REV's 2024 Legislative Recap

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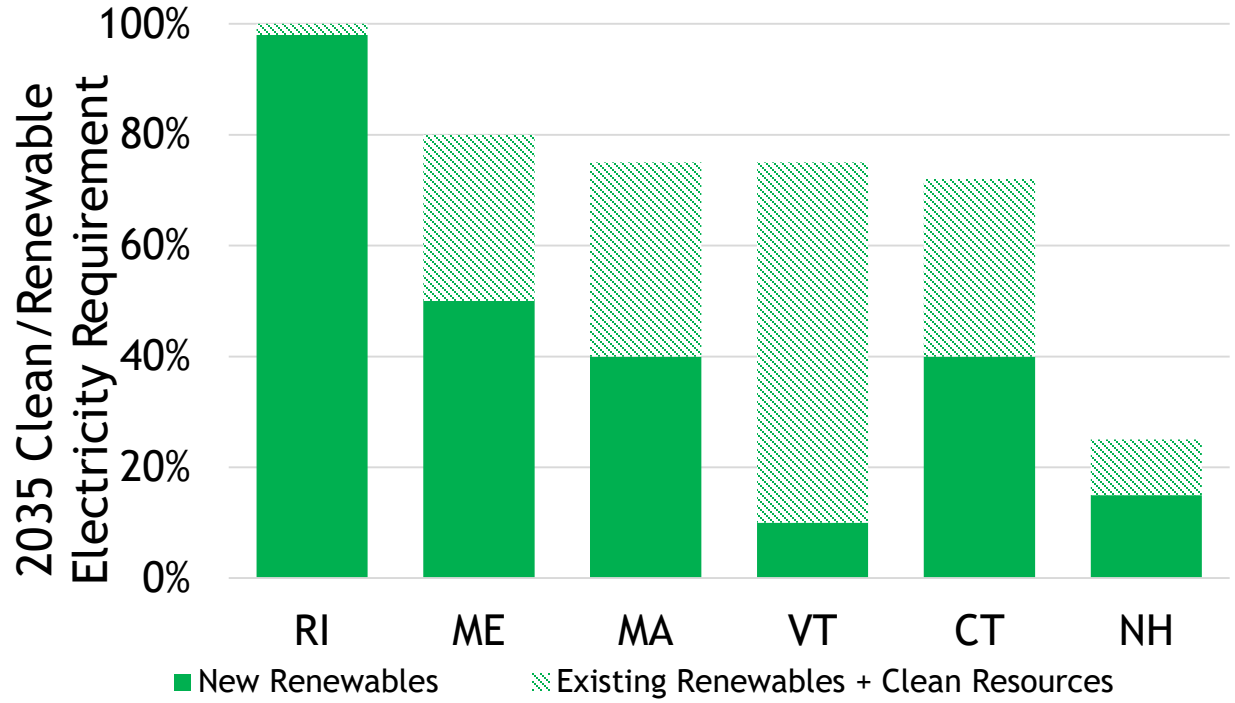
Current Renewable Energy Standard

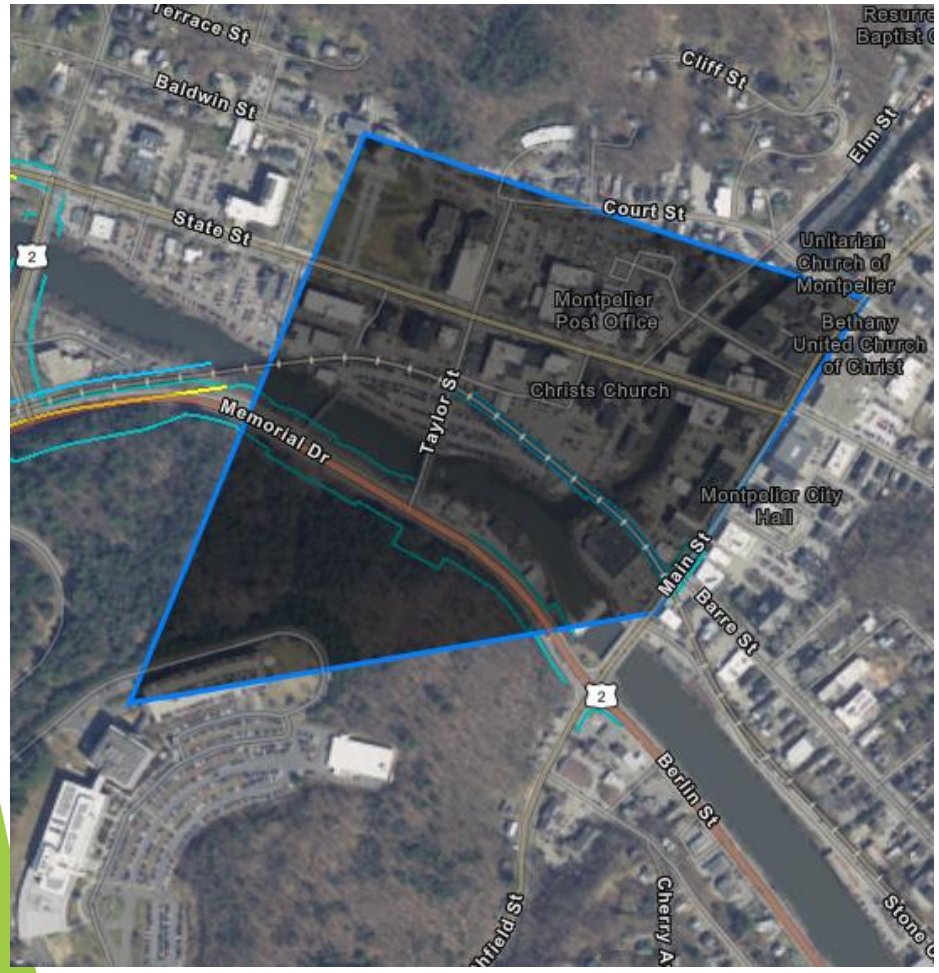
Written in 2015, the requirements of the current RES do not rise the challenges caused by the current climate crisis. Vermont is the only New England state that has not updated its RES since 2015

The current RES requires only 75% renewables by 2032- just 10% of which is from new sources
This is the weakest requirement in New England

Regulators view current RES as a ceiling not a floor so many good projects are denied CPGs and NM rates continue to go down



Why Vermont Needs RES Reform: Environmental Justice



Footprint of the 60 acre 360MW baseload natural gas facility in Dayville, CT superimposed on Montpelier

New England has 64 oil & gas fossil fuel plants larger than 50 MW

- 65% are located in communities with a higher than average share of people of color
- 60% in communities with a higher than average share of low-income residents
- 89% in communities with a higher than average share of kids under 5
- 44% are located in communities where all of these are true
- **None are located in Vermont!**

H.289 RES Reform: How We Got Here

- Act 33 of 2023 created the Legislative Working Group on Renewable Energy Standard Reform to "to draft legislation to be considered by the General Assembly during the 2024 Legislative session."
- H.289 was the result of an agreement between many stakeholders including:

Green Mtn Power	Conservation Law Foundation
Burlington Electric	350VT
VEC	Sierra Club
VPPSA	VPIRG
Global Foundries	Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility
Stowe Electric	Vermont Natural Resources Council
VELCO	Vermont Conservation Voters

- H.289 was sponsored by House Environment & Energy Chair Representative Amy Sheldon and Vice Chair Representative Laura Sibilia
- H.289 passed the House 99-39 with four confirmed "yes" votes absent and the Senate 18-8 with two confirmed "yes" votes absent
- Governor Scott vetoed the bill citing inaccurate cost estimates that undervalue the cost savings from renewables

What Does H.289 Do?

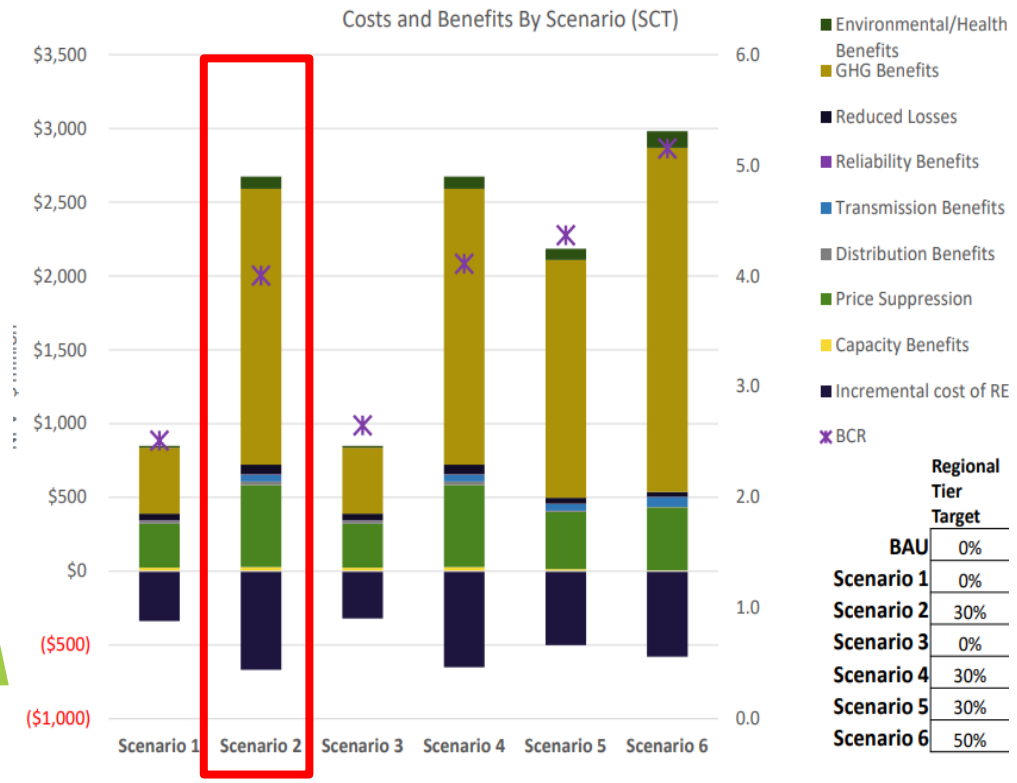
Utility	New RES Requirement	=Amount of New Renewables (built after 2010)
GMP Tier 1	100% by 2030	
GMP Tier 2	20% by 2032	65MW/yr of solar, current GMP requirement is 21MW/yr
GMP Tier 4	20% by 2035*	About 192MW wind power by 2032
		100% of new load after 2035 is from new renewables
GF Tier 1	100% by 2035	
GF Tier 2	20% by 2035	25MW of wind or 55MW of solar for Tiers 2&4 combined by 2032
GF Tier 4	10% by 2035	
VEC Tier 1	100% by 2030	
VEC Tier 2	20% by 2032	7MW/yr of solar, current VEC requirement is 2MW/yr
VEC Tier 4	10% by 2035	About 10MW of wind or 25MW solar by 2032
Muni's Tier 1	100% by 2035	
Muni's Tier 2	20% by 2035	4.6MW/yr of solar by 2032, current requirement 2MW/yr
Muni's Tier 4	10% by 2035	About 9.4MW of wind in total or 24MW of solar by 2032
BED/WEC/Swanton Tier 5	2025: 50% 2026: 75% 2027: 90% 2028-2034: 100% until new power purchases exceed 135% of 2022 purchases, then 50% through 2034 Post 2035: 75%	13MW of wind or 34MW of solar by 2032

Tier 1: Renewables of any size/age connected to the New England grid
Tier 2: Renewables <5MW built after 2010 in Vermont
Tier 4: Renewables of any size built after 2010 within NE or capable of connecting to Vermont
Tier 5: Renewables of any size built after 2010 for new load requirements for existing 100% renewable utilities

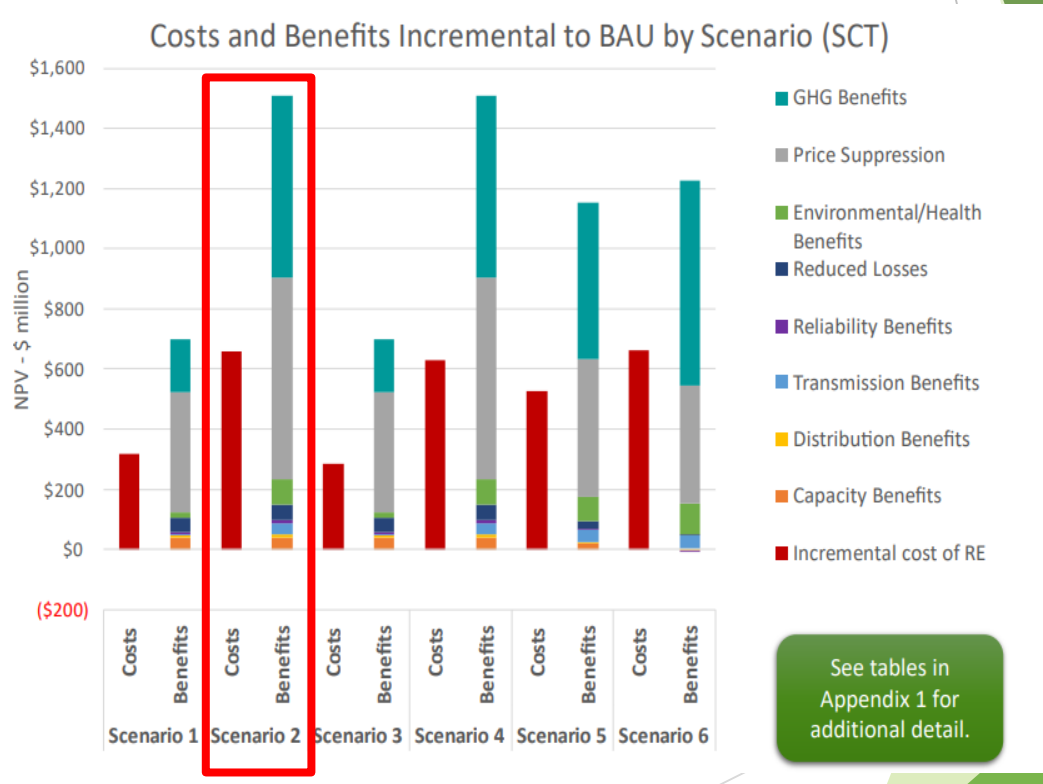
* As early as 2032 pending PUC check back report approval

PSD Modeling: Societal Benefits of H.289 Far Outweigh the Costs

According to REV's analysis of PSD's modeling, H.289 provides $400m in greenhouse gas reduction benefits & $51m in health benefits from reduced local pollutants.



	Regional Tier Target
BAU	0%
Scenario 1	0%
Scenario 2	30%
Scenario 3	0%
Scenario 4	30%
Scenario 5	30%
Scenario 6	50%



See tables in Appendix 1 for additional detail.

$1.8b in net savings through 2035
Using a 1% discount rate for the social cost of carbon

$900m in net savings through 2035
Using a 2% discount rate for the social cost of carbon

H.289 Eliminates Off Site Net Metering But NOT Community Solar

PUC has radically limited off site net metering since 2022

- Since the NM 2.5 rates took effect on 9/22 there have been applications for just nine group net metering projects and only four CPGs granted.
- Just one of these four projects has been built. Under NM 2.4 there were 21 applications with 18 CPGs granted and 13 projects built.
- The PSD's proposal to lower NM 2.6 compensation is almost 3x larger than the drop from NM2.4 to NM2.5 for projects 150kW-500kW

Concord Monitor, April 12th: 1.3MW Community Solar Array Being Proposed in NH

"Members work with ReVision to determine how much of a share of the farm would cover their usual electrical needs, and can purchase that percentage of the farm. The percentage of the kilowatt-hours produced by the farm would then show up as a credit on their electricity bill."

"This model allows the shareholders the benefits of solar, including the full federal tax credit and net-metering benefits, as if they had the panels on their property."

Next Steps for 2025 Legislative Session

Priorities are:

- Adding a BESS procurement program and/or requirement
- Adding procurement programs
  - Updating Standard Offer or similar new program for 1MW-5MW projects
  - Creating an affordable, scalable community solar program
- Building legislative support for residential net metering
- Enacting regulatory reforms at ANR, PSD and PUC to allow for renewables to be built efficiently, predictably and cost effectively

More details on H.289 at www.revermont.org

More Info on H.289 and Reforming the Renewable Energy Standard

- Historic Renewable Energy Standard Reform Bill Passes VT Senate
- H.289 Fast Facts
- Renewable Energy Increases Required by H.289
- REV Testimony in Support of RES Reform
- H.289 Section by Section Summary
- Non-Partisan Joint Fiscal Office analysis of H.289
- Press Release from Vermont Environmental Groups Release Hailing House Passage of H.289

S.259 The Climate Superfund Act

- AKA “Make Big Oil Pay”, S.259 seeks to recover costs for climate damages based on the “polluter pays” principle
- Passed with bipartisan support and veto-proof majority
- Modeled off EPA Superfund Program
- Treasurer estimates cost to VT of GHG emissions from 1995 - 2024
- ANR identifies & bills responsible entities
- Collection of $ begins in 2027 and goes to *Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program*

Photo courtesy of VPIRG

S.259 The Climate Superfund Act

- Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program dollars can be spent on climate change adaptation projects

  "[A] project designed to respond to, avoid, moderate, repair, or adapt to negative impacts caused by climate change and to assist human and natural communities, households, and businesses in preparing for future climate-change-driven disruptions."

  - Could include energy storage, solar + storage, microgrids

S.305 Rate Payer Assistance Study

Requires PUC to:

- Study programs/initiatives designed for the purpose of “reducing or stabilizing energy costs” for LMI households
- Make recommendations regarding:
  - Current VT LMI programs effectiveness reducing energy consumption/costs
  - Whether to keep current programs or move to a statewide program
  - Funding mechanism and eligibility requirement
- Essential for seeing all Vermonters benefit from electrification

S.305 Thermal Energy Network Provisions

- Requires the PUC to report on how to support the development of thermal energy networks and the permitting of network operators (due 12/1/25)
- Authorizes municipalities to construct and operate Thermal Energy Networks
- Allows existing utilities and other entities to obtain PUC authorization to operate a Thermal Energy Network utility.