for-service energy audits to non-income-qualifying residents. Find out more about these programs from the following organizations (refer to Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity for more information).

**Vermont Green Purchasing Contracts** – Assists schools and municipalities in obtaining environmentally preferable products, made from non-toxic or recycled materials, at a lower cost. Judith Jamison 802-828-2211, [Judith.jamieson@state.vt.us](mailto:Judith.jamieson@state.vt.us), [www.bgs.state.vt.us/facilities/engineering.htm](http://www.bgs.state.vt.us/facilities/engineering.htm).

**Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs** – Provides information on housing, land use, brownfields initiatives, community development, historic preservation, and a downtown program for community growth and infrastructure development. For more information, visit <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/>.

**Vermont Department of Public Service** – Public advocate on energy issues, efficiency resources, offers free "Guide to Municipal Energy Planning." 802-828-2811

**Vermont Earth Institute** – Promotes sustainability and grassroots activism through Eco-Parties, Sustainable Living Networks, and Discussion Courses, including a four-session climate change course. Contact Barbara Duncan, [VEI@valley.net](mailto:VEI@valley.net), 802-333-3664.

**Vermont Energy Education Program** – In-school energy education curriculum and hands-on learning tools. Fran Barhydt, [veep@kingcon.net](mailto:veep@kingcon.net) 802-626-8346 or Andy Shapiro, 802-229-5676, [andy@energybalance.us](mailto:andy@energybalance.us). [www.veep.org](http://www.veep.org).

**Vermont Energy Investment Corp.** – VEIC helps communities and individuals reduce the economic, social, and environmental costs of energy consumption through the promotion of cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Contact Beth Sachs, Executive Director, [bsachs@veic.org](mailto:bsachs@veic.org), 800-639-6069, [www.veic.org](http://www.veic.org).

**Vermont Energy Star Homes** – A joint service of Efficiency Vermont and Vermont Gas offering financial and technical assistance to build energy-efficient homes. Jeff Gephart, contact, 800-893-1997, [www.vtenergystarhomes.com](http://www.vtenergystarhomes.com)

**Vermont League of Cities and Towns** – A non-profit, non-partisan membership-based organization serving communities across Vermont. VLCT offers a variety of professional development and services to municipal officials. To learn more visit: [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org)

**Vermont Gas Systems** - Supplies natural gas to customers in Chittenden and Franklin counties and offers energy efficiency programs. For more information, visit <http://www.vermontgas.com>. Call 802.863.4511 or visit [www.vermontgas.com](http://www.vermontgas.com).

**Vermont High Performance Schools Initiative** – A resource to improve the design, construction, and operations of schools. Call 802-865-7375 or visit [www.vthps.org](http://www.vthps.org).

**Vermont Interfaith Power & Light** – Promoting conservation, efficiency, and renewables in congregations and communities across Vermont. Learn more about how to undertake an energy audit in your place of worship by calling 802-434-7307 or visiting [www.vtipl.org](http://www.vtipl.org).

**Vermont Natural Resources Council** – A statewide education, research, and advocacy organization working at the local, state and national levels to promote greater investment in clean, renewable energy supplies and action to combat climate change. VNRC is a partner in the VECAN project, focusing on outreach and grassroots organizing and serves on the Governor's Climate Change Commission. Contact 802-223-2328 or visit [www.vnrc.org](http://www.vnrc.org).

**Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity** – Low-income weatherization and fuel assistance programs. For a list of eligibility guidelines and services, contact Jules Junker, 802-241-2452, [julesj@wpgate1.ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:julesj@wpgate1.ahs.state.vt.us), [www.ahs.state.vt.us/oeo/weather.htm](http://www.ahs.state.vt.us/oeo/weather.htm)  
Refer to office in your area:

- **Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council, Inc. (BROC)**  
(serving Bennington: 802-447-7515; Rutland: 802-775-0878 or 1-800-717-2762)
- **Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc. (CVCAC)**  
(serving Lamoille, Orange and Washington counties)  
802-476-2093 or 1-800-639-1053

- **Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, Inc. (CVOEO)**  
 (serving Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties)  
 802-862-2771 or 1-800-287-7971
- **Champlain Valley Weatherization Service**  
 802-660-3452-or 1-800-545-1084; Middlebury: (802-388-0373 or 1-800-639-1614  
 St. Albans: 802-524-6804 or 1-800-639-2319
- **Northeast Employment and Training Organization, Inc. (NETO)**  
 (serving Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties)  
 St. Johnsbury: 802-748-8935, Newport: 802-334-7378
- **Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA)**  
 (serving Windham and Windsor counties)  
 Westminster, VT 05158, 802-722-4575

**Vermont Peak Oil Network** – A statewide network of individuals and groups working regionally across Vermont on issues of relocalization and sustainability. Annie Dunn Watson, [www.vtpeakoil.net](http://www.vtpeakoil.net). Or email [newsletter@vtpeakoil.net](mailto:newsletter@vtpeakoil.net).

**Vermont Planning Information Center** – A clearinghouse of information for planning commissions, zoning boards, development review boards, and their staff and all others involved in land use planning and regulation in Vermont. Offers planning guidance and small education grants. Learn more at <http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MEG.htm>.

**Vermont Public Interest Research Group** – Statewide energy and consumer interest advocates. Drew Hudson, [drew@vpirg.org](mailto:drew@vpirg.org), 802-223-5221 ext. 4787.

**Vermont Rideshare** – Promoting commuter carpooling. 800-685-7433, [www.VermontRideShare.org](http://www.VermontRideShare.org).

**Vermont Sierra Club** – Works on environmental and energy issues. Denis Rydjeski, [DRR@Dartmouth.edu](mailto:DRR@Dartmouth.edu), 802-885-4826.

**Vermont Small Business Development Center Environmental Assistance Program** – Offers energy assessments free of charge for any Vermont small business. Contact Peter Crawford at 802-802-728-1423 or [www.vtsbdc.org](http://www.vtsbdc.org).

**Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center** – Information and resources for professionals and homeowners (especially low-income, elderly and people with disabilities) interested in saving energy by weatherizing their homes or businesses. For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program visit [www.waptac.org](http://www.waptac.org).

# **MODEL TOWN RESOLUTION**

## **Selectboard Resolution**

### **10% Challenge - Richmond Adopted September 2, 2003**

The Select board, in full agreement with the Richmond Planning Commission, expresses its appreciation to the 10% Challenge for its program, and requests that it provide the Town of Richmond with information on an ongoing basis.

Further, the Select board will support the efforts of the 10% Challenge to provide information concerning its voluntary programs to the residents and businesses of the Town of Richmond, and

The Select board encourages residents, business, and governmental entities within the Town of Richmond to consider the voluntary programs of the 10% challenge, and encourages residences, businesses and governmental entities to consider whether participation in these programs will be beneficial.

The Select board, again in concert with the Richmond Planning Commission, supports the consideration of further appropriate collaboration between the 10% Challenge, the Commission, the Select board, other Richmond Town Committees and Boards, and others within the Town of Richmond. The Select board accepts the 10% challenge and will work to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 10% by 2010.

# **MODEL TOWN MEETING DAY RESOLUTION**

**Whereas**, the economic, environmental and health impacts of global warming on our state's unique cultural identify, precious natural resources and diverse economy is a serious concern to Vermonters;

**Whereas**, the climate destabilization we have experienced, including devastating storms, droughts and floods is costing taxpayers millions of dollars in damages and in lost revenues from the ski industry and other weather-based recreational activities, fall foliage tourist season, and the maple sugaring industry,

**Whereas**, climate change threatens the health of our forests with increased risk of pests and disease and threatens human health with the increase of infectious diseases,

**Whereas**, Vermonters now export \$1.4 billion out of state every year to pay for fossil fuel;

**Whereas**, opportunities for job creation in energy efficiency, conservation and use of renewable energy will help Vermont's economy, would give us more control over future energy costs and will keep energy dollars in the community,

**Whereas**, the build-up of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere can be reduced if everyone conserves their use of fossil fuels including oil, gas and coal;

**Whereas**, improving land use and transportation policies, creating fuel efficient public and private transportation systems and promoting energy efficiency improvements in residential, commercial and government buildings would strengthen the economy and help protect the environment;

**Be it resolved**, on this fourth day of March, 200\_ that the \_\_\_\_\_ Town name \_\_\_\_\_ encourages every citizen and business owner to participate in the 10% Challenge program to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10 percent and ask community officials to reduce the emissions of town buildings and town fleets by at least 10 percent;

**and be further resolved**, that the residents of \_\_\_\_\_ accept responsibility and urgently call upon municipal, state and federal leaders to put Vermont in the forefront of a sustainable energy future. Specifically, we request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont's homes, businesses, public buildings and transportation systems, and encourage expansion of modern renewable energy systems in the state of Vermont.



## Sample Resolution

### Participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign

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WHEREAS, A SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS HAS DEVELOPED THAT CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>) AND OTHER GREENHOUSE GASES (GHG) RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE EARTH'S CLIMATE; AND

WHEREAS, scientific evidence including the Third Assessment Report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the U.S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) First National Assessment indicate that global warming has begun, with the 1990's the hottest decade in recorded history; and

WHEREAS, more than 160 countries pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 at the request of the Administration, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed and confirmed the concerns of the environment and public health communities and declared global warming a real problem impacting key vulnerable populations. The NAS report also confirmed that global warming is caused in part by the actions of humankind; and

WHEREAS, energy consumption, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, accounts for more than 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, local governments significantly influence the community's energy usage by exercising key powers over land use, transportation, construction, waste management, and energy supply and management; and

WHEREAS, local government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the local government, its businesses and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, sponsored by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), has invited the **City/County** of \_\_\_\_\_ to become a partner in the Campaign;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **City/County** of \_\_\_\_\_ commits to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and, as a participant, pledges to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness about the causes and impacts of climate change. The **City/County** of \_\_\_\_\_ will undertake the Cities for Climate Protection program 5 milestones to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community, specifically:

- conduct a greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of ghg emissions in the jurisdiction;
- establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target;
- develop an action plan with both existing and future actions which when implemented will meet the local greenhouse gas reduction target;
- implement the action plan; and
- monitor to review progress; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the **City/County** of \_\_\_\_\_ requests assistance from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCP) as it progresses through the milestones.

# **MODEL BYLAWS OF THE NORWICH ENERGY COMMITTEE**

## **1. Mission**

The mission of the Norwich Energy Committee is to promote energy conservation, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy resources among the town's residents, businesses, and in municipal affairs. The committee aims to assist the town in addressing the goals laid out in chapter 10 of the Norwich Town Plan, amended and readopted June 26, 2001, for Norwich "to become a model of sustainable energy practices" (10-2). These goals will be accomplished through educational activities and programs designed to encourage people to pay attention to their energy needs, consumption habits, and short- and long-term interests. The committee will make recommendations to and cooperate and communicate with town officials and commissions and groups with similar concerns, and with the appropriate agencies of the state, regional, and federal governments.

## **2. Membership**

The Norwich Energy Committee shall consist of seven members appointed by the Select Board. Each member shall be a resident of the Town. All members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed by the Town for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the course of their duties. All vacancies shall be filled by the Select Board within six months. Appointments filling vacancies shall be for the remainder of the term of appointment. Appointments shall be for two years. The Select Board may remove any member if just cause is stated in writing and after a public hearing on the matter, if that member requests one.

## **3. Officers**

The committee shall elect the following officers annually at the first meeting of the group after the scheduled appointments:

A. Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the committee and when he or she is present and shall direct the work of the committee. The chair may appoint annually chairs of any standing committees from the membership as approved by the committee. The chair shall submit a brief annual report to the Select board and, upon their adoption, to the annual Town Meeting. The chair shall ensure continuing liaison between the committee and the Select Board, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, and other town agencies.

B. Vice chairperson shall assume all duties and powers in the absence of the chairperson.

C. Clerk shall keep minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the committee and record any action taken. Clerk shall post notices of committee meetings and give notice to members when necessary.

D. Treasurer shall recommend action on all bills received by the committee. Treasurer shall ensure the authorization of payment of any bills, as approved by the committee, for submission to the Select Board for payment. Treasurer shall submit an annual financial statement to the Town. Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the Trustees of Public Funds of the Town which involve the committee.

#### **4. Meetings**

The committee meetings shall be open to the public, and be held at a regular time and place when possible. The time and place of each meeting shall be posted at the Town Hall not less than seven days in advance. All records and minutes of any committee meeting or action shall be filed with the Town Clerk and be available to the public.

Four members shall constitute a quorum. Members shall make every effort to attend all meetings and perform such duties as are assigned. Any member unable to attend a meeting shall notify an officer of the committee and make a report available for that meeting if requested.

#### **5. Operating Expenses**

The committee shall have the authority to request appropriations from the Town for its operating, education, and information expenses.

Any other funds appropriated to the committee shall be carried in a public trust fund called the Norwich Energy Committee Trust Fund. This fund shall be under the charge and management of the Trustees of Public Funds. This fund shall accrue from year to year for the use by the committee solely for the purposes set forth in Article 1 of these bylaws. The committee shall have the authority to receive gifts, grants, or money from any sources for these purposes. Any funds from private, state, or federal sources that impose any obligation on the Town shall be accepted only by consent of the Select Board.

#### **6. Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the committee by a two-thirds vote of the committee. Written notice of intent to amend must be publicly posted, sent to each member of the committee, and sent to the chair of the Select Board, at least seven days prior to the meeting at which the proposed action is to be taken.

# SELECTED LIST OF TRANSPORTATION ACTIONS

	Political/ Nexus	\$ available	Impact	Other
<b>BRAINSTORM IDEAS BY CATEGORY</b>		RANKING 1-5 (5=most likely; 1=least likely)		
<b>TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT (TDM)/ TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT</b>				
1. Carpooling Park and Ride Lots Intercept satellite lots with shuttles, expanded park/shuttle systems				
2. Van Pools or Commuter rail				
3. Expanded public transit				
4. Free fares, more free shuttles to big events				
5. Expanded public transit linking jobs and people				
6. Intelligent Transportation Systems Traffic Signal Coordination/Light Emitting Diode traffic signals				
7. Bike amenities employee sponsored bike amenities such as showers, lockers, etc. Free bike program (white bike program)				
8. Vehicle –free rebate system/cash for clunkers				
9. Shared taxi, private jitney (demand response vehicles)				
10. Employer destination based trip reduction programs				
11. Trip reduction: commuter benefits reflective of the true cost of parking				
12. Employer sponsored transit pass, transit check, (employer tax break)				
13. Employer trip reduction measures				
14. Transportation management association/initiative (w/participating businesses)				
15. Telecommuting encouraged				
16. Multi-employer carpooling programs				
17. Business sponsored free transit for customers				
18. Employee wellness initiatives, encourage people to walk/bike Sensible shoes campaign				
19. Traffic management				
<b>POLICY CHANGES</b>				
1. Taxes and fees, incentive for alternative fuels, Carbon tax Congestion pricing / toll roads				
2. Urban growth boundary Growth management initiatives, Act 200, 24 VSA 117				
3. Zoning ordinance parking maximums vs. minimums Vehicle –free zones Cheaper parking for compact vehicles Compact car parking Reduce parking downtown				
4. Utilize Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funds				
5. Pay at pump insurance				
6. Establish new funding source for transit beyond property taxes				
7. Banning student vehicles at institutions				
8. Latest station car technology for passenger rail				
9. Increase highway capacity to reduce emissions due to congestion				
10. Better sidewalk plowing				
11. No idling at schools				

	<u>Political/Nexus</u>	<u>\$ available</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Other</u>
<b>BRAINSTORM IDEAS BY CATEGORY</b>				
14. Improving the pedestrian system community-wide policy pedestrian prior.				
15. Amtrak to New York and back				
<b>LEGISLATIVE/ REGULATORY: FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL</b>				
1. Growth management initiatives				
2. Urban growth boundary				
3. Zoning ordinance related to parking maximums vs. minimums				
4. Mixed use development				
5. Performance zoning, making mixed use possible, allowing higher densities				
6. Pay at pump insurance				
7. New funding source for transit				
Tax incentive for alternative fuels				
Raise driving age to 21				
Carbon tax				
Legislative change for equal TDM credits for all modes				
Legislative changes for funding fixed-route transit providers				
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; PRODUCTS</b>				
1. Wayfinding signage system				
2. Increase highway capacity to reduce emissions due to congestion				
3. Transit/pedestrian oriented design				
Connect transportation to business development				
4. Traffic management or calming				
5. Multimodal transportation center				
6. Alternative fueling/charging stations, infrastructure				
7. Intelligent Transportation Systems				
8. Enhanced facilities for public transportation				
Increased frequencies for buses, more free shuttles				
9. Expanded bike infrastructure				
Connected bike-path system for county				
Bike amenities				
Share the road initiatives for bikes, clean shoulders				
10. Expanded pedestrian infrastructure				
Better pedestrian crossing with enforcement				
11. Enhanced street lighting and safety for walking				
12. Expanded parking/shuttle systems				
13. Compact car parking				
12. Public facilities				
13. High speed boat to Plattsburgh				
<b>CLEAN CITIES INITIATIVE</b>				
1. Alternative fuels for large fleets				
2. Alternative fueling stations				
3. Reduced petroleum consumption practices (i.e., alt. fuels, no-idling, fuel economy, fuel blends, hybrid vehicles, fleets)				

	Political/ Nexus	\$ available	Impact	Other
<b>BRAINSTORM IDEAS BY CATEGORY</b>		RANKING 1-5 (5=most likely; 1=least likely)		
<b>PRODUCTS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-R&amp;D</b>				
1. R&D/Manufacturing of alternatively fueled vehicles, zap bikes, fueling stations, station cars, fuel cells, etc. Airport industrial park expanded to encourage these				
2. Performance zoning, making mixed use possible, allowing higher densities				
3. Formation of transportation management association process to link business and economic development through Transportation Management Associations (TMA's)				
4. Connect transportation to business development				
5. Business sponsored free transit for customers				
6. Expanded public transit linking jobs and people				
7. Amtrak to New York and back				
8. Climate neutral fuel options: voluntary premium on gas to fund offsets				
9. EV Leasing / Loan Programs				
10. More free shuttles to big events				
11. Alternative fueling stations, infrastructure				
12. Intelligent Transportation Systems				
<b>PUBLIC AWARENESS</b>				
1. EV Leasing / Loan Programs				
2. Vanpools or Commuter rail				
3. Aggressive Public education campaign				
4. Employee wellness initiatives encouraging people to walk/bike				
5. Climate neutral fuel options: voluntary premium on gas to fund offsets				
6. Additional TMA's transportation management association/initiatives				
7. Technical assistance to companies that want to establish TMA's or TMI's				
8. Improved TMA or Transportation Management Initiative (TMI) process to link business and economic development through TMA/TMI's				
9. Walk to school campaign—Safe Routes to Schools				
10. No idling at schools and businesses				
11. Public facilities				
12. Share the road initiatives for bikes, clean shoulders				
13. Public education campaign to educate legislative branch				

Note: Selected ideas above may not be appropriate for rural communities and better suited for urban communities (i.e., Rutland, Montpelier, and Burlington).

These ideas were developed by the Burlington Climate Protection Task Force and are meant to serve as a starting point for other energy committees to advance emissions and energy reduction strategies in the transportation sector.