From: Daniel Hoviss (via Google Docs)
To: PSD - Comprehensive Energy Plan
Cc: daniel@putney.net
Subject: PSD comments
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 10:01:38 PM

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danielhoviss@gmail.com attached a document

danielhoviss@gmail.com has attached the following document:

PSD comments

Snapshot of the item below:

PSD.ComprehensiveEnergyPlan@vermont.gov Dec 10, 2021

Comments on the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan in relation to standards for local planning and recommendations for using less energy.

EV
1. Institute EV charging stations at ALL park and rides throughout the State.
1a. Create a realistic charging grid through-out the State to eliminate range anxiety
1b. Fund bike repair
2. Create a certified used EV program that works with dealerships to provide rebates on used EV's.
2b. Support for programs and businesses that convert regular ICE cars to EV, & allow them to participate in the rebate program.
2c. Increase funding for alternative vehicle design and manufacture in VT. Pedal powered electric assisted cars are a great way to lower carbon footprints for people making short trips. You would also create jobs.

Transportation
3. Put a hold on all transportation projects that encourage more cars and more driving (such as park and rides). These projects take much needed resources away from critical energy saving infrastructure programs like a charging grid.

4. Earmark funds for StateWide town to town bike paths, both by wider roadways, and by supporting the creation of new rail trails and other bike paths connecting towns and cities.
4a. Implement inner city and inner town bike paths and lanes.
4b. Purchase and install covered bike racks at ALL municipal locations.
4c. Provide funding for additional covered bike racks to allow local businesses to install these structures.
5. Actually make idling an enforceable infraction with a fine structure. $5.00 for the first offence, $25.00 second offence, $100 third… currently there is no enforcement and lots of idling everywhere.
5b. Create low cost or free signage for municipalities, for “NO idling” signage. Paid for by a portion of the ticket revenue.
6. Implement the CA advanced Clean car II Regulations in VT.
7. Ban ICE sales by 2032, for consumer vehicles.
7b. Require all delivery vehicles to be electric by 2032
8. Tax owners of larger SUV and pickup trucks that fail to achieve a minimum standard MPG.
9. Implement better train routes and more schedules, to provide return trips for commuters.
9b. Work with railroads to use electric commuter trains to connect and provide more trips with smaller trains.
10. Implement Electric Buses statewide NOW! – I would ride an electric bus every day.

SOLAR
11. Restore incentives (remove disincentives) for community solar and make it affordable for developers to create 150KW sized appropriately situated installations - to benefit homeowners and businesses that would like to purchase panels.
Please note - There has not been any Community Solar installations for the last 6 years because the PSB changed the incentive structure making it financially unworkable to create community solar. I question why the PSB caved into pressure from GMP - an out of state corporation.

11b. Increase the Tax on out of State developers of large (500k and up) EV systems in the State.
11c. Make homeowner solar installations - tax free in all situations.
11d. Decrease incentives for any project that includes clear cutting forests.
12. Create a funding program for Solar carport parking lot installations. There are thousands of parking lots that could be covered in electricity generating panels. Create a public private partnership to install and utilize the power at the big box stores or for business or State use.
13. Eliminate the utility charges and unfair additional fees for any Solar PV installations when connecting homes and businesses to the grid.
14. Investigate the high cost to interconnect larger PV installations to the grid. This is a disincentive for developers to create new projects.
15. Institute an oversight council to review solar installations (especially ones receiving public funds and grants) after installation to determine if the installation actually conforms to the CPG. I see many installations that are shaded by trees and other issues that render the installation less productive. It makes me wonder why people spend money on them, when clearly they will not be optimal due to shading or location issues.

Livable cities and towns
16. Preserve open space and encourage towns to preserve open space, community gardens and parks. These are essential to a healthy living space. Healthy living lowers the health care costs. Once they are gone they are not going to come back.
17. Create incentives and programs to encourage people to live where they work, and actively work to curtail the long commute.
18. Create programs to evaluate cities and towns to look at livability issues.
19. Fund community gardens, and community open space.

Housing
20. Stop funding affordable housing projects that use open spaces!
20b. Reward organizations that build affordable housing in brownfields, and mill buildings, making a priority of small clustered, solar heated and powered.
20c. Require net zero to receive grant funding or any State subsidy.
21. Create more affordable home ownership pathways…
22. Create mandatory housing / building energy codes that tax and fine homeowners (especially second home owners) that do not adhere to the code.

Lighting
23. Institute a dark sky law, and create a set of rules to help businesses and homeowners on the correct implementation of the Dark Sky Rules.
23b. Request that all utility companies install dark sky shields on the street lighting.
24. All State properties (including roads and highways) should be using motion sensors on all lighting, both indoors and especially outside. Retrofitting motion sensors is not rocket science.
25. Increase funding for Efficiency VT to allow that organization to offer a wider range of services.

Paper
26. Make junk mail against the law. Create an easy way to fine companies that do not adhere to “do not send” requests.
26b. Require people to “opt in” to continue to receive flyers in the mail, and prevent blanket mailings when not wanted.
27. Create a policy to use both sides of the paper at the State level for all documentation, forms, applications, tax documents and please …
27b. Create a paper reduction act that actually reduces paper.
27c. Review all government agencies for automated processes that send mailings when email would be much more effective and save resources.
27d. Mandate that all agencies USE RECYCLED PAPER for all correspondence.
27e. Use recycled or non-tree toilet paper and paper towels.

Plastic
28. Work with recycling centers and industry to enhance recycling of ALL plastics sorted or unsorted.
29. Institute a bottle bill for all bottles and cans. Raise the deposit!
29b.Tax all single use containers to encourage glass or multi use containers.
30. Make littering a real and finable crime.

Food
31. Fund small organic farms,
31b. expand everyone eats program
31c. expand the REAP program eligibility for solar on organic farms.
32. Double the funding for farmers markets and food hubs.
33. Create grants for innovative farm to table programs in all schools
34. Require delivery trucks to be all electric by 2032

E-Waste
35. Modify the e-waste program to prevent perfectly good items from being force fed into bins that destroy and damage these items.
35.b Create a system to reuse, and redistribute unwanted but working Computers, LCD monitors, Large Screen TVs and home stereos. All of which have a secondary market, be it as a free item for an economically challenged family, or school child that has no laptop. Or for sale with the revenue paying for workers to clean and inspect the equipment. AS it is now tons of working items are thrown away every day across the state and recycling efforts are overloaded by the amount of waste, some of which only requires the replacement of a single component or a different power supply or just works perfectly.
35c. Fund a part time position at every landfill and transfer station to sort and test items before tossing into the bin (creating more waste) in order to set aside items worth repairing or redistributing to other programs.
35d. Require schools to wait more than 3 years on their technology replacement programs, creating a longer cycle by upgrading hardware, or installing different operating systems that are not so demanding.

36. Fully support the right to repair, and enforce that with State incentives for products that are fully repairable by consumers.

I am happy to discuss any of these and other ideas, especially #35…
I will also send these along to the Action planners.

Thanks for the work you are doing!

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