

XI

Promote renewable energy development that works in harmony with community goals for land use.

Homegrown renewable energy – whether locally produced biomass, community scale wind, or solar arrays – can promote local resilience as fuel prices rise. Helping your community identify areas for projects of various scales, and strategies for homeowners to meet their own heat and power needs is essential. For example, strategies like requiring or encouraging new buildings to have southerly orientation can promote both passive solar heating and optimal solar photovoltaic electricity generation. A town’s plan and bylaws are important places to articulate a town’s vision for renewable energy development.

TIPS FOR ACCURATE SCORING:

Look at the energy resources for your town using the **Vermont Renewable Energy Atlas** — a web-based, GIS tool

Look at the future land use and energy chapters of the town plan

Look at zoning and subdivision bylaws for site development standards

A. Has your town identified areas where it would like to see more community-based renewable energy development?

- Yes, we have mapped areas where we would like to see community-based renewable development, and these maps are included in the town plan . 3
- We have identified these areas, but have not comprehensively mapped them or made the information readily accessible..... 2
- We have not identified or mapped these areas..... 1



B. What kind of action has your town taken to facilitate community- or residential-owned renewable energy projects?

- Our town plan policies support renewable energy development, and community-owned renewables meet a part of our electricity or heating needs 3
- We have explored some options for supporting community renewable energy, including possible sites and financing options, but have not implemented them. We are updating our town plan policies to support this 2
- We have not considered pursuing community-scale or community-owned renewable energy sources, nor have we addressed these in our town plan 1

C. Does your town have residential building and site development standards that accommodate and encourage solar power development (e.g, solar access/site orientation, plumbing for solar thermal, and roof load capacity)?

- Yes, solar standards are included in our building and site development standards, and we have amended zoning to enable and promote solar energy installations 3
- Solar standards are encouraged, but not required 2
- Solar standards are not considered or encouraged during the review process 1

D. Has your town developed clear policies for commercial-scale renewable development?

- Yes, we have identified and mapped areas where we want to promote or discourage commercial renewable projects (such as wind, solar or biomass) based on community goals and natural resource considerations. We have clear policies in our town plan to achieve those goals..... 3
- We have identified areas that are or are not viable for commercial renewable development, but there are no maps or town plan policies..... 2
- We have not developed maps or policies related to commercial-scale renewable energy development..... 1

Score: _____

Scoring	Suggested Steps for Building Resilience
11-12 Resilient Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create residential and site development standards to facilitate more rapid and strategic development of renewables.
7-10 In Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify optimal locations for well-suited community renewable projects and begin exploring financing options.
4-6 Needs Your Attention!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Renewable Energy Atlas to explore your town's renewable energy potential. Share renewable energy success stories to inspire others. Host a 'visioning' session.