

Northwest Regional Planning Commission: Energy Workplan

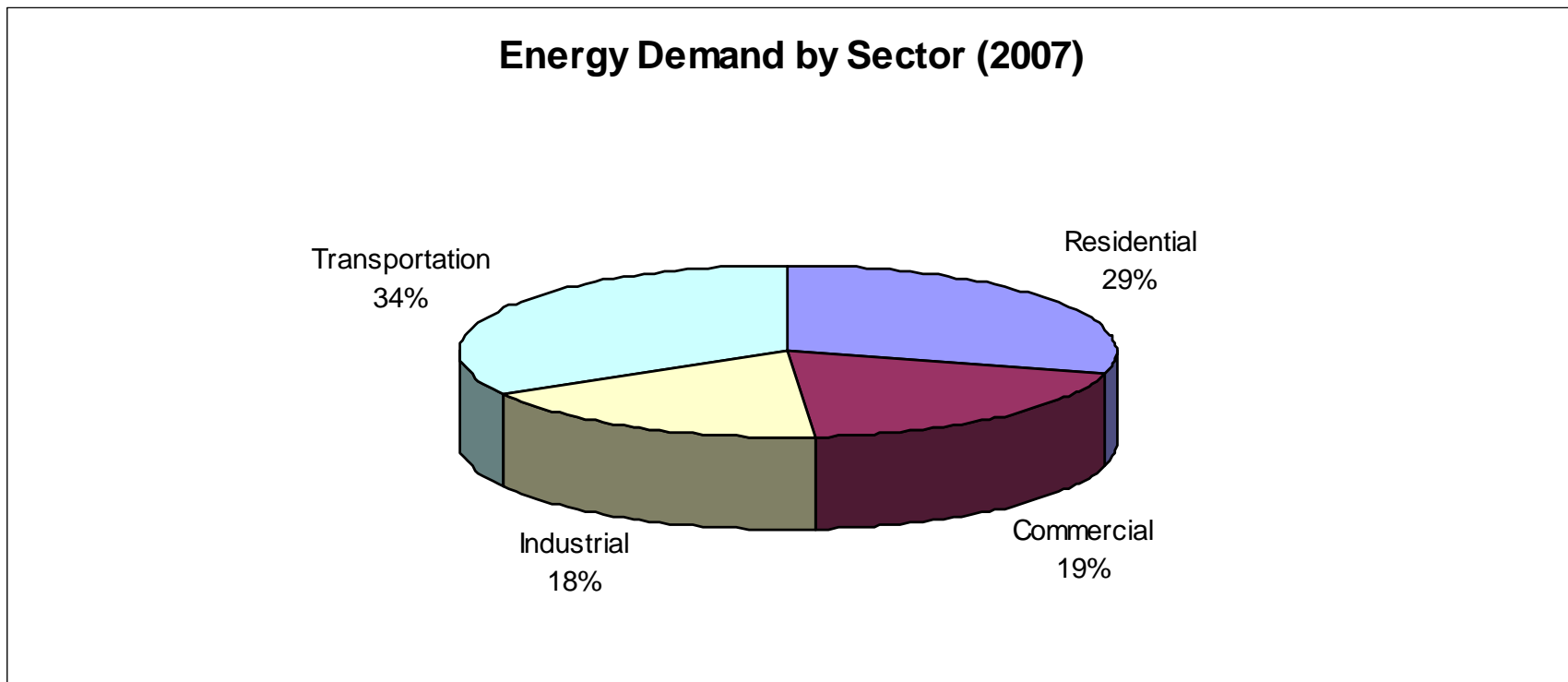
**Deb Perry
February 9, 2010**

A presentation to the NRPC Regional Energy Committee

Overview

- How is energy used in the region?
- Regional Energy Goals
- How do we integrate energy into regional planning
- What projects do we have funding to do?
- What is the role of the Regional Energy Committee?

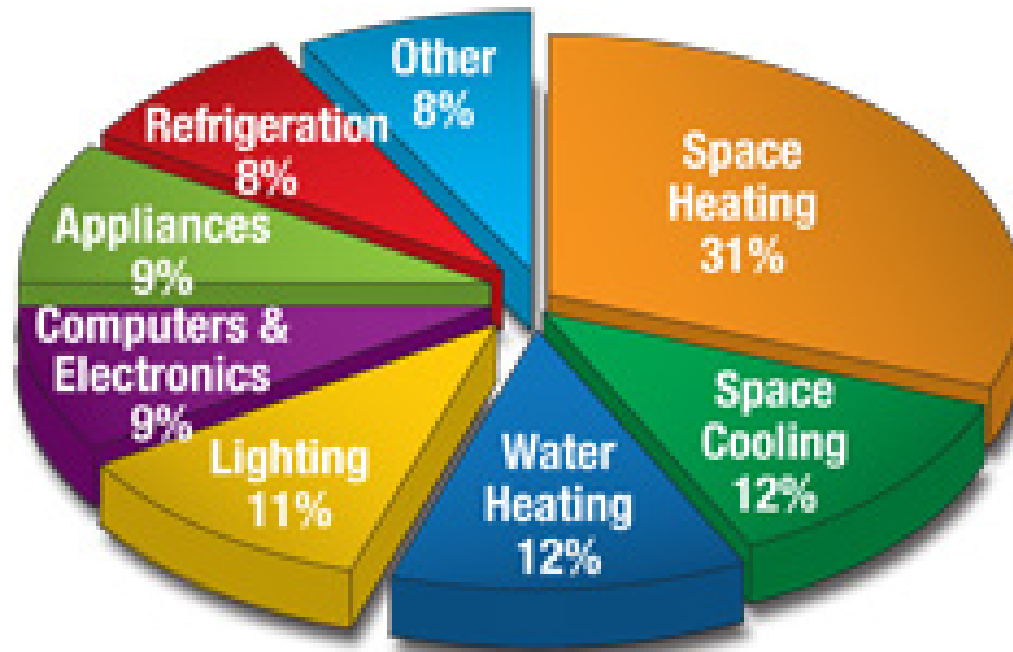
How do Vermonters use energy?



Source: http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state_energy_profiles.cfm?sid=VT

How We Use Energy in our Homes

(national data)

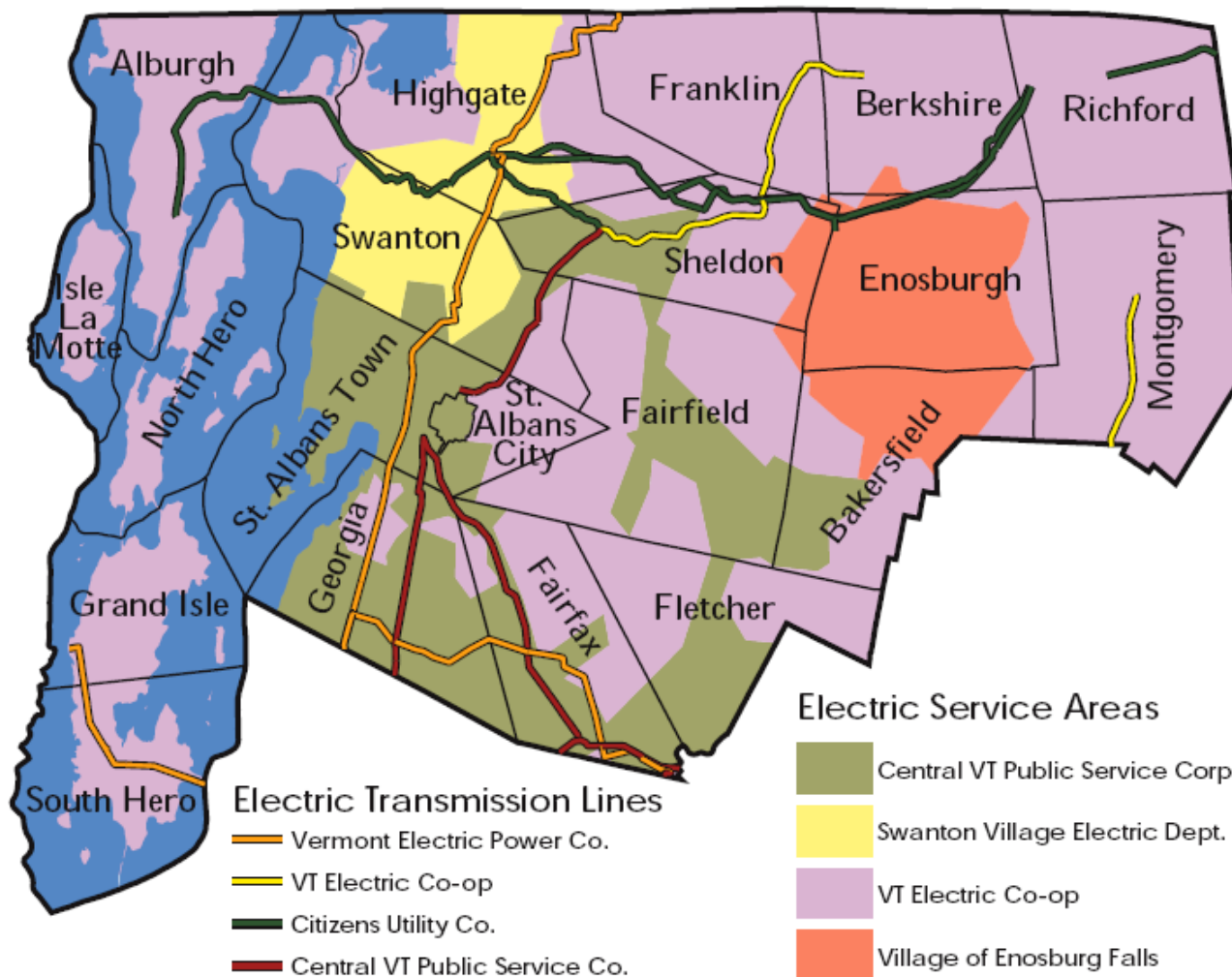


Source: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/home_energy.htm

How do we heat our homes?

	Fuel Oil	Utility Gas	Bottled /tank/ LP Gas	Wood	Electric
Franklin County	53%	21%	14%	9%	3%
Grand Isle County	67%	0%	21%	7%	4%

Where does our electricity come from?



Sources of Electricity

	Nuclear	Gas	Oil	Hydro	Renewables	Other
CVPS	56%	0%	2%	40%	0%	3%
VEC	15%	0%	0%	46%	35%	4%
Swanton	0%	1%	0%	78%	16%	4%
Enosburgh	0%	0%	0%	62%	13%	25%

Source: Vermont Department of Public Service, 2005

Regional Energy Goals

From 2008 Regional Plan:

- Encourage conservation and efficient use of energy thereby saving the Region's financial resources and the world's energy resources.
- Seek to incorporate the full costs of energy use in decision making.
- Encourage energy efficient and energy conserving patterns of land use.
- Increase use of energy conservation practices in site planning and development at the local and regional level.
- Develop a system of infrastructure that promotes energy conservation, substitution of low-impact renewable energy sources for non-renewable sources and which provides sustainable, reliable, and affordable energy for the region.

How do we integrate energy into Regional Planning?

Land Use. Encourage smart growth development that uses energy efficient site design and encourages alternative transportation.



Municipal Assistance. Help municipalities reduce energy consumption and incorporate energy into local planning efforts.

Economic Development.

Identify opportunities to create green jobs and grow the local economy through clean energy projects and programs.



Mapping. Use data on natural resources, demand, and infrastructure to identify opportunities.



Transportation. Plan for and encourage facilities for walking, biking, carpooling, etc.



Projects funded through grants from
the US Department of Energy and the
VT Department of Public Service

Municipal Energy Audits

Conduct energy audits in 20-30 buildings in the region to identify opportunities for energy efficiency. Provide funding and other support for implementation.

Timeline: January – November 2010



Streetlighting Analysis

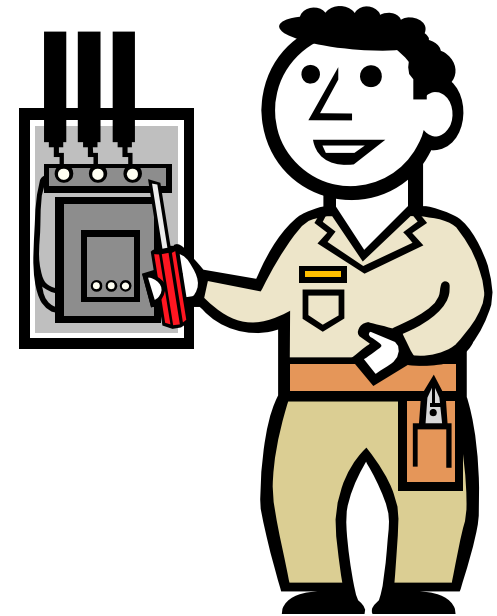
Work with 1-3 villages to conduct an inventory of streetlights and identify opportunities for efficiency.

Timeline: May 2010-June 2011



Workforce Training

Partner with the Workforce Investment Board to provide training to increase the workforce capable of identifying and implementing energy efficiency projects.



Timeline: 2010

Regional Energy Conference

Objective: Organize a regional energy conference to raise awareness, generate demand for energy services, and provide a forum for networking.

Timeline: Fall 2010

Support Local Foods

Promote the connection between local agriculture and reducing fossil fuel consumption. Create educational and promotional materials that build on other efforts statewide.

The average American meal travels 1500 miles from farm to plate!

Timeline: June 2010- December 2011

Renewable Energy Feasibility Analysis

Use mapping abilities and data regarding resources, demand, land use, and infrastructure to identify opportunities for renewable energy generation in the region. Support efforts by Swanton and Enosburg Electric Departments to install renewable energy projects.

Timeline: June 2010-December 2011

Renewable Energy: Economic Impact

Using results of the feasibility analysis, explore the economic development potential of renewable energy projects in the region.

Timeline: June 2010- December 2011

Promote Carpooling and Public Transit

Identify and evaluate potential park-and-ride lot locations in the region. Promote the “Way to Go” Challenge, which encourages alternative commuting options.



Timelines:

Park and Ride Assessments, 2011

Way to Go: May 2010, 2011, and 2012

Promote Walking and Biking

Help promote walking and biking by promoting the “Safe Routes to Schools” program and by helping to plan sidewalks in growth areas.

Timeline: On-going



Regional Plan: Energy Chapter

Revise the Energy Chapter of the Northwest Regional Plan.

Timeline: June 2010- December 2011

Assist Local Planning Efforts

Provide support to municipalities to incorporate energy into local plans and regulations. Assist in the formation of local energy committees. Offer workshops and educational opportunities to local boards.

Timeline: On-going



To summarize this year...

Currently: **Energy audit program**, provide funding to WIB for training, offer technical assistance to municipalities

This Spring: Initiate **renewable energy feasibility study**, Promote Way to Go and Safe Routes to Schools

This Summer: **Plan Regional Energy Conference**, initiate sidewalk planning, conduct streetlighting analyses, **start updating Regional Plan, help implement audit recommendations**

This Fall: Hold Energy Conference, complete work related to audit program