

Clean Energy Development Fund Loans

CEDF provides loans of \$50,000-250,000 for large renewable energy projects.

- Low fixed interest rates (4%) for up to 90% of installation costs.
- For details, visit publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/CEDF%20Loan%20Brochure.pdf.

Generate and Sell Your Energy

Your installer will set up your system to feed excess power into the grid. Then you can get paid for your clean power!

Net Metering: your excess power up to 250kW will be credited at market rates against future electric bills.



Visit www.dsireusa.org for a complete and up-to-date list of incentives for producing and selling clean energy in VT.



Harvard Environmental Law & Policy Clinic
1563 Massachusetts Avenue
Harvard Law School
Cambridge, MA 02138

This Guide was prepared for informational purposes only. The Guide does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Use of the Guide does not create an attorney-client relationship between you and Harvard Law School's Environmental Law and Policy Clinic. Because of the rapid pace of change in this area of the law, the Guide should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice from a licensed professional attorney in your state.

Financial estimates are based on typical Northeastern household energy usage and prices at the time of preparation. The Guide provides general information about your state that may not be applicable to your specific locale. Information on tax incentives, utility services, rebate programs, and other policies is subject to change.

Illustrations by Aurora Andrews and Amy Lien.

SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE MONEY & THE ENVIRONMENT

**Practical Tips on Energy Use from the
Harvard Environmental Law & Policy Clinic.**



VERMONT

Support Clean Power: It's Cheap & Easy

Buying energy from renewable sources reduces air pollution, fights global warming, and builds the VT economy. Switching takes just minutes and costs only about \$5-20/month.

Switch to Clean Power

In 2009, all VT utilities will be required to offer clean power options. Customers of two VT utilities can sign up for renewable energy now:

Central Vermont Power Service

- Get electricity generated from solid waste from VT's dairy farms through the Cow Power program!
- Visit www.cvps.com/cowpower or call 1-800-649-2877 to sign up.

Green Mountain Power

- You choose how much power you want from clean sources.
- Visit www.choose2Bgreen.biz or call 1-888-835-4672 to sign up.

If your utility is not listed here, call them and demand clean power options!

Support Renewable Generation

You can also offset the environmental impact of your energy use by buying Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

- Match your power use with RECs to offset your energy impact and to support clean energy generation.
- Choose a certified REC provider here:
www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/markets/certificates.shtml?page=1.



Conserve Energy & Save Money

Big savings are in your power! Reducing energy use can save you hundreds of dollars each year. It's also the easiest and best way you can fight global warming.

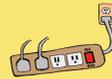
Upgrade!

- Use compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). CFLs waste 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs and last 10 times as long, saving \$50-100 over their lifetime.
- Buy efficient **Energy Star** electronics and appliances. They can lower your bill up to 30%! Cash rebates are available to help you upgrade: call Efficiency Vermont (below) for info.



Pull the Plug!

Plugged-in electronics use power even when turned off. This "Phantom Load" could account for over 10% of your electric bill.



Tip: Connect electronics to a power strip. When you aren't using them, just turn off the power strip to stop the phantom load.

Turn it Off!

The less you use, the less you pay. So always turn off lights, TVs, computers, and other electronics when not in use.

Bonus Tip: Setting your thermostat to 68° in the winter and to 78° in summer could save you 10-15% on heating and cooling costs.



HELP IS AVAILABLE

Whether you rent or own your home, these **FREE** services can help you save.

Efficiency Vermont – for all Vermont residents
Call 1-888-921-5990 or visit www.efficiencyvermont.org for rebates on Energy Star products and other resources.

Low-Income Weatherization – for eligible residents
Get help with home energy efficiency and paying your bills: call 1-802-241-2453 and ask about free energy upgrades for your home!

Create, Use, & Sell Clean Power

Become energy independent! Renewable power generation can offer homeowners significant long-term savings and even net income. Moreover, incentive programs will help pay upfront costs.



Getting Started

Installing a solar or wind power system is easier and more affordable than you may think. Use these resources to learn more about your options:

- Renewable Energy Resource Center at www.nerc-vt.org for info on state incentives.
- Renewable Energy Vermont at www.revermont.org/installers.php for certified solar and wind project installers.

Rebates and Tax Breaks

Many tax breaks and cash rebates are available to help you pay upfront costs. Your tax preparer, utility, and contractor can help you make the most of these incentive programs.

Federal Tax Credits: for Solar PV

- 30% of costs, up to \$2000. Program expires December 31, 2008. Use IRS Form 5695.
- Watch Congress for future tax credits for wind and for an extended PV credit.

Federal Mortgage: for Solar PV

- For details, visit www.resnet.us/ratings/mortgages/default.htm.

State and Local Tax Exemptions: for Solar and Wind

- 100% exemption from state sales tax.
- Local tax exemptions vary by municipality.

Small Solar and Wind Rebate Program

This VT program can cover 20-25% of the installation costs for eligible systems.

- For solar, up to \$8,750 (\$1.75/W); for wind up to \$12,500 (\$2.50-4.00/W).
- Larger incentives for installations on multi-family low-income housing structures.



(Continues on reverse)