

Vermont Energy and Climate Summit
“Meeting Vermont’s 2025 Energy & Climate Goals”

Pitch Submission Form

1. Pitch Submitted By (Your Name or Organization):

Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.

2. Contact Email Address:

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3. Contact Phone Number:

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4. Pitch Title: (one line)

Triple R Bundle-Replace, Reduce and Renewable

5. Pitch Summary: (one paragraph)

Today, Vermont Gas (VGS) plays a vital role in reducing the state's GHG emissions and we will play a significant role in achieving the 2025/2050 goals. VGS' Triple “R” Pitch (Replace, Reduce and Renewable) focuses on combining our services in an innovative manner that will maximize the climate benefits. First, by REPLACING fuel oil and propane heating in roughly 900 homes/yr. with cleaner, more affordable natural gas VGS will reduce carbon emissions by over 21,000 metric tons by 2025 and save consumers over \$5m. Second, through our nationally recognized efficiency program we will REDUCE customers' energy consumption by an additional 570,000 MMBtu through 2025, reducing GHG emissions by over 30,000* metric tons and saving consumers over \$6m. And finally with RENEWABLES and VGS' first in the nation, renewable natural gas program (“EcoGas”) we will be utilizing VGS' infrastructure to deliver renewable energy from local farms and reducing GHG emission by over 73,000* Metric Tons. In aggregate, these measures will reduce GHG emission by over 125,000 Metric Tons* by 2025, certainly a significant amount, and one that merits strong consideration by the Governor's Climate Commission. The two areas where aggressive policy could accelerate the progress of the Triple R is by incenting additional renewable natural gas digesters and by assisting large vehicle fleet conversions (ex. buses, snowplow and refuse trucks) to renewable natural gas powered vehicles.*

**Accumulated Carbon Savings*

6. What energy sector(s) does this Pitch apply to? (Check all that apply):

- Energy Efficiency
 Electricity
 Transportation

- Thermal Heating &/or Cooling
 All (Total Energy)
 None: Non-energy related carbon reduction proposal

7. Which criteria category(ies) does it address? (Check all that apply):

- Economic Activity
 Affordability
 Vulnerable Vermonters
 Other

8. Scale of impact on Vermont's energy and climate goals: If this proposal came to fruition, how might it move the needle in helping to meet Vermont's energy and climate goals by 2025 and/or 2050? Please outline assumptions and, if available, provide calculations.

Triple R Carbon Reductions	
Replace (converting Oil/Propane to NG)	
Total Carbon Savings from Replacing Oil/Propane with NG (Metric Tons)	(21,161)
Reduce	
Total Carbon Reductions from Efficiency Savings (Metric Tons)	(30,880)
Renewable	
Total Carbon Reductions (Metric Tons) from EcoGas	(73,251)
Total Carbon Reductions (Metric Tons) 2017-2025	(125,292)

See Attached Spreadsheet for detailed calculations.

9. Benefits/costs of this proposal for Vermont and Vermonters: Including, where possible, economic, financial, social, and environmental.

*By 2025, VGS' Triple R solution will result in over \$5m in savings for customers who **replace** their more costly, unregulated and volatiley-priced fuels. An additional \$6m will be saved by customers who **reduce** usage through our efficiency program by installing more efficient equipment and insulating their homes. And customers who choose to invest in **renewable** EcoGas will be contributing directly to developing waste-to-energy projects that have enormous climate benefits.*

10. Decision-makers necessary for this proposal to be adopted or move forward (e.g., Legislature, Governor, a regulatory agency, a business, organization, media outlet, or financing institution, etc.)

VGS' Triple R proposal as put forth does not require any formal legislative or regulatory changes and we request the Climate Commission formally adopt our proposal as one of the key strategies toward achieving the 2025 and 2050 goals. We do believe that additional opportunities exist to develop more renewable natural gas projects and suggest that VGS work with state agencies to develop specific strategies to foster this industry; strategies could

include grant funding, financing, cost recovery and leveraging phosphorous reduction projects. While no specific enabling legislation is required to implement the bundled Triple R strategy, legislation specifically allowing the recovery of development costs related to in-state renewable natural gas facilities may accelerate the pace of development.

11. Strategy and key considerations: Outline the overall strategy, including gaps, barriers and opportunities for moving this proposal forward.

The overall strategy of the Triple R campaign will be a laser-focused, eight year effort to bundle the replace, reduce and renewable themes to deliver real, measurable results by 2025. VGS' infrastructure is a vital tool for Vermont's vibrant economy, driving business retention/growth and delivering affordable energy for our homes. Combine these assets with renewable EcoGas and we can now leverage our system in new innovative ways. Today the current state policy assumes that renewable electrification is the only plausible path to achieve the state's goals, our proposal puts forth a realistic and affordable path, one that can become a national model for transitioning the use of natural gas infrastructure in a low carbon world. We believe that the concepts put forth in the Triple R pitch can complement the electrification efforts and EcoGas can maximize the environmental value of customers' existing equipment.

Policies that accelerate additional renewable natural gas digesters will drive more progress and allow for fueling of large vehicle fleets with renewable natural gas. We believe funding should be dedicated to maximizing this innovative renewable opportunity. Digesters at farms and waste treatment plants can produce energy, tackle our lake restoration challenge and address the new composting mandate. In the transportation sector, compressed natural gas vehicle, powered by renewable EcoGas can help solve the vexing carbon/NOx issues for larger trucks and buses as well as reducing fuel costs; funding sources like the VW Settlement funds could accelerate these fleet conversions.

12. Timeline: To meet our 2025 goals, we need some proposals that can be implemented in the next couple of years as well as some "game changers" that will bend the curve even further out. What timeline do you foresee for your proposal to be developed and implemented?

VGS proposed timeline for the Triple R launch is early 2018 as part of the comprehensive effort to achieve the Climate Commission's goals. We believe our EcoGas, renewable natural gas is a game changer that will grow significantly in the years to come. EcoGas is an innovative solution and another example where Vermont can lead the national. With EcoGas the carbon savings at the burner tip are significant and capturing/destroying the methane at landfills and farms will more than offset methane emission resulting from our growing customer base.