

REF Public Comments

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To the New Hampshire Department of Energy:

The Peterborough Energy Committee is one of three energy committees in the Town of Peterborough. We are proud that at Peterborough's 2021 Town Meeting residents voted overwhelmingly (with 74% in favor) to pass a Warrant Article setting a goal for the Town and all of its residents to transition to 100% renewable sources of electricity by 2030 and for all other energy needs by 2050. We think the entire State of New Hampshire, through its Department of Energy (DOE), should be planning for the same transition.

If we are to make this transition rapidly enough, we will depend heavily on the state's Renewable Energy Fund (REF) programs for support. Since much of the transition depends on electrifying everything that currently depends on fossil fuels, it is critical that all of the state's electricity suppliers move toward 100% renewable sources as rapidly as possible. We encourage the DOE to lobby for much higher and more rapidly increasing Renewable Portfolio Standards.

Currently, the Town of Peterborough is planning to construct a new Fire and Ambulance Station and to refurbish its aging Department of Public Works garage. Renewable energy is in the plans for both, but the funds available to the Town for bonding are limited. Support from the REF will be extremely important for the Town to reach its goals. Certainly it would be helpful for DOE to create a stand-alone solar rebate program for local governments with higher limits than provided for commercial and industrial users.

Since all of the residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal entities in Peterborough are included in our goal, all of the incentives the REF provides for residential, commercial, and industrial solar and wind are also important to our Town's success, and they should be increased. In addition, incentives for air and ground source heat pumps and for grid-connected batteries (not necessarily associated with solar panels) and other forms of energy storage should be added to your REF programs.

The Peterborough Energy Committee thanks you for soliciting opinions on the Renewable Energy Fund.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Huberman, Secretary  
Emily Manns, Chair  
Jim Hassinger  
Joel Huberman  
Bruce Tucker  
Steve Walker

Our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/peterboroughenergycommittee>

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