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MEDIA ADVISORY

Public Service Releases Draft Comprehensive Energy Plan for Vermont's Energy Future

Montpelier, VT – June E. Tierney, Commissioner of the Department of Public Service said that “Vermont is at a time of remarkable transition for how we heat our homes and fuel our cars. This Comprehensive Energy Plan sets a path for ensuring that this transition benefits all Vermonters and results in an energy system that is affordable, sustainable, reliable, and environmentally sound.” The draft CEP draws from input provided by Vermonters who shared their insights over the past months. “This initial draft is only the next step in an ongoing process. Continued public input is vital for us to achieve a plan that reflects the voices from all corners of Vermont”, added TJ Poor, Director of Efficiency & Energy Resources at the Department. Poor also said that “active engagement of Vermonters is critical to determine how best to respond to the rapidly evolving energy landscape.”

The draft 2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan may be downloaded from the Department of Public Service CEP website: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/release-draft-2022-comprehensive-energy-plan>. In December, the Department will host five public hearings around the state to provide opportunities for in-person comment. Due to the on-going pandemic, the Department will also host additional online public meetings to provide more options for public input on the draft plan. For more information about times and locations for public hearings, or to learn how to register for online public meetings, see: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/release-draft-2022-comprehensive-energy-plan>.

The PSD will accept public comments on the draft CEP until December 20, 2021. Comments may be provided in written form to the PSD, or via the CEP email portal: PSD.ComprehensiveEnergyPlan@vermont.gov.

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2022 COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN (CEP) FACT SHEET

The draft 2022 CEP advances and builds on the high-level goals set in the 2011 and 2016 CEP's: **Meet 25 percent of energy needs from renewable sources by 2025, 45 percent by 2035, and 90 percent by 2050.** The greenhouse gas requirements include 26 percent reduction from 2005 levels by 2025, 40 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2030, and 80 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2050.

This Comprehensive Energy Plan balances the Vermont energy policy goals articulated in 30 V.S.A. § 202a of energy adequacy, reliability, security, and affordability, which are all essential for a vibrant, resilient, and robust economy, and for the health and well-being of all Vermonters. The draft Plan includes the state's 20-Year Electric Plan and meets the statutory requirements of sections 202 and 202b of Title 30 of Vermont law. The draft also includes information responsive to Act 174 with information relevant to regional energy planning activities.

The CEP also recognizes that the current energy system is marked by systemic inequities that disproportionately impact many of Vermont's communities in terms of energy burdens and access to renewable energy opportunities. The draft 2022 CEP goes beyond previous energy plans with a focus on equity and justice. The transition needed to meet renewable energy goals and GHG reduction requirements presents opportunities to root out and redress those inequities.

The draft CEP provides detail on Vermont's pathways, strategies, and recommended actions towards achieving energy and greenhouse reduction goals. This Plan covers the electric sector, but also sets new goals for the energy required to heat buildings and to power transportation:

- In the Electric Sector, meet 100% of energy needs from carbon-free resources by 2032, with at least 75% from renewable energy
- In the Transportation Sector, meet 10% of energy needs from renewable energy by 2025, and 45% by 2040
- In the Thermal Sector, meet 30% of energy needs from renewable energy by 2025, and 70% by 2042

This CEP update focuses on strategies and options for reducing demand and converting remaining thermal and transportation loads to highly efficient electric technologies, such as heat pumps and electric vehicles. It contains strategies that can facilitate the electric system meeting these increased demands in a manner that encourages increased electrification while ensuring that Vermonters can continue to pay their electric bills. The CEP continues to maintain a role for renewable fuels to lower the carbon content of hard-to-electrify energy service needs.

The draft plan is the product of a year-long process that draws on input from Vermonters and numerous State agencies. The Department will continue to provide numerous opportunities for Vermonters to engage in conversations about Vermont's energy future.

The draft 2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan may be downloaded from the Department of Public Service CEP website: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/2022-plan>. In December, the Department will host five public hearings around the state to provide opportunities for in-person comment. Due to the on-going pandemic, the Department will also host additional online public meetings to provide more options for public input on the draft plan. For more information about times and locations for public hearings, or to learn how to register for online public meetings, see: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/2022-plan>.

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