

Pittsford, Vt. Enhanced Energy Plan Guidance Form



08/27/2020

This document is to not alter or amend the current town plan as approved, but to give guidance to select parties for the interim until a fully enhanced energy plan is adopted. The outline below has been developed by the Pittsford Planning Commission and is to be used solely as a tool for guidance but is not binding.

1. We encourage all to review and take advantage of Efficiency Vermont when possible. All users of electricity have already paid for the funding of this organization, so it makes sense to be aware of their offerings
2. We encourage homeowners to be informed on the Energy Codes Standards. This is self-certified by the builder and property owners can download a free copy of this handbook through the Vermont Department of Public Service.
3. Encourage strategies to reduce energy use and explore if other options for power are cost effective for Pittsford residents. Rutland Regional Plan Adopted June 19, 2018 addresses this subject.
4. Any solar project that is commercial should have:
 - a. Site plan with established visual protection before construction
 - b. A written plan for decommissioning with funds set aside in a specific account ahead of construction as well as bonding for the project.
5. Encourage town residents to pursue other renewable sources of energy including wood, other biomass, wind, solar, and hydro if cost effective for personal use.
6. **Recommend the Select Board to call on the state of Vermont to deregulate the electric supply in in the state.** 12 other states have already deregulated electricity including New York. This is a high priority step if more electric power is to be successful.
7. Encourage any new construction to consider energy efficient standards, if cost effective for the project.
8. Encourage the use of natural gas given the fact that it burns cleaner than most fossil fuels.

- a. As an example, OMYA recently converted all on road trucks and the entire plant over to LNG. They have seen their haul trucks have a 15% reduction in CO2 emissions over the diesel counterparts and the plant itself realizing a 27% reduction in CO2 emissions (OMYA Newsletter Summer 2016)
9. Encourage the delivery of natural gas to the Pittsford region. With the arrival of natural gas, we encourage incentives provided by the fuel provider (Vermont Gas as of 2020) to perform free in-home energy audits and incentives to convert homes over to accept natural gas for heating. In the winter of 2019, heating a house with oil cost an average of \$1,700, while natural gas averaged less than \$900 (U.S. Energy Information Administration). This will encourage people to realize a less expensive option in the cost of living in the area.
10. We encourage weatherization programs to be utilized. The State of Vermont Agency of Human Services provides assistance to lower-income residents through its Weatherization Program.
11. Encourage new building construction to explore all ways to be energy efficient
 - a. Support the use of ground-source heat pump heating and cooling systems for new construction
 - b. Promote the use of cold climate heat pumps with education and coordination with Efficiency Vermont
 - c. Encourage new residential, commercial and municipal construction to install advanced wood heating equipment
 - d. Promote the auditing, weatherization and use of solar panels at the town garage and Town Office building
12. Assess the need for park and ride locations within town for greater connectivity between public transit and park and ride locations
13. Promote the Drive Electric Vermont webpage which connects users to financial incentives, dealer and recharging stations for EV's .

Accepted and Approved by
Pittsford's Select Board on
September 16, 2020.

Wendy Kelley

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