

Renewable Energy Standard Reform Working Group  
Submitted Public Comment  
October 25, 2023

To the GA RES Working Group,

For too long, Vermont has presented itself as a green, environmentally conscious state while the truth of the matter is that we are next to last of all NE states in cutting our GHG emissions and we are an outlier in telling environmental lies.

The first lie is that large hydro is a renewable energy source. We are the only NE state that counts this massive polluter of methane: HQ as a renewable energy source. This stance opens the door for our electric utilities to buy cheap RECs from HQ (cheap because they can't sell them anywhere else in NE) and sell our pricey RECs to other NE states for a tidy profit. We lie to ourselves to make it look like we are doing something to meet the goals of the GWSA and the environment suffers for our failure to acknowledge the truth. This untruth allows our utilities to provide their required RECs without growing our own clean power locally.

The second lie is that bio-mass is an okay "renewable" energy source. The trouble with bio-mass is that the time trees need to renew themselves (about 100 years) is too long to do us any good when the time frame to cut our green-house gases (GHGs) (according to the IPCC) is more like 17- 27 years. So, burning bio-mass just adds to our GHG problem in two compounding ways: First, burning trees adds CO2 to the atmosphere at a time when we are told to reduce this gas and Second, burning trees reduces the only means we have to pull CO2 from the air and sequestered each year for its entire life. Both NY and MA do not allow bio-mass in their REP. We need the same honesty in our carbon accounting.

The RES must be a standard that is honest about its energy sources to measure our progress in achieving our CAP goals. Please work toward making our RES one based upon local clean, carbon-free energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, small scale hydro toward providing a habitable planet for your children and mine.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,  
Brian Forrest  
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