

APPENDIX



APPENDIX D - SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPROACH AND PROCESS

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This plan is the result of more than two years of work completed by NRPC staff, NRPC commissioners, and various stakeholders throughout the region and the state. This plan builds on previous energy planning efforts in the region and the efforts of the Public Service Department.

During the spring, summer, and fall of 2015, the NRPC worked with two other regional planning commissions—the Bennington County Regional Commission and the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission—to meet with stakeholders and discuss several issues. Meeting topics included the following: mapping and geographic information, thermal efficiency, transportation, and electricity conservation and efficiency. From these stakeholder meetings, many of the strategies in Section IV and Section V were formulated. The NRPC also worked to collect a large amount of the data used in the plan—much of which is cataloged in Section III—during this same time period.

Starting in the summer of 2015, the NRPC formed a Regional Energy Committee. Composed primarily of regional commissioners, the 12 members of the committee met monthly to discuss the development of the plan. Much of the committee’s early work consisted of aiding staff in the development of the Regional Energy Generation Maps discussed in Section IV. The committee also provided direction for the development of this plan.

The NRPC held two public meetings in December 2015—one in North Hero and the other in Enosburg Falls—to inform the public about the project and to solicit public input regarding the Renewable Energy Generation Maps. This public input was then analyzed and assessed by the Regional Energy Committee and incorporated into this plan.

A first draft of the plan was reviewed by the NRPC Energy Committee and the Department of Public Service in the summer of 2016. Additional revisions were made, and a draft was released for public comment in October 2016. After releasing the draft plan, the NRPC collected comments from individuals, municipalities, public utilities, and other regional stakeholders. These comments influenced the content—including the strategies and energy generation maps—and the construction of the adopted Regional Energy Plan.

Additional revisions were made to the draft Regional Energy Plan after the release of the “Regional Determination Standards” by the Vermont Department of Public Service in November 2016. The plan then underwent hearings before the Board of Regional Commissioners in May 2017 and June 2017.

The following organizations were integral to the development of the plan through their involvement in the stakeholders process in 2015 or through direct feedback on drafts of the plan released by the NRPC 2016 and 2017:

- Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
- Energy Action Network
- Green Mountain Power
- NeighborWorks of Western Vermont
- Renewable Energy Vermont
- VELCO
- Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Vermont Agency of Transportation
- Vermont Center for Geographic Information
- Vermont Energy Investment Corporation and Efficiency Vermont
- Vermont Electric Cooperative
- Vermont Gas
- Vermont Natural Resources Council
- Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
- Vermont Public Transportation Association
- Vermont Public Service Department
- Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
- Village of Swanton Electric Department
- Village of Enosburg Falls Electric Department
- Vital Communities