

# “EVERYONE HAS A REASON TO SUPPORT AN ENERGY INDEPENDENT VERMONT.”

The Alchemist nearly got wiped off the map by Irene. Global warming is real - we have a responsibility to do all we can to tackle it. I support putting a price on the pollution that causes global warming because I want to do everything I can to keep other Vermonters from losing their homes and businesses, before it's too late.”

- Jen Kimmich, co-owner, Alchemist Brewery



“Irene brought the White River raging through my old 1805 South Royalton home. We need to put a price on the pollution that's causing the problem. I hope our legislators support the carbon pollution tax so our children aren't faced with even more chaotic and devastating weather.”

-Peg Elmer, South Royalton

“Vermonters struggling to make ends meet have the most to lose from the status quo. Not only do they need more help cutting their dependence on fossil fuels and saving money – which this plan would provide – they're the ones most likely to be impacted by climate change.”

- Hal Cohen, Capstone Community Action

“Unchecked pollution and destructive weather will hurt nearly every sector of Vermont's economy. Helping Vermont's people and businesses cut their fossil fuel use by taxing carbon pollution isn't just the right thing to do, it's good business sense.”

-Fred Danforth, co-owner, Danforth Pewter

“I support taxing the oil and gas companies that are robbing Vermont of our winters and the chance for all Vermont kids to grow up skiing, like I did. I believe that this is one of the single most important things we can be doing now to slow climate change and preserve our Vermont climate as we know it for future generations.”

- Hannah Dreissigacker, Morrisville (US Olympian, Biathlon)

# ENERGY INDEPENDENT VERMONT

Vermonters Save. Polluters Pay.



## IN ONE CATASTROPHIC EVENT,

Tropical Storm Irene brought the reality of climate change to Vermont, washing away Vermonters' homes and upending their lives. With Irene and the many other “hundred year floods” we've had in recent years, Vermonters know that global warming is real, and it's here. We know what the scientists tell us, and more importantly, we've felt its wrath.

Our climate has been supercharged by heat-trapping pollution from burning gas, oil and other fossil fuels. And the storms, droughts, fires and floods are going to continue to intensify until we break our addiction to fossil fuels.

We have a responsibility to take action, and we simply can't count on Congress to stand up to polluters before it's too late.

That means setting our sights on clean energy solutions and addressing the root problem of climate change: pollution from fossil fuels.

**We owe it to our kids and grandkids to stop letting oil and gas companies pollute our atmosphere for free.**

## DURING THE LIFETIMES OF TODAY'S KIDS:



Milder winters spell big trouble for Vermont's ski areas.<sup>1</sup>



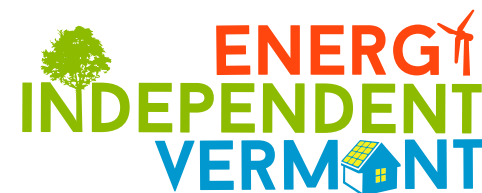
Extreme rainfall and flooding will be more frequent—UVM researchers pointed to Tropical Storm Irene as a “harbinger of things to come.”<sup>2</sup>



Apple trees will yield less fruit and our iconic maples will begin to vanish.<sup>3</sup>

## WHO WE ARE

Energy Independent Vermont is a growing coalition of environmental organizations, Vermont businesses and business associations, academic leaders, low-income advocates and Town Energy Committees all dedicated to a simple goal: address the problem of climate change by putting a price on pollution here in Vermont.



<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup> For a complete list of sources cited or for more information (including how to bring Energy Independent Vermont to your community), visit [energyindependentvt.org](http://energyindependentvt.org)



# ENERGY INDEPENDENT VERMONT

## OUR PLAN

To save Vermonters money and cut carbon pollution, our proposal would tax fossil fuel distributors, and return all the revenue to Vermonters.



### 1 Put a price on carbon pollution

We have a responsibility to tackle the root cause of global warming and stop allowing oil and gas companies to pollute in Vermont for free. Our plan will require these companies to pay a tax on the carbon pollution created by the fossil fuels they sell.

### 2 Invest in Vermonters by helping us save money and cut pollution

Our plan will create an Energy Independence Fund to help Vermonters save money on their home heating and other energy costs, and cut carbon pollution.

For example, in just its first 10 years, a fraction of the polluter-funded Energy Independence Fund could weatherize or install super-efficient cold climate heat pumps in nearly 45,000 homes.

Weatherizing can save the average Vermont family \$1,000 a year.<sup>4</sup>

### 3 Cut taxes for Vermonters and Vermont businesses

This proposal will reduce taxes for Vermonters and Vermont businesses, and provide additional rebates for low-income Vermonters.

And even if oil and gas companies try to pass on the costs by raising prices, our plan is to put more dollars back in the hands of Vermonters and local businesses so we come out on top.

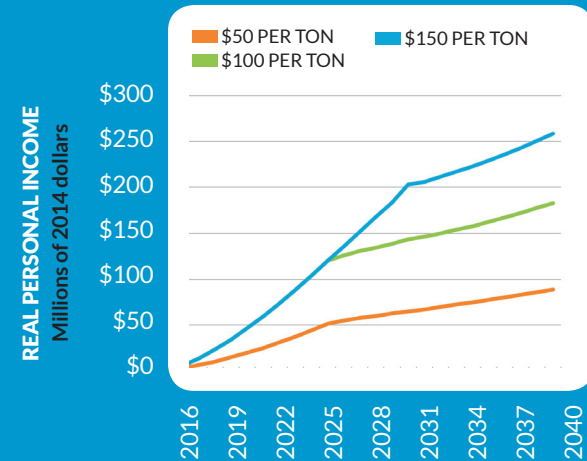
Our plan would help raise Vermonters' incomes by \$135 million in 10 years.

**90%** tax cuts and rebates for Vermonters  
**10%** investments in efficiency & clean energy

# ENERGY INDEPENDENT VERMONT



In 10 years, our plan would get 60MW of additional solar installed—enough for 10,000 Vermont families!



# TAX REFORM: VERMONTERS AND BUSINESSES WIN BIG

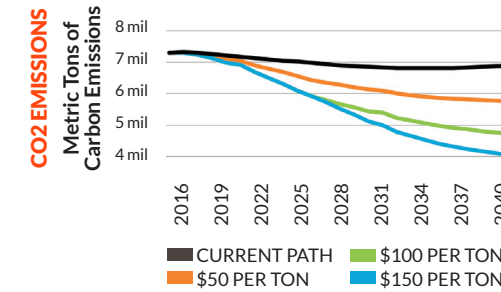
Our plan will create polluter-funded investments to save Vermonters money on our fuel bills and reduce taxes on Vermonters and businesses.

According to economic modeling performed specifically for Vermont by non-partisan firm Regional Economic Models Inc., this tax reform will grow Vermont's economy and create good-paying jobs—all by reducing our dependence on expensive fossil fuels.

A pollution tax that starts low and gradually rises over time will dramatically increase use of clean energy, promote solutions like fuel-efficient vehicles, and create thousands of jobs.

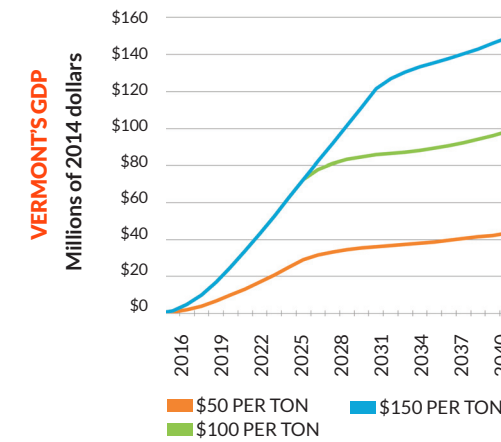
### 1 Saving Vermonters & local businesses money

Since clean energy and efficiency is cheaper than fossil fuels, switching to clean energy saves money and reduces fossil fuel pollution.



### 2 Growing GDP & Vermonters' income

The higher the tax on pollution, the faster we transition to a clean economy—and the faster and bigger our economy grows.



### 3 Creates new full-time jobs

Wasting money on fossil fuels drains Vermont's economy. Keeping our dollars here grows jobs.

## The Bottom Line

Taxing pollution is simple, fair & effective

Economists and policy experts from across the political spectrum—from Paul Krugman and President Bush's former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson to climate activist Bill McKibben and the World Bank<sup>5</sup>—advocate for a price on carbon pollution because it harnesses free market forces to cut pollution and grow the economy at the same time.



FOR THE FULL ECONOMIC BENEFITS REPORT, VISIT [ENERGYINDEPENDENTVT.ORG](http://ENERGYINDEPENDENTVT.ORG)

