



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

*****Pitch Submission Form*****

Let your ideas be heard!

*This is your chance to get your energy or climate pitch
in front of 200 of Vermont’s energy leaders and the Governor’s Climate Action Commission*

Vermont has a bold goal: to meet 90% of our energy needs through increased efficiency and renewables by 2050. We have also joined leading states across the country in a bi-partisan commitment to adhere to the Paris Climate Accord goals. Where are we now on achieving those goals and what can we do to bend the curve toward 2025 milestones along that path?

- **Energy:** The first milestone of Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan is to meet 25% of Vermont’s total energy needs from renewable sources by 2025. The most recent status estimates put us at around 16% across heat, electricity and transportation (2016).
- **Climate:** The Paris Accord goal seeks a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 26-28% from 2005 levels by 2025. Vermont’s own statutes are even more ambitious: 50% reduction from 1990 levels by 2028. As of 2013, Vermont’s GHG emissions decreased 11% from 2005 levels and actually *increased* 4% from 1990 levels.

Pitch Invitation

We have a lot of work to do over the next 8-10 years. That is why we want to ***hear your pitch*** for promising opportunities to help Vermont meet its 2025 goals. What will help bend the curve?

Selected proposals will be invited to present at the Vermont Energy and Climate Summit co-hosted by [Energy Action Network](http://EnergyActionNetwork.org) (EAN) and the [VT Climate Pledge Coalition](http://VTClimatePledgeCoalition.org) (VCPC) on November 8th at Champlain College in Burlington. Please submit your pitch by using the form below and emailing completed proposals to jduval@eanvt.org by **Friday October 20th**.

(NOTE: Regardless of whether you are invited to present on Nov. 8th -- notification will come by Wed. Oct. 25 -- *all submitted and complete proposals will be included in a full compilation to be submitted to the Governor’s Climate Action Commission and the Vermont Legislature.*)

Vermont Energy & Climate Summit **Pitch Submission Form**

Guiding Criteria: EAN’s mission is to end Vermont’s reliance on fossil fuels *and* to create efficient, clean, affordable, and secure electric, heating, and transportation systems for the 21st Century. The VT Climate Pledge Coalition is seeking pledges to reduce GHG reductions that will help Vermont meet Paris climate commitments. Together, we support the criteria outlined in Gov. Scott’s Executive Order creating the **Vermont Climate Action Commission**, specifically that solutions must:

- Spur economic activity, inspire and grow Vermont businesses, and put Vermonters on a path to affordability;
- Engage all Vermonters, so no individual or group of Vermonters is unduly burdened; and
- Collectively provide solutions for all Vermonters to reduce their carbon impact and save money.

With these goals and criteria in mind, please answer the questions below. Questions 8-12 can be answered individually or in one comprehensive narrative. (Total pitch submission **no more than 3 pages**).

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

Jennifer Chiodo, PE, L:EED AP
Managing Principal, Cx Associates; Board Chair, Vermont Green Building Network (VGBN)

Jenna Antonino DiMare
Executive Director, Vermont Green Building Network

2. Contact Email Address:

Jennifer Chiodo: jennifer@cx-assoc.com
Jenna Antonino DiMare: vermontgbn@gmail.com

3. Contact Phone Number:

Jennifer Chiodo: 802-861-2715
Jenna Antonino DiMare: 802-735-2192

4. Pitch Title: (one line)

City of Burlington Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure Ordinance

5. Pitch Summary: (one paragraph)

The Vermont Green Building Network (VGBN) seeks to reinvigorate efforts to advance legislation that would require energy benchmarking and disclosure for commercial,

institutional and multi-family buildings in the City of Burlington. Benchmarking is a measure of a building's energy efficiency, like a miles-per gallon scale for buildings. It lets building owners and tenants know whether their building is a guzzler or an efficient, green building. Disclosure requires the annual, public reporting of building energy use and intensity. Just as auto consumers expect this information, prospective building owners or tenants should have it too. Burlington has a large stock of inefficient buildings that need to be upgraded for optimal use and to address climate change. It is important for Burlington to require benchmarking and disclosure because it has been proven to leverage the market to invest in building energy efficiency. More efficient buildings can then meet a greater percentage of their load through renewable energy. This work would build on VGBN's current work as the lead organization for the Burlington 2030 District and its previous work on a benchmarking ordinance for Burlington.

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.

By requiring benchmarking and disclosure for buildings over 50,000 square feet in Burlington, the annual energy use of over 80% of the non-single family building square footage would be available as part of the public record. (Square footage data from Burlington Tax Assessor's office). The current energy use intensity for Burlington's commercial, institutional and multi-family buildings is 103 kBtu/sqft/year (Burlington 2030 data from utilities and tax data). The 2030 District's Goal (a project of the Vermont Green Building Network) is to reduce energy consumption in the City of Burlington by 50% by 2030. Benchmarking and disclosure ordinances have proven to increase building owner engagement with 2030 Districts across the country. Therefore, if we assume that the ordinance would help these buildings achieve the 2030 goals, then we would expect energy

savings of 1,250,000 MMBTU annually which would be significantly advanced through enactment of a benchmarking and disclosure ordinance.

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

The costs associated with benchmarking and disclosure are relatively low. Building owners can expect a cost of about \$1,000 for tracking and reporting energy use in the first year and a cost of \$250/year to update data annually. The utilities that serve the City of Burlington are working to automate the benchmarking process, which would significantly reduce the first cost and likely eliminate the annual cost.

Benefits include the ability of consumers, whether they are commercial or residential tenants or even those who are buying services or goods from building owners, to factor building energy efficiency into their decision. This means renters have the opportunity to consider the energy and environmental impacts of each building and choose the property that will be fit their total budget, energy costs included.

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.)

Members of the Burlington City Council, the Mayor of Burlington would need to support this initiative. In addition, support by the business community would be a huge benefit to advancing such an initiative. Mayor Bloomberg brought mandatory benchmarking and disclosure to New York City by obtaining the buy-in of some of the largest real estate moguls in the country.

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

1. Engage the business community – the VGBN is already engaged through the Burlington 2030 District and our core education initiatives. However, we need to expand that engagement and building business leader support for benchmarking by increasing education and dialogue. This group has the most to gain, but also potentially the greatest risk from a benchmarking ordinance. In general, building owners prefer not to have government mandates and may resist the ordinance.
2. Engage the utilities – Burlington Electric Department and Vermont Gas have previously expressed interest in a Burlington Benchmarking Ordinance. Reconnect with the utilities to build understanding and support for the initiative.
3. Engage the City Council – VGBN met with City Councilors during our first attempt to advance Benchmark Burlington. The Councilors were in general supportive of the concept. Provide education to the City Council regarding benefits and potential challenges for the ordinance.
4. Engage the Mayor's Office – this is the point where the prior VGBN initiative stalled. Members of the Staff at City Hall would not advance the initiative to the Mayor and

some landlords met with the Mayor to advise him of their preference to have optional benchmarking rather than mandatory after attending an informational meeting hosted by the VGBN.

5. Engage with the tenants and residents – recent successful advocacy for a cooperative telecom company in Burlington demonstrates the power of Burlington’s people. A new part of the strategy would be to educate residents and workers in Burlington about the initiative and its importance.

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?*

General timeline: Medium-term consideration

2018 – Begin education activities and outreach; hold a benchmarking training
2019 – Build a coalition of allies who will actively support benchmarking and disclosure, educate the City Council Members and the Mayor’s office
2020 – City of Burlington enacts Benchmarking and Disclosure ordinance
2021 – First buildings benchmarked – City of Burlington and buildings over 250,000 sq ft
2022 – All buildings over 100,000 sq ft benchmarked
2023 – All buildings over 50,000 sq ft benchmarked

Energy studies and improvements as a result of benchmarking – ongoing.

Suggested Reference Documents:

[Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan, 2016](#)

[Vermont’s Total Energy Study, 2014](#)

[Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Climate Dashboard](#)

[EAN Annual Report, 2016](#)

[90% Renewable by 2050: Exploring Vermont’s Efficiency & Renewable Energy Pathways, 2013](#)