



## **2022 REV Conference Attendee Post-it Note Responses:**

*What brings you anxiety and what makes you hopeful about our renewable energy and climate future?*

### **DESCRIPTION**

During the opening remarks of REV2022, Board member and Conference Co-Chair Chad Farrell asked attendees to write down what brings them anxiety and what makes them hopeful about our renewable energy future on red and green sticky notes provided. These notes were put on display so attendees were able to read them as well as continue to add their thoughts throughout the conference. At the end of the event, over 350 notes were collected and transcribed. These comments have not been sorted, filtered, or edited aside from spelling and minor grammatical changes.

### **DISCLAIMER**

This list was created by REV2022 Conference attendees, and does not represent or reflect the positions or viewpoints of REV or REV Staff.

What Gives You Anxiety About Our Renewable Energy Future and Climate Change?	What Makes You Hopeful About Our Renewable Energy Future and Climate Change?
<b>1</b> Continuation of willful ignorance and denial of the climate changes our behaviors are creating and the impacts of those changes	<b>1</b> The number of young people active in the fight against climate change
<b>2</b> Lack of skilled workers necessary to grow the industry significantly over the coming years	<b>2</b> Bringing back biodiversity bills
<b>3</b> Bridging the gap between emotional and factual response to climate change	<b>3</b> Growing funding for sustainable energy in Vermont
<b>4</b> Collapse of democracy and minority anti-climate rule	<b>4</b> I am hopeful because the momentum is on our side for transforming our energy systems
<b>5</b> The momentum that autocracy & oppression is having today	<b>5</b> The transformation of the industry, the economics behind clean energy solutions and the overwhelming interest of the general public will propel us forward whether or not politicians are able to do the right thing
<b>6</b> Weak state and federal legislatures	<b>6</b> More and more money and energy being put into climate change mitigation
<b>7</b> Inequitable access	<b>7</b> The IRA and the widespread effort to deploy renewables at scale
<b>8</b> Slow action	<b>8</b> UVM students
<b>9</b> Greenwashing	<b>9</b> Long-term renewable energy policy, finally!
<b>10</b> Too much focus on Burlington	<b>10</b> Incentives - state and federal
<b>11</b> military spending	<b>11</b> Youth passion for the environment and equality
<b>12</b> Lack of wind power in Vermont	<b>12</b> Integration of new money from governments to continue to motivate new companies in renewable energy
<b>13</b> Interconnection capacity issues across the country (MA, NJ, NY, etc.) and costs associated with those upgrades	<b>13</b> The bottom line cost benefit is finally being realized and subsequently invested in by larger and larger companies



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<b>14</b> Divisive politics will keep governments from putting in place policies that support innovative solutions	<b>14</b> IRA
<b>15</b> Government doesn't get it -- elect a new one!	<b>15</b> One billion in electric school bus rollout
<b>16</b> rapid deployment not done with integrity	<b>16</b> Much less climate change denial
<b>17</b> Pressures and inconsistencies from state and federal agencies against small, local hydro. Hydro is our best option for long-term locally-controlled energy	<b>17</b> The determined climate leaders from grassroots organizations, all the way up to the senate makes me hopeful
<b>18</b> The erosion of common trusted fact sources and respect for democracy	<b>18</b> People will wake the f*** up and realize there is a climate emergency and our POTUS will do the same
<b>19</b> People think cutting trees is bad and that the solution to our energy problem is to stop cutting trees	<b>19</b> Building code changes to decarbonize heating and cooling systems and weatherization of buildings
<b>20</b> How to ensure benefits and burdens of the energy transition are equitably distributed	<b>20</b> Rebates/tools to make electrified heating & cars affordable
<b>21</b> Geopolitics causing climate progress to pause	<b>21</b> Momentum and more public acceptance that we must combat climate change
<b>22</b> Fossil fuel industry continuing to profit off of fuels that are causing so much devastation	<b>22</b> The future of the planet is solar as it has been for the last 65 billion years
<b>23</b> Concern that public transit electrification isn't getting the attention comparable with impact and is overshadowed by private EVs	<b>23</b> Youth activism!!
<b>24</b> Interconnection and current grid infrastructure as bottleneck to building new renewable energy projects	<b>24</b> Accessible electric vehicles
<b>25</b> Finding investment in new technology and policy to implement	<b>25</b> Non-fossil heating solutions
<b>26</b> National political climate is scary! As well as the lack of belief in science	<b>26</b> Ambitious state decarbonization goals & policies
<b>27</b> Not enough labor (electricians!) to allow us to meet our goals	<b>27</b> The passage of the IRA represents the first time that environmental justice



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		was positioned as a policy objective rather than an outcome of environmental and energy design
<b>28</b>	War and the destruction it brings upon our planet	<b>28</b> Hope is hard to find but I look for it in my community, and the local level, and in the youth of Vermont
<b>29</b>	Ensuring all Vermonters can afford our renewable energy future	<b>29</b> Finally some sense of urgency & funding for what needs to be done!
<b>30</b>	Vermont needs to focus on more innovative solutions to reduce CO2 and GHG	<b>30</b> The green movement is becoming mainstream
<b>31</b>	Inequity	<b>31</b> The younger generation believes in the crisis
<b>32</b>	Falling behind on rapid changes needed to achieve net zero in time	<b>32</b> More opportunities for good jobs in the renewable sector
<b>33</b>	Battery technology is unsustainable and based on slave labor in 3rd world countries	<b>33</b> More opportunities for low-income participation in renewables
<b>34</b>	Changes in Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard	<b>34</b> Great people
<b>35</b>	Lack of association between "cost" of renewable tech and ignoring the cost of not investing -- Americans love cheap and fast	<b>35</b> The maturity of the renewable industry
<b>36</b>	War in Ukraine - Ability of a rogue state to vastly increase GHG emissions	<b>36</b> The next generation is getting engaged
<b>37</b>	Simply not moving fast enough!!	<b>37</b> The number of people buying electric cars
<b>38</b>	In all areas we need resiliency, decarbonization, and affordability	<b>38</b> People I talk with who are just as committed to making a difference as I am
<b>39</b>	Money in politics (especially the influence of the fossil fuel companies)	<b>39</b> Electrify Everything! (beneficial electrification)
<b>40</b>	legislative inaction	<b>40</b> Youth
<b>41</b>	Myopic approach to climate mitigation without regard to the cost	<b>41</b> Bad weather/storms are waking people up
<b>42</b>	High cost and low supply of EVs	<b>42</b> We HAVE the technology
<b>43</b>	Political antics blocking real progress	<b>43</b> More awareness of and action on climate and energy issues among the broader public



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<b>44</b> Lack of hydrogen infrastructure and policy	<b>44</b> Green banks and the movement to harness finance for the better
<b>45</b> Acceleration of climate change and political gridlock	<b>45</b> More renewable energy curriculum in our schools
<b>46</b> Started to make significant changes too late	<b>46</b> My hope -- Vermont will adopt a 100% RES for electric generation, pass a clean heat standard bill, and upgrade the electric transmission capacity
<b>47</b> Lack of energy equity - we are leaving people behind	<b>47</b> People care and want to work towards change
<b>48</b> Far-right extremism	<b>48</b> Young, smart coworkers!
<b>49</b> Regulatory roadblocks by the VT PUC and ANR that prevent timely and affordable projects	<b>49</b> Groups such as these are putting the time to work on sustainability
<b>50</b> Disinformation	<b>50</b> Renewable energy is cost-competitive with fossil fuels
<b>51</b> People don't want change	<b>51</b> Increased investment in creating innovative technologies
<b>52</b> It's political	<b>52</b> funding for aggressive climate policy
<b>53</b> Workforce	<b>53</b> Rise of intersectional, indigenous-led, women-led, and youth-led movements
<b>54</b> Greenwashing and the PUC	<b>54</b> Youth taking no sh** from anyone on climate
<b>55</b> Workforce and materials are hard to find	<b>55</b> Climate action finally being an ACTUAL priority for the national Democratic party
<b>56</b> Governor's opposition to clean heat	<b>56</b> Progressive laws
<b>57</b> Time is running out, the climate crisis is accelerating beyond the models	<b>57</b> Interest among students and young professionals to prioritize climate action
<b>58</b> Political barriers to progress	<b>58</b> Hope for young voter engagement
<b>59</b> Lack of innovative and incentivizing policy -- the IRA is great but we need more!	<b>59</b> There was an electric bus from Montpelier to Burlington this morning that was free to passengers
<b>60</b> Emphasis on the e=individual vs the larger corporations	<b>60</b> The IRA passing
<b>61</b> Historic weather events	<b>61</b> Creative, inventive, and tech-savvy people are bringing new ideas to address today's global issues
<b>62</b> Mineral cost of EVs	<b>62</b> The passion that children and youth for mitigating climate change will fuel their drive to be part of the solution



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<b>63</b> That not every Vermonter will be able to access renewable energy resources and we are not able to make Vermont the best green state	<b>63</b> Buy-in from younger generation
<b>64</b> Regulatory environment	<b>64</b> Cost-effective and high performance energy storage allowing for greater deployment of renewables
<b>65</b> Challenges in navigating the regulatory process in VT	<b>65</b> Finally taking steps at the Federal level to move forward on renewable deployment
<b>66</b> Sourcing of raw materials causing significant impacts to indigenous peoples, the environment, child labor, and unsafe working conditions	<b>66</b> More people going EV!
<b>67</b> Use of PFAS in solar panels, wind turbines, and lithium batteries	<b>67</b> Political engagement among the younger generations
<b>68</b> Over population	<b>68</b> Engagement of youth in climate activism
<b>69</b> How much disagreement and sniping there still is among the people trying to turn the curve	<b>69</b> long term regulatory certainty of renewables
<b>70</b> Siting challenges and NIMBY-ism	<b>70</b> The next generation's values and perspectives
<b>71</b> Many solutions are still centering capitalism and exploiting the global south	<b>71</b> I'm excited about solar finally becoming mainstream and front of mind for consumers
<b>72</b> Time is so short to make the needed changes	<b>72</b> Changes in Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard
<b>73</b> Political will to take action	<b>73</b> Actionable solution towards emission reductions
<b>74</b> I'm having anxiety around lack of public support of renewable energy	<b>74</b> Addison county climate action plan and implementation
<b>75</b> It worries me that profiting seems to be a first priority to many people in power when the first priority should be handling the climate crisis	<b>75</b> My hope comes from the Greenway Institute
<b>76</b> Not enough EV chargers	<b>76</b> Strong consensus on a vision for regulatory reform in the renewable energy sector
<b>77</b> ANR rules blocking renewable energy deployment	<b>77</b> Increasing focus on resilient energy and community resilience



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<b>78</b> Moving way too slow towards transition	<b>78</b> Green hydrogen
<b>79</b> The Governor regularly vetoing climate bills	<b>79</b> The potential of microgrids
<b>80</b> Our country swings from one side to the other and doesn't seem to have patience to fix systems	<b>80</b> Growth of flexible load programs in Vermont and New England
<b>81</b> It being too late	<b>81</b> Widespread Investment
<b>82</b> Workforce shortages	<b>82</b> We know what we need to do to reduce carbon
<b>83</b> Republicans	<b>83</b> Renewed focus on funding renewable energy and sustainable practices
<b>84</b> The status of our national politics	<b>84</b> Youth leadership
<b>85</b> NIMBY-ism	<b>85</b> People being more educated about community solar, green energy, LMI
<b>86</b> Affordability for the mass adoption of EVs and other necessary tech	<b>86</b> IRA
<b>87</b> Interest rates	<b>87</b> Willingness to serve historically underserved communities in clean energy programs
<b>88</b> NIMBY-ism	<b>88</b> Increase of EVs
<b>89</b> Getting stuff sited and built	<b>89</b> The opportunity for stable growth due to the IRA
<b>90</b> Continued destruction of wildlife habitat	<b>90</b> young advocates like Greta Thunberg
<b>91</b> Costs	<b>91</b> Passing of renewable energy bills
<b>92</b> People's reluctance to change	<b>92</b> IRA
<b>93</b> These efforts are probably not being met in most areas of the US	<b>93</b> People are eager to change careers into the renewable energy
<b>94</b> Mining minerals for batteries in the united states is the dirty side of clean energy	<b>94</b> Seeing conversations on EVs, etc. going mainstream
<b>95</b> NIMBY-ism	<b>95</b> The younger generation gets it!
<b>96</b> Most concerning at this point in time is how extreme climate change already is and how quickly emissions are growing again as we transition beyond COVID-19	<b>96</b> We can electrify, solarize, and still be comfortable (and have fun)!
<b>97</b> Recycling - where is it going?	<b>97</b> Historic levels of deployment of clean tech and investment in sustainability
<b>98</b> Future phosphorus shortages	<b>98</b> New climate legislation



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<b>99</b> Not doing enough with a short amount of time before irreversible damage	<b>99</b> Offshore wind
<b>100</b> There is still a lot to be done! and not much time to do it	<b>100</b> potential of hydropower to provide green energy without relying on foreign heavy metal extraction
<b>101</b> Continued number of climate deniers and disproportionate number of old white men in congress who are still in positions of power who are thwarting efforts to mitigate climate change	<b>101</b> The next generation doing better than we did and hopefully they will work to reverse the environmental death spiral we find ourselves in
<b>102</b> Lack of match-free implementation funds leaving underserved, under capacity, and often rural communities farther behind	<b>102</b> IRA -- a 10-year window of PREDICTABLE Federal incentives for solar and storage!
<b>103</b> The growing economic divide between the "haves" and the "have nots"	<b>103</b> Vermont is changing at a great pace and doing it together
<b>104</b> Lack of political will	<b>104</b> RES reform, especially Tier 2 expansion
<b>105</b> Our national landscape and the threat of democracy	<b>105</b> The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
<b>106</b> I worry about existing solar arrays falling apart due to neglect	<b>106</b> Jobs with livable wages!!!!excitement from young Vermonters wanting to make positive change for our environment
<b>107</b> Lack of political courage regarding climate change	<b>107</b> Everyone if FINALLY paying attention
<b>108</b> Morning news that globally we need to reduce CO2 by 3% but only set up to decrease by 1%	<b>108</b> Our youth are smart and will do the right thing
<b>109</b> Piecemeal solutions and not considering impact to all users and affordability	<b>109</b> IRA
<b>110</b> Lack of infrastructure for EVs	<b>110</b> REV
<b>111</b> Finding staff to do the work	<b>111</b> Vermont Energy Committee
<b>112</b> Concern about interest rates and struggling economy	<b>112</b> REV Conference
<b>113</b> Climate migration	<b>113</b> Hope in innovation
<b>114</b> Insufficient regional coordination to decarbonize transportation and heat	<b>114</b> Use of any integration of all good energy ideas for conservation and renewable generation
<b>115</b> Time is running out	<b>115</b> Local solutions and change





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<b>116</b> Methane discharges observed by NASA satellites	<b>116</b> Acceleration of EV transition
<b>117</b> As temperatures rise, how long before we face eco collapse in our forests?	<b>117</b> Excited that there is more momentum for deployment of clean energy technologies (EVs, storage, solar, etc.) across the country due to the IRA
<b>118</b> State leaders listening to utility lobbyists that are self-serving	<b>118</b> Community solar projects
<b>119</b> Supply chain shortages/delays	<b>119</b> Carbon pricing policy -- trading system or tax
<b>120</b> Political upheaval	<b>120</b> The diversification of renewable energy sources
<b>121</b> Slowness of action	<b>121</b> The affordability of renewable energy
<b>122</b> Far right	<b>122</b> Larger support for climate reform
<b>123</b> Irrational thinkers	<b>123</b> Number of different participants contributing ideas and solutions for resolving challenges
<b>124</b> Interest rates	<b>124</b> More electric vehicles
<b>125</b> Vermont ANR continually throwing up new barriers to renewable deployment	<b>125</b> Small renewable energy farms -- wind, solar, etc.
<b>126</b> Infrastructure upgrades to the electric system will slow our progress as we convert to renewable power	<b>126</b> Hydro Québec
<b>127</b> We aren't acting fast enough to reverse and slow down the effects of climate change	<b>127</b> Public transportation availability
<b>128</b> Sidetracking energy goals for others that don't align with a more resilient and equitable future	<b>128</b> So much innovation and disruption happening with EVs and battery energy storage
<b>129</b> The amount of people who still believe that climate change isn't real, especially those in positions of power	<b>129</b> Millennial and Gen Z's involvement
<b>130</b> Time is running out	<b>130</b> Acceptance/total integration of the idea of climate change as the issue of the era
<b>131</b> The failure to collaborate more effectively as a global community	<b>131</b> I hope that Every Vermonter is able to have access to renewable energy with the hopes to make Vermont the best state it can be
<b>132</b> The death of fact-based discussions on climate change	<b>132</b> The enthusiasm of the younger generation



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<b>133</b> I wish for more solar competition to help bring down costs	<b>133</b> Finally more traction and political will (for now)
<b>134</b> It is so easy to not change -- it is so hard to break habits	<b>134</b> It's now economically & environmentally a no-brainer to use clean tech
<b>135</b> Global instability has historically had the effect of stifling coordinated responses to such challenges	<b>135</b> EV infrastructure and infrastructure deployment
<b>136</b> Political dysfunction	<b>136</b> Buildings designed to be net energy producers
<b>137</b> If we fail, my children will have more challenges ahead of them	<b>137</b> IRA
<b>138</b> NIMBY-ism	<b>138</b> \$369 Billion in Federal climate funding
<b>139</b> Displacing fossil fuels to someone else's backyard	<b>139</b> More energy storage
<b>140</b> Finding/building good youth team	<b>140</b> Federal incentives for heat pumps incentives for clean energy in the IRA
<b>141</b> Negative corporate influence on radical policies that we need to make a swift transition	<b>141</b> Fusion
<b>142</b> In-fighting of climate activists over marginal details	<b>142</b> Significant state and federal investment helping drive immediate and significant action
<b>143</b> Republican obstruction	<b>143</b> The innovative technologies entering the market -- long duration storage & agrolvoltaics
<b>144</b> Long cold winters without energy storage	<b>144</b> All the amazing people I work with
<b>145</b> Global instability and political extremism	<b>145</b> Conferences like this full of people actually working to make change
<b>146</b> Vermont's current RES	<b>146</b> Educating younger generations
<b>147</b> Vermont's current wind sound rule prohibiting wind in Vermont	<b>147</b> The ability to store energy and put it in the grid later
<b>148</b> Where we draw the circle/line/boundary	<b>148</b> IRA
<b>149</b> Folks that are not at this table	<b>149</b> Regional partnerships
<b>150</b> Winter reliability	<b>150</b> Increased investments in renewable energy solutions
<b>151</b> Interconnection	<b>151</b> Increased awareness in youth
<b>152</b> The capability to keep up manufacturing of the supplies needed for the demand	<b>152</b> Economic growth of Vermont -- more innovative companies and solutions



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<b>153</b> Increasing costs	<b>153</b> Breakthroughs in safe nuclear energy
<b>154</b> We are not decreasing emissions fast enough	<b>154</b> The IRA act is a broad-reaching legislative success that has the potential to drive the US towards a greener future after spending too long on the sidelines
<b>155</b> Republican takeover of congress will roll back the IRA and other climate policy progress	<b>155</b> Young people
<b>156</b> We are such a small state and there is a much larger population to work on	<b>156</b> IRA
<b>157</b> Module recycling	<b>157</b> Political leaders willing to stand up
<b>158</b> EV charging infrastructure	<b>158</b> Young people voting
<b>159</b> Political interference	<b>159</b> Number of good-paying job opportunities for the younger generation in clean technologies
<b>160</b> Workforce as a stumbling block to acting on IRA investments	<b>160</b> Build out EV infrastructure
<b>161</b> Running out of time	<b>161</b> IRA
<b>162</b> Irreparable damage	<b>162</b> Weatherization at scale funding
<b>163</b> Looming GOP control of congress	<b>163</b> Investment in disadvantaged communities
<b>164</b> Political polarization	<b>164</b> The coming generation
<b>165</b> Knee-jerk opposition	<b>165</b> Board engagement
<b>166</b> Cost of EVs and how unsustainable Vermont's transportation sector is	<b>166</b> Availability of funding for deployment of new and improving technologies
<b>167</b> The stubbornness of our very conservative governor on energy and climate investment	<b>167</b> Community-scale geothermal
<b>168</b> Supply chain!	<b>168</b> It gives me hope to see all these people at this conference working towards addressing climate change
<b>169</b> Inflation	<b>169</b> Economic opportunity
<b>170</b> Attack on US democracy	<b>170</b> Clean power for utilities, homes, businesses, and transportation
<b>171</b> Affordability	<b>171</b> Stabilization of the grid with energy storage!
<b>172</b> How to offer benefits of renewable energy to low-income Vermonters	<b>172</b> Accelerate the transition off of fossil fuel in transportation and thermal!
<b>173</b> Plastic production	<b>173</b> YOUTH!
<b>174</b> 2024 election	<b>174</b> Manufacturers are in solution-mode



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<b>175</b> Continued fossil fuel dependence	<b>175</b> Decreasing costs
<b>176</b> Lack of leadership in the VT executive branch for prompt and affordable infrastructure growth	<b>176</b> Federal support
<b>177</b> All of the policy and deployment frictions (e.g. NIMBY, supply chains, labor shortages) that will increasingly arise	<b>177</b> YOUTH!
<b>178</b> Vermont state and town renewable energy goals - behind/reachable?	<b>178</b> We know what to do and how to do it to have a successful transition
<b>179</b> The disconnect between climate action and the people who need it most e.g. LMI folks are the least able to likely to spend time, energy, or money on energy efficiency or weatherization measures	<b>179</b> Increased investment in creating innovative technologies
<b>180</b> Political procrastination and entrenchment	<b>180</b> Proliferation of EVs
	<b>181</b> Renewable energy is the future
	<b>182</b> More reasons than ever why renewable energy is the best choice
	<b>183</b> Improved engagement between industry and stakeholders
	<b>184</b> Cost competitiveness of renewable energy
	<b>185</b> Renewed excitement and interest in climate action
	<b>186</b> more money in rebates and incentives
	<b>187</b> Technological innovations
	<b>188</b> Strong REV leadership
	<b>189</b> The next generation!
	<b>190</b> Regulatory support for long-term renewables and clean tech integration
	<b>191</b> That as energy is weaponized, clean energy is gaining momentum
	<b>192</b> Vermont needs to use energy from wastewater to reduce CO2 and energy costs