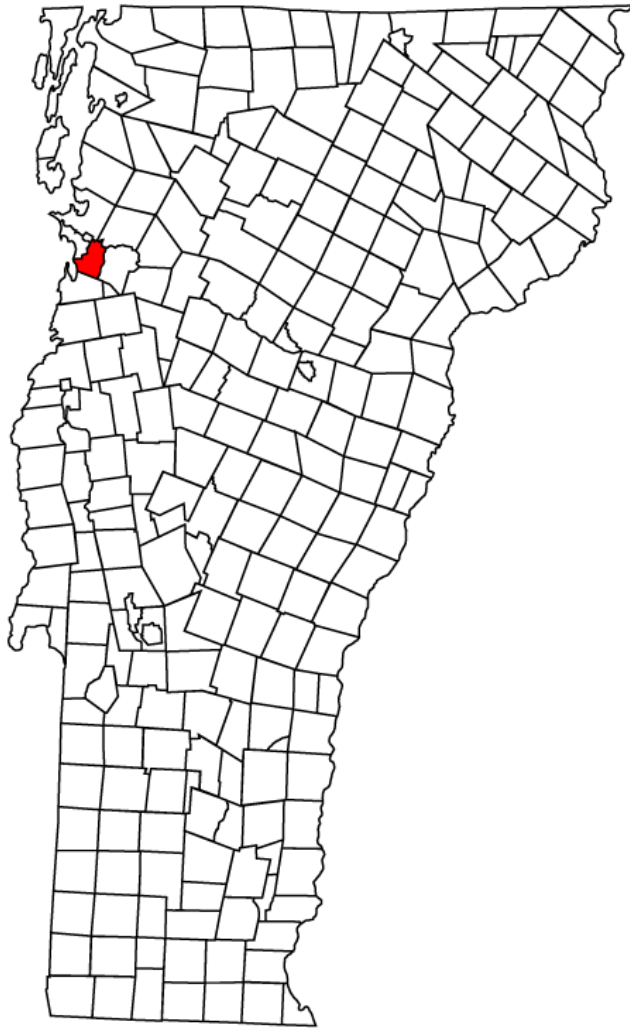


South Burlington Energy Committee

Keith Epstein
VECAN conference 2013



About South Burlington



- About 18,000 people
- About 8,000 households
- Elected 5-person City Council
- City Manager hired by Council
- Natural gas in most of the city
- Energy Committee since 2008



How we got started

- 2008, Natural Resource Committee interested in energy
- Researched VECAN website
- Proposal to City Manager
- Advertised for volunteers
- Created bylaws, mission, meeting date/time
- Created wiki - <http://sbec.wikispaces.com>



SBEC Mission

“Promote energy conservation, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy resources among the city's residents, businesses, and in municipal affairs.”



Logistics

- 10 members
- 3 year terms
- Appointed by City Council
- Rotating chair/vice chair – 4 month term
 - Everyone gets a chance in the hot seat
 - Everyone gains experience
 - Nobody gets burned out
- Agendas, minutes
 - Keeps us and public focused and informed



Open meeting laws

- 2011, changed to City Council Committee
- Must follow open meeting laws
 - ✓ Warned meetings, open to public
 - ✓ Posted agendas
 - ✓ Minutes
 - ✗ Group emails count as meetings
- Slowed our work
 - Only small group discussions
 - Meeting discussions longer
 - We have to follow the rules



Projects

- Committee member initiatives
 - LED streetlights
 - CFL switch campaign
- City staff requests
 - Interview and help select renewable energy partner
- City Committee requests
 - Review draft regulations
 - Provide input to Comprehensive Plan
- We try to plan strategically, but it's hard



Discussion time

