
From: Jim Merriam <merriam@norwichtech.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:28 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Comments on PUC case number: 18-0086-INV

Dear Public Utility Commission Members,

RE: Norwich Solar Technologies comments on PUC case Number 18-0086-INV
March 14,2018

The recent adoption of new Net-Metering rules (NM2.0) and changes in the broader solar market at the national level, leads Norwich Solar Technologies to **strongly recommend no downward changes be made to the current Net-Metering rates for siting and REC adders, and suggest a one cent additional site adder be made to Cat II and III ground sites.**

Founded in 2011, Norwich Solar Technologies (NST) is a local solar installation firm located in downtown White River Junction, Vermont. NST employs 35 professionals directly related to the installation and maintenance of solar and has developed deep relationships with the surrounding communities. Beyond helping our Vermont customers save money, NST has been able to leverage our installation experience in Vermont into Department of Energy grants that help develop and commercialize tomorrow's solar and renewable products and services.

NST strongly supports the Net-Metering (NM) program as a critical renewable energy policy for Vermont. Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan has highlighted the importance of NM in meeting our renewable energy goals, and we believe keeping rates unchanged supports this policy. Further, we strongly believe democratic participation in energy generation through Net-Metering provides awareness and knowledge to help Vermonter's envision their energy future and spreads these benefits most broadly.

In making this recommendation regarding Net-Metering rates, NST has considered the following factors:

- Cost of developing NM projects
- Pace of NM installations under the new rules
- Economic benefits of NM

Cost of Developing NM Projects

Over the course of 2017 several factors have impacted the cost of building solar projects. **Most significantly, a 30% federal tariff on solar has disproportionately driven the cost of solar panels up 40% or more from 2017 and into 2018.** Other factors raising the cost of solar installations include:

- Rising interest rates increase the cost of borrowing and negatively impact project economics
- Decreasing tax liabilities, due to changes in federal tax code, reduce the investor pool
- Escalating permitting costs under NM2.0 are as much as 30% higher than under NM1.0
- Complying with preferred site requirements further burdens project budgets and timelines
- Imposing a per customer limit of 500kW drives up the cost of sales

Pace of NM Installations

As a Vermont employer of 35 professionals in the renewable energy industry, we continuously monitor the pace of filing and issuance of Certificates of Public Good (CPGs).. Several factors have slowed the pace of installation on systems over 50kW. These factors include:

- The 500kW per customer cap has decreased available opportunities
- Permitting requirements under NM2.0 require significantly more effort
- Development of “preferred sites” under NM2.0 is complex when involving brownfields, gravel pits, and landfill conditions
 - Solar is often the first opportunity for sites to face review and enforcement of new and pre-existing conditions
- GMP testimony to the Vermont Senate Finance Committee indicated that while many large NM2.0 projects were proposed, only 2 were actually active as of February 2018
 - When considering the pace of installs, it is critical to separate NM1.0 issued CPGs and NM2.0 issued CPGs

Economic Benefits of NM

- Preserving and growing Vermont employment through NM projects – as seen in Norwich Solar Technologies, our employees, and our numerous subcontractors
 - These professional jobs are career opportunities that support Vermont’s economy
- Bringing investment to Vermont by leveraging federal tax credits and monies into Vermont’s economy to build these projects
- Supporting the modernization of Vermont’s electrical grid through project direct investment in utility upgrades
- Delivering significant savings to Vermonters, Vermont businesses, municipalities, and schools

As company we are committed to developing and installing clean energy solutions that support Vermont’s commitment to locally addressing the challenges of climate change. We are dedicated to ensuring that the benefits of clean energy flow to our Vermont communities.

Supporting this mission, we have worked with a number of schools, towns, non-profits and local businesses including: Thetford Elementary School, Bradford Elementary School, Newbury Elementary School, Oxbow High School, The Mountain School, the Town of Hartford, the Upper Valley Aquatic Center, the Woodstock Farmer’s Market, and Vermont Maple, among others.

Along with our 35 employees, Norwich Solar Technologies is proud to support Vermont’s dynamic clean energy economy. Together, Vermont’s renewable energy employers are providing well-paying meaningful jobs, as well as supporting families and retaining youth in the workforce.

As a small state committed to addressing our environmental challenges, we have the unique opportunity to craft informed clean energy policies that effectively support the evolution of the grid to integrate distributed resources. In refining NM2.0, we encourage the PUC to work to ensure that Net Metering remains robust as the program most directly allows our schools, towns, residents and local businesses to directly benefit from their hard work in adopting clean energy.

We thank you for considering our input.

Jim Merriam
Chief Executive Officer
Cell: 802 881 4768



NorwichSolar.com

From: Katrina Benoit <kbenoit@aegis-re.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:07 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Case Number: 18-0086-INV Katrina's support for VT Net Metering Program

To the VT Public Utilities Commission:

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule. I work in the solar industry as a Drafting Technician.

I came to Vermont, as a UVM student, from Massachusetts. Upon my graduation with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering in 2016, I came across the opportunity to work at a renewable energy company in Waitsfield Vermont and was excited by the opportunity to learn more about this growing industry as well as expanding my own skill sets. A job where I can receive good pay as well as benefit the communities around me is something that can be hard to find in the state of Vermont. This job kept me in the state of Vermont rather than returning to my home state of Massachusetts.

Vermont lost solar jobs last year, while espousing climate initiatives and an interest in attracting and keeping young professionals, like me. I know you're currently deliberating the core components of our state's solar program - and I urge you to hold solar harmless. We're facing plenty of headwinds with the President's new solar tariff and the coming decline in the federal tax credit. I implore you to maintain the current solar adder and help prevent continued job losses in the industry.

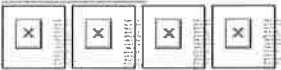
Sincerely,
Katrina

--
Katrina Benoit
Renewable Energy Drafting and Design



Aegis Renewable Energy
, Inc.

340 Mad River Park, Suite 6
Waitsfield, VT 05673
802-496-5155



From: Anne Chase <ltroyachase@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:07 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Keep solar affordable

Reducing CO2 and encouraging alterate source of energy is a pressing need. Please keep soar power affordable.

From: Barb Karle <Bkarle@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:04 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Solar

Hi. I urge you to support and push solar. We went solar because we believe that fossil fuels should be phased out. We need to be forward thinking and promote renewables. Climate change is real and we need to encourage everyone to do their part. Don't reduce incentives, instead please look at how all Vermonters can make the switch to solar. Thank you
Barb Karle. Salisbury

From: Mike Forbes <mforbes@aegis-re.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:03 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Fwd: case number 18-0086-inv,aegis renewable energy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike Forbes** <mforbes@aegis-re.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2018 at 4:01 PM
Subject: case number 18-0086-inv,aegis renewable energy
To: puc.clerc@vermont.gov

Hello,

I am writing in regards to case number 18-0086 -inv.

I personally made a life change 15 yrs ago to work in the renewable energy field -10 yrs in wind energy and the last 5 in solar , I have one of the remaining jobs that gets counted in the solar jobs census and would like to keep it !! please don't weaken our net metering program and help prevent continued job losses in this industry.

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Mike Forbes
Site Supervisor

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Mike Forbes
Site Supervisor



Aegis Renewable Energy
340 Mad River Park, Suite 6
Waitsfield, Vt 05673
802-560-0055 Main
mforbes@aegis-re.com
www.aegis-re.com

From: Barb Karle <Bkarle@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:03 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Solar

Hi. I urge you to support and push solar. We went solar because we believe that fossil fuels should be phased out. We need to be forward thinking and promote renewables. Climate change is real and we need to encourage everyone to do their part. Don't reduce incentives, instead please look at how all Vermonters can make the switch to solar. Thank you

From: William McGrath <wmcgrath@LEDdynamics.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:02 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Every Vermonter should have the opportunity to control their energy costs with solar.

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I went solar to take control of my energy costs.

We have not paid an electric bill since we went solar and are net positive. The payments on solar are less than our old bills. Without the adder it would not have been an incentive.

I urge you to hold the solar adder steady and not make it any harder for Vermonters to go solar and access the cost controls it offers.

William McGrath
Randolph

From: Maria Puglisi <puglisi08@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:01 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Vermont solar "Rec's"

I live in Randolph, Vermont . I am writing regarding out of state developers coming to this state, buying up properties and or leasing them for solar generation and then sending the power and or credits to other states. Vermont not getting the renewable credits is wrong.

Specifically the Randolph center project is not well liked in the community and by the energy committee in our town. Randolph is very committed to renewables but they have to be an appropriate size and the state should benefit with the renewable credits.

I am available if you are looking for any more input from me. The current town manager is new and has not been aware of the many meetings and thoughts about this.

Maria Puglisi
820 Partridge Hill
Randolph, Vermont 05060
802-728-4225

Sent from my iPad

From: Valerie Visconti <valerievisconti@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:00 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: re. case # 18-0086-INV

Every Vermonter should have the opportunity to help build our clean energy future, pricing out Vermont homeowners and businesses would be a major loss.

I purchased a solar panel from SunCommon a couple of years ago. This was when they could place a panel in another part of the state, as I live on the fourth floor of a condo building in Winooski and wouldn't be able to have a panel on my building.

I'm a senior and have saved a large amount of money as a result. I get a statement from Green Mountain Power each month with a visual of the # of kwh my panel has collected compared to how many kwh I've used (that's with central air in the warmer months). What a delight it is to see that I owe \$ 0 for that month. Obviously, in December - March/April, I may owe something, however in the long term, I'm saving money!

Rolling back incentives any further could make a big decision for seniors and working families, an unlikely decision. I strongly urge you to hold the solar adder steady and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

Thank you for your serious consideration to this matter.

Valerie Visconti

From: Jessica Edgerly <vtedge@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:45 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: comments on net metering

To the VT Public Utilities Commission:

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule. I work in the solar industry; I'm one of the (remaining) jobs that gets counted in the solar jobs census.

I came to Vermont for a nonprofit job straight out of college, met and married a Vermonter, and we're now raising our family here. We're real people building our lives here. I served on our City Council for 4 years. Ben helps run a local nonprofit. We care for this place and depend upon its economy.

Vermont lost solar jobs last year, while espousing climate initiatives and an interest in attracting and keeping young professionals. I know you're currently deliberating the core components of our state's solar program - and I urge you to hold solar harmless.

We're facing plenty of headwinds with the President's new solar tariff and the coming decline in the federal tax credit. I implore you to maintain the current solar adder and help prevent continued job losses in the industry.

Jessica Edgerly
Montpelier

From: Nancy Toney <toneybn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:25 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Every Vermonter should be able to do what we have been able to do.

I am writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

My husband and I are approaching the end of our first year with our solar panels and feel really good about doing our part to combat climate change by investing in renewable energy. We feel strongly that everyone in our community and state should have the same opportunity we did, to install solar at an affordable cost. We feel pride in being part of the effort to power our state responsibly into the future .

Nancy G. Toney
Peacham

From: Brian Browning <bpbrowning@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:09 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: VT Solar Net-Metering

Dear Public Utility Commission Members,

It has come to my attention that the Public Utility Commission is engaged in a review of the state's solar net metering program. We operate a solar engineering company, and almost all of our business comes from solar. We would ask that the Public Utility Commission consider net metering from our perspective before making any changes to rules that might impact the industry.

We estimate that 95% of our annual business volume is related to solar, and that all three of employees in our company are dedicated to this work. We noticed that 2017 was slower than the previous two years, and our business volume was significantly less. That trend looks to continue in 2018, and if the solar industry were to continue to shrink as a result of changes to rules for permitting, siting, rates and other factors, it will have a negative impact on our business and we would be forced to reduce our workforce and lay off employees who rely on this industry for their livelihood.

We also consider the impact to Vermont's economy if our business, and other businesses who depend on solar, were to shrink. We as a company pay taxes, all our employees pay taxes. We all pay for basic goods and services, both locally and regionally. We all use our discretionary income to support local restaurants and retail businesses. Fewer people in the work force will result in less spending in the local and regional economy, less income tax collected by the state, and a significant net negative impact to the state's economy.

In summary, solar net metering should be viewed more broadly than its impact on electricity ratepayers, and should take into consideration all the stakeholders who are involved, such as business owners who are employers to a great many Vermonters and the economic engine of our state. If solar net metering rates decline, if the complexity and cost of permitting and siting continue to increase, and if the number of projects and the project economics decrease, the solar industry will suffer. This will cascade to the local and regional economy. Please keep us in mind as you review the solar net metering program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian

==
Brian Browning, PE
PV Systems Engineer
Solar Power Engineering
<http://solarpowereng.com/>
Tel: 802.595.5510

From: Susan <szgratz@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:05 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Community Solar

It is totally antithetical to me that the PUC would enact processes and procedures against sustainable power generation in the state of Vermont. The state has set achievement goals for use of renewable resources so that we can attain energy independence. Please look at the big picture when evaluating projects such as Southern Community Solar, and affirm our commitment to enhancing our connections to a sustainable future.

Susan Gratz

Sent from my iPhone

From: John & Susan Louchheim <john@louchheim.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:58 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Community Solar is an Important Thing!!!

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I went solar to take control of my energy costs.

As a result, I have

1. Funded creation of new solar generation capacity in Vermont;
2. Eliminated the need for about \$350 / month worth of fossil fuel generation, and thus eliminated substantial greenhouse gas generation.
3. Saved myself a \$few bucks.

I urge you to hold the solar adder steady and not make it any harder for Vermonters to go solar and access the cost controls it offers.

John & Susan Louchheim
Colchester, Vermont 05446

From: Pete Daigle <peterld53@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:45 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Dolor energy

Every Vermonter should have the opportunity to do their part.
I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in Vermont, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about [climate change, energy independence, or setting an example for my kids]

And I'm incredibly proud that I have been able to do my part, and contribute in this way.

Vermont prides itself on local control. We all feel both deep connection and a sense of obligation to support the communities where we live. Others like me want to be part of building the clean energy generation that will power our state for decades to come.

Rolling back incentives any further could make a big decision for a working family, an unlikely decision. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

Pete Daigle
Shelburne, Vt

From: David McNally <David.p.mcnally@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:06 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Hold rates on solar power

I strongly encourage the PUC to support maintaining rates at similar levels for solar credits/ payments. As a producer of renewable solar energy, the PUCs positive economic policies were a major incentive to go solar. I hope that the PUC would continue this approach.

Regards,
David McNally

From: Marilyn Machia <marilynmachia@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6:54 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Solar In Vermont

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in VT, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about energy independence, and not destroying our earth and solar seems to be one of the better ways to do that. I'm incredibly proud that I have been able to do my part, and contribute in this way.

Vermont prides itself on local control. We all feel both deep connection and a sense of obligation to support the communities where we live. Others like me want to be part of building the clean energy generation that will power our state for decades to come.

Rolling back incentives any further could make a big decision for a working family, an unlikely decision. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

Marilyn Gibby Machia
South Burlington, VT

From: sam <sampilo2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 5:35 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: PUC case number 18-0086-INV

Strong net metering rules in favor of renewables, please

These recent changes are unconscionable. We need to be leading the nation in renewable energy sources!

The new rules are a payoff to old world power structures and indicative of an obvious and heavy handed Republican administration.

I was contemplating a change to solar when the game was changed. Just outrageous.

Do your jobs.

Carl Pilo
802 254 4714

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.
<http://www.avg.com>

From: rob.anderegg@outlook.com
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 5:01 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Solar Energy

Dear PUC,

2017 was a disastrous year for renewable energy in Vermont! Between federal tariffs on solar panels and a revised net metering policy that removes incentives, our transition to a solar economy took a tremendous hit. Vermont has stated that it wants to be at 90% renewables by 2050, and yet we plod along timidly while the climate continues to degrade. We need bold action, not excuses why we can't move faster.

I installed a solar tracker in 2015. It will pay for itself in generated electricity over time; but the up-front cost was high. I was able to do it only because of federal tax incentives and a favorable net metering policy.

The reality is that state, local, and federal governments cannot, by themselves, afford the cost of converting to a renewable energy economy. They need investment by the private sector. I invested nearly \$14,000 of my own money because of incentives. Without them, I would have invested nothing. If you multiply my experience by the thousands of people who might consider investing in renewables, it adds up to tens of millions of dollars. Why would we not do everything we can to encourage that level of investing? A dollar of government incentive returns two to three dollars of private investing - that seems like a no-brainer to me.

I look to the PUC to do whatever it can to provide a climate where individuals and companies see a value in investing in energy projects, not sitting on the sidelines while our environment crumbles. Get to it!

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Rob Anderegg
Hartland

From: Joe Wager <jwager@symquest.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:49 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Every Vermonter should have the opportunity to control their energy costs with solar.

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in Vermont, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about energy independence.

And I'm incredibly proud that I have been able to do my part, and contribute in this way.

Vermont prides itself on local control. We all feel both deep connection and a sense of obligation to support the communities where we live. Others like me want to be part of building the clean energy generation that will power our state for decades to come.

Rolling back incentives any further could make a big decision for a working family, an unlikely decision. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

Joe Wager
Colchester

From: michael mcguiness <mcguiness.michael@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:33 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: mcguiness.michael@yahoo.com

Every Vermonter should the opportunity to take advantage of renewable energys like solar and wind at a reasonable price.

From: Charles Willis <cewillisiii@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:38 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: cewillisiii@aol.com

cewillisiii@aol.com

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in Vermont, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about energy independence and saving Money!

I urge you to maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont home-owners.

Charles E. Willis III

Leicester

From: Kevin Hollebeek <khollebeek@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 11:47 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: khollebeek@yahoo.com

I believe solar should remain an affordable option for all vermonters, and that energy policy going forward should focus on an increase in renewable energy.

Respectfully,
Kevin Hollebeek

From: Kevin Hollebeek <khollebeek@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 11:49 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: khollebeek@yahoo.com

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in Vermont, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about the environment.

And I'm incredibly proud that I have been able to do my part, and contribute in this way.

Vermont prides itself on local control. We all feel both deep connection and a sense of obligation to support the communities where we live. Others like me want to be part of building the clean energy generation that will power our state for decades to come.

Rolling back incentives any further could make a big decision for a working family, an unlikely decision. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

Respectfully,
Kevin Hollebeek
Mount Holly, VT

From: Gibson Smith <gibsonsmith@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 5:54 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Every Vermonter should have the opportunity to control their energy costs with solar.

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I went solar to take control of my energy costs.

Solar is no immediate windfall, but my wife and I are planning for retirement in a few years, and having both our mortgage and our solar paid off will be a big deal. We'll be able to stay in our home, and grow old in the community we know and love -- because our ongoing monthly bills will be so much lower.

I urge you to hold the solar adder steady and not make it any harder for Vermonters to go solar and access the cost controls it offers.

Gibson Smith
gibsonsmith@yahoo.com

From: Eric Bauernschmidt <ebauernschmidt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 2:01 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Net Metering

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in Vermont, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about climate change and energy independence.

And I'm incredibly proud that I have been able to do my part, and contribute in this way.

Vermont prides itself on local control. We all feel both deep connection and a sense of obligation to support the communities where we live. Others like me want to be part of building the clean energy generation that will power our state for decades to come.

Rolling back incentives any further could make a big decision for a working family, an unlikely decision. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

Eric Bauernschmidt
West Windsor, VT

From: Jack Elliot <jelvt@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 1:32 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Vermont Solar

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule. I went solar to take control of my energy costs. My wife and I are retiring next year and having both our mortgage and solar paid off will be a big deal. We'll be able to stay in our home, and grow old in the community we know and love - because our ongoing monthly bills will be so much lower.

From: Pam Witherell <pjp2550@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:55 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: the importance of having solar options

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

It's important to have affordable solar options in Vermont, utilizing the natural energy of the sun instead of using fossil fuels with subsequent polluting factors. We went solar recently because we care about our environment and are proud to be able to do our part.

Vermont prides itself on local control. We all feel both deep connection and a sense of obligation to support the communities where we live. Others like me want to be part of building the clean energy generation that will power our state for decades to come.

Rolling back incentives any further could make it impossible for a working family to go solar. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

Sincerely,
Pam and Charles Witherell
Johnson

From: Dean Rocissono <rocissono@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:35 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Vermont solar access is imperative

Aside from the grave climate change aspect for the need for renewable energy, every Vermonter should have the opportunity to control their energy costs with solar.

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I went solar to take control of my energy costs. Unfortunately, Hardwick Electric ended net-metering before I was able to install my 10.2 kWh solar system. Additionally, they intend to charge me a \$15 per month fee just to be connected to America's grid - this is beyond unacceptable. Besides that, I haven't received statement accounting for my production or usage since August of 2017, seven months after installing solar in in July of 2017. Apparently, some parts of Vermont are so behind the times, that public utilities aren't even yet set up to properly serve tax paying citizens. This is ridiculous.

I urge you to hold the solar adder steady and not make it any harder for Vermonters to go solar and access the cost controls it offers.

Dean J. Rocissono
Wolcott

From: Devon Fuller <dfuller83@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:32 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: case 18-0086-INV

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in Vermont, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about climate change, energy independence, green energy as an economic driver plus I believe it shows a good example for my kids

And I'm incredibly proud that I have been able to do my part, and contribute in this way.

Vermont prides itself on local control. We all feel both deep connection and a sense of obligation to support the communities where we live. Others like me want to be part of building the clean energy generation that will power our state for decades to come.

Rolling back incentives any further could make a big decision for a working family, an unlikely decision. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

Sincerely
Devon Fuller
Brandon VT

From: Stephanie Leonard <Steph.leonard@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:04 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Solar Emergy

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV. As a current solar customer, I'm proud to be a part of using our natural resources efficiently and wisely.

It is important for Vermont to move forward with solar programs. I want to be able to give my children a bright (no pun intended) future and be able to set an example for them of how to be environmentally aware and wise. Consumers cannot do this without the backing of state and local support.

Please maintain solar energy as a viable option for proud, environmentally aware Vermonters! Please hold the solar adder steady. Allow home owners to be able to take advantage of the price breaks or gives them. Energy costs, especially in such a cold climate area, can become very costly and unaffordable for many families. Let's look out for each other and help make energy more adorable!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Leonard

From: Susan Nevins <nevinsmontero@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:18 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Case number 18-0086-INV

This letter is regarding case number 18-0086-INV, the review of Vermont's net metering rule. We got solar panels installed at our house four years ago. The solar option was doable for us only because of the net metering rule. We chose to put away funds for this project, instead of taking vacations, buying new cars, and spending money in other unnecessary ways so we could pay for this. We believe in solar and how it helps the environment - everyone's environment - and did not look at the "payback" time. Our panels provide for our small electricity usage and more for other people.

Please hold the solar adder steady to continue to make it affordable for middle/low income Vermonters to access it.

Thank you.

Susan Nevins and Carlos Montero
Roxbury, Vermont

From: Julie Scribner <julie.vwle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:08 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Net Metering

Every Vermonter should have the opportunity to control their energy costs with solar, as I have. I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I went solar to take control of my energy costs.

My rooftop panels were installed in July 2017. Prior to solar, my summer GMP bills were normally well over \$100/mo (and winter over \$60/mo). My largest GMP bill since July was last month at \$23.14 (and that was after two months of the panels being covered in snow!) I now pay a lot more attention to the amount of electricity I use, and that not only benefits me, but benefits the grid and everyone else. I was able to take advantage of the solar incentives available at the time. Without them, I would not have been able to afford to go solar.

I urge you to hold the solar adder steady and not make it any harder for Vermonters to go solar and access the cost controls it offers.

Julie Scribner
Monkton, VT

From: Patricia Magosky <Pmagrosky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:08 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Case number 18-0086-INV

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in Vermont, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about the environment and the future of our planet. The 49th anniversary of Earth Day approaches, when solar energy was but a dream. It has now become a reality for many Vermonters, but not all. Providing the opportunity for everyone to choose solar through community solar arrays is important. Vermont is known for its independent spirit and innovative thinkers. Let us be the leader in creating an environment where clean solar energy is available to all who desire it. It is important to the health of our communities, our state, our economy, and our planet. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for all Vermonters.

Patricia Magrosky

From: Tim Benson <Joybrookfarms@yohoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:11 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Solar in Vermont

For solar to work into the future it can not be a unprofitable enterprise for the power companys,the rate payers will not tolerate it.I wpuld also like to see the smaller companys survive, they keep the cost of installation down.The larger company are give unfair advantage.

From: Sheila Lowe <Sheila05661@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:49 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Solar in VT

Cutting back on the use of solar in VT is preventing VT from moving forward with the energy renewal plan for the future . It is actually infringing on people's choices and rights.

VT being the first state to abolish slavery should follow that lead in this solar discussion. We are a free choice , free thinking state and let's continue to be with the solar issue too. Don't fall prey to government tyranny and roll back the options and incentives for Vermonters .

We know better .

Thank You

18-0086-INV

From: Allen Clark <Vtclarks@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:40 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Please don't change net metering rules

I put in solar PV a year ago because of my concern about global warming. As I understand it, VT has aggressive goals to increase use of renewable energy. Rules and regulations must support increased PV. I know of a church and a business that are both moving toward adding PV - reducing incentives would make such a decision harder for them and others. Thank you.

From: David Prevo <Kjpdcp@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:31 AM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Solar power

I have invested in the future of renewable energy in Vermont by installing solar panels on my residence. I think the Public Service Board should be committed to making renewable energy sources affordable to all Vermonters.

From: Kelly Murphey <kellymurphey@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 8:58 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: 18-0086-INV

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in Vermont, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about climate change and Vermont's energy independence.

And I'm incredibly proud that I have been able to do my part, and contribute in this way.

Vermont prides itself on local control. We all feel both deep connection and a sense of obligation to support the communities where we live. Others like me want to be part of building the clean energy generation that will power our state for decades to come.

Rolling back incentives any further could make a big decision for a working family, an unlikely decision. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

Kelly Murphey
Stowe, VT

From: N. Rice <hope247@sover.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:40 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Reference Docket #18-0086INV

March 15, 2018

To the VT Public Utilities Commission:

I write to let you know that I do not want the Vermont Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's) to be allowed to be sold out of state. We here in Vermont are trying to reduce our carbon use locally and in the state and I understand that the present net-metering rules need to be fixed in order for Vermont to reach its renewable energy goals.

The REC's should not be turned over to Green Mountain Power and the other utility companies so that they can then sell the REC's out of state. While I am a strong supporter of renewable energy, especially solar energy, I do not want our valuable farmland to be covered with solar panels whose REC's can then be sold out-of-state. Please fix the rules accordingly. We need more transparency, not less.

In addition, while it seems laudable to increase energy efficiency, what I think is it is even more important to institute policies of real CONSERVATION OF ENERGY. That way instead of being simply more energy-efficient so that people are then encouraged to use even MORE of it, we would be using LESS overall energy. That would help make life in Vermont sustainable, and in turn help make life more livable for those who come after us.

I support your efforts in this direction.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rice
Randolph Center, VT 05061

From: Jan Steinbauer <jsteinbauer@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:35 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: A voice for solar power

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of moving solar forward in Vermont. Last fall my husband and I had solar installed on our house because we care about climate change and renewable energy. We are happy that we have been able to do our part and contribute in this way.

The incentives available were of help, and we certainly want them to be available to others in the future so they might also make the choice to go solar.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Jan Steinbauer
Underhill Center, VT

From: Jeff Tarte <thetartefamily@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:19 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: Every Vermonter should have the opportunity to control their energy costs with solar.

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I went solar to take control of my energy costs and help the environment. Solar expansion adds jobs to the VT economy and helps promote clean and efficient energy production without having to rely on nuclear power or contracts for foreign power. The incentives and price supports are key to making this affordable for Vermonters that want to take advantage of solar.

I urge you to hold the solar adder steady and not make it any harder for Vermonters to go solar and access the cost controls it offers.

Jeff Tarte
Vergennes, VT

From: Hans Mueller <hrmhrm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:10 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: comment - net metering evaluation

To whom it may concern:

My family installed a 3.8kW Solaflect PV system in June 2015 which has been producing energy ever since. We are very satisfied with our system in general for the following reasons:

- 1) We feel that we are providing energy to our home's electric consumers when they are running, instead of relying on grid electricity produced in majority by non-renewable sources;
- 2) We feel that we are providing energy to our neighbors' homes during the times when we generate more than we consume, and providing them with a renewable source of energy.
- 3) We feel that we contribute to the state of Vermont's renewable energy goals, going far beyond lip service. And we feel like being a part of a transformation of this planet away from fossil fuel consumption and its accompanying long-term threat to our children and many generations after them.
- 4) Through grandfathering, we are enjoying a positive adder to our generated energy. Perhaps to no-one's surprise, we do not feel like we are taking advantage of all the other GMP rate payers, by the adder creating an upward pressure on the utility's rate. On the contrary, we financed this PV system. We have significantly reduced our monthly \$ charges by GMP, but we are saddled with these loans. In a sense, we prepaid our electric bills for 12, 15, 19, or however many years it may be, and consider the adder as a small contribution to the burden of this outlay.
- 5) A cursory glance at the PV CPGs granted in the past few years, specifically for residential-sized systems like our own, shows a very low density of such systems. I therefore cannot accept the argument which seems to have been advanced, that these PV systems are overwhelming the GMP grid or creating difficulties because of high numbers of systems. The state of Hawaii comes to mind as an example where high ratios of renewable to conventional systems do start presenting a call for innovative technical solutions to be developed, but not in the GMP territory.

For the stated reasons, I oppose the net metering changes that went into effect 1/1/2017, which resulted in a precipitous drop of installations, loss of jobs, and unrealized renewable energy. The instituted changes furthermore created an indirect incentive to transfer RECs to the utility, who then can claim and sell these rights. Vermont would be much better served if the utility needs to seek alternative means to fulfill its REC goals, and the PUC should not allow utilities to create penalty charges on individual owners who are already saddles with considerable financial commitment.

My comment hence is a proposal to rescind the recent changes and revert to a net metering incentive model not unlike the one we had in place before the recent change.

Respectfully submitted,

Hans-Reinhard Mueller
323 Clifford Road
White River Junction, VT 05001

From: PUC - Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 8:15 AM
To: Akielaszek, Kim
Subject: 18-0086-INV comment (3/17/18)

From: brant e dinkin <brantdinkin@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:23 PM
To: PUC - Clerk <PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov>
Subject: brantdinkin@me.com

I'm writing in regards to case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

I'm writing in support of driving solar forward in Vermont, as a solar homeowner myself. I went solar because I care about climate change

And I'm incredibly proud that I have been able to do my part, and contribute in this way.

Vermont prides itself on local control. We all feel both deep connection and a sense of obligation to support the communities where we live. Others like me want to be part of building the clean energy generation that will power our state for decades to come.

Rolling back incentives any further could make a big decision for a working family, an unlikely decision. I urge you to hold the solar adder steady, and maintain solar as a feasible option for Vermont homeowners.

brant dinkin
Williston

From: Peter Jungkunst <peter.jungkunst@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 5:24 PM
To: PUC - Clerk
Subject: # 18-0086-INV

I'm writing in regards to your case number 18-0086-INV, the review of our state's net metering rule.

As a solar homeowner I wanted above all to take control of my energy costs and become energy independent. I rent heat pumps from Green Mountain Power and can report that the energy produced by my panels pays for all my heating needs, also paying off my loan for the panel installation.

May I say one more thing to add to the discussion? I am annoyed by the constant complaints of the small VT electricity providers, claiming that the rebates I am getting for excess production makes their services more expensive for their customers. This is nonsense. They ignore the \$25,000 I laid out up front for the panels. Why don't they copy what GMP is doing? It would allow more of their customers to install solar panels.

My yearly rebate is peanuts, less than \$400, which goes towards paying off my solar installation. GMP on the other hand saves money when needing less of the high-cost power from the spot market.

Without GMP, my solar panels would not make sense. What would happen to my generation when I cannot use it or when I need theirs?

GMP provides as part of their invoices monthly SNAP SHOTS showing how my generation contributes towards a sustainable energy future. Thanks to it I can keep track of my energy use on a spread sheet basis.

Of interest is how much global warming contributes, with increasing cloudy skies and more snowfalls, to my panels production. My array of 18 roof panels is expected to produce 6000 kwh yearly. The first year the panels produced 6328 kwh, last year 5748 kwh and the first two months this year only 302 kwh, nothing so far in March because of a foot and a half of snow cover on my roof, exceedingly low temperatures and many more cloudy days.

Based on my experience you should seriously think of rules which encourage more home owners to install solar panels for their benefit and for the good of this earth. Allow fewer RECS for the benefit of Vermont.

Sincerely,
Peter Jungkunst, Barretown VT