

Government Affairs Committee

VT Climate Action Plan/VT Comprehensive Energy Plan

On Wednesday February 16, 22, our ASHRAE Champlain Valley Chapter hosted a virtual presentation on the 2022 VT Comprehensive Energy Plan and the Initial Climate Action Plan. The presentation was given by Phil Picotte and Barry Murphy from the State of Vermont Department of Public Service. There was a significant amount of information given covering the background inception of both plans in addition to the proposed requirements and timelines. The PowerPoint Presentation will be posted on our website to allow all our members to review details both of the plans.

VT Clean Heat Standard (Bill S.233)

This Bill currently is in the House Energy Committee and members are expected to vote on a Clean Energy Standard (CES) later this week. The legislation would regulate greenhouse emissions by requiring heating fuel dealers to pay a fee to the state of Vermont. These “alternative compliance payments” will be transferred to other businesses that can prove they are reducing sales of heating oil, kerosene, propane and natural gas. A fuel seller can avoid these payments by generating their own credits by selling biodiesel blended heating oil or wood pellets. *How much will the alternative compliance payment cost?* At this point, no one really knows. If the CHS becomes law, this won’t be decided for another two years, and after the Vermont Public Utility Commission figures out who sells what and how much.

You can review the initial Bill that was brought to the floor of the Senate at the following link:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0233/S-0233%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Federal Funding of Electric Vehicle Chargers

As part of the bipartisan infrastructure package plan recently signed into law, President Biden recently rolled out a plan to allocate \$5 billion to states to fund electric vehicle chargers over five years. As part of the plan, Vermont will receive \$21 million of this money over the next five years. The goal is to build charging stations within 50 miles of each other and within 5 miles of exits on Interstates 91 and 89. If free chargers and EV incentives do not work, the next step would impose a ban in order to meet the required goals. Vermont would be expected to adopt California regulations that prohibit the sale of new light duty vehicles with internal combustion engines by 2035.

Vermont Contractor Registration (Bill H.157)

Governor Scott recently vetoed the Bill requiring the establishment of a statewide registry of residential building contractors, arguing H.157 is unnecessary and would put the state’s smaller operators at a disadvantage. It’s unclear if lawmakers will attempt to override the governor’s veto.

You can review the final Bill that was brought to the Governor at the following link:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0157/H-0157%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Unofficial.pdf>

US Government Affairs Updates

(as reported by ASHRAE.org, partial topics listing)

- **President Biden Launches Building Performance Standards Coalition**
- **Biden Administration Releases Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook for State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Governments**
- **DOE Restructuring to Improve Implementation of Infrastructure and Energy Laws**
- **U.S. Army Releases First Climate Strategy**
- **EPA Funding Available: Drivers and Environmental Impacts of Energy Transitions in Underserved Communities**
- **USDA Announces New Renewable Energy Pilot Program – \$10 Million in Grants Available**

For detailed information on the above topics, visit the ASHRAE Government Affairs Update website page at:

https://www.magnetmail.net/Actions/email_web_version.cfm?publish=newsletter&user_id=ASHRAE&message_id=21413467

Dick Wilcox

Government Affairs Committee Chair

For detailed information on the above topics, visit the ASHRAE Government Affairs

Update website page at:

https://www.magnetmail.net/Actions/email_web_version.cfm?publish=newsletter&user_id=ASHRAE&message_id=21295483

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