

**1. Pitch Submitted By [Name(s) and Organization(s)]: \***

Renewable Energy Vermont

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**4. Pitch Title: (one line)**

100% RES for VT

**5. Pitch Summary: (one paragraph)**

As other states move towards true 100% clean energy standards, it is time for Vermont to join this movement and again lead the way on clean energy policy. Vermont's largest utility, Green Mountain Power, has already [publicly declared their intention to move to 100% renewable by 2030](#). It is time for the VT legislature to pass a true 100% clean energy by 2030 standard. This is the single most important policy needed to accelerate the deployment of renewables, grow green energy jobs, reduce carbon emissions, and help us meet our carbon reduction commitments.

**6. What Energy Sector(s) Does this Pitch Apply to? (Check all that apply): \***

All

**7. Which Criteria Category(ies) Does It Address? (Check all that apply): \***

All

**8. Which Leverage Areas Would It Attempt to Shift? (Check all that apply): \***

Policy & Regulatory Reform

**9. Scale of Impact on Vermont's Energy and Emissions Goals: If this proposal came to fruition, how would it help meet Vermont's energy and emissions goals by 2025 and/or 2050? Please outline assumptions and, if available, provide calculations-- especially for emissions reduction estimates.**

Here in Vermont, the Transportation and Thermal sectors are the leading causes of carbon emissions. We have already begun the electrification of both of these sectors. This work of electrification is of critical importance. However, the transition to electrification is only one part of the equation. Electrified heating and transportation options are only beneficial to the planet and our carbon reduction commitments if the electricity powering them is truly renewable.

That is why a new, truly 100% Renewable Energy Standard is of pivotal importance.

Unfortunately, only a small portion of the power Vermonters pull of the grid comes from renewable energy. In recent years, the grid has seen a massive influx in natural gas, while renewables have been growing at a comparatively sluggish pace.

In Vermont, our current 90% by 2050 RES framework is also failing to deploy new renewables at the pace needed to combat climate change.

VT's current Renewable Energy Standard (RES) is really only a 1% - 10% RPS:

- **Tier 1** - existing resources and large hydro qualify as renewable energy; target of 55% in 2017, rising to 75% in 2032.
- **Tier 2** is the True RPS (Limited to New VT Distributed Generation Project of 5 MW or smaller). Tier 2 Starts at merely 1% in 2017 and is capped at a total of 10% in 2032.

We are proposing that Vermont legislate a true 100% clean energy standard next legislative session, something that governments from Washington DC to Washington state have already done. Our proposal is for 100% clean energy by 2030 (current standard is 75% by 2032), and a minimum of 20% in-state generation.

**10. Benefits/costs of this proposal for Vermont and Vermonters: Including, where possible, economic (local economic development and jobs), financial (consumer savings), social, public health, and environmental.**

Our proposal would provide a myriad of benefits to Vermonters, including increased jobs and economic opportunity, reduced pollution and carbon emissions, the corresponding health benefits, greater grid resiliency and energy independence, as well as mitigation of the catastrophic potential impacts of climate change.

**11. Collaboration: Who have you collaborated with to develop this proposal and who else would need to be engaged for it to succeed?**

Renewable Energy VT and Green Mountain Power have co-hosted a series of collaborative working groups that have identified 100% RES is a top priority. In addition to legislative committee leadership, the group has included renewable energy industry leaders, climate activists, and a broad array of other stakeholders from groups like VPirg, VNRC, GMP, and other direct utilities.

**12. Decision-makers: Who is necessary to move this proposal forward? (e.g., Legislature, Governor, a regulatory agency, a business, organization, media outlet, or financing institution, etc.)**

Ultimately, this proposal requires the support of the Governor and both bodies of the legislature.

**13. Strategy and Key Considerations: Outline the overall strategy, including any gaps, barriers, and opportunities for moving this proposal forward.**

Broad public support, and pressure from a diverse coalition of advocates will be needed to achieve a new 100% clean energy standard. Climate change issues were not prioritized in the most recent legislative session. Recent collaboration between VT direct utilities, leaders in the the renewable energy sector, climate activists, and legislators concerned about climate issues, has opened the door to more fruitful results being possible in the year ahead.

**14. Timeline: To meet our 2025 goals, we need some proposals that can be implemented in the next year. How "ripe" is this idea and what timeline do you foresee for this proposal to be developed and implemented?**

Our proposal is a timely one. There is a growing public outcry for immediate action on climate change. GMP's announcement of their own move to 100% renewable is indicative of the momentum here in VT. As national presidential candidates line up to pledge their support for 100% clean energy, and other states move ahead of us in implementing similar policies, the time is now for Vermont to step up and pass a new 100% clean energy standard during the 2020 legislative session.

**15. Budget: If this is a program or project for which you are seeking funding to implement, please outline a basic budget here, including both expenses and funding sources.**

Implementing our proposal requires political action, not implementation funding.