

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN 2022

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

V.S.A. § 202b(c)(2):(2) Every fourth year after the adoption or readoption of a Plan under this section, the Department shall publish the manner in which the Department will engage the public in the process of readopting the Plan under this section.

I. Overview

Beginning in 2021, the Department of Public Service (PSD) will begin the review and update of the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) and the Electric Plan. The Department plans a series of public engagement activities to garner insights and comments from citizens and stakeholders around the state. This plan describes the public engagement activities that will be undertaken over the next year leading to the final publication of the CEP in January 2022.

The Comprehensive Energy Plan is required by 30 V.S.A. § 202b and the Vermont Electric Energy Plan is required by 30 V.S.A. § 202. The Electric Energy Plan will be contained in the CEP, which is required to be submitted to the General Assembly no later than January 15, 2022. The PSD will coordinate closely with other state agencies and the newly constituted Climate Council created through the Global Warming Solutions Act (Act 153 of 2020) to ensure that the CEP advances policy objectives across multiple areas.

II. Public Engagement Opportunities

Public input for the 2022 update of the CEP will be solicited by the PSD in two phases:

- Public process and input to inform the writing of the draft CEP in spring 2021
- Public process and comment **after** the release of the draft CEP in fall 2021

Throughout the revision process for updating the CEP, the Department will maintain a website (<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/2022-plan>) that provides access to draft documents, schedules for upcoming events, relevant meeting materials and other CEP-related information. As part of the public comment process, the Department will accept written comments at PSD.ComprehensiveEnergyPlan@vermont.gov, and also by US mail.

COVID-19 Note: During the Coronavirus pandemic, the Department will solicit public input through appropriate electronic, written, virtual, and/or in-person means following State guidance to ensure public and employee safety.

A. Public Process Before the Release of the Public Review Draft CEP

For the draft CEP to reflect current understanding of the state's energy challenges, opportunities, and direction, the PSD plans to solicit public, expert, and stakeholder input through the summer of 2021. This public input may be submitted to the Department in the form of written comments,

or via public meetings and smaller events with individuals and stakeholders representing a wide variety of perspectives.

❖ Public Meetings

The PSD plans to convene a series of public meetings to hear from Vermonters so that a wide range of views and experiences could inform the draft CEP. Although these meetings will most likely be virtual due to COVID-19, the Department will target geographically diverse locations around Vermont for input. In addition, the PSD plans to convene a set of half-day virtual meetings with stakeholders to enable in-depth discussion of specific topics.

❖ Draft Plans for Public Comment

Public Review Draft CEP – After receiving public input through the summer of 2021, the PSD will develop and publish a public review draft CEP, which will be available for download on the PSD Comprehensive Energy Plan website.

B. Public Process After Release of the Draft CEP

Following publication of the draft CEP in the fall, the PSD plans additional evening public meetings in other regions of the state.

❖ Written Comments

The Department of Public Service will accept comments on the Public Review Draft of the CEP in written form until October 2021. Public comments may be submitted via email to PSD.ComprehensiveEnergyPlan@vermont.gov, or by U.S. mail.

❖ Public Hearings

The Department will also convene a set of public hearings on the Draft CEP. The specific locations for the public hearings will be published on the PSD website along with relevant materials for the public hearings.

III. Publication of Final Comprehensive Energy Plan

After receiving public input and comment, the Department shall publish the final CEP for adoption and public access by January 15, 2022.