

Renewable Energy Organizations & Activities in Vermont

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Grassroots Activism / Educational Initiatives

1.1. Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG)

SERG promotes energy conservation, efficiency and renewables through the formation of town energy committees to help residents, businesses and the municipalities reduce energy consumption, save money, increase the sustainable use of renewables, strengthen the local economy and improve the environment.

Bob Walker • 432 Ulman Road • Thetford Center, VT 05075
(802) 785-4126 • SERG@valley.net • www.serg-info.org

1.2. Vermont Campus Energy Group (VCEG)

VCEG is a ReBuild America-sponsored initiative established to help Vermont's colleges and universities advance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on their campuses. Under the guidance of the VCEG Campus Coordinator, energy projects are created, developed, and executed by campus-based energy teams. The teams are composed of students, staff, faculty, and administrators interested in making a difference in how their institution generates and uses energy.

Liz Cunningham • 255 S. Champlain Street, Suite 7 • Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 658-6060 • lcunningham@veic.org • www.vceg.net

1.3. Vermont Peak Oil Network (VPON)

VPON is a statewide network of individuals and groups working regionally on issues of relocalization and sustainability.

Carl Etnier • newsletter@vtpeakoil.net • www.vtpeakoil.net

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Advocacy Organizations

2.1. Alliance for Climate Action 10% Challenge

The 10% Challenge is a voluntary program to raise public awareness about global climate change and to encourage households and businesses to reduce their green house gas emissions by at least 10 percent. The 10% Challenge provides tools, such as an [emissions calculator](#), and information necessary to conserve energy at home and at work

Deb Sachs • 585 Pine Street • Burlington, VT 05401 • (802) 865-7330
dsachs@10percentchallenge.org • www.10percentchallenge.org

2.2. Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC): Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network (VECAN) program

VECAN's purpose is to help form and empower energy and [climate action committees](#), to provide programs and resources that will help these committees implement energy-saving initiatives, and to establish a useful network that enables committees to learn from each other, share successes, and replicate and collaborate on programs.

Stephanie Mueller • 9 Bailey Avenue • Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 223- 2328 • smueller@vnrc.org • www.vnrc.org

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Renewable Energy Trade Associations & Sustainable Development Groups

3.1. Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC)

BERC focuses its primary attention on the use of woody biomass for energy in community scale applications. There are three primary outcomes for BERC's work:

1. Increase the number of biomass projects in the US
2. Increase the quality of biomass projects over time (improve fuel efficiency, decrease emissions, increase sustainable biomass supply, improve financial viability)
3. Increase acceptance of biomass as a viable energy alternative by decision makers in BERC's primary market (schools, municipalities, small business, etc)

Christopher Recchia • 9 Bailey Avenue • Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-7770 • crecchia@biomasscenter.org • www.biomasscenter.org

3.2. Renewable Energy Vermont (REV)

REV's mission is to promote renewable energy and the renewable energy industry in Vermont by:

- Crafting and passing renewable energy legislation
- Influencing renewable energy related rules, regulations, and policies
- Holding renewable energy conferences
- Disseminating renewable energy related information
- Networking renewable energy businesses and advocates

Andrew Perchlik • P.O. Box 1036 • Montpelier, Vermont 05601
(802) 229-0099 • info@revermont.org • www.revermont.org

3.3. The Sustainability Institute

Through workshops, leadership development, and consulting, the Sustainability Institute provides tools for systems thinking and organizational learning to clients and partners working on issues of sustainability, helping them to be more strategic, engage multiple stakeholders, and learn continuously.

Hal Hamilton • 3 Linden Road • Hartland, VT 05048 •
(802) 436-1277 • hhamilton@sustainer.org • www.sustainabilityinstitute.org

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3.4. University of Vermont Center for Sustainable Agriculture (UVM CSA)

UVM's CSA provides technical expertise and facilitation (training) in:

- Farm business planning
- Farm transfer planning
- Pasture management
- Small ruminant dairy management
- Sustainable horticulture
- On-farm energy
- Local food systems
- Beginning farmer training
- Women in agriculture

Lini Wollenburg • 63 Carrigan Drive • Burlington, VT 05405
(802) 656-5459 • lini.wollenburg@uvm.edu • www.uvm.edu/%7Eesusagctr/

3.5. Vermont Biofuels Association (VBA)

The VBA is dedicated to increasing the demand and capacity for locally produced biodiesel and other agriculturally based fuels, and to serve as a resource for the development of a sustainable biofuels sector in Vermont.

Netaka White • P.O. Box 307 • Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-1328 • infor@vermontbiofuels.org • www.vermontbiofuels.org

3.6. Vermont Environmental Consortium (VEC)

VEC provides assistance to environmental enterprises and conducts public outreach on environmental issues, technologies, initiatives, policies. VEC connects environmental enterprises with policy-makers, as well as creating and facilitating partnerships to address specific environmental issues. VEC hosts smaller topical forums and major conferences and conducts international marketing of Vermont's green enterprises. VEC serves as a network facilitator of the larger environmental enterprise community.

Daniel Hecht • 158 Harmon Drive • Northfield, VT 05663
(802) 485-2455 • dhecht@norwich.edu • www.vecgreenvalley.org

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3.7. Vermont Forum on Sprawl

The mission of the Vermont Forum on Sprawl is to encourage economic vitality in community centers and preserve Vermont's unique working landscape and quality of life. As the state's only organization devoted exclusively to promoting research-based smart growth, the Forum on Sprawl:

- Provide research, tools & training, technical resources & education help communities guide growth;
- Partner with businesses, state and local government, housing and conservation organizations to enable and promote development that preserves and enhances the quality of life in Vermont communities;
- Advocate at the state and national levels for laws, policies, funding and assistance that promote smart growth.

Noelle MacKay • 110 Main Street • Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 864-6310 • nmackay@vtsprawl.org • www.vtsprawl.org

3.8. Vermont Green Building Network (VGBN)

VGBN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing Vermont's participation in green building and to promoting the environmental, financial, community, and health benefits of green design, construction, and building operation practices.

Nancy Mears • P.O. Box 5384 • Burlington, VT 05402
(802) 338-7664 • executivedirector@vgbn.org • www.vgbn.org

3.9. Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF)

The VSJF strategically partners with stakeholders to develop new industries and economic sectors that are sustainable, create quality jobs, and build on Vermont's entrepreneurial heritage. We work to strengthen locally owned, innovative enterprises and business networks through grant-making and targeted technical assistance.

Ellen Kahler • 3 Pitkin Court, Suite 301E • Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 828-1260 • ellen@vsjf.org • www.vsjf.org

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Governmental / Quasi-Governmental Activities**4.1. 25 by '25**

The goal of 25 by '25 is to get 25 percent of America's energy from renewable resources like wind, solar, and biofuels by the year 2025. A group of volunteer farm leaders first envisioned the goal of 25x'25, and has continued to gain support within the agriculture and forestry communities. Governor Douglas endorsed 25 by '25 in 2006, and a working group has met monthly to plan for Vermont's energy future.

www.25by25.org

4.2. Act 61-Renewable Energy, Efficiency, Transmission, & Vermont's Energy Future:

This Act, passed in 2005, considers a wide range of energy issues. It created the Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development (SPEED) Program. SPEED encourages Vermont utilities to engage in purchase power contracts with renewable resource developers. In establishing the SPEED program, the Vermont General Assembly targeted in-state efficiency and renewable energy generation to meet all incremental load between 2005 and 2013.

The Vermont Public Service Board (PSB), in establishing the SPEED program and the standards for interconnecting small and renewable generators, adopted rules 4.300 and 5.500. In broad terms, the SPEED rules are designed to encourage Vermont's electric utilities to purchase in-state renewable power. This serves as a complement to the establishment of Renewable Portfolio Standards in many states neighboring Vermont, and the associated Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). The contracts that Vermont is promoting through SPEED are for the energy (the actual electrons). The RECs (which represent the green attributes of renewable projects) can be sold elsewhere.

4.3. Act 69-Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Electric Generation:

This Act authorizes electric utilities to establish renewable pricing programs that allow consumers to voluntarily purchase part or all of their energy from renewable sources. This Act also established an incentive program for the installation of small-scale renewable energy systems.

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4.4. **Act 123-An Act Relating to Vermont’s Participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI):**

Act 123 ensures that as Vermont designs a carbon cap and trade program (RGGI), it is designed so as to permit holders of credits to trade them. The Act also outlines a process for allocation of the tradeable credits, and requires the DPS report to the legislature in January of each year detailing implementation and operation of RGGI, including revenues collected and expenditures made.

4.5. **Act 168-An Act Relating to Establishing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals and a Plan for Meeting Those Goals:**

Act 168 creates the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25% from 1990 baselines by 2012, and 50% by 2028. It provides for the creation and implementation of a climate action plan for Vermont, following the goals of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Conference as stated in Governor Douglas’s Executive Order of December 2005.

4.6. **Act 208-The Energy Security and Reliability Act:**

Passed in 2006, this Act provided for a “comprehensive statewide public engagement process on energy planning, focused on electric energy supply choices facing the state beginning in 2012.” It also outlined the management of the CEDF by the Department of Public Service, an Advisory Committee, and an Investment Committee. Additionally the Act established Commercial Building Energy Standards, required the PSB to design a proposed “Electricity Affordability Program”, and directed the PSB to expand the scope of Vermont’s net-metering program. In expanding the net-metering program the PSB was directed to consider “expanding the maximum kilowatt capacity of facilities that may participate in the program”, allowing “group net-metering” systems, “providing compensation to the customer for any remaining unused kilowatt-hour credit accumulated during the previous 12 months”, developing a system that allows the capture and sale of RECs from net-metering, and allowing net-metering systems to be considered SPEED resources.”

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4.7. Efficiency Vermont

Efficiency Vermont is the nation's first statewide provider of energy efficiency services. Efficiency Vermont provides technical advice, financial assistance and design guidance to help make Vermont homes, farms, schools and businesses energy efficient.

255 S. Champlain Street, Suite 7 • Burlington, VT 05401
(888) 921-5990 • www.encyvermont.com

4.8. Governor's Commission on Climate Change

In December 2005, Governor Douglas established a commission on climate change to develop recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Vermont, consistent with the State's need for economic growth and energy security, through a Climate Change Action Plan due no later than September 1, 2007.

www.vtclimatechange.us

4.9. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI):

RGGI is a cooperative effort by Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States to design a regional cap-and-trade program initially affecting carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in the region. On December 20, 2005, seven states announced an agreement to implement the RGGI, as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Governors of the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont. On August 15, 2006, these states issued a model rule for the RGGI program, which details a model set of regulations as outlined in the MOU. Development of the model rule was subject to detailed public input; the response to comments resulted in an amended MOU on August 8th, 2006. The finalized rule will form the basis of individual state regulatory and/or statutory proposals to implementation.

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4.10. Renewable Energy Resource Center

The Renewable Energy Resource Center (RERC) provides consumers with information on solar hot water and solar electric renewable energy systems

255 S. Champlain Street, Suite 7 • Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 658-1643 • www.nerc-vt.org

4.11. Vermont Council on Rural Development (Vermont Rural Energy Council)

In 2006, the Vermont Council on Rural Development brought together the Vermont Rural Energy Council to work systematically toward a bipartisan platform that could help define Vermont's energy future.

Paul Costello • 89 Main Street • Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 828-6022 • www.vtrural.org