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June 8, 2023

JUNE RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY POLICY AND PROGRAMS REVIEW UPDATE

Apologies if you are receiving this message for a second time. We had technical difficulties sending it yesterday and are resending to ensure all stakeholders receive it.

Greetings Renewable Energy Stakeholders,

As the Department moves into summer, we want to be more intentional, transparent, and consistent in communicating with stakeholders about the work happening and ways for folks to get engaged as we review Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard and related programs. We enjoyed seeing many of you during our webinar series earlier this year! Since then we've been busy planning the next steps to implement what we proposed in our [Public Engagement Plan](#) for this effort. Moving forward, we will provide monthly updates on the work being done and highlight opportunities to get engaged.

About To Launch

- **Statewide Polling and Engagement Events:** The Department is working with the MassINC Polling Group to conduct a statewide survey and focus groups. This effort will engage a random, yet equitable, sample of Vermonters to better understand their priorities and preferences for renewable electricity in the state. This effort will begin in early June and wrap up by late July. We look forward to sharing results as they become available!

In the Works

- **Outreach to Community-based Organizations (CBOs)** – We are preparing to conduct outreach to CBOs serving Vermonters who may have been historically or are currently disproportionately impacted by our renewable electricity policies and programs. This effort will be informed, in part, by the list of organizations submitted to the Department during last summer's [Request for Information](#) (see slides 16 and 17 from [this report recapping the information we received](#)). Do you know of any organization we should consider reaching out to? Let us know by emailing PSD.REPrograms@vermont.gov.
- **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 hear from and

engage in discussion with Vermonters on the next steps for our renewable electricity policies and programs. We don't yet have a timeline for when these events will occur but expect they'll be in late summer or early fall. We'll provide details as they are finalized.

- **Technical Analyses** – The Department is currently in the process of hiring a consultant to help explore the possible impacts of expanding Vermont's current Renewable Energy Standard (if you're curious, see this [Request for Proposals](#) for more information). We're hoping to convene a Stakeholder Advisory Group to support the process and are currently working to develop an equitable way to recruit participants for this group. We'll also hold at least one public workshop to review and discuss draft results, likely in early fall. Stay tuned for more information!

Past Events

- **Electricity Webinar Series:** The Department kicked off our public engagement activities in early 2023 with a three-part webinar series on renewable electricity in Vermont. The sessions touched on where Vermont gets our electricity from, the policies and programs that currently support renewable electricity in the state, and what Renewable Energy Certificates are. These events aimed to share grounding facts on the state of electricity in Vermont that will help inform conversations and engagement opportunities to come. In case you missed them, all materials (ex. slides, recordings) from these webinars are posted on the Department's website:
<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/renewables#Upcoming%20events>

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

Sincerely,

The PSD Clean & Renewable Electricity Team

PS: Is there anything you'd like to hear about in upcoming editions? Send us your thoughts! PSD.REPrograms@vermont.gov

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