

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):

Rick Wackernagel and Gary Dir

2. Contact Email Address:

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3. Contact Phone Numbers:

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4. Pitch Title: (one line)

Pathway Evaluation to Meet Vermont's 2025 Renewable-energy Goals:
Getting the biggest bang for our buck in climate policy and programs

5. Pitch Summary: (one paragraph)

We propose that a research team with expertise in energy efficiency, renewable energy, technological change, greenhouse-gas accounting and economics be established to do due diligence on proposed climate policies and programs. The purpose of the team will be to ensure that climate programs and policies are coordinated and will cost-effectively meet climate and economic goals. The team will:

- Identify resources and conditions needed by proposed policies and programs;
- Estimate:
 - Reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions;
 - Social and cash-flow costs and benefits of proposed actions;

- Distributions of costs and benefits among income groups;
- Develop implementation schedules so that required conditions and inputs are present when programs are started; and
- Report results of their work to the Vermont legislature, Governor, state agencies and public.

Among the possible actions that could be considered are alternative:

- Sources of renewable energy at different scales;
- Means of:
 - Reducing the costs of weatherization;
 - Accelerating electrification of transportation; and
 - Accelerating sequestration of carbon in agriculture and with other means

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

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

- Economic Activity
- Affordability
- Vulnerable Vermonters
- Other

7. 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.

Success breeds success. Screening programs and policies for cost effectiveness and benefit-to-cost ratios will ensure that we are approaching a least-cost path in our transition to a nearly-no-carbon economy. Reducing the cost of the transition will allow us to progress through it more quickly. Seeing the cost effectiveness will make Vermonters more willing to support these programs. Knowing that proposals will be scored on cost-effectiveness and benefit-to-cost ratios will focus proposal authors' attention on these measures and result in proposals with higher scores. We will achieve our climate and energy goals sooner.

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

The information produced will allow legislators and members of the Governor's administration to make better choices. Cost-effectiveness will limit the financial burden of state government on Vermonters, leaving more money to recirculate through Vermont's economy. Recognizing economic growth as a social benefit means proposals that produce it will get higher scores. Recognizing the distribution of costs and

benefits will allow programs that improve distributions to get higher scores. Using cost per ton of CO2 equivalent emissions avoided as a measure of cost-effectiveness will allow us to get the biggest climate bang for our buck, which will allow us to reduce emissions more rapidly.

9. 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.)

While an *ad hoc* team could be formed, making it part of a nonprofit organization or government agency would make it more durable. A head of an organization or agency could decide to move the proposal into implementation.

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

We developed this proposal based on the lack of due diligence and measures of cost-effectiveness we have observed in many proposed pro-climate programs and policies. We have worked with several climate activists in the past few years who share an interest in the details of how programs and policies work. These activists have devoted substantial amounts of time as volunteers to promoting pro-climate policies. They have not, however, pooled their interests to focus on determining or improving program effectiveness.

We are also aware of a substantial quantity of research that could be used as a basis for designing and assessing programs. Resource people with needed expertise in Vermont, the rest of the US, Canada and Europe can be brought in to consult with the team and build local capacity.

Staffing a team with volunteers would be quick, but lead to limited capacity. As a test of concept, this could be appropriate. We also propose that state-college students and faculty members ally and partner with us in this effort. Volunteers could be augmented by agency staff, as well. Eventually, recruiting paid professionals would be needed to increase capacity.

11. 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?

Nov 2017	Approval of proposal concept
Dec 2017	Identification of host organization Clarification of team roles and resources with host organization
Jan 2018	Recruitment of team members
Feb 2018	Development of 3-month workplan Initiation of work, which would continue as long as new programs and policies are proposed.