United States Environmental Protection Agency

State Incentives for Achieving Clean and Renewable Energy Development on Contaminated Lands

Vermont

The development of clean and renewable energy on formerly used land offers many economic and environmental benefits. Combining clean and renewable energy and contaminated land cleanup incentives can allow investors and communities to create economically viable clean and renewable energy redevelopment projects. This document provides information about incentives in your state that can be leveraged for clean and renewable energy and development of contaminated land.

Incentives for Clean and Renewable Energy

Funding (grants, loans, bonds, etc.)

Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF)
http://publicservice.vermont.gov

Offers a portfolio of funding opportunities including: grants and contracts; loans; equity investments; and direct incentive payments for renewable energy projects for pre-development activities, installation of small and large systems, and business development and equity.

CEDF Loan Program
http://publicservice.vermont.gov

Provides direct loans from $50,000 to $250,000, at a fixed interest rate of 4% to purchase land and buildings; purchase and install machinery and equipment; and provide working capital. Loans cannot be used for more than 90% of project costs.

Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program
www.rerc-vt.org/incentives/index.htm

Provides funding for installations for new grid-connected photovoltaic solar energy ($1.75 per Watt up to $8,750) and wind energy system installations (up to $4 per Watt, up to $12,500) that are installed by Vermont Solar and Wind Partners. The next offering is expected to support approximately 210 new renewable energy systems.

Tax Incentives (abatements, deductions, credits, etc.)

Sales Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy
www.revermont.org/incentives.htm

Provides tax exemption for 100% of sales tax from a purchase of photovoltaic solar systems, wind systems and anaerobic digesters. On-farm systems with a maximum capacity of 150 kW are eligible for the exemption; other eligible technologies are limited to a system capacity of 15 kW.

Wind Energy -- Alternative Education Property Tax
www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2008/bills/passed/S-209.HTM, in § 5402c

Establishes an alternate education property tax of 0.3 cents per kWh for wind energy facilities that are at least 5 MW in capacity.

Technical Assistance and Other Incentives

Vermont Anemometer Loan Program
http://web.vtc.edu/users/jnk06190/VTALP/index.htm

Provides anemometer equipment to Vermont residents who are considering the installation of small wind systems on their property.

Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) - Biomass Electricity Production Incentive
www.cvps.com/cowpower

CVPS, a Vermont electric utility, purchases electricity and renewable energy credits at 95% of the market rate for energy plus an additional $0.04 per kWh from farmers who own anaerobic digestion systems to generate electricity.

Net Metering

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy-efficiency/ee_netmetering.html

Allows net metering of up to 2% of a utility's peak demand. Generating capacity includes renewable energy systems up to 250 KW in capacity and allows for combined heat and power systems up to 20 KW in capacity. Net-metered systems earn credit for power fed back into the utility grid. It allows farms to have all their electric meters consolidated on paper into one net-metered system, and it also takes the innovative step of allowing groups of buildings, to be consolidated on paper into one net-metered system.

Quick Facts		
Public Benefit Fund (PBF)	Yes ☑	No ☐
Renewable Portfolio Standard	Yes ☑	No ☐
Total incremental energy growth between 2005-2012 through power purchase agreements with new renewable generators		
Net Metering	Yes ☑	No ☐
Interconnection Standards	Yes ☑	No ☐

Electric Power Industry Generation by Primary Energy Source (EIA, 2006)

Petroleum-Fired	0.1%	Nuclear	72.1%
Natural Gas-Fired	-	Hydroelectric	21.4%
Coal-Fired	-	Other Renewables	6.4%

Points of Contact

Vermont Department of Public Service, Energy Efficiency Division
http://publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/energy-efficiency.html
Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF)
John Becker, john.becker@state.vt.us, (802) 828-4020
Net Metering
Kelly Launder, kelly.launder@state.vt.us, (802) 828-4039

Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, *www.rerc-vt.org*
Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program
Cheryl Jenkins, rerc@veic.org, (877) 888-7372

Renewable Energy Vermont
Sales Tax Incentive for Renewable Energy
Andrew Perchlik, perchlik@REVermont.org, (802) 229-0099

Vermont Anemometer Loan Program
John Kidder, jkidder@vtc.edu, (802) 728-1783

Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, *www.cvps.com*
Dave Dunn, ddunn@cvps.com, (802) 747-5681

Funding (grants, loans, bonds, etc.)

Targeted Brownfield Site Assessment
www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/SMS/RCPP/grants.htm

Provides environmental assessments of brownfield properties. Recipients will receive a Site Investigation (SI) Report that will describe any potential environmental contamination on the property and put forth recommendations for the next phase of investigation, if necessary. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until available funds are exhausted.

Brownfields Revitalization Fund (BRF)
www.thinkvermont.com/brownfieldsforum/index.cfm

Authorizes the State Agency of Commerce and Community Development to manage a fund to issue loans and grants for assessing or remediating contaminated sites.

BRF Loan Program
www.veda.org/interior.php/pid/1/sid/88

Provides a 4% fixed rate loan to for-profit, non-profit and municipal entities for brownfields activities, with a maximum loan of $250,000. The main focus of the program is site cleanup, but in some instances funds may be used to do site assessment or characterization.

Petroleum Cleanup Fund
www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/ust/home.htm

Provides financial assistance for uninsured costs of soil and groundwater cleanup required by accidental releases from underground storage tanks (UST) (up to $999,750) and aboveground storage tanks (AST) ($990,000 for ASTs at bulk storage facilities, $25,000 for ASTs not at bulk storage facilities). The fund provides up to $1 million in coverage for third party claims for injury and damage caused by an UST release. A deductible is included for all assistance.

Limitations on Liability

Redevelopment of Contaminated Properties Program (RCPP)
www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/SMS/brownfields-home.htm

Participation in the RCPP allows a prospective purchaser who is not liable for contamination to acquire and clean up an abandoned or underutilized property in exchange for receiving liability protection that extends to all successors in the chain of title. National Priorities List (NPL) sites, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites and properties with only petroleum contamination are not eligible.

Quick Facts	
Limitations on Liability	Yes ☑ No ☐
Number of State-Tracked Contaminated Properties:	1,415
Includes all sites in the VT Hazardous Sites and Petroleum Sites databases except NPL and active Superfund sites	
Number of EPA CERCLIS Sites:	53
Sites identified for potential investigation under the federal Superfund Program	
Number of EPA Brownfields Properties:	846
Properties being funded or addressed under the EPA Brownfields Program	
There may be some overlap among the categories listed and sites listed may not represent all potentially contaminated sites in Vermont.	

Points of Contact
VT Department of Environmental Conservation
www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wmd.htm
RCPP, TBA, BRF
Donald Einhorn, donald.einhorn@state.vt.us, (802) 241-3888
Underground Storage Tank Program, Petroleum Cleanup Fund
Chuck Schwer, chuck.schwer@state.vt.us, (802) 241-3888