

Imagine a Vermont that relies on safe, clean, affordable sources for all its energy needs: Windfarms dot a handful of ridgelines supplying power for working family farms. Those farms and sustainable forestry supply fuel for biomass energy that powers homes and businesses that use energy wisely and without waste. We can build that energy future in Vermont, but to do it our leaders must focus on priorities:



CLEAN

Experts believe that wind farms could supply up to 30% of our power needs while generating no waste or air pollution. Combined with other renewable energy sources such as biomass, solar and hydro-electric power, we can meet the majority of Vermont's energy needs without threatening public health or the environment.

SAFE

Expand Vermont's tradition of a working landscape to include our energy sector by encouraging installation of wind turbines, solar panels, and other on-site generation. These sources will help stabilize our electric grid against blackouts and decrease power lost through transmission.

AFFORDABLE

The cheapest watt of electricity is the one we don't buy. So we need to eliminate energy waste by increasing our investment in Efficiency Vermont and setting common-sense efficiency standards for buildings and appliances.



We can have a clean, safe and affordable energy supply. But we need our leaders to act now in order protect Vermont's environment and consumers. You can help VPIRG build a clean energy future by signing the letter below and sending it back to us, we'll make sure copies are sent to your elected officials and selected candidates for office.

Dear Vermont Leader,

Vermont's current energy supply is dirty, dangerous and expensive. But Vermont's energy supply will change in the next 10 years. I want my leaders to value our environment and our economy by investing in a clean, safe and affordable energy future. Specifically, I ask you to sign VPIRG's clean energy pledge to:

Phase out our reliance on dirty, dangerous and expensive sources like coal, oil and nuclear;

Generate one third (33%) of Vermont's electricity with renewable Vermont sources, such as wind, hydro and biomass by 2016;

Meet one quarter of (25%) Vermont's electricity needs from increased investment in conservation and efficiency, specifically from Efficiency Vermont, on-site generation and more stringent efficiency standards, by 2016.

Name _____

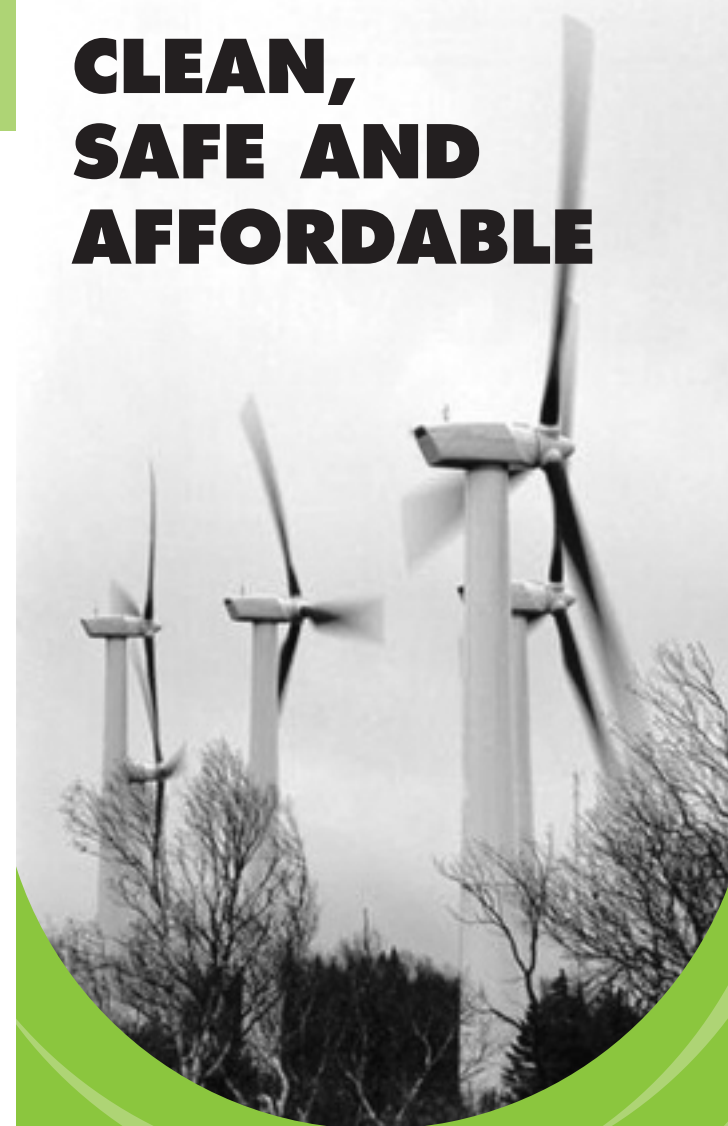
Town _____

Email _____

Phone _____

You can also keep up on the campaign, and find out if your local candidates have taken the clean energy pledge by joining VPIRG's email list. Just send an email to join@vpirg.org with your name, town and email. Or find out more at www.vpirg.org/action

**CLEAN,
SAFE AND
AFFORDABLE**



**VPIRG'S CAMPAIGN FOR
A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE**



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DIRTY, DANGEROUS & EXPENSIVE

Vermont's energy supply is dominated by dirty, dangerous and expensive sources. More than half of Vermont's electricity is generated by nuclear power or fossil fuel plants. These sources pollute our air, poison our water and threaten our state with nuclear disaster.



Consider the following:

DIRTY

Vermont Yankee has produced over 1 million pounds of radioactive waste since it opened. Power plant emissions of mercury have triggered fishing advisories for all of Vermont's rivers and streams warning women and children about the hazards of mercury-contaminated fish. Power plants are a leading source of global warming pollution in New England.







DANGEROUS

A serious accident at Vermont Yankee could render the Green Mountains uninhabitable. Our addiction to oil has led the US into armed conflicts around the world. In 2005 more than 6,000 people died in coal mine accidents worldwide.

EXPENSIVE

Vermont exports over 1 billion dollars every year to buy energy. Utility companies are already requesting double digit rate increases due to the rising cost of fossil fuels. Natural gas and oil prices have roughly tripled since 2002.

WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Source	Water pollution (lbs Hg and SO _x /MwH)	Air pollution (lbs NO _x and Particulates and CO/MwH)	Global warming pollution (lbs CO ₂ /MwH)
 Coal	9.88	4.73	2038.39
 Oil	13.55	4.35	1558.81
 Natural Gas	0.14	1.93	1033.12
 Biomass*	0.08	8.36	0
 Wind	0	0	0
 Hydroelectric	0	0	0

all data from ISO-New England and NEPOOL (www.iso-ne.com)

*data for emissions based on net pollution from the McNeil plant in Burlington



A DANGEROUS ALTERNATIVE



Vermont Yankee nuclear power station is one of the oldest nuclear plants in the country. Similar reactors have already been closed down due to safety concerns, and Vermont Yankee was designed to be shut down in 2012.

In the last two years alone, the plant has experienced: misplaced fuel rods, a transformer fire, higher-than-legal radiation levels at its fenceline, cracks in critical equipment, higher than legal water discharge temperatures, and potentially dangerous vibrations in steam lines.