

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Renewable Energy Vermont:
8th Annual Conference and Expo:**

What does Vermont's Energy Future Hold?

Burlington, VT— Vermont's homegrown energy experts, as well as thought leaders from outside the state, convened at the Burlington Sheraton on Wednesday and Thursday to help predict and create a "renewable future for the Green Mountain state." A record attendance of more than 600 people including Vermont residents, government representatives, and businesses, attended the sold-out conference.

"At a time when the state is deliberating further power purchases from Hydro-Quebec and Vermont Yankee, it is important that Vermonters understand the vast potential renewable energy can offer," said Lawrence Mott, Chair of REV's Board of Directors.

"We believe an energy future powered primarily by renewables is not only possible, it's probable," he concluded.

This year's keynote speaker, Randy Udall, gave a thought-provoking presentation entitled "Why Energy is an IQ Test Americans Tend to Fail." Mr. Udall is well versed on the subject, as he is the former Director of the Community Office for Resource Efficiency in Colorado, where the organization helped to establish the first solar energy incentive in the state, the world's first Renewable Energy Mitigation Program, as well as the stiffest carbon tax. He is also the co-founder of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas.

During his address, Udall urged Vermonters to apply "Yankee ingenuity" and change the state's fossil fuel-based economy to one driven by renewables. "Vermont thrived one hundred years ago on the power of water, wind, solar and wood. Why not do it again?"

Given today's challenges of climate change, jobs, and prosperity, he believes that "energy is one of the original currencies." Udall challenged 100,000 Vermonters to own a share of a community wind farm, which drew a round of applause from the REV audience.

This annual event also included a half-day of "Renewable Energy 101" workshops that were open to members of the public interested in implementing a more renewable approach to powering residences and businesses. These sessions covered the basics and how to get started in geothermal, wood pellet heating, solar thermal, wind, bioheat, hydro and solar electric technologies.

The main day of the conference addressed and debated Vermont energy policy; technological advances in biomass, biofuel, solar energy, geothermal, wood heating, and wind; and incorporating renewables into transportation, building and community design.

Renewable Energy Vermont is a membership trade organization comprised of renewable energy companies and other stakeholders representing all five renewable energy sectors: biomass, geothermal, hydro, solar, and wind. REV is working to bring about an intelligent transformation from an imported, fossil fuel based economy to one that is based increasingly on Vermont's own renewable energy. Membership is open to all of those who share REV's mission to promote renewable energy in Vermont. For more information, visit www.REVermont.org <<http://www.REVermont.org>> or call (802) 229-0099.

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