

- **Environmental Justice:** \$50,000 for community outreach.
- **Land Access:** Bill attached to housing omnibus bill; \$200,000 for BIPOC-led group to work on constitutionality issue.
- **Municipal Fuel Switching:** in Senate Finance **committee, and** still needs to address the need to phase out fossil-fuel-powered boilers.
- **Transportation:** \$50,000 for ebike incentives; on Senate calendar for tomorrow. \$20 million for electric vehicle (EV) incentives.
- **Weatherization:** \$10 million for existing programs.
- **H. 606 and H 697:** forest carbon sequestration (*not sure if these passed*).
- **Clean Heat Standard:**

Proposed amendments: No obligated parties as default providers; acknowledgment of need to look at impact on food production; undefined sustainability; rule-making process (instead of orders).

Appropriations Committee added legislature to take up whether or not they want to approve rule that the PUC will be developing over the next 2 years; what the legislature approves goes straight to rule-making. Way to prevent veto?

Senators Ram Hinsdale/Pollina Amendment: submitted on Senate floor, to make this bill more just, including capping the use of biofuels at 10%; amendment defeated.

Conservation Law Foundation has come out against the bill (model is headed to MA).

Of greatest significance this session: the Clean Heat Standard bill was amended, and 350VT was eventually effective getting heard in the Senate committee, but at great effort and at the last minute. In the end, both the Senate and the House passed it, but Governor Scott vetoed it last Friday; he thought every aspect of the actual plan should go through the legislative process, rather than being turned over to the PUC.

TODAY the legislature failed to override the governor's veto by one vote. This means starting over, rethinking the fundamental assumptions with respect to the role of conventional fuels and biofuels, and more accountability.

On 5/9/2022, 350VT has put out the following statement, opposing the bill as passed and vetoed:

Now is the time to radically cut greenhouse gas emissions with solutions that improve people's lives and health, and the health of our planet. Vermont needs clean heat. Heating is our state's second-highest source of carbon emissions, after transportation.

The Clean Heat Standard adopted by the Vermont Legislature and vetoed by Governor Scott sets us on the wrong path. 350VT opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- It will slow down our ability to conserve energy and electrify because it incentivizes biofuels. Biofuels are the easy and most lucrative option for fossil fuel companies. Every dollar that we spend on biofuels will be a dollar away from our communities' ability to reduce energy consumption through weatherization and energy efficiency.
 - It will delay action as we engage in a 2 year regulatory process instead of getting to work right away to electrify our heating sources the way we know how.
 - It relies on fuels that pollute communities, harm human health, and weaken ecosystems' ability to keep and draw atmospheric carbon and our ability to grow food.
 - It will make it harder for Vermont to reach the carbon emissions reduction targets of the Global Warming Solutions Act resulting in significant social, ecological, and economic damage to our state.

To meet our heating needs we need to 1) conserve as much energy as possible - we live on a finite planet, 2) use heating appliances powered by sustainably and justly produced solar, geothermal, and

wind, 3) end the burning of carbon based fuels, which include biofuels and 4) work with the people most exposed to harm to avoid further inequities and destruction of our global ecosystem.

We need bold leadership and meaningful action from the Legislature and the Governor—not halfway measures and political calculations. 350VT works to support people to use their voices and power as constituents so our elected leaders can work on their behalf. We hope you'll take time today to let your legislators and the Governor know where you stand.

Onward,

The 350VT Just Transition Campaign Team: *Abel Luna, Andrea Stander, Beverly Little Thunder, Brian Tokar, Chris Wood, Debbie New, Jaiel Pulskamp, KC Whiteley, Marisa Keller, Ned Swanberg, Steve Crowley, and Vanessa Rule* (of Strafford).

P.S.: You can learn more about the impact of biofuels and other false solutions by watching our [Frontline Panel on False Solutions](#) and through resources on our [webpage](#).

Pocket Park: Barbara doesn't attend Zoom meetings, and the Recreation board has taken over sponsorship; Jim proposed that we consider removing this

Education & Communications: Dorian will discuss website revisions with Lisa Bragg; David has been regularly posting ideas to the list-serve. **ACTION ITEM:** Dorian will send Lisa Bragg the revised committee Mission statement and the current draft of LINKS section to see if this can easily be added.

Adjourned: 8:14 pm

Next Meeting: June 14, 2022, 7 pm via ZOOM

Enthusiastically submitted by Jim Schley, Recording Secretary