



ENERGY ACTION NETWORK

90%
RENEWABLE BY
2050

Facebook Post #1: 78% of Dollars Spent on Fossil Fuels Leaves Vermont

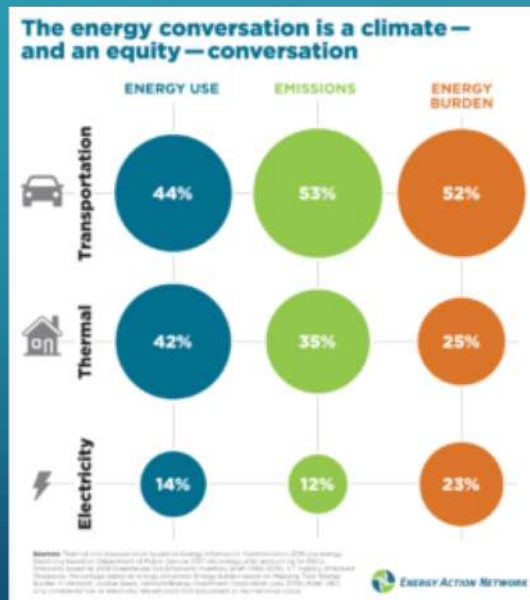


Post Text:

Vermont's economy stands to grow if we invest in renewable energy solutions. Right now, we send around 78 cents of every dollar we spend on fossil fuels out of our state economy. If we were to invest in renewable electricity for heat pumps and EVs, or local wood for advanced wood heat, we would cut that number in half! That means keeping 2-4x as much money re-circulating in the Vermont economy. Read more in EAN's 2018 Annual Progress Report.

facebook

Facebook Post #2: The Energy Conversation is a Climate – and an Equity – Conversation



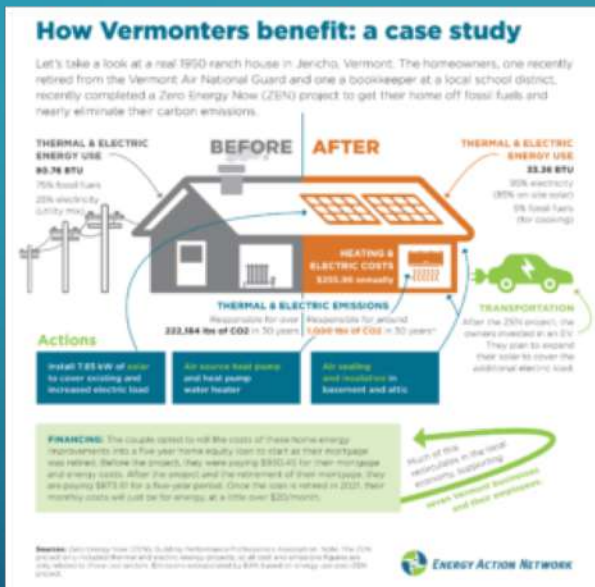
Post Text:

How do the different energy sectors contribute to Vermont's energy use, Vermont's emissions, and Vermonters' energy burden?

Some might talk about transportation, thermal, and electricity as equal parts of "total energy," but each sector is unique in Vermont when it comes to relative energy use, emissions produced, and the energy burden each creates. On all counts, transportation is the biggest challenge. Read more in EAN's 2018 Annual Progress Report.

facebook

Facebook Post #3: How Vermonters Benefit: A Case Study



Post Text:

Homeowners are investing in a renewable energy future! Check out this Jericho couple who completed a Zero Energy Now project to get their home off fossil fuels and nearly eliminate their carbon emissions. Read more in EAN's 2018 Annual Progress Report.

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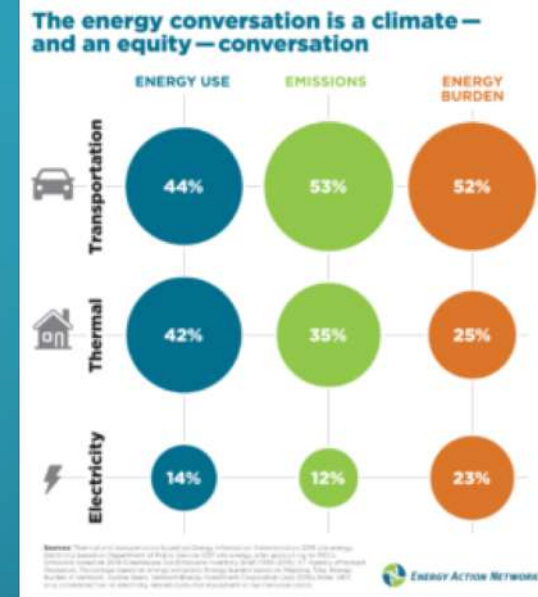
Tweet #1: Save Money, Reduce Emissions, Keeping More Dollars in Vermont

New progress report from EAN: VT can save money, reduce emissions, keep more dollars growing our state economy by meeting the Paris Agreement commitment.
#vtpoli <https://www.eanvt.org/2018-progress-report>



Tweet #2: Transportation is the biggest energy challenge for Vermont

Transportation and thermal are the biggest energy challenge for Vermont: these sectors use the most energy, emit the most GHGs, and create the most energy burden for Vermonters based on new EAN progress report. <https://www.eanvt.org/2018-annual-progress-report/the-energy-conversation-is-a-climate-and-an-equity-conversation/> #vtpoli



Tweet #3: Time to bend the curve

Time to bend the curve: to meet VT's 2025 emissions commitment, EAN models adding 90,000 electric vehicles, 90,000 heat pump systems, 25,000 advanced wood heat systems, 90,000 additional homes weatherized, doubling transit, and MORE. Learn more at <https://www.eanvt.org/2018-progress-report>. #vtpoli



Front Porch Forum Post #1: What can we do to reduce emissions in Vermont?

A new progress report from the Energy Action Network shows that we're not on track to meet our energy and emissions commitments, but that meeting them would provide economic and health benefits for all Vermonters.

EAN models the scale of transformation we would need in order to meet our commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement and outlines how that transformation would keep more money in Vermonters' pockets and recirculating in the Vermont economy. Investing in solutions like electric vehicles, pellet stoves or boilers, and heat pumps can save money over the long term and improve the health of Vermonters.

In order to ensure that Vermonters have access to these solutions and these savings, Vermont policy-makers need to look at economy-wide policy solutions that bring everyone into this transition at the appropriate scale.

Read more from EAN at <https://www.eanvt.org/2018-progress-report>

Front Porch Forum Post #2: What do we gain when we don't spend money on fossil fuels?

Fossil fuels are the status quo. We interact with them all the time and we're comfortable with it – filling up a car at the gas station, turning up the thermostat, putting more gas in the snow blower. We don't often think about what that interaction is costing us.

According to a new progress report from Energy Action Network, 78 cents of every dollar spent on fossil fuels gets sent out of state, versus recirculating and growing the Vermont economy. Spending a dollar on renewable fuels instead – electricity for cars or heat pumps, wood for pellets or wood chips to heat homes and businesses – would return 40-80 cents back to the Vermont economy, more than double what recirculates from fossil fuels. That supports stable renewable energy jobs and local businesses that support a stronger local economy.

In fact, EAN found that just on heating fuels, Vermonters spent \$240 million extra in 2018 than if we were getting 100% of our heat from renewable sources. Of that, over \$185 left the Vermont economy entirely. We have the solutions to turn this around. To grow our economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To learn more about what each of us can do as individuals and how policymakers can lead, read the full EAN Progress Report at <https://www.eanvt.org/2018-progress-report>.

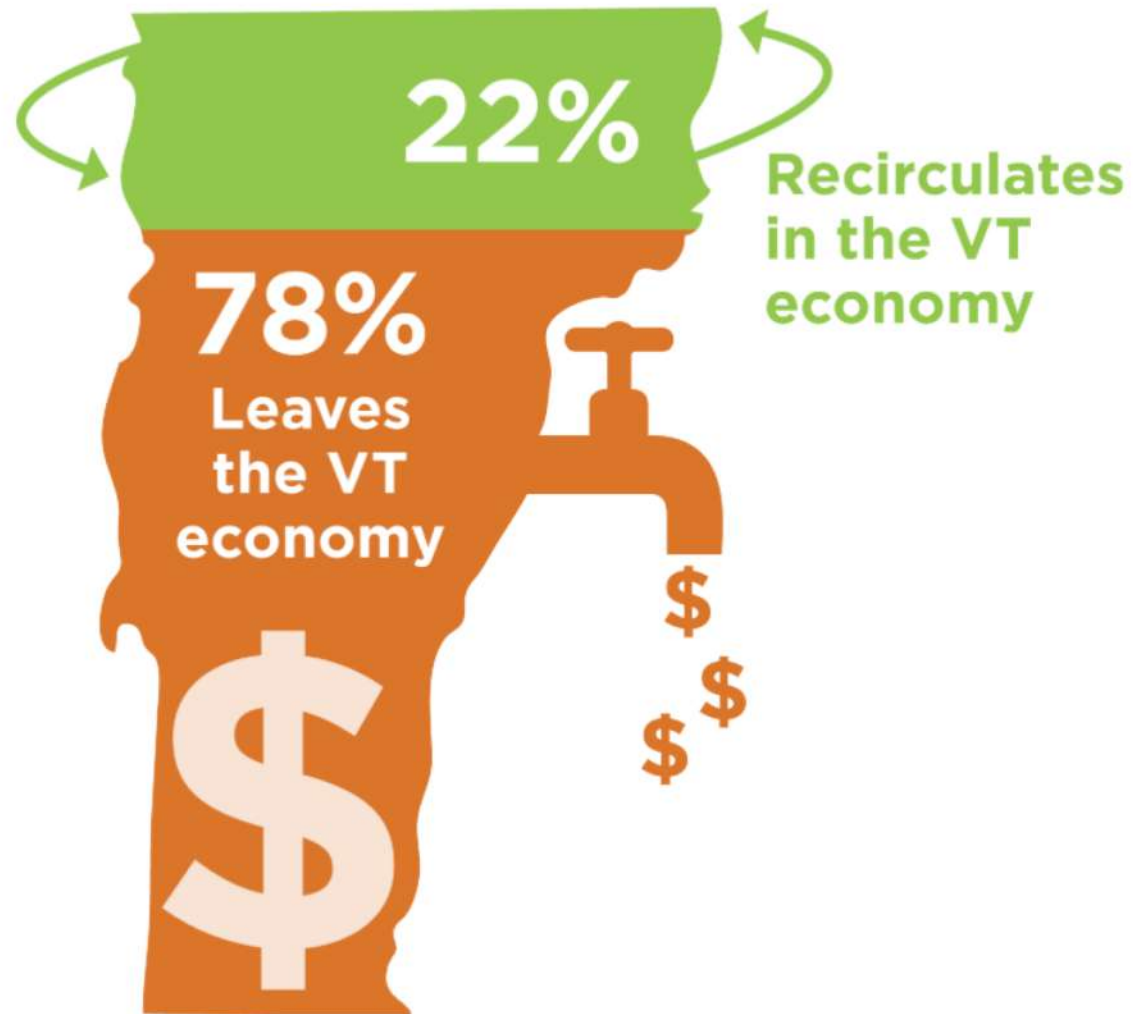
CONGRESS

Republicans who believe in climate change seek alternative to Green New Deal

"We have a voice in this, too," Rep. Francis Rooney, R-Fla., said.

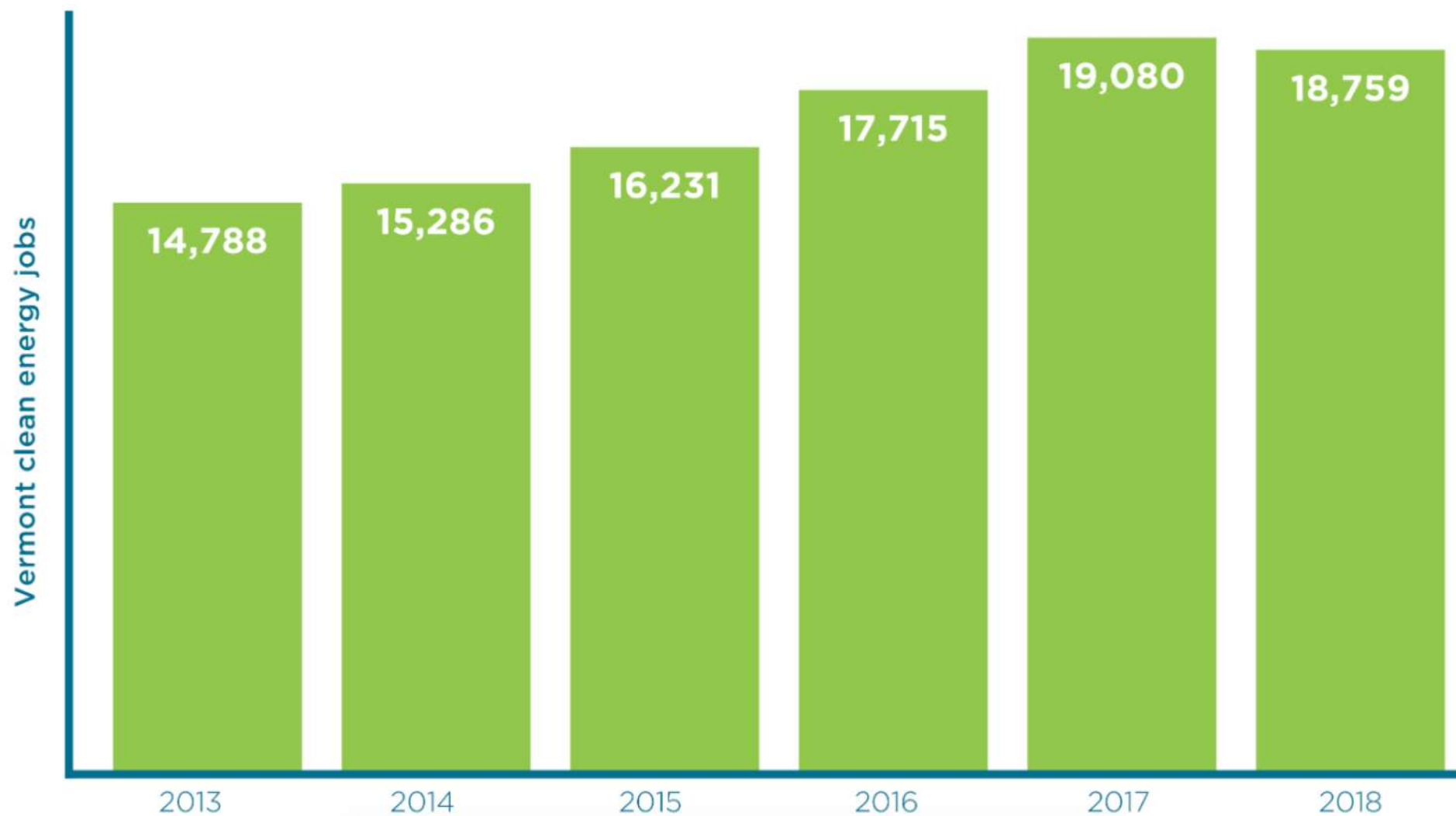


Dollars Spent on Fossil Fuels

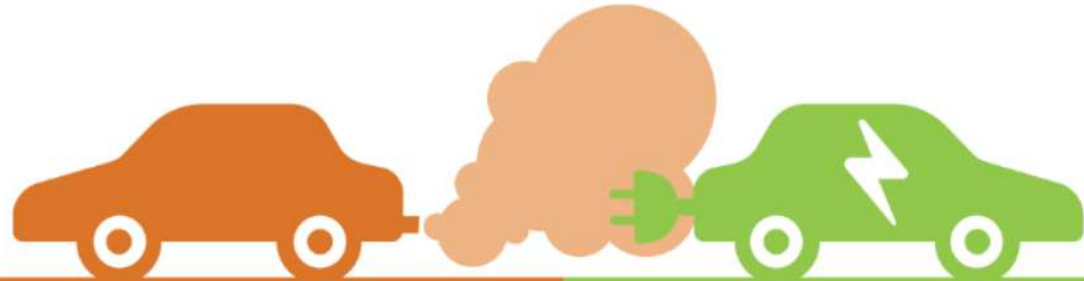


Source: Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (2018).

Vermont clean energy jobs

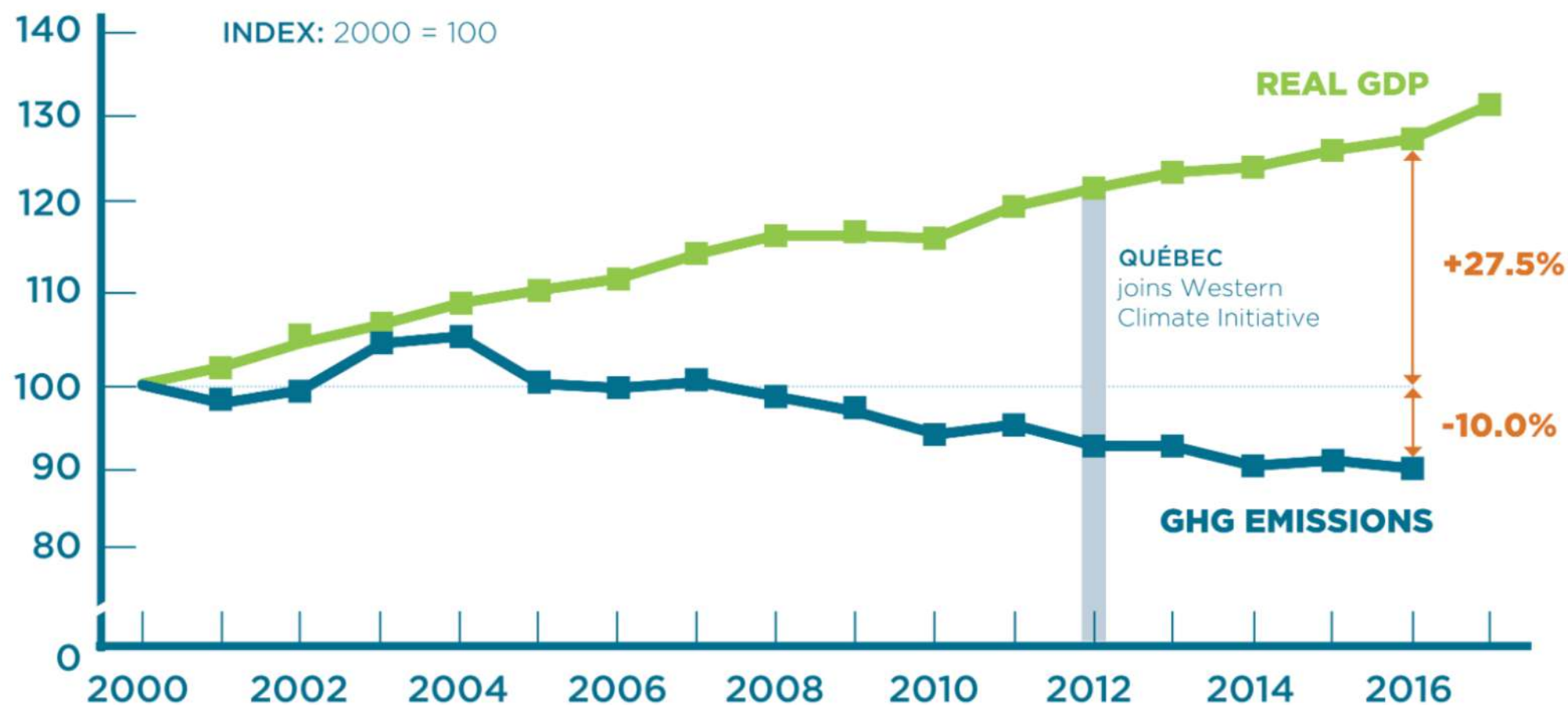


Going electric saves money



	GAS VEHICLE	ELECTRIC VEHICLE
Fuel	\$2.74/gallon ²	\$1.50/gallon equivalent ³
Oil Changes & Filter Replacement	\$900	None
Tire Changes	\$600	\$600
Engine Air Filter Replacements	\$207	None
Cabin Air Filter Replacements	\$273	\$273
Spark Plug Replacements	\$439	None
Coolant Flush and Replacement	\$110	\$110

Québec has decoupled emissions and economic growth (2000-2017)



Adults won't take climate change seriously. So we, the youth, are forced to strike.

By Maddy Fernands, Isra Hirsi, Haven Coleman, Alexandria Villaseñor, March 7, 2019



Maddy Fernands

Maddy Fernands is a 16-year-old youth activist from Edina, Minnesota, and the National Press Director for the US Youth Climate Strike....



Isra Hirsi

Isra Hirsi is a 16-year-old sophomore from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is one of the three co-founders and co-directors of the US Youth Climate Strike....



Haven Coleman

Haven Coleman is a 7th grade climate activist from Denver, Colorado, and cofounder and codirector of US Youth Climate Strike....

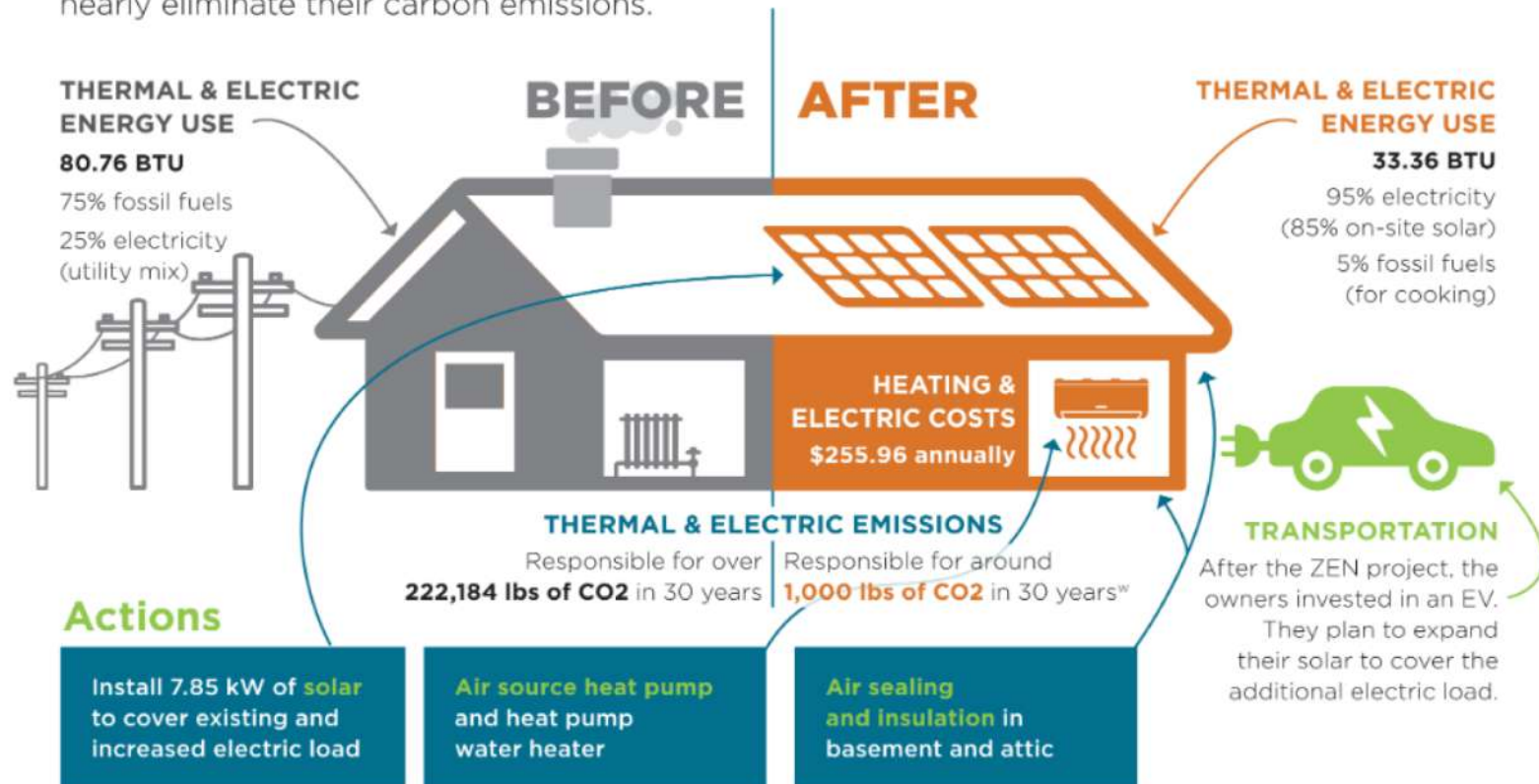


Alexandria Villaseñor

Alexandria Villaseñor is a 13-year-old climate justice activist located in New York City. She is involved with the Fridays For Future movement that was sparked by Greta Thunberg in Sweden. ...

How Vermonters benefit: a case study

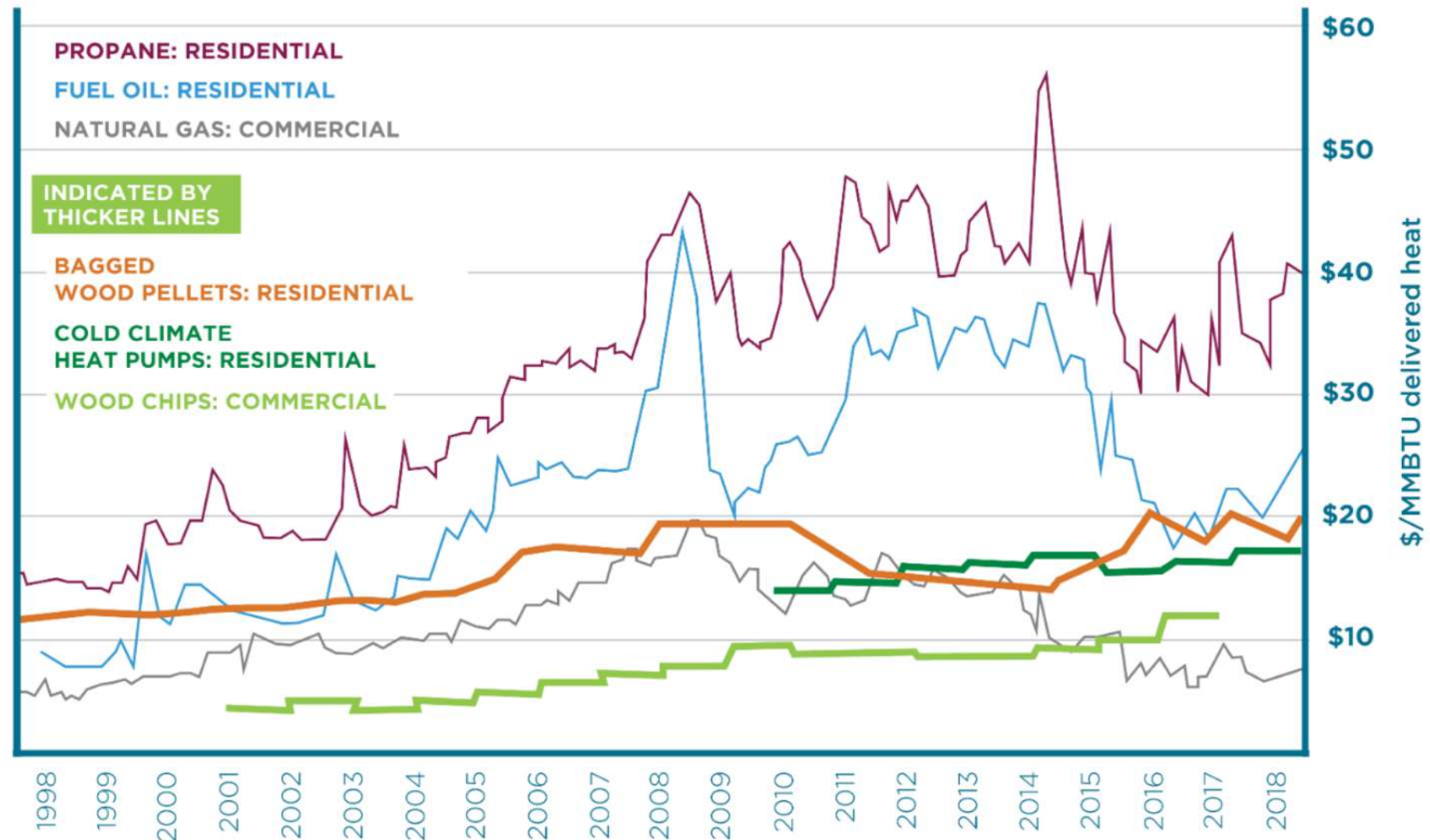
Let's take a look at a real 1950 ranch house in Jericho, Vermont. The homeowners, one recently retired from the Vermont Air National Guard and one a bookkeeper at a local school district, recently completed a Zero Energy Now (ZEN) project to get their home off fossil fuels and nearly eliminate their carbon emissions.



FINANCING: The couple opted to roll the costs of these home energy improvements into a five year home equity loan to start as their mortgage was retired. Before the project, they were paying \$930.45 for their mortgage and energy costs. After the project and the retirement of their mortgage, they are paying \$873.61 for a five-year period. Once the loan is retired in 2021, their monthly costs will just be for energy, at a little over \$20/month.

Much of this recirculates in the local economy, supporting seven Vermont businesses and their employees.

Average heating fuel pricing (1998-2018)



How climate change is fueling extremism

By Isabelle Gerretsen, CNN

🕒 Updated 7:06 AM ET, Sun March 10, 2019



MARIO TAMARA/GETTY IMAGES SOUTH AMERICA/GETTY IMAGES

Healthy homes, healthy lives

The Vermont Department of Health reports strong evidence for the positive impact of home weatherization on general health, productivity, social health, and upper respiratory health.

They estimate that the **10-year benefit of weatherization**, in health and fuel savings, **is nearly three times greater than the initial investment** per household.



Source: Weatherization + Health in Vermont (2018), VT Department of Health.




[AUTHOR: OPINION]

VTDigger.org publishes 12 to 18 commentaries a week from a broad range of community sources. All commentaries must include the author's first and last name, town of residence and a brief biography, including affiliations with political parties, lobbying or special interest groups. We have a minimum length of 400 words. We have found the ideal length is approximately 600 to 800 words. We provide some copyediting support, but we do not have the staff to fact-check commentaries. We reserve the right to reject opinions for matters of taste and accuracy. Commentaries are voices from the community and do not represent VTDigger in any way. Please send your commentary to Cate Chant, cchant@vtdigger.org, and Anne Galloway, agalloway@vtdigger.org.

Letters & My Turns

Letters to the Editor of The Burlington Free Press are published once a week in the printed edition on Sundays, and online on merit. We welcome letters and My Turns on topics of broad public interest. We limit letters to the editor to about 250 words, and My Turns to about 700 words. We generally accept submissions only from Vermont residents. We also ask that, as a rule, letters and My Turn have a single author, although we may make exceptions at our discretion. Please include the name of the author, his or her town of residence, and a daytime telephone number for author verification. Please identify any affiliation relevant to the subject of your letter or My Turn. E-mail your letters and My Turns to letters@freepressmedia.com



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Sunday, March 10, 2019

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Letter to the Editor

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Thank you!

MichaelShank@CarbonNeutralCities.org