

## **Overview: Request for Input on Review of Vermont Renewable & Clean Electricity Policies and Programs**

**Public Service Department**

**August 1, 2022**

Earlier this month, the Department of Public Service (“Department”) began a process to review the programs and policies in Vermont that seek to increase the use of renewable and clean electricity. As a first step in the process, the Department is requesting feedback on three important topics from the public:

1. What the process to review these programs should look like and how to engage with the public,
2. What factors the Department should consider when making decisions about policies and programs, and
3. What is and isn’t working well with the policies and programs that exist today.

This information sheet provides a high-level summary of the Department’s request, while the full request and supporting documents can be accessed at [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/renewable\\_energy](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/renewable_energy).

### **Topic 1: Timeline for Policy Review and Stakeholder Engagement**

The Department seeks to continuously improve the way it engages with stakeholders and communities, including with those who have historically not been engaged. To support this, in planning to review renewable electricity programs and policies, the Department drafted two potential timelines to show the kinds of stakeholder engagement and technical analyses that could be possible under two different timelines (see Appendix A of the [Request for Input](#) or the visual representation available on the Department’s website at [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/Renewable\\_Energy/RES\\_Review\\_2022/Timeline%20Comparison.pdf](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/Renewable_Energy/RES_Review_2022/Timeline%20Comparison.pdf)) and is asking for information on:

- How long should the policy review process be to allow for adequate engagement and technical analyses and what aspects of the proposed timelines should be prioritized in developing a public engagement plan?
- What stakeholders or organizations should the Department engage with?
- What is the best way to engage with the public on these issues (e.g., workshops, surveys, polls, coming to community events)?

### **Topic 2: Decision Criteria**

In addition to feedback on the review process itself, the Department seeks input from the public on what issues it should consider when reviewing existing programs and policies and considering next steps. The [2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan](#) discusses several criteria, including:

- The ability of programs and policies to promote equitable access to and distribution of burdens of renewable and clean electricity

- Costs and benefits of programs and policies
- The ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- The impact to the local economy and jobs

The Department is requesting feedback on what additional issues should be considered and how different criteria should be prioritized.

### **Topic 3: Key Issues for Consideration**

Last, as the Department begins this process, it would further appreciate feedback on what Vermont is doing well when it comes to promoting the deployment of and access to renewable and clean electricity as well as the challenges with or gaps in existing programs and policies that that the Department should consider as we begin this process.

### **Additional Comments**

Beyond the specific questions above, the Department is open to any additional feedback or issues for consideration stakeholders would like to raise at this time.

### **Response Due Date and Next Steps**

The Department welcomes comments on the above questions and any others that may be identified. There are a number of ways to provide a response:

- Through email to [PSD-REPrograms@vermont.gov](mailto:PSD-REPrograms@vermont.gov)
- Through the online form available at <https://forms.office.com/g/qjTCnq3ctD>
- By U.S. mail to 112 State Street, Montpelier Vermont, 05620-2601.

The Department requests input by August 15, an extension from the original August 5 deadline. The information received will be summarized and made publicly available for review and directly inform the Department's public engagement plan for this effort.