

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2018



CONTACT:

Austin Davis
Renewable Energy Vermont
austin@revermont.org
802-229-0099
@re_vermont

37 Business, Organizations Urge the Vermont Senate to Support Local, Advanced Wood Heating

Montpelier - Non-profits, local businesses, and other users of advanced wood heating sent a letter Tuesday to members of the Vermont State Senate urging them to support rural economies, working landscapes, and commitments to climate pollution reductions by taking actions which support advanced wood heating. Advanced wood heat utilizes highly efficient boilers, supports healthy forest ecosystems, sources local wood, and has negligible emissions.

The request comes at a time when members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy are reviewing S.276, a bill related to rural economic development. The bill includes a sales tax exemption for the purchase of advanced wood heating equipment and fuel which will help bring down the upfront cost of these systems which boast greater price stability and lower energy costs over their lifetime, when compared to traditional heating methods.

The letter also urged the Senators to support Vermonters' access sustainable local heating by maintaining funding for the Clean Energy Development, Working Lands Funds, and streamline financing and incentives, as well as increasing the number of HVAC installers that can install and maintain advanced wood systems.

“Taking these steps now will serve as lasting investments in Vermont and support the continuation of Vermont’s long, proud history of a forestry sector which keeps energy dollars local, supports jobs for our neighbors, and keep forests viable and sustainably managed,” the letter signed by 37 local businesses and organizations stated.

Vermont could achieve 35% of its thermal energy needs by the year 2030 through advanced wood heating according to a [report by the trade group Renewable Energy Vermont](#). The steps outlined in the report chart a course to utilizing renewable resources within our borders, we can forgo sending \$131 million out of state every year on heating oil and instead invest \$70 million annually back into our local economy.

“Advanced wood heating has been identified by Governor Scott’s Climate Action Commission and the Vermont Energy and Climate Summit as perfect solution for Vermont – both recognizing that wood heating as a tremendous opportunity to maintain our working landscape, keep dollars local and meet our climate goals,” said Ansley Bloomer, Assistant Director of Renewable Energy Vermont. “Advanced wood heat is a win, win, win for Vermont.”

Letter signatories;

Bob the Green Guy * Caluwe Biomass Heat and Power Solutions * Cutting Edge Energy Systems * Dewey + Associates, Architects and Planners * Downstreet Housing & Community Development * Energy Co-op of Vermont * Hickory Street Apartments * Innovative Natural Resource Solutions LLC * Forward Thinking Consultants LLC * Gagnon Lumber * Lamoille Housing Partnership * Lignetics of New England, Inc. * Long Meadow Resource Management LLC * Maine Energy Systems * Maple Street Senior Apartments * Northeastern Vermont Development Association * Pellergy * Renewable Energy Vermont * Richard Green Trucking * River Station Apartments * Rutland Housing Authority * South Main Apartments * SunWood Biomass * Sustainable Heating Outreach & Education Inc. * Tarm Biomass * Vermont Artisan Coffee * Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility * Vermont Conservation Voters * Vermont Forest Products Association * Vermont Interfaith Power & Light * Vermont Natural Resources Council * Vermont Public Interest Group * Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund * Vermont Wood Pellet * Vermont Woodlands Association * Vermont Wood Works Council * Watson Research

[Read the full letter here.](#)

###

About Renewable Energy Vermont

Renewable Energy Vermont represents businesses, non-profits, utilities, and individuals committed to reducing our reliance on dirty fossil fuels by increasing clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency in Vermont. Vermont’s clean energy economy includes 3,751 businesses employing approximately 6% of Vermont’s workforce. Together, we will achieve 90% total renewable energy (electric, thermal, transportation) before 2050. Learn more at www.revermont.org.