

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 25-0443-INV

Investigation pursuant to Act 142 of 2024 into the creation of a statewide program to reduce energy burden	
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Order entered: 03/10/2025

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I. INTRODUCTION

Section 21 of Act 142 of 2024 (“Act 142”) directs the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) to conduct a cost stabilization study and to make a determination as to whether a statewide program to reduce energy burden is needed in Vermont. Act 142 requires the Commission’s report to be completed by December 1, 2025. In today’s order, the Commission directs the Vermont electric and gas distribution utilities to provide information about their existing programs focused on reducing or stabilizing energy costs for households with low and moderate income. The Commission also requests information from non-utility stakeholders about existing programs in Vermont and other states that address energy burden.

Notice of this proceeding is being provided to the Vermont electric and gas distribution utilities, Efficiency Vermont, the Vermont Department of Public Service, the Vermont Agency of Human Services, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”) and the ANR Civil Rights and Environmental Justice Unit, the Vermont Community Action Partnership and the five Community Action Agencies, environmental organizations, and environmental justice entities. The Commission invites feedback from any interested person or entity not included in the list above.

This information request is the first step in the Commission’s engagement with stakeholders to develop the report required by Act 142. The Commission will provide more opportunities for participation after reviewing the responses to these information requests.

II. REQUEST FOR UTILITY INFORMATION

In Case No. 23-2220-RULE, the Commission collected information about existing programs for thermal efficiency and energy assistance as part of its task to develop draft rules for

a potential clean heat standard. Act 142 requires the Commission to gather similar information but also includes examination of all energy sectors. The Commission has attached to this information request a spreadsheet that includes the existing programs that were identified by participants in Case No. 23-2220-RULE. The Vermont electric and gas distribution utilities are directed to update their responses to include current programs to reduce transportation, thermal, or electric energy costs, including through investments in efficiency or electrification measures, for households with low and moderate income.

Each Vermont electric and gas distribution utility is required, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 209, to provide a response to this information request using the attached spreadsheet template within 30 days of this order. If a utility does not offer any programs focused on reducing or stabilizing energy costs for households with low and moderate income, then they should make a filing affirmatively stating that fact.

III. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM NON-UTILITY ENTITIES

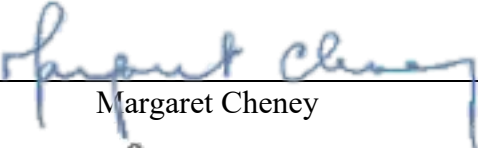
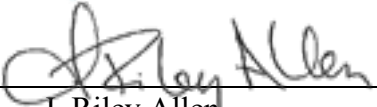
The Commission recognizes that in addition to utility programs, a diverse group of governmental and non-governmental entities offer programs focused on reducing or stabilizing energy costs for households with low and moderate income. The Commission requests assistance identifying all such programs in Vermont for all energy sectors. Additionally, Act 142 directs the Commission to assess “statewide energy cost reduction programs outside Vermont.”¹ The Commission requests assistance identifying exemplar statewide energy cost-reduction programs currently available in other states worthy of further investigation by the Commission.² Responses to this information request should be submitted using the attached spreadsheet template within 30 days of this order.

SO ORDERED.

¹ Act 142 § 21(d)(1)(B).

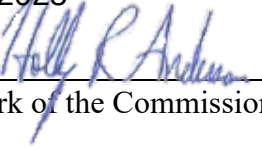
² Utilities are also welcome to address this question.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 10th day of March, 2025.

 _____	)	
Edward McNamara	)	PUBLIC UTILITY
	)	
 _____	)	COMMISSION
Margaret Cheney	)	
	)	
 _____	)	OF VERMONT
J. Riley Allen	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: March 10, 2025

Attest: 

Clerk of the Commission

Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Commission (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: puc.clerk@vermont.gov)

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Vermont Agency of Human Services

Vermont Agency of Transportation

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Civil Rights and Environmental Justice Unit

Agency of Human Services Vermont Community Action Partnership

BROC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont

Capstone Community Action

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)

Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA)

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

Vermonters for a Clean Environment

Renewable Energy Vermont

Vermont Natural Resources Council

Conservation Law Foundation