



Chittenden County Regional Energy Plan

Project Overview

CCRPC, as well as other regional planning commissions, are working with the Vermont Department of Public Service to develop Regional Energy Plans for their regions. These regional energy plans are intended to advance the State's Comprehensive Energy Plan's goals *while being consistent with local and regional needs and concerns*. The goals of the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan are to:

1. Weatherize 80,000 Vermont homes by 2025
 - a. Intermediate goal of 60,000 homes by 2017
2. Get 90% of Vermont's energy from renewable sources by 2050
 - a. Intermediate goal of 25% of energy from renewable sources by 2025, including 10% of transportation energy
 - b. Intermediate goal of 40% of energy from renewable sources by 2035
3. Reduce total Vermont energy consumption by more than 1/3 by 2050
 - a. Intermediate goal of 15% reduction by 2025

The Chittenden County Regional Energy Plan will be a roadmap for Chittenden County to meet those goals of energy consumption reduction, weatherization of homes and in-region renewable energy production. CCRPC is working with the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) as they develop estimates of how much energy will need to be produced in Chittenden County, predominantly from solar and wind.

Act 174, Energy Standards and "Substantial Deference"

The Regional Energy Plan must meet standards for energy planning that are currently being developed by the Department of Public Service. Act 174 (signed into law in 2016) states that if a regional or local plan is found to meet these standards, the plan is eligible for a "Determination of Energy Compliance." If a plan has received a "Determination of Energy Compliance" the plan will be given substantial deference' in the Public Service Board's Section 248 process. The following definition of substantial deference has been established in Act 174 for this purpose:

"The Board shall give **substantial deference** to the land conservation measures and specific policies contained in a duly adopted regional and municipal plan...[meaning] that a land conservation measure or specific policy shall be applied in accordance with its terms unless there is a clear and convincing demonstration that other factors affecting the general good of the State outweigh the application of the measure or policy."

Once CCRPC's Regional Energy Plan has received a Determination of Energy Compliance (around June 2018), we can evaluate municipal plans for compliance with the energy standards and issue Determinations of Energy Compliance. Municipalities who wish to incorporate the energy standards into their plans and seek a Determination of Energy Compliance before the completion of the Regional Energy Plan can seek a Determination of Energy Compliance directly from the Department of Public Service until July 1, 2018.

Energy Generation Mapping

The Regional Energy Plan must plan for Chittenden County to produce a significant portion of the energy we use by 2050. To plan for this energy production, the Regional Energy Plan will contain maps of the areas within the county that may be appropriate for wind and solar generation. CCRPC staff are in the process of visiting municipal planning commissions over the next month to discuss these maps and local and regional constraints on renewable energy development. In many cases, planning commissioners have also invited energy committees and conservation commissions to participate.

For more information on what has been discussed with your town, please see the PowerPoint presentation we have tailored for your community: http://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Hinesburg_RegionalEnergyPlanningPresentation_20160831.pptx

We are required to send draft maps to the Department of Public Service on December 1, 2016. We have asked your planning commissions to coordinate with other community groups to ensure that the map of energy generation resources for your community includes constraints that have already been identified by your community. Please visit our website for more information, including an online map viewer showing the layers of your municipality's draft map in detail and a memo describing the process of adding constraints: <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/environment-natural-resources/energy/>. This information will be available by the end of September.

Schedule

- September 2016: Outreach to Planning Commissions; CCRPC Energy Subcommittee first meeting.
- October 2016: Projections of future energy use and production goals completed.
- November 2016: Regional and Local Energy Standards released by Department of Public Service; feedback from municipalities on local constraints due; first draft of energy production maps created.
- May 2017: First draft of Regional Energy Plan completed, draft distributed for feedback
- December 2017: Local and State review of draft plan completed; revisions completed
- February 2018: Regional Energy Plan adopted by CCRPC
- June 2018: 2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan (included adopted Regional Energy Plan) adopted by CCRPC

Questions or Feedback?

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