

## Summary of TA VT Legislative Team Meeting – October 11, 2013

The legislative team met in Essex. Present: Beth Sachs, Beebe Potter, KC Whitely, Phil Merrick, Tim Stout, Laura Zakaris, Patrick Flood

1. Discussed other groups to meet with. PF will f/u with REV (done) and 350VT (done) and Debbie New about thermal networks. Beth will check in about VBSR (done) and Interfaith Power and Light.
2. Discussed having weekly educational sessions on policy issues and legislation. Topics might include:

Divestment

RES including rate payer protection

Biomass and forest carbon

Make Big Oil Pay

Our electrical system, the grid, community solar (Beth will reach out to the Vermont Energy Education group and Tim will coordinate with them)

Thermal networks

Resiliency

McNeil

How to work with the legislature

3. Reviewed the status of legislation

The divestment group is hard at work finding constituents to set up meetings with legislators on the House Government Ops Committee. We need to set up a meeting with the chair Mike McCarthy. Beth will reach out to Joey Miller and Rebecca Ramos about the best way to approach him. Mike Piecak spoke very positively about divestment at the EAN meeting.

RES – we are setting up a meeting with REV.

MBOP – Waiting for more information. VPIRG is hosting public information meetings around the state.

Resilience – Waiting to see a draft bill or bills.

Transportation. Same. Patrick will contact Mollie Burke

Thermal Networks. (H-242). We expect the bill to see action. Debbie New has been very active doing education.

Rate Payer Protection. Beth thinks this bill will need to be discussed in the context of the RES, but it may not get action this year.

Constitutional amendment. There is interest in a constitutional amendment to guarantee Vermonters a clean environment (similar to Montana). Nothing is likely to happen this year because any constitutional amendment language must start at the beginning of a biennium.

We agreed to meet once a month for now, perhaps more during the session, in person, and around the second week of the month, late morning.

We agreed that Beth would be the alternate to the ACTVT coalition with Patrick and we would ask to have her participate in all coalition meetings.