



Vermont Energy & Climate Summit
“Meeting Vermont’s 2025 Energy & Climate Goals”

*****Pitch Submission Form*****

Let your ideas be heard!

*This is your chance to get your energy or climate pitch
in front of 200 of Vermont’s energy leaders and the Governor’s Climate Action Commission*

Vermont has a bold goal: to meet 90% of our energy needs through increased efficiency and renewables by 2050. We have also joined leading states across the country in a bi-partisan commitment to adhere to the Paris Climate Accord goals. Where are we now on achieving those goals and what can we do to bend the curve toward 2025 milestones along that path?

- **Energy:** The first milestone of Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan is to meet 25% of Vermont’s total energy needs from renewable sources by 2025. The most recent status estimates put us at around 16% across heat, electricity and transportation (2016).
- **Climate:** The Paris Accord goal seeks a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 26-28% from 2005 levels by 2025. Vermont’s own statutes are even more ambitious: 50% reduction from 1990 levels by 2028. As of 2013, Vermont’s GHG emissions decreased 11% from 2005 levels and actually *increased* 4% from 1990 levels.

Pitch Invitation

We have a lot of work to do over the next 8-10 years. That is why we want to ***hear your pitch*** for promising opportunities to help Vermont meet its 2025 goals. What will help bend the curve?

Selected proposals will be invited to present at the Vermont Energy and Climate Summit co-hosted by [Energy Action Network](#) (EAN) and the [VT Climate Pledge Coalition](#) (VCPC) on November 8th at Champlain College in Burlington. Please submit your pitch by using the form below and emailing completed proposals to jduval@eanvt.org by **Friday October 20th**.

(NOTE: Regardless of whether you are invited to present on Nov. 8th -- notification will come by Wed. Oct. 25 -- *all submitted and complete proposals will be included in a full compilation to be submitted to the Governor’s Climate Action Commission and the Vermont Legislature.*)

Vermont Energy & Climate Summit Pitch Submission Form

Guiding Criteria: EAN’s mission is to end Vermont’s reliance on fossil fuels *and* to create efficient, clean, affordable, and secure electric, heating, and transportation systems for the 21st Century. The VT Climate Pledge Coalition is seeking pledges to reduce GHG reductions that will help Vermont meet Paris climate commitments. Together, we support the criteria outlined in Gov. Scott’s Executive Order creating the **Vermont Climate Action Commission**, specifically that solutions must:

- Spur economic activity, inspire and grow Vermont businesses, and put Vermonters on a path to affordability;
- Engage all Vermonters, so no individual or group of Vermonters is unduly burdened; and
- Collectively provide solutions for all Vermonters to reduce their carbon impact and save money.

With these goals and criteria in mind, please answer the questions below. Questions 8-12 can be answered individually or in one comprehensive narrative. (Total pitch submission **no more than 3 pages**).

1. **Pitch Submitted By (Your Name or Organization):** Rebecca Foster, VEIC
2. **Contact Email Address:** rfoster@veic.org
3. **Contact Phone Number:** (802) 540-7882
4. **Pitch Title:** Transforming Vermont’s Energy and Economy
5. **Pitch Summary:** Vermont has the tools, foundation, and resources already in place to jumpstart our economy and transform our energy system. The key is to repurpose Efficiency Vermont, such that it is no longer focused primarily on the delivery of energy savings – but also on building the infrastructure (trained workers, leading edge technologies, and a statewide network, all while supporting middle and low income Vermonters) to spur increased private market investment, and create new business opportunities across the energy sector. This proposal relies on regulatory and statutory changes, but requires no new funding, and will create opportunities to leverage additional capital into the state – helping further progress toward energy and climate goals, and solidifying Vermont’s national reputation as an energy innovator.
6. **What energy sector(s) does this Pitch apply to? (Check all that apply):**
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Electricity
 - Transportation
 - Thermal Heating &/or Cooling
 - All (Total Energy)
 - None: Non-energy related carbon reduction proposal

7. **Which criteria category(ies) does it address? (Check all that apply):**

- Economic Activity
- Affordability
- Vulnerable Vermonters
- Other

8. **Scale of impact on Vermont's energy and climate goals:** If this proposal came to fruition, how might it move the needle in helping to meet Vermont's energy and climate goals by 2025 and/or 2050? Please outline assumptions and, if available, provide calculations.

Efficiency Vermont (EVT) has already made an impressive impact in helping address Vermont's energy and climate action goals. A few key highlights:

- Accounts for 15.5% of the state's electric needs, which has helped reduce the environmental impact of our electric supply, and has created more capacity for beneficial electrification
- Is Vermont's single largest in-state resource bidding into the ISO-NE Forward Capacity Market – so far returning more than \$30 million for investment into thermal efficiency efforts
- Has supported the creation of 11,000 jobs in energy efficiency and conservation

Seventeen years after its creation, EVT has demonstrated that it is an ideal engine for spurring and supporting energy transformation. There is now more interest and activity taking place to advance Vermont's climate and energy goals than ever before, and EVT is in the ideal position to serve as a catalyst and foundation, helping support and advance private sector and utility efforts.

We will not meet our bold goals unless we can get to scale rapidly – leveraging EVT's proven strengths. This means:

- Seeking out transformative technologies by engaging with manufacturers, researchers, and product developers – and bringing the best products to Vermont first
- Training and certifying contractors and installers, ensuring they are available to serve customers throughout the state in completing energy transformation projects
- Making it easy for Vermonters of all income levels to take action by directly lowering the cost of technologies and creating new financing opportunities
- Leveraging a supply chain and distribution network that includes more than 300 local businesses in every corner of the state

The current regulatory construct creates unnecessary competition for energy savings, and requires EVT to place its focus on delivering MWH and MMBtu, rather than doing foundational work to help increase the impact of utility and private sector efforts. By removing statutory limitations and changing performance requirements, EVT could increase its focus on building the clean electricity, thermal, transportation, and renewable energy markets. Part of building these markets would include encouraging

private sector investment, and ensuring a skilled workforce is in place to meet increased demand for energy transformation services.

9. Benefits/costs of this proposal for Vermont and Vermonters: Including, where possible, economic, financial, social, and environmental.

This proposal has no additional cost, since it would simply leverage and repurpose existing EVT resources for investment where they can have greater impact.

Benefits:

- Spurs an increase in economic activity – from a higher volume and increased scale (EVT’s upstream distribution model has been shown to drive 10x the purchasing and installation activity of direct consumer rebates alone)
- Improves affordability by making energy transformation easier, cheaper, and more accessible for all Vermonters. This is particularly true for the most challenging activities, such as weatherization and services to low income Vermonters, which can never be fully served through pure market activities – but where the need is great and is not being fully met. Under a new performance model across total energy, EVT can even put its infrastructure and resources to work supporting electric vehicles and renewable energy for moderate, low income and the most vulnerable Vermonters.
- This proposal also supports the rapid scale that is required to meet Vermont’s goals – removing the barriers that are currently causing unnecessary competition so the full potential of energy transformation can be unleashed.

10. Decision-makers necessary for this proposal to be adopted or move forward (e.g., Legislature, Governor, a regulatory agency, a business, organization, media outlet, or financing institution, etc.)

Legislature (for change in EVT guiding statute); Governor (through PSD, ANR, VTrans, and ACCD engagement to help shape energy transformation new goals and requirements for EVT); and PUC (to create new regulatory construct, oversee progress on new goals, and ensure EVT is deployed to create an energy transformation market – and not to compete with other entities for savings)

11. Strategy and key considerations: Outline the overall strategy, including gaps, barriers and opportunities for moving this proposal forward.

Analogous energy transformation efforts are underway in other jurisdictions – but there are key differences – and there will need to be research to investigate potential new regulatory models and assess their potential impact. It will be important to evaluate the full impact of EVT’s current efforts as well as the risks and consequences of the contemplated change. This would also help ensure that EVT is able to fill any gaps not currently being served by utilities or the private sector, in addition to its new charge of helping lay groundwork for advancing energy transformation at scale.

12. Timeline: To meet our 2025 goals, we need some proposals that can be implemented in the next couple of years as well as some “game changers” that will bend the curve even further out. What timeline do you foresee for your proposal to be developed and implemented?

It will take time for the legislature to effectively examine and adjust the guiding statute for EVT, followed by a 1-2 year PUC process to create a new regulatory and operational framework. Once in place the new EVT will be a game changer for rapidly advancing Vermont’s energy transformation efforts and meeting climate goals.

Suggested Reference Documents:

[Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan, 2016](#)

[Vermont’s Total Energy Study, 2014](#)

[Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Climate Dashboard](#)

[EAN Annual Report, 2016](#)

[90% Renewable by 2050: Exploring Vermont’s Efficiency & Renewable Energy Pathways, 2013](#)