



**Vermont ANR –
perspectives on
renewable energy
development**

What is the Agency of Natural Resources?

- Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation.
- Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).
- Agency Central Office.

Climate Change

Adaptation to Climate Change:

Adaptation to global warming is a response to climate change that seeks to reduce the vulnerability of biological systems to climate change effects.

Mitigation of Climate Change:

A human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

ANR Climate Initiatives:

- ANR Climate Change Team
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/anr/climatechange/>
- Climate Cabinet
- Climate Change Policy Priority
- Ecosystems Restoration Program
- Flood Resilience and River Corridor Protection
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/anr/envrptsb/ANREnvReport2011.pdf>
- Landscape Connectivity, Staying Connected, Planning Tools
- Invasive Species Management and Preparedness
- Air Quality Permitting
- EV Partnerships
- Technical Assistance for Renewable Energy Development

ANR and Renewable Energy:

- ANR considers well-sited renewable energy a key strategy to mitigate the effects of Climate Change.
- Installed solar to power state park, regional office and fisheries infrastructure.
- Adopted policies that support deployment of small scale renewables on state land to power facilities.
- Actively encourage the use of woody biomass fuel, provided it is harvested sustainably in support of forest health.
- Involved in the review and licensing of hydro electric facilities.
- Provide data, mapping tools and technical assistance to RE developers.

Permitting Renewable Energy:

While ANR supports renewable energy generation facilities, RE is still legally and practically considered “development”, and like all development in Vermont, it needs to be sited, constructed and operated to avoid impacts to important natural resource.

ANR Role in RE Siting Decisions:

- Resource to communities and developers in the early stages of projects: provide tech. assistance, mapping, site analysis.
- ANR is a statutory party to Section 248 proceedings before the public service board.
- ANR often issues our own collateral permits for RE projects, such as state stormwater and wetlands permits.
- For wood fuel electric facilities, ANR is required to review the harvest plans for all wood fuel procured in Vermont.

Important Natural Resources to Consider in Siting RE:

- Wetland, wetland buffers and hydric soils.
- Deer wintering areas and buffers.
- Flood hazard areas and flood plains.
- Significant natural communities.
- Rare, threatened and endangered species.
- Important wildlife habitat corridors.
- Secondary containment of contaminants.
- Etc.

ANR Mapping Tools:

Natural Resources Atlas:

<http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra/>

BioFinder:

<http://biofinder.vt.gov/>

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Thank you!!!!