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State of Vermont

Department of Public Service

800.622.4496

PSD.REPrograms@vermont.gov

July 18, 2023

JULY RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY POLICY & PROGRAMS REVIEW UPDATE

Dear Renewable Energy Stakeholders,

The Clean and Renewable Electricity Team at the Vermont Public Service Department wish you a happy, healthy and safe summer! We hope this newsletter finds you safe and dry following the unprecedented flooding parts of Vermont have experienced in the last week. The website vermont.gov/flood is being continually updated with resources and information if you or someone you know needs support.

As promised, we are providing a monthly update to share what we're working on and how you can be involved in our ongoing review of Vermont's clean and renewable electricity programs and policies. Please feel free to give any feedback regarding what you'd like to hear about in future editions by emailing PSD.REPrograms@vermont.gov.

Ongoing Efforts:

- **Statewide Polling and Engagement Events:** The Department is working with consulting firm MassINC Polling Group to conduct a statewide survey and focus groups that aim to reach a random, yet equitable, sample of Vermonters to better understand their priorities and preferences for renewable electricity in the state. This effort began in early June with a statewide survey of over 700 Vermonters and is currently in the process of conducting follow up focus groups and forums with a subset of people who took that survey to dig deeper on topics of renewable and clean electricity. These events are expected to wrap up later this week and we look forward to sharing results.

About To Launch:

- **Technical Analysis:** The Department is in the initial phases of an analysis aimed at exploring the possible impacts of modifying Vermont's current Renewable Energy Standard (if you're curious, see this [Request for Proposals](#) for more information). We recently conducted a public process to recruit interested participants for a Stakeholder Advisory Group to support that analysis. The first meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Group will take place this Friday,

July 21st at 10am. Non-members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group are welcome to attend those meetings which will include designated time for non-members to provide input. Meeting information can be requested from PSD.REPrograms@vermont.gov. We'll also hold at least one public workshop to review and discuss results, likely in early fall. Stay tuned for more information!

- **Outreach to Community-based Organizations (CBOs)** – We are in the beginning stages of outreach to CBOs serving Vermonters who may have historically been or are currently disproportionately impacted by our renewable electricity policies and programs. We are specifically targeting communities who have not yet been robustly represented in our ongoing engagement efforts. Do you know of any organizations we should consider reaching out to? Let us know by emailing PSD.REPrograms@vermont.gov.

In the Works:

- **Regional Listening Sessions** – We're in the early stages of planning geographically diverse listening sessions and discussion forums on renewable electricity. We expect to partner with Regional Planning Commissions to hold a series of events to engage in discussion with Vermonters on the next steps for our renewable electricity policies and programs. These events will likely be held in early fall, and we will provide details as they are available.

Past Events:

- **Discussion with the Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council (VCC):** On May 18th, Claire McIlvennie (she/her), the Department's Data & Equity Policy Manager, presented on past and upcoming public engagement activities to members of the Just Transitions Subcommittee to gain their feedback. The presentation and related discussion are [available for review on YouTube](#), starting at minute 31:00.

Thanks for reading and stay tuned for another edition in August!

Sincerely,

PSD Clean & Renewable Electricity Team

Vermont Department of Public Service

PSD.REPrograms@vermont.gov | publicservice.vermont.gov



PS Is there anything you'd like to hear about in upcoming editions? Send us your thoughts or submit a question to be answered next month! PSD.REPrograms@vermont.gov

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