

207 Tiny Mountain RD
Mount Holly, VT 05758
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Public Utilities Commission
Net metering case

The State Public Utilities Commission is now considering proposals to reduce incentives for electric solar production. I am amazed that you are even thinking about this at a time when it has become clear that global warming caused climate change is the greatest threat to our future. Green Mountain Power reports that less than 1% of their power currently comes from solar generation and the number of new panels being installed is dropping dramatically -- new capacity installed in 2018 was half the level of the 2016 installations. This reduction was caused by the reduction of incentives already enacted and more strict requirements making it difficult to get permission for new installations.

Although we all see that there many solar panels in use around the state, the fact is that most of this power is being sold out of state to enable Massachusetts and Connecticut to meet the renewable requirements imposed by their legislatures. Green Mountain Power likes to brag about their solar production, but in 2017, the most recent year for which they have published data, they admit that only 0.9% is "Renewable, other, includes solar. They are misleading their customers and you share the blame for letting them do so.

This is not a time when solar incentives should be reduced, even if the result is to transfer some costs to customers who consume the dirty power sold by GMP and others. Instead you should be demanding that the power companies increase their capacity to accept locally produced solar energy.

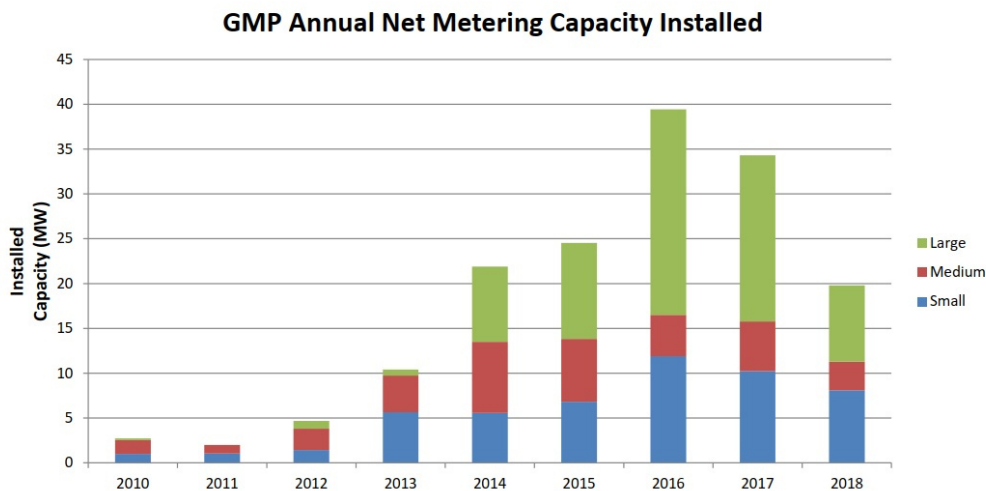
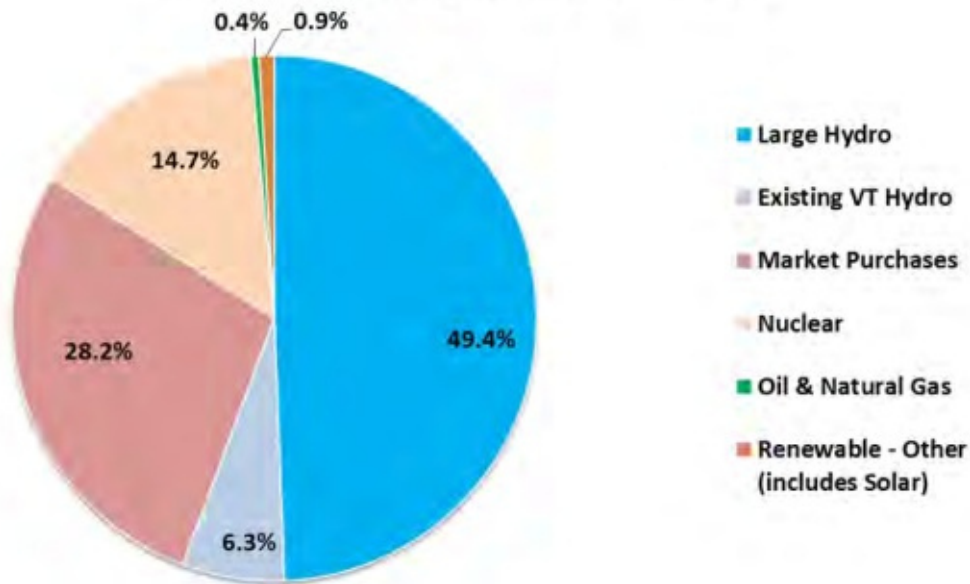


Figure 5-13. Annual Net Metering Installed Capacity

2017 Fuel Mix (after REC Sales)



If you decide to further reduce incentives and add new barriers to the installation of new solar production then we will have to go to the legislature to overturn such a myopic action.

Sincerely,

David J Martin

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