Overview of Municipal Standards for Determination of Energy Compliance

ENERGY PLANNING & ACT 174
What we will be discussing:

- Overview of VT Energy Planning
- Review of Municipal Energy Planning Standards

What we will not be discussing:

- State energy policy as a whole.
Why and how are we here?

OVERVIEW
WHY PLAN?

- Environmental Reasons
- Economic Reasons
- Long-term Energy Security Reasons
2011 Comprehensive Energy Plan

- Driven primarily by a desire to reduce greenhouse gases*

- Other goals
  - Reduce total energy consumption per capita
  - **90% by 2050**
  - Renewable end use sector goals for transportation, buildings, and electric power

*V.S.A. Title 10, § 578(a)
INTEGRATING ENERGY AND PLANNING


Energy intertwined with other planning issues:
- Transportation
- Housing
- Natural Resources
- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Pilot Project in 2015
  - Implement the CEP

- Set regional targets for:
  - Energy conservation
  - Energy generation

- Develop specific strategies for:
  - Conservation
  - Energy efficiency
  - Reduced fossil fuel use.

- Identify energy resources and areas with the potential for renewable energy projects.
Any Questions?
ACT 174
Act 174 establishes a set of optional municipal and regional energy planning standards. Standards developed by DPS in November 2016. Communities that meet the standards will receive a determination of energy compliance (DOEC).

“Substantial deference” under Section 248
Due Consideration

Statute calls for “due consideration.” Does not define what “due consideration is” or assign whether the PSB or the Courts are the ultimate arbiter.

The SCOV indicated that the PSB only has to give “due consideration to the recommendations of the municipal and regional planning commissions in deciding [if] the project will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region.”

Substantial Deference

Defined in Statute:

“that a land conservation measure or specific policy shall be applied in accordance with its terms unless there is a clear and convincing demonstration that other factors affecting the general good of the State outweigh the application of the measure or policy.”
STANDARD OF REVIEW

- “determination standards for energy compliance”

- Standard of review
  - Same as for “Regional Approval”
  - Outlined in §4302(f) - requires “substantial progress toward attainment of the goals.”

- All sections of plan will be considered

- Policies can’t be conflicting policy between chapters.
BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Locally adopted and regionally approved Plan
- Energy Plan as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4348a(a)(3)
- Analysis and Targets
- Pathways (Implementation Actions)
- Mapping
ACT 174 SUMMARY

Questions?
ANALYSIS AND TARGET STANDARDS
Plan must contain an analysis the following across all energy sectors (electric, thermal, transportation*):

- Resources
- Needs
- Scarcities
- Costs
- Problems

DPS guidance available

*note that the “across all energy sectors” component is new, the other components are not.
ANALYSIS AND TARGETS

- **Estimate current energy use:**
  - Transportation, heating and electric

- **Establish targets:**
  - Thermal and electric conservation and efficiency
  - Use of renewable energy for transportation, heating and electricity.
  - Electric generation

- **Evaluate needs:**
  - Conversion of heating sources
  - Transportation/land use changes
  - Electric-sector conservation and efficiency
Communities can opt to collect and analyze data themselves, or they can utilize data provided by their RPC. Those that use the RPC data will be presumed to have met the standards in this section.
Data and targets should be aligned with state energy policy.
- If not, must explain how the plan otherwise achieves the intent of the state goal or policy

DPS will be providing guidance to communities
Ex. Shaftsbury, VT

- 2,930 household vehicles (ACS) * 14,000 average miles per vehicle (DPS Guidance) = 41 million miles/year

- 41 million miles/year / 25 MPG (DPS Guidance) = 1.64 million gallons

- 1.64 million gallons * $2.25/gallon = $3.7 million in gasoline expenditures per year

Gas v. Ethanol (DPS = 10%)

- 1.64 million gallons * .1 = 164,080 gallons of ethanol

- EVs
Ex. Anytown, VT

- Home heating fuel by household (ACS)
  - Divide by total households for % of households

- Total square feet of housing
  - Owner: (Mean people per household (ACS) * median sq. ft. per person (American Housing Survey) * owner households (ACS) = Total Square Footage)
  - Renter: (Mean people per household (ACS) * median sq. ft. per person (American Housing Survey) * owner households (ACS) = Total Square Footage)

- Square ft. by fuel type = % home heating fuel households * total square footage

- Energy required for heating = 60,000 BTU/sq. ft. * square ft. by fuel type
Ex. Anytown, VT

- Fuel units used = energy required for heating/BTUs per unit
  - Converting BTUs to units (gallons, cords, pounds, kWh)
  - Ex. 1 gallon of heating oil = 140K BTUs

- Cost = Fuel units used * cost per unit (US EIA)
IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
Enhanced Energy Plans must:

- Include “pathways” and recommended actions to achieve energy targets
- Statements of policy
  - Conservation
  - Transportation
  - Land Use
  - Development and Siting of Renewables

Some actions may not be applicable or relevant
- Provide reasonable justification
BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Mapping is required
  - Regional Maps; OR
  - Municipalities may choose to undertake their own mapping.

- Municipalities expected to work collaboratively with their regions and with neighboring municipalities to ensure compatibility
Identify potential areas for renewable energy development:

- **Solar**
  Topography of land analyzed based on slope and direction (azimuth) conducted in GIS for ground-mounted solar.

- **Wind**
  Digitally modeled wind speed (based on topography) analyzed at 3 hub heights.

- **Hydro**
  Existing dams analyzed for potential capacity based on Community Hydro report. No new dams considered.

- **Biomass (wood)**
  Land coverage used to determine amount of harvestable wood.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Known Constraints</strong></th>
<th><strong>Possible Constraints</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conditions which would likely make development unfeasible.</td>
<td>Conditions which could impact development, but which would not necessarily prevent it.</td>
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MAPPED POTENTIAL AREAS

Potential (with Possible Constraints)

Prime Potential (No Constraints)

This example shows solar potential.
Preferred locations:
- Locally preferred locations
- Statewide preferred locations
- Have policies about specific sizes or type of generator

Unsuitable Areas:
- Areas (or criteria) where Town does not want a generator or a specific size/type of generator.
  - Must have similar policies for other types of land development.
- Any regional or local constraints identified:
  - Supported through data or studies
  - Consistent with the remainder of the plan (and regional plan),
  - No arbitrary prohibition or interference
EX. LOCAL MAPPING
Questions?
**NEXT STEPS**

- Regional Energy Plans

- Municipal Determination of Energy Compliance directly from DPS.
  - Submit to: PSD.PlanningStandards@vermont.gov

- RPCs will provide map and analysis data by the end of April, 2017.

- Municipal assistance
COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Thank You

Insert Contact Info