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**To:** [PSD - RE Programs](#)  
**Subject:** Input to Comprehensive Energy Plan  
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To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I have been residents of Vermont for over 50 years. We are strong supporters of doing everything possible to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, including having an energy audit done on our home with subsequent increased insulation, purchasing solar panels through a community solar project, installing a heat pump hot water heater and buying an electric car.

We believe that the timeline of purchasing 90% of the state's energy from renewables by 2050 is a necessary and achievable goal. We know climate change is here and we see evidence of it weather related events everywhere in the US and in the world. This is indeed a crisis affecting our children and all future generations and we must act!

Too often corporations say this will be too expensive but we cannot listen to the profit needs of corporations and utilities.

One area I am familiar with is the need to continue the net metering program for solar power which is scheduled to end in 2024. We cannot achieve the 90% goal without incentivizing middle class families to buy solar panels. solar panels are also a decentralized source of electricity which is important when the grid occasionally goes down. It doesn't make any sense for net metering to end when we have a goal of 90% renewables by 2050.

Also, there needs to be better protection from the state for consumers who buy into community solar. "For-profit" companies should be required to post a bond or some other financial guarantee in case they go bankrupt. That is what happens to our community solar project: the original owner sold it to a for-profit who kept the profits but then didn't make necessary repairs and upkeep. Then, they declared bankruptcy, leaving unpaid town taxes etc that were our responsibility.

I also want to say that we are totally against the push from nuclear power companies to declare nuclear power as "clean energy"! We who live in Brattleboro have a nuclear waste dump sitting in Vernon on the banks of the Conn. River. It will still be there in 50 years and likely will be leaking radiation from the Holtec casks which we knew years ago, from testimony at hearings here when these casks were first proposed, had design problems with their welded seams. Plus any proposed new nuclear power will be incredible expensive...there are always cost overruns with these plants with their new designs.

In order to get the most input from the public, I think community forums would be most important in order to get the public informed. We should know what are the supposed obstacles to our achieving this goal and how we can overcome the obstacles and meet the necessary challenge.

Many thanks for starting the process.

Judy and Jack Davidson

Brattleboro, Vt