

## Taking Bigger Action on Electricity

Are you feeling ready to take bigger action and make changes around Carbon Emissions related to electricity in your community or state?

First check out the data in the upper left quadrant of the 2020 VEEP/NHEEP poster, Energy, Economy, Climate and You ([VT/NH](#)), to get informed about current statewide electricity emissions. Notice the size of the electricity emissions compared to other sectors...

Then click the links below to learn about how our electricity is sourced.

Vermont\*: [Slicing the Electricity Pie](#)

New Hampshire\*\*: [Slicing the Electricity Pie](#)

\*Did you know that Vermont has a plan to get to 90% renewable energy use by 2050, and that a large part of that is using less energy overall, as well as burning fewer fossil fuels for heating and transportation by moving to use renewably sourced electricity? Check out this poster ([90 by 2050](#)) to learn more.

\*\*New Hampshire's climate goal is to get to 80% below our 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. One of the 10 immediate recommendations in this goal is to "increase renewable ... sources of energy in a long-term and sustainable manner." Check out this [slideshow](#) for more information on the NH climate goal.

Now, where are you going to make changes?  
Here are some ideas on places to start:

## Community Action Ideas

### 1) Using Maps and Energy Committee Planning to go Renewable

- Use the following mapping platforms to explore renewable energy sources already in place in your community.

Vermont Dashboard:

NH Dashboard: <https://www.nhenergy.org/nh-energy-dashboard.html>

- Contact your local energy committee to see where they are in planning for renewable energy siting in your community. See if you can work with them to make a plan to get your community on board with either 90% renewable energy by 2050 or the Paris Accord Agreements (or help with implementing a plan if they already have one.)
- Contact [info@veep.org](mailto:info@veep.org) or [info@nheep.org](mailto:info@nheep.org) to help find your committee and navigate the process.

### 2) Community Education on Incentives for Efficiency

- Work with your town to promote and raise awareness on incentives and programs aimed to support schools, businesses and municipalities on different energy improvements from efficient lighting and appliances to building retrofits and equipment upgrades.

NH: [NHSaves Website](#), [Electrical Efficiency for businesses](#)

Vermont: [Efficiency Vermont Business rebates](#), [Efficiency Vermont Services for Businesses](#)

- Work with a VEEP/NHEEP educator to help get your ideas off the ground to connect the decision makers for the buildings in your town to assistance programs

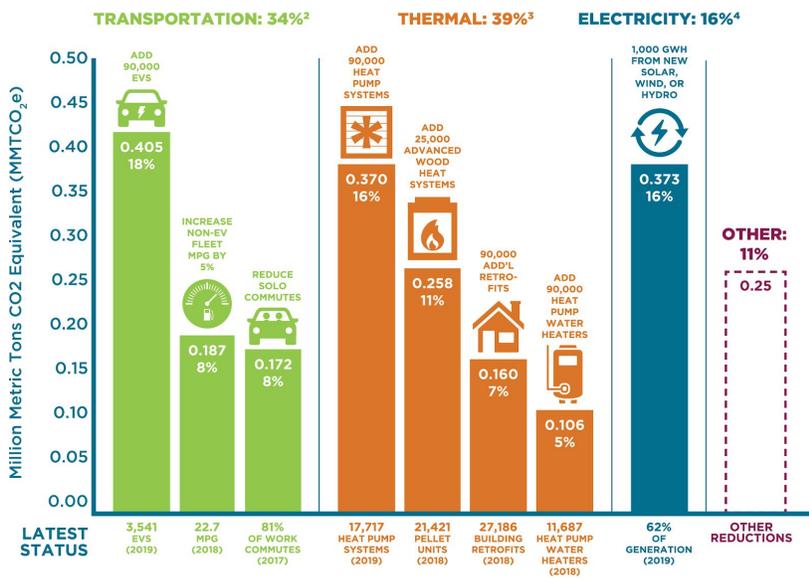
### 3) Saving Carbon Emissions with MORE Electricity

Look again at the VEEP/NHEEP 2020 Poster ([VT/NH](#)). Did you notice that the carbon emissions from electricity are much, much lower compared to heating and transportation? Some of the ways that we will reduce carbon emissions are 1) USE

LESS ENERGY and 2) SOURCE THE ENERGY THAT WE DO NEED RENEWABLY (including ELECTRIFICATION: using renewably sourced electricity to power current fossil fuel technologies -like cars and home heating.)

Check out this data from VT Energy Action Network for more about what these changes could look like to reach the [Paris Climate Agreement](#) carbon emission reductions:

## 2.3 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e reduction by 2025 is required to meet the Paris Agreement<sup>1</sup>



1. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, January 2020. 2. Transportation data is the latest available from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) (2019), Vermont Agency of Transportation/UVM Transportation Research Center (2019), and Drive Electric Vermont (Oct 2019). 3. Thermal data from EIA (2019), Efficiency Vermont (2019), Department of Public Service (2019), Biomass Energy Research Center (2019), Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (2019). 4. Electric data from the Department of Public Service (2019) and ePUC (Certificates of Public Good: September 2019).

What are some places in your community that you can see starting and supporting this process of “electrification”? Where do you see “electrification” as part of the scenario above, and what do we need to have in place to support that?

Some other options you could be advocating and planning for:

- Electric lawn care for schools and municipal buildings (or better yet, mow-free zones, which are also great for wildlife and pollinators!)
- Electrification of school busses-reach out to VEEP/NHEEP for information
- Electric heat pumps, incentives, and rebates-research and share information with local businesses and your community
- Local EV charging stations-creating and sharing maps of them and advocating for more

To get more involved and connected in Energy/Climate Action, or for project consultations and ongoing project support, sign up for [Youth Climate Leaders Academy](#) or [Youth/Adult Energy Action!](#)

## State-wide Action

Connect with VEEP/NHEEP ([info@veep.org](mailto:info@veep.org) or [info@nheep.org](mailto:info@nheep.org)). We can help you understand, plan, and navigate the best path for you to approach state-wide action, and connect you with local organizations that may be doing similar work.

Communicate with your state representatives. Find out if the State House is in session and choose one of the following:

### A. Advocate Between Sessions

- Find a bill from the most recent legislative session related to electricity that you think was a good idea.
  - For Information on NH Legislation, check out this link in [Clean Energy NH](#)
  - For Information on VT Legislation, check out this link to [Vermont Conservation Voters](#)
- Find your local representatives and find out how they voted on that bill.
  - To find your representatives in Vermont: Scroll down to the bottom of the [Vermont Conservation Voters](#) page and search in the green box. Clicking on a person will show you their “Legislative Scorecard” so you can see how they’ve voted on issues in the past.
  - To find your representatives in New Hampshire: Go to NH’s [House of Representatives](#) page and either enter your town or click on the map to find your representatives. Click on a person, then you can click on “Bills Sponsored this Session” or “Voting Record” to see what they are supporting.
- Communicate with them about whether you support or oppose their vote and why, and what you would like them to support or oppose in the future.
- Be sure to share not only your opinion, but some evidence to support your thinking about why this is important.

### B. Advocate for Bills in Session

- Look at the proposed bills in the current legislative session that are related to electricity and carbon emissions.
  - For Information on NH Legislation, check out this link in [Clean Energy NH](#)
  - For Information on VT Legislation, check out this link to [Vermont Conservation Voters](#)
- Learn about the bill and decide if you support the bill. Do you think the bill would be a good step to reducing carbon emissions? (You may also want to consider how justice, equity, and inclusion are included or missing, and other factors that you think are important.)
- Check with the [League of Conservation Voters](#) and compare your thinking with theirs.
- Find and contact your local representatives and even the Governor (if the bill passes) in support of the bill and follow what happens throughout the session...and see how many other people you can get to do the same!
  - To find your representative in Vermont: Scroll down to the bottom of the [Vermont Conservation Voters](#) page and search in the green box. Clicking on a person will show you their “Legislative Scorecard” so you can see how they’ve voted on issues in the past.
  - To find your representative in New Hampshire: Go to NH’s [House of Representatives](#) page and either enter your town or click on the map to find your representatives. Click on a person, then you can click on “Bills Sponsored this Session” or “Voting Record” to see what they are supporting.

To become more active and connected to others also doing this work, reach out to VEPP/NHEEP ([info@veep.org](mailto:info@veep.org) or [info@nheep.org](mailto:info@nheep.org)).