

## **Charting a Clean, Renewable Energy Future in Vermont — All Hands on Deck**

Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan lays out an ambitious but essential goal of meeting 90 percent of the state's total energy needs in 2050 from renewable resources.

**Meeting this goal, however, will require the support and partnership of all Vermonters. It will also take substantive action across ALL energy sectors, including efficiency and conservation, generation and distribution, transportation and land use. Getting to 90 percent renewable will also require significant education and public engagement.**

Growing an increasingly involved, informed and solutions-oriented network of Vermonters is key to implementing efficient, renewable energy policies, programs and practices. It won't be easy.

**Get more involved!**

**Help shape upcoming legislative action on energy!**

This upcoming legislative session, it is likely lawmakers will take up bills focused on:

- **Expanding investment in thermal energy efficiency.**
- **Funding the small-scale renewable energy Clean Energy Development Fund.**
- **Beginning to expand support for and promote electric vehicles.**
- **Act 250 reforms aimed at fostering better land use, transportation and energy outcomes.**
- **Stopping the transport of tar sands across Vermont.**

Likely the biggest energy issue this session will be thermal efficiency. To support much needed investment, Vermonters who care about this issue must ensure their legislators support new funding.

Here's some background:

In 2008, the State of Vermont enacted statutory goals that, among other things, focus on substantially improving "the energy fitness of at least 20 percent of the state's housing stock by 2017 and 25 percent by 2020." In short: Vermont has set a goal of retrofitting 80,000 homes by 2020. To date, despite significant cost, energy and climate benefits, the state is far from meeting that goal. One of the biggest roadblocks to moving farther and faster on energy efficiency is funding.

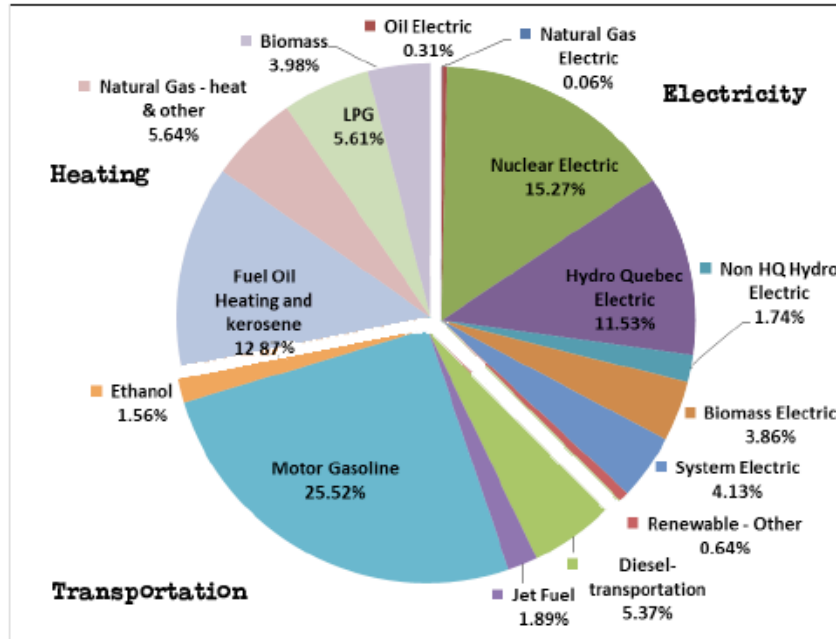
**A consistent, sustainable and equitable funding stream is imperative to begin to reinvest in the state's old, leaky housing stock and save Vermonters' significantly on their heating bills.**

The state-convened Thermal Efficiency Task Force, which is currently wrapping up its work, has identified several potential funding options for the Legislature to consider this session. Many of them would expand the amount of dollars raised from fossil-based heating fuels in particular. The goal is to expand funding available to support weatherization and thermal efficiency programs, as well as level the playing field of support for thermal efficiency efforts among home heating fuels, electric and natural gas.

With an adequate, stable funding stream for thermal efficiency, Vermont could achieve its efficiency goals. Public investment alone won't be enough though. Retrofitting 80,000 homes by 2020 will require leveraging far more private than public dollars — through homeowner financing or other investments. This public/private partnership around thermal efficiency promises to deliver real benefits — saving Vermonters on their fuel bills, generating in-state jobs and commerce, reducing climate change pollution and more. **Let your legislators know you support needed investment in thermal efficiency.**

Vermont's current energy mix\* — below — relies heavily on fossil fuels to heat our homes and power our transportation system. Aggressive efforts to reduce amount of dirty fossil fuels needed for home heating would go a long way to moving towards a more efficient, clean, green energy future. Get involved!

**Exhibit 3-34. Vermont's 2009 Total Energy Consumption, by Source and Percentage**



*\*Note: This chart is from 2009, which means it is a bit outdated and does not reflect changes to date, i.e. the fact that we source less nuclear power (as we no longer have a contract with Vermont Yankee), have brought more renewables online (like the 40 MW Sheffield wind project) etc.*

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED:**

- Set up an in-district or other meeting with your legislators to ask their support for needed investment in thermal efficiency, weatherization, fuel switching and renewable energy. Find their contact information here: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/legdir/LegDirMain.cfm>
- Call your legislators pre-session and, as needed, to ensure they support thermal efficiency investments.
- Stay tuned to periodic video and email updates on efforts underway in the Legislature. If you are not already, get on VECAN's mailing list and watch the short video segments VNRC puts together and posts on VNRC.org and VECAN.net every week or so during the legislative session.
- Attend the second joint House and Senate Natural Resource and Energy Committee hearing for town energy committee leaders at a date still TBD; likely late January or early February 2013. Stay tuned to VECAN.net for exact details or contact Johanna Miller at 802-223-2328 ext. 112 or [jmiller@vnrc.org](mailto:jmiller@vnrc.org).

To learn more about 2013 legislative initiatives, stay tuned to VNRC.org, VECAN.net or VPIRG.org or contact Johanna Miller, VNRC Energy Program Director and VECAN Coordinator at [jmiller@vnrc.org](mailto:jmiller@vnrc.org) or 802-223-2328 ext. 112 or VPIRG's Clean Energy Advocate Ben Walsh at [bwalsh@vpig.org](mailto:bwalsh@vpig.org).