

12:09:25 From Johanna Miller to Everyone:

Thanks again to everyone for joining! Please drop your questions in the chat... we will aim to get to as many as possible or, ideally, all.

12:12:36 From Danielle M Laberge to Everyone:

How will the DPS include the social cost of carbon in their analyses and decision-making going forward?

12:13:47 From Michael Yantachka to Everyone:

For several years, the PUC has been disincentivizing net metering by changing the rate structure. As we try to transition from fossil fuels to clean electricity, we need to increase the amount of solar and even small wind generation. I think we need to reverse the negative adders and guarantee that owner investment in RE is properly compensated.

12:16:13 From Danielle M Laberge to Everyone:

How will grid infrastructure be upgraded to account for electrification of transportation and heating sectors?

12:17:50 From Johanna Miller to Everyone:

These slides will also be available, after this webinar, if people are interested.

12:22:24 From Sylvie Desautels to Everyone:

Vermont is the only state in New England that categorizes power from Hydro Quebec as "renewable". Ignoring the fact that HQ emits large amounts of methane which is a more deleterious greenhouse gas and also squashes the carbon sink of large tracts of forest. This is a problem and not being honest when accounting our emissions.

12:23:03 From Johanna Miller to Everyone:

The PSD is seeking input at this moment on:

Topic 1: Timeline for Policy Review and Stakeholder Engagement

Topic 2: Decision Criteria

Topic 3: Key Issues for Consideration

What would you recommend on these topics?

12:23:24 From Henry Amistadi to Everyone:

Why is the Net metering reimbursement (\$/kwh) to homeowners for solar generation decreasing instead of increasing to help meet our climate goals?

12:23:50 From Andrew Mclaughlin to Everyone:

Sylvia's point is IMPORTANT

12:23:57 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

Key issue for Consideration: Retiring RECs? BED claims they get 100% renewable power and use wind, biomass, solar and hydro, but the RECs for those biomass, wind and most solar resources are sold out of state, then BED repurchases lower value RECs. Can we end the gimmicks? No big wind built in Vermont is "Renewable Energy for Vermont." Ditto for much of the big solar projects built in Vermont.

12:25:39 From Sylvie Desautels to Everyone:

That is right Annette. It seems to me that REC system is benefiting the utilities as they sell them high and buy dirty energy at low rate so pocketing the difference.

12:25:51 From Johanna Miller to Everyone:

We will plan to capture the chat and the input you all offer here with the PSD team. Thanks for offering your ideas.

12:26:15 From Sylvie Desautels to Everyone:

Good to know..thanks Johanna!

12:27:08 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

Isn't equity a statutory criteria after adoption of the environmental justice statute.

12:27:19 From Danielle M Laberge to Everyone:

Stakeholders should include engaging with youth- the most impacted Vermonters

12:27:46 From Steve Crowley to Everyone:

"we' have been talking, talking , talking about a cautious and deliberate engagement process for YEARS. Yes, do that, but it has to be ongoing, and not a further rationale for delay on substance.

12:27:52 From Will Dodge to Everyone:

Given the prospects that the Inflation Reduction Act gets passed, and injects significant funds / incentives into climate change efforts, better to use an accelerated timeline to conclude this process sooner, and be ready for what comes next.

12:28:55 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

Statutory Criterion missing from list: Environmental impacts. Also additional criteria to add is community impacts and engagement. Developer-driven projects are not working for our communities. Siting matters.

12:29:15 From Sarah Sully to Everyone:

Most important Criteria among those listed: (1) Equity, (2) Sustainability, (3) GHG requirements. Additional criteria: prioritizing biodiversity.

12:29:39 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

Re Sylvie's post. Hydro Quebec also has extremely high negative impact on Cree and Inuit populations.

12:29:58 From Ann Lawless, HEAT Squad NEK outreach to Everyone:

Adding equity is very important. There are inequities among the types of services the different electric utilities offer their customers to reduce their energy costs.

12:29:59 From Steve Crowley to Everyone:

Looking at renewableness with blinders about side effects is the opposite of sustainability.

12:31:12 From Jim Emerson to Everyone:

Additional criterea: Supports independence/resiliency of individual Vermonters

12:32:11 From Jeff Forward to Everyone:

Other criteria to consider: Job creation impacts of in-state renewables; societal costs from exporting our energy consumption (i.e. impacts on indigenous communities in Quebec, GHG, emissions, etc.), additionality (we need to encourage new renewable development rather than rely on projects that were built years or decades ago).

12:32:29 From Matthew Burke to Everyone:

Per timeline and engagement, consider and connect with the folks on the Just Transition sub-committee. There is also a BIPOC advisory group that should be explicitly brought in. It would also help to support processes for ongoing, long-term engagement especially to prioritize equity, as there is a learning curve and changing these systems will take time. We would benefit from institutionalizing participatory procedures.

12:33:20 From Sarah Sully to Everyone:

Where is conservation in this discussion?

12:33:22 From Steve Crowley to Everyone:

The use of RECs has some merit, but in practice the use of low value or even fake RECs has created a whole sub-industry, a set of vested interests that drive against sustainability.

12:34:40 From Jeff Forward to Everyone:

Net metering has been by far the most effective program to deploy solar. Solar PV offsets marginal fossil fuel supply 99% of the time. Yet the concern the regulators have with net metering is based on average costs and those costs impact on rates. We need to expand the definition of cost and benefits beyond a simple rate analysis.

12:34:44 From Michael Yantachka to Everyone:

Are the comments in this chat going to be considered as public comments for your purposes?

12:34:54 From Jim Emerson to Everyone:

Suggest a 12 month timeline. This needs to move forward to change policies soon, but not hastily.

12:35:08 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

Thank you Anne and Claire. This has been helpful to understanding what type of input you are looking for. Thank you for extending the deadline.

12:35:13 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

Upstream GHG and Equity costs incurred by out of state production. For all elect generation sources. I.e. Mining related to solar/wind. What are impacts on indigeneous communities? GHGs?

12:35:40 From Steve Crowley to Everyone:

For a regulatory program to work, that is, be effective in addressing our climate impact, it must be based on additionality.

12:35:46 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

Net-metering and Standard Offer need to be replaced by a new program.

12:35:52 From Matthew Burke to Everyone:

Participatory processes and planning also should extend to total energy planning, not just renewables. We need to plan the remaining fossil fuel budget if these nonrenewables are to be allocated equitably and responsibly. We cannot continue to assume that more RE equals less fossil fuels as experience shows these technologies and sources are often additive. Future generations will not have the chance to make these determinations.

12:36:59 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

There are no 100% clean energy sources. All have GHG and/or indigeneous impact. Know what true "costs" are (not just economic) and weigh various energy production methods.

12:37:15 From Matthew Burke to Everyone:

We could usefully monitor and compare lifecycle measures and energy return on investment across all technologies.

12:37:30 From Ann Lawless, HEAT Squad NEK outreach to Everyone:

I don't see education specifically mentioned as part of the process. Forums like this one are very valuable. I suspect that people's level of knowledge varies widely and many of us here want info on the constraints and what it is possible for the PSD to have control over.

12:37:46 From Brian Forrest to Everyone:

Energy, like water and sewer, is too essential a commodity to leave in private hands. We need to speed up the move towards community control of our power source and the transfer of ownership and control to our towns and cities. The fact that a Canadian company - Gas Metro, owns both Green Mountain Power and Vermont Gas Systems is an indication that our energy is not in local, state nor even national control. This is what the privatization of our energy source has brought us to. It is time to localize our energy so we can secure it, source it, take the profit motive out of energy decisions, determine what mix of supply and storage is in our best interest and make it about what is in the best interests of our communities, not corporate interests.

12:37:56 From Niki Thran to Everyone:

Agree. Thx for extending the deadline. My schedule changes Aug. 9th!!

12:38:55 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

Gas Metro is now called Engie.

12:38:59 From Karen Thorkilsen to Everyone:

Does "equitable" include Nature's access to its own ability to exist, thrive, and continue through infinite generations? I encourage us to bear in mind the fact that Nature can exist without humans, but humans cannot exist with a functioning biosphere and intact ecosystems.

12:39:11 From Jeff Forward to Everyone:

Can you restate the new deadline for comment?

12:39:23 From Johanna Miller to Everyone:

August 15 is the new deadline

12:39:29 From Matthew Burke to Everyone:

Diversification of technologies was mentioned in an earlier slide and would be useful to research and develop further as an additional criteria.

12:39:55 From Melanie Needle to Everyone:

to what size pv systems does the decision criteria apply to? Does it apply to net metered systems?

12:40:44 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

Could "Realistic" be added as a criterion? I am concerned by the idea that people seem to believe that we can do it all with wind, solar, hydro, etc. Having lived off grid with solar for more than 30 years, I cannot get off propane with current technologies. We need to be realistic. Seems like a lens of how realistic a proposal is would be worth adding.

12:40:58 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

Criteria should also consider international accords and standards. esp additive technologies rather than more of the same.

12:42:33 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

It sounds to me like "Equity" is given lip service as an add on. However, indigeneous impact must be front and center. Our electricity should not come at expense of indigeneous and other marginalized communities.

12:43:01 From Steve Crowley to Everyone:

Ownership is a critical factor in many ways. Community solar has faced numerous roadblocks, but has to be an important element of the future. One of the long-standing barriers to equity, in many areas of our economy, is ownership, vs. renting etc. Programs for low & moderate income folks must include access to ownership.

12:43:48 From Danielle M Laberge to Everyone:

New York did a VOST value of solar tariff discussion to determine the social costs of carbon for New Yorkers. We should be able to do something similar

12:43:51 From Chapin Kaynor to Everyone:

Basic input (not questions) on home-owner grid-connected solar: There should be no limits on amount of solar added to the grid. Houses with 1/2 or 3/4 coverage of optimum south-facing roofs is both wasteful and aesthetically ugly. Those homes later get electric vehicles and heat pumps and upgrading requires new inverter etc. We should incentive maximum production, period! Work out reimbursement rate and perhaps have higher rate if one day's worth of storage is included in the solar installation.

12:44:14 From Kevin Batson to Everyone:

Does the PSD oversee the distribution of three phase power for fast EV charging around the State

12:44:25 From Jeff Forward to Everyone:

There is far too much reliance on the utility test and the rate payer test in our energy planning. We need to take carbon and other society impacts into consideration. our

12:45:11 From Matthew Burke to Everyone:

Agree, ownership is a key element of equity, and an effective way to ensure broad decision making processes.

12:45:13 From Sylvie Desautels to Everyone:

Definitely we need to make decentralizing of ownership of power is a must. Community Solar, micro grids, community ownership.

12:45:49 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

Should merchant developers be regulated, because right now utility costs are known but merchant developer costs are not transparent. How can this disconnect be reconciled?

12:46:59 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

Renewable must include an honest estimate of renewability. Trees take 75+ years to renew. For practical purposes, they are not renewable.

12:47:48 From Matthew Burke to Everyone:

Another additional criteria to prioritize is sufficiency, meaning ensuring minimum levels for basic needs, as well identifying levels of use far beyond what is actually needed or sustainable regardless of source. We do need to begin to distinguish needs from luxuries through participatory process. Yes, it has been done and can be done again.

12:48:23 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

I've been watching the Vermont grid during the recent heat and load has never been above 800 MW. Compared to 24,000 MW load in the regional grid.

<https://www.vermonttransco.com/load-graph>

12:48:55 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

One place to start on community ownership may be on the grid/s. If grid were provided by public funds, energy costs would be easier for consumers to understand and make netmetering more feasible in the long run.

12:49:04 From Steve Crowley to Everyone:

Electricity loads are expected to increase by 50 to 100% with electrification of transportation and heat. We should at a minimum match that with additional deployment of

VT renewables, DG. A strong deployment target should guide whatever we do with net metering, standard offer, tax incentives, leveraging private sector finance, etc.

12:49:06 From Will Dodge to Everyone:

Strongly support Ann Lawless' point about the need for more education, esp. as part of equity strategy (for example, communities w/out experience with rooftop solar, EVs, heat pumps, etc.). Local energy committees / coordinators can play a role in disseminating information, as can the RPC experts, but leadership from the Department and the utilities will be really important to make the plan work.

12:49:54 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

One has only to look at GMP's solar map to see the inequities in grid access. Look at Pawlet as an example. How do areas shown in red increase electrification when the grid is so inadequate?

<https://gmp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4eaec2b58c4c4820b24c408a95ee8956>

12:50:18 From Matthew Burke to Everyone:

What's meant by simplicity here?

12:50:43 From Brian Forrest to Everyone:

Agree about trees. We should focus on preserving/expanding our existing forests rather than planting new ones.

12:51:58 From Niki Thran to Everyone:

Why can't we do all three, preserve, expand and plant?

12:53:06 From Sylvie Desautels to Everyone:

Rates to the public needs to be offset by the profits achieved by utilities.

12:53:07 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

Using less. Not enough discussion about using less. Focus on needs, not wants.

12:53:13 From Laurie Veatch to Everyone:

We can do all three, but emphasis preserving mature trees.

12:54:08 From Jeff Forward to Everyone:

The reason why Vermont's grid has not exceeded 800 MW during this heat wave is largely because of the impact of solar on our overall demand. We should acknowledge this beneficial impact of solar and recognize these economic impacts going forward with new projects.

12:55:24 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

First, I applaud the strong 100% by 2030. That seems about right given technological and other considerations.

12:55:30 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

There is an implied assumption that we can reach our goals while maintaining our current lifestyles without reducing demand. One criteria might be: How do we reduce energy demand.

12:55:32 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

Second, I echo Jeff Forward's comments: The recent focus on rates and rising skepticism about net-metering is alarming. The cross subsidy arguments are largely bunk because the benefits of net-metering accrue to everyone, not just the solar system owner. The rhetoric to the contrary is pure Koch Brothers sponsored anti-renewable energy propaganda.

12:55:38 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

Third, great transparency, and soundness of policy development is needed badly. The comment made earlier that Vermont's RE policies are still not well integrated makes me recall that, and not to toot my own horn, but I personally led the creation of a sound (non-double counting) Renewable Energy Standard, completely integrated with net-metering, RECs purchases from net-metered systems, and a solar tax credit, in New Mexico way back 2004-2006: That was 16 years ago, and in a fossil fuel industry dominated state! Vermont's inability to adopt a well thought out and sound RE policy platform early on was a direct result of a stunning level of transparency and undue special interest influence. It's time for that kind of thing to end. I appreciate the transparency here, but the real test will be what happens at the State House later.

12:55:44 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

Fourth, hydropower should not be included in the RE Standard. That's just another consequence of undue special interest influence, and perhaps a tendency for Vermont to put appearance over substance.

12:55:48 From Steve Crowley to Everyone:

Agree with Annette about the importance of using less (electricity and everything else). This may be very hard to do with regulation, but it has to go beyond things like load shaping. We, all of us VTers, need to be making that a priority.

12:55:50 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

Fifth, the approach to getting communities involved in RE energy planning should be more proactive, less dictatorial. There are many problems here, ranging from the planning through the permitting processes.

12:55:56 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

Six, the emphasis should be on small-scale RE. Utility scale solar can also be helpful in my opinion, but only if planned very carefully, on the basis of rigorously shown need, not just some developers profit motive. There is also growing support on the analytical side that the higher cost of home-scale RE is well offset by the benefits. The value of DER appears to have been vastly underestimated, even by proponents.

12:56:03 From Annette Smith to Everyone:

The regional grid has had very low renewables lately, with very high natural gas. Some days recently it's been 4% renewables. Today it's a little higher. And 70% natural gas

<https://www.iso-ne.com/isoexpress/>

12:56:04 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

Seventh, the policies regarding energy storage should be carefully thought out: There should be strong emphasis on deploying storage, and care should be taken to ensure the utilities do not have the ability to overly dominate and overly profit from storage, as well as solar generation. The dominance of investor owned utilities is becoming increasingly untenable as there is less and less need for investor-provided funding for large generation and transmission projects. But we are still stuck with the business model from that and all the vagaries that comes with that.

12:56:10 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

Thank you for considering this,

Sincerely,

Ben Luce

info@renewableenergynow.org

12:56:43 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

Apologize everyone for the many messages here. It would not paste all at once.

12:57:10 From Claire McIlvennie (she/her) - VT PSD to Everyone:

Claire.mcilvennie@vermont.gov - I am happy to be a resource for specific questions on the process for the RFI as is helpful!

12:57:58 From Steve Crowley to Everyone:

Thank you, Claire and Anne, for being available for this.

12:58:22 From Niki Thran to Everyone:

Thanks everyone! I will spread the word. Don't forget to vote in the primary!

12:58:28 From Bill Laberge to Everyone:

Thanks!

12:58:30 From Jeff Forward to Everyone:

While the regional grid shows little renewables and high natural gas, this does not take into account behind the grid solar. Solar decreases our reliance on the regional grid.

12:58:35 From D Gene Kraus to Everyone:

Carbon free not enough. use GHG free as a goal.

12:58:42 From Danielle M Laberge to Everyone:

Thank you!

12:59:02 From Ben Luce - www.renewableenergynow.org to Everyone:

Ditto that - Thank you!

12:59:25 From Matthew Burke to Everyone:

Thank you!

12:59:28 From Jeff Forward to Everyone:

Thank you to VECAN and the PSD for hosting this webinar and giving us the opportunity to provide input.

12:59:32 From Ann Lawless, HEAT Squad NEK outreach to Everyone:

Thank you!

12:59:44 From Malia Cordero to Everyone:

Thank you!