

Global Warming & Energy

S.209 and S.350

Last year the Vermont Legislature passed sweeping global warming and energy efficiency legislation. Sadly, Governor Douglas vetoed the bill and the Legislature fell just a few votes short of overriding the veto. But, on the same day that the veto override failed, the Senate passed S.209, essentially the same bill without the controversial tax on Vermont Yankee.

Let your legislators know that global warming is a critical issue facing all Vermonters and that sweeping energy efficiency reform is crucial for the future of Vermont. Ask the Legislature to act swiftly and pass the following bills:

- S.209 – Expands opportunities for fuel savings programs and renewable energy, including the development of significant in-state generation.
- S.350 – Sets the stage for implementing many of the recommendations of the Governor’s Climate Change Commission, including establishing a greenhouse gas registry, expanding RGGI, and creating an autonomous council to carry forward efforts to prioritize and implement carbon-reduction efforts.

TALKING POINTS:

- S.209 — the Vermont Energy Efficiency and Affordability Act — would:
 - Ensure Vermont produces more in-state renewable energy by 2012.
 - Increase funding for efficiency programs that would save Vermont homeowners a significant amount of money and go a long way towards reducing our home heating and electricity bills.
 - Create opportunities for expanded weatherization and fuel savings programs. (Unfortunately, S.209 currently fails to guarantee the all fuels efficiency contract to Efficiency Vermont — Vermont’s acclaimed efficiency utility — threatening one of the most promising opportunities to achieve savings.
 - Allow community members to join together to produce truly homegrown energy and share in its benefits via group net metering.
- S.350 reflects the most critical recommendations put forward by the Governor’s Commission on Climate Change and the Vermont Council on Rural Development’s Energy Council. The Legislature should take Vermont’s efforts to combat climate change important steps further by passing S.350 with its critical components to:
 - Establish a greenhouse gas registry.
 - Expand the reach of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) beyond electricity to other forms of fossil fuel.
 - Create an autonomous council to carry forward essential efforts to prioritize and implement carbon-reduction strategies.

For more information, contact:

James Moore
Vermont Public Interest Research Group
Phone: 223-8421 ext. 4077
Email: jmoore@vpirg.org
Web: www.vpirg.org/globalwarming

Johanna Miller
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Phone: 223-2328 ext. 112
Email: jmiller@vnrc.org
Web: www.vnrc.org