

Chittenden County Regional Energy Plan

Project Summary

Below is a summary of the project scope and deliverables.

- October 1: Report on current level of energy use (and generation) within the region across all sectors: thermal (building heating and cooling), transportation, and residential and commercial electricity use (which can become entangled with electricity used for heating and transportation, but at the moment, those are not large percentages of the total energy use in those sectors). Take a look at the pilot regional energy plans to see the level of detail provided, issues encountered, and to get some ideas for presentation of data. The best reference for this process will be the draft plans themselves.

- October 1: Develop base year, 2025, 2035, and 2050 milestones for changes in the demand for the various sources of energy – including increasing use of alternative energy sources for each sector. This is the part of the planning process where the LEAP modeling analysis for each region will play a leading role. VEIC will provide region-level outputs in both graphical and tabular form.

The LEAP data also includes statewide targets for imported electricity and in-state electricity generation by source (i.e., hydro, solar, wind, biomass, nuclear, natural gas,...) – providing the basis for estimates of RPC regional “distribution” of the amount of new in-state generation by source (solar, wind, and hydro). Those numbers are arrived at using the statewide targets allocated to regions based on measures of projected future growth, “prime” energy resource areas, and existing generation from each source. The methodology and regional targets can be modified as we move forward.

- December 15: Produce draft energy resource maps. These maps should be developed for at least hydro, solar, and wind (noting that it is useful to have a map for woody biomass as well, but with the significant difference that the biomass maps deal just with the location of a fuel source and not electricity generation facilities.) The energy maps begin with a GIS layer that includes areas of high energy resource potential and then add “Level 1” constraints (areas where environmental resources make facility development inappropriate) and “Level 2” constraints (resource areas that *may* complicate or potentially preclude development). The result is a “base” map that illustrates energy development guidelines geographically and also gives an indication of the type and amount of generation potential in a region. Each RPC can refine those maps by adjusting existing constraint layers and adding new ones based on local and regional input. CCRPC staff is asking municipalities to provide feedback on their town’s level 1 and level 2 constraints. CCRPC is collecting this input in September-October and will incorporate the comments in the draft maps sent to DPS in December.
- The next deliverable date is not until May 31, 2017 when the first draft of the energy plan will be due. Those plans will include the energy data, LEAP-based forecasts, and maps completed over the next few months as well as strategies and pathways for conservation, efficiency, and use of alternative energy/fuel sources for the thermal, transportation, and electricity sectors.
- The second half of next year (July – December 2017) will be spent reviewing the draft plans within our region, making revisions (and coordinating through meetings with all of the RPCs and the PSD),

and producing final draft plans by December. The PSD expects the process for adoption to be underway (not completed – nor guaranteed) by February of 2018.