

VERMONT

ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATIVE
COMMON AGENDA PRIORITIES

2010



V L C V

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The following conservation and environmental organizations support the 2010 Common Agenda legislative priorities

Conservation Law Foundation
Preservation Trust of Vermont
Republicans for Environmental Protection America
Smart Growth Vermont
Toxics Action Center Campaigns
Vermont League of Conservation Voters
Vermont League of Conservation Voters Education Fund
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Vermont Public Interest Research Group
Vermont Sierra Club
Vermonters for a Clean Environment

Vermont's Clean Energy Future: Increased energy efficiency and conservation combined with wind power, farm methane systems, biomass, solar power, and hydro power are key to responsibly meeting Vermont's electricity needs, keeping Vermont competitive

with our regional neighbors, creating Vermont jobs, and ensuring our energy security.

Lawmakers should choose an energy future that is right for our environment and for our economy by not relicensing Vermont

Yankee. Closing Vermont Yankee on schedule will ensure environmental contamination and decommissioning costs do not increase further.



To further these goals, lawmakers should adequately fund the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. In addition, if lawmakers look for savings from the Current Use Program, it is crucial that they maintain the long-term viability, and preserve the efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness of the Program. Both of these critical conservation tools are responsible for ensuring that outdoor recreation and a strong rural economy remain a part of Vermont's way of life. VHCBC and Current Use have conserved millions of acres of Vermont's working lands and each must remain viable for future generations.



Lawmakers should pass legislation that provides support to our local towns and utilities as they work to increase the use of renewable energy in our state and ensure all Vermonters share in the benefits of these clean energy projects.



Permitting for all

Vermonters: The environment should not and does not need to be compromised to achieve sustainable and sound economic development. It has been

stated by business and conservation groups that "our environment and our economy are not either or propositions" and any changes to our permitting system must honor this Vermont value.

Economic Development, Conservation, and Smart Growth: Vermont's working landscape provides jobs for thousands of Vermonters while the beauty of Vermont's lakes, rivers, mountains, farms, and natural areas draw tourist dollars and new businesses to our state. Preserving these key assets strengthens our economy, retains and creates jobs, preserves home values, and ensures the continued production of our farms and forestland.



Lawmakers should work to restructure the permitting process to strengthen environmental standards, increase citizen participation, promote smarter, more conservation-oriented land use and development, while consolidating functions, creating consistency, and fostering efficiency in the process.

