

Energize Vermont promotes sustainable energy development that protects our environment and respects our communities.

Act 174, passed in 2016, was intended to:

- bring Vermont’s turbine noise standards into line with those of other jurisdictions
- give towns more influence over energy siting

But, Act 174 has actually:

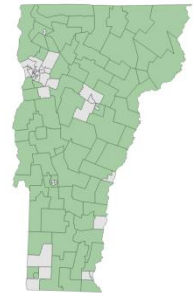
- weakened turbine noise standards
- reduced the influence of towns



Act 174 required the Public Service Board to develop temporary noise rules that shall not allow sound levels from a wind generation facility that exceed the lowest maximum decibel levels authorized in any certificate of public good.

The PSB violated Act 174 by eliminating the interior noise limit in their temporary standards—thereby allowing turbine noise to exceed previous limits.

Some legislators touted Act 174 as the solution for the 155 towns (represented by 69 House districts) that have adopted resolutions calling for energy developments to conform to “appropriately adopted municipal siting standards.”



These towns are learning that Act 174 makes things worse.



Your plan must contain a quadratic equation, a FORTRAN subroutine, a haiku, the tusk of a black walrus, and an industrial wind turbine.

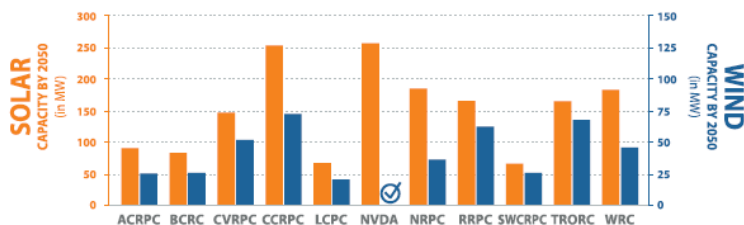
Act 174 grants “substantial deference” to regional and municipal plans that meet certain standards—the legislature left it to the Department of Public Service to create those standards. The DPS created standards that are onerous and restrictive.

The DPS standards derive from the aspirational goal of providing 90% of our energy from renewable sources by 2050 (from the Comprehensive Energy Plan).



VEIC fed a tsunami of goals and assumptions into LEAP, a Swedish computer model. They identified a single way to reach our 2050 goal.

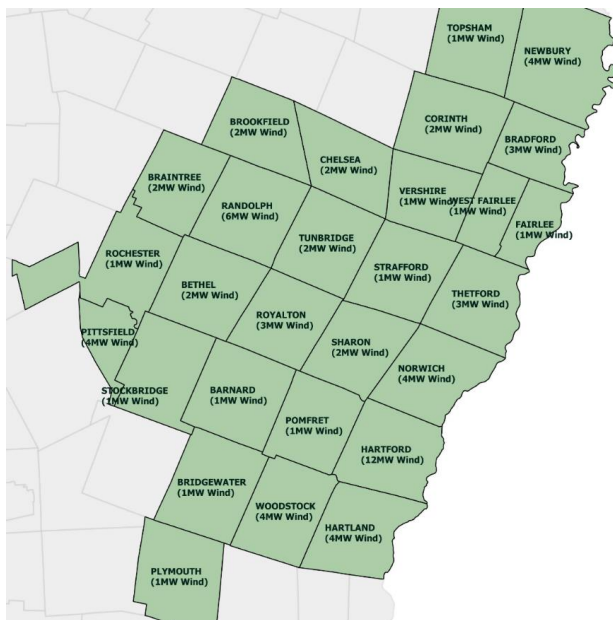
It uses technology from 2016. Dozens of other possibilities were eliminated.



They focused on the requirements for solar and wind electricity and divided the requirements among Vermont's regional planning commissions.

One RPC divided its wind target among its towns.

This approach to energy planning and development is guaranteed to set towns against one another and against their regional planners.



Towns are already deciding that they will not carry out Act 174 planning

This approach is guaranteed to fail.

Energize Vermont wants to work with the legislature and Scott administration to:

- Revisit the LEAP model and identify a broader range of paths to 90/50
- Allow planners the flexibility to reach goals in ways that fit their communities and support a rational climate action plan
- Simplify the DPS's planning standards
- Offer a grace period, while all of this is happening, during which plans will receive substantial deference