



WELCOME

Central Vermont Solar
Development Forum

Randolph Energy Advisory Committee

Randolph Energy Committee

We are a small group of citizens that has had some fairly big results for the town in recent years.

- Energy Efficiency:
 - Spearheaded conversion of Streetlights, Streetscape lights and Parking lot converted to LEDs, saving town >\$25000 yearly.
 - VT Home Energy Challenge program helped residents tighten up and green up their homes, reducing energy costs.
 - PACE financing program passed at town meeting
- Solar Power:
 - Hosted 3 Energy Expos in Randolph since 2012 to promote energy efficiency, biomass and solar energy.
 - Supported the development of a 150 kW solar project at the town landfill to help supply the town governments power needs.
 - **Solarize Randolph Brookfield & Braintree** helped 42 households go solar.
 - Organized a member owned 183 kW community solar project in Randolph Center through which 39 households are going solar this year.

The **SOLAR** Solution

- **Global warming** is a growing threat to the stability of our environment. Nearly every solar module installed reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Energy Independence** is an ethical and political goal of many in Vermont that will have lasting economic benefits to the state. Solar power is a vital component to reaching that goal.
- **Pollution** from coal generating plants to our southwest has been impacting our mountain eco-systems for generations. Solar helps our utilities avoid buying coal power out of state.

SO WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH SOLAR POWER?

Solar Project Scale in the Vermont Landscape

Google Maps E Bethel Rd



Imagery ©2015 Google, Map data ©2015 Google 1000 ft

A Community Solar Siting Story

- This Spring the Randolph Energy Committee started a solar project to follow up our successful Solarize campaign. Many people interested in solar did not have enough sun at their homes, or couldn't afford a custom home solar power system.
- A community solar project began, with several possible sites. Our goal was to find an out of the way spot.
 - Our first choice site, a fairly secluded sloping pasture, was taken out of the running because of Current Use questions.
 - Our second site was relatively close to a neighbor, but was lost due to objections from a new neighbor who planned a house nearby.
 - The third and final site would have allowed us to have minimal visibility from neighbors and the road, but an ANR wetland finding has moved some of the array up out of a hollow to within 50 feet of the road. This caused long negotiation with a neighbor who had previously accepted the project.
 - The project will hire a landscape architect to screen the solar array.

What size Solar would you like?

- Solar power is coming to Vermont. It has been growing at 90% per year and will grow further.
- **87 MW in 2015 may grow to 2000 MW in 2050**
- Options to Reach 2000 MW of solar power:
 - 30 kW (100 panels) at every home in Vermont with good sun
 - 10000 One Acre (180 kW) Community Solar Farms
 - 720 Thirteen Acre (2.5 MW) Sharon SunGen Solar Farms
 - 18 One-Hundred Acre Ranger Solar Projects
- Larger projects are more efficient, but more challenging to fit into the Vermont landscape.
- What about Renewable Energy Credits?