

RES Technical Analysis – Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)

The Department of Public Service (Department) is reviewing Vermont’s Renewable Energy Standard (RES) and related programs. As part of this effort, the Department is conducting a technical analysis to review different options for modifying or expanding the current RES requirement of 75% renewable to a 100% requirement of renewable and/or carbon-free resources, taking into consideration recommendations made in the [2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan and 2021 Climate Action Plan](#). This analysis will be done with the support of a consultant, who the Department is in the process of selecting.

To support this effort and ensure consideration of a broad array of perspectives in the selection of scenarios, inputs, and assumptions in the analysis, the Department is convening a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). As noted in the [Request for Proposals](#) for this analysis, the Department would like this group to include reasonable representation from industry, environmental advocates, state agencies, community leadership, historically underrepresented customer populations, and utilities. In particular, the Department currently intends to convene a group with the following membership:

- 1-2 representatives of the renewable energy development industry,
- 1-2 representatives of the environmental advocacy community,
- 3-4 representatives from different types of electric distribution utilities,
- 2-3 representatives from underrepresented customer populations,
- 1 representative of municipalities,
- 1 representative from the Regional Planning Commissions, and
- 1 representative from the Agency of Natural Resources

The Department has requested the consultant be prepared to present assumptions and results in a way that is accessible to these perspectives and to compensate members for attending meetings who are participating outside the scope of their normal employment. Compensation is expected to be \$50 for each hour of meeting time or preparatory time.

The Department is seeking nominations for Stakeholder Advisory Group Members. [Nominations can be made at this link](#). Please make any nominations (self-nominations are allowed) by June 28, 2023. The Department expects to name the members of the SAG soon thereafter.

Expectations of Participation:

Members of the SAG should be prepared to attend up to 10 meetings between July and December, 2023. The SAG will convene once a month starting in July 2023, although may meet more frequently early in the process. Meetings are expected to be conducted virtually on the Microsoft Teams platform. Meetings will be 1-2 hours each, depending on the topic and key questions. Attempts will be made to schedule when most participants are available, however there are no quorum requirements.

In addition to general meetings, members of the SAG should also expect to attend 1-2 public workshops to discuss draft results from the technical analysis in late September 2023 (this is included in the number of meetings listed above).

Members should also expect to do roughly 1-2 hours of work to prepare for each meeting, although the Department and contractor will work to keep this out-of-meeting work to a minimum.

Participation is in an advisory capacity. Final decisions regarding the technical analysis will be made by the Department in consideration of this advice. Minority opinions on consequential decisions will be asked to be clearly articulated so that the final report can transparently describe how the analysis considered the opinion and/or why specific suggestions were or were not incorporated into the analysis.

Non-Members:

If a person, or an organization, is not selected to participate in the Stakeholder Advisory Group, the person or organization may still attend meetings of the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Upon request, meeting information will be provided. Active participation of non-members may occur at designated times during the meeting through a non-member comment period. The amount of time that a participating non-member has to speak will depend on the amount of non-member participants who wish to speak and the time allotted for the particular agenda item(s).

Other:

These meetings will not be recorded so that members can speak, ask questions, and comment freely. It is expected that all participants will be respectful in both verbal and written discourse, including the chat feature during virtual meetings.