



Essex Energy Committee: Climate Change in the 2024 Action Plan and New Legislation

Prepared for Essex Energy Committee Seminar with House Delegation, 04.22.2024

What is Essex Energy Committee?

The Essex Energy Committee (EEC) is a seven-member volunteer organization within Essex Town government. EEC meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Though rooted in assisting municipal government, the EEC has advocated for energy efficiency and conservation, low emission renewable energy production, weatherization, clean transportation, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for Essex businesses, residents, and non-profits.



Who are Essex Energy Committee's members?



For 2024:
Will Dodge
Natalee Braun
David Skopin
Dorothy Bergendahl
Geetha Ganesan
Mukesh Kumar



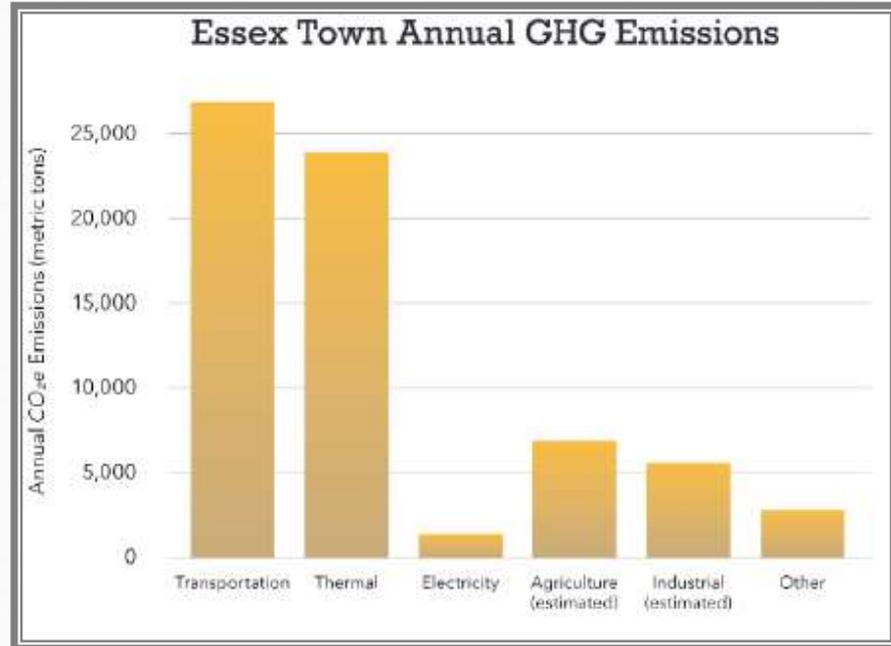
Where can I learn more?



See our 2023 report on pages 86-87 of the Essex 2023 Annual Report:
<https://www.essexvt.org/DocumentCenter/View/11565/Town-of-Essex-2023-Annual-Report-pdf>

Climate and the 2024 Town Plan: Inclusion of Climate Change

- “Residents in town forums indicated their preferences for ‘bulwarks against climate change,’ and ‘regulations and so-called green incentives’” (p.31)
- “The Energy Committee has identified 4 areas that have the most influence over energy use: **buildings, community, transportation, and government.** The Energy Committee has recommended multiple projects in each area.” (p.61)



Climate and the 2024 Town Plan: Energy Actions (p.18) - Government

5.1 Appoint and fund Energy Coordinator position to save \$\$\$, reduce GHGs

5.2 Develop municipal Enhanced Energy Plan to set targets for renewables, EVs, weatherization



Climate and the 2024 Town Plan: Energy Actions (p.18) – Transport. / Buildings

5.3 Explore electric / low emission options for Town vehicles and power equipment

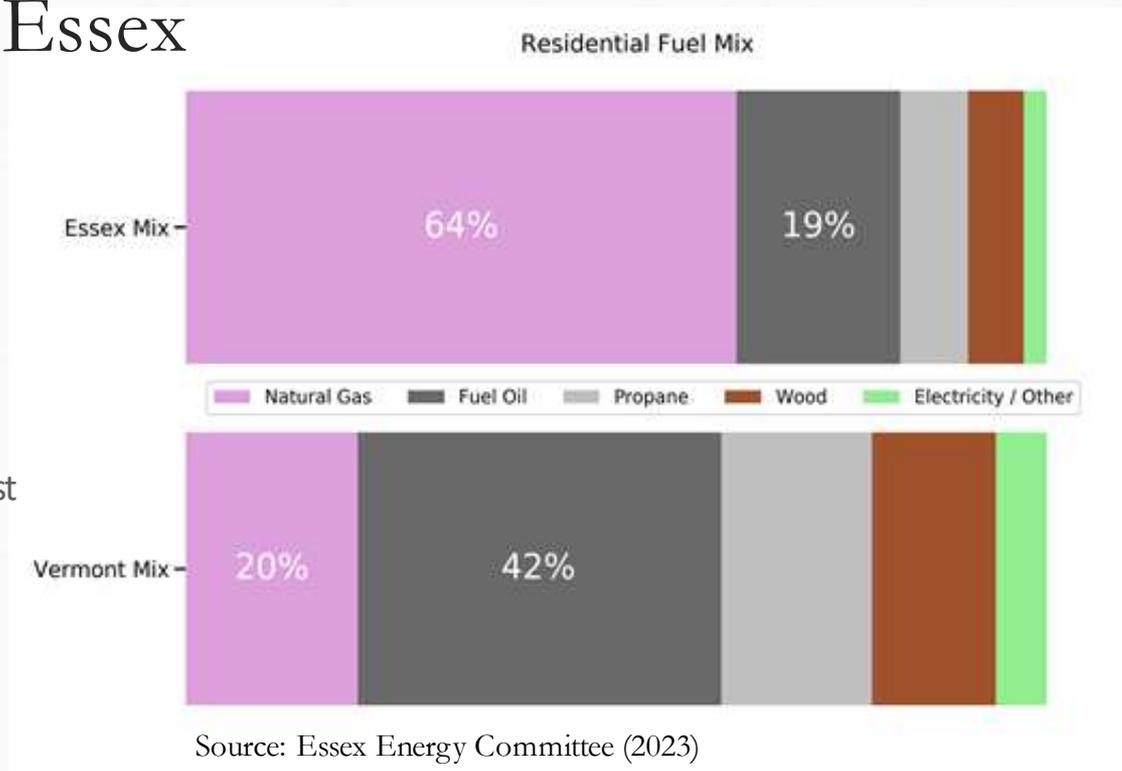
5.4 Revise zoning regulations to incentivize meeting / exceeding VT energy codes



Focus: Heating in Essex

“Residential incentives, improvements in zoning regulations, and energy education should be at the forefront of energy planning in Essex.” (p.61)

Through regulations and incentives, the Town should also encourage commercial property owners to invest in energy conservation measures, rather than letting heating, cooling, and lighting costs fall to tenants.” (p.61)



Government → Community

Climate and the 2024 Town Plan: Energy Actions (p.19) – Government / Community

5.5 Evaluate Town & developer-owned property for renewable energy options



Climate and the 2024 Town Plan: Energy Actions (p.19) -- Transportation

5.6 Develop policies designed to ensure near-universal availability of EV charging through the Town.

5.7 Investigate vehicle-share programs and provide supportive regulations.

The Vermont Route 15 Park & Ride - Bus Stop Study

For Essex, the study deemed the former Essex Outlets and Cinema (now Essex Experience) parking lot, adjacent to VT Route 289, the best possible site. According to the study, on the eastern edge of the lot, there are about 50 spaces near the movie theater that are empty during the day and could be used for commuters. The site is adjacent to existing bicycle and walking facilities which, with improvements to signage and pedestrian/bike signaling, would allow for safe and relatively easy pedestrian access and circulation.



EV charger at the Municipal building
PHOTO CREDIT: Katherine Sonnicks

Focus: GHGs in Transportation

“Transportation is responsible for 40% of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. Promoting compact development, providing more options for walking, biking, and public transit, and encouraging more effective use of automobiles can reduce energy use in the transportation sector. Essex should also explore regulatory changes to facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging stations as part of development review.” (p.62)

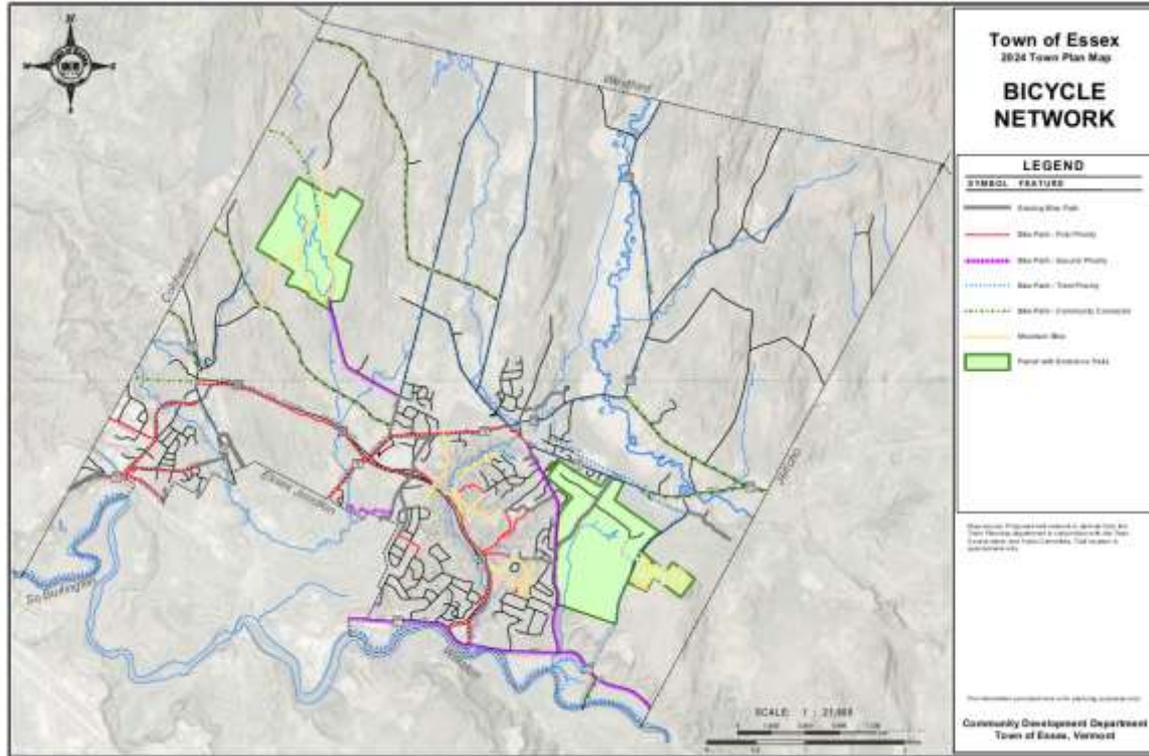


Source: Essex Energy Committee (2023)

Climate and the 2024 Town Plan: Transportation Actions (p.16)

3.5 Develop a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Goals 3c. Transition from an auto-centric focus to a multi-modal focus that increases attention and investment in walking, biking, and transit use.



3e. Determine feasible and effective ways to address climate protection goals affected by transportation.



Climate and the 2024 Town Plan:
Energy Actions (p.19)
Buildings & Community

- 5.8 Require that new commercial buildings produce **at least 50%** of their own projected electrical usage. ...
- 5.10 Promote community solar net metering throughout Town for potential future use.

Climate and the 2024 Town Plan: Energy Actions (p.19) Government

5.9 Adopt standards to ensure tree preservation, replanting, other conservation to combat greenhouse gases.



Climate and the 2024 Town Plan: Energy Actions (p.19) – Govt. / Transport.

5.11 Propose Amendments to Energy Committee charter to encompass GHGs and climate change

5.12(a) Create Energy Revolving Fund to assist with Energy Committee work, create **Saving\$** for Town residents

5.12(b) Work with Clean Cities Coalition to create fleet analysis and prepare long term vehicle capital plan.



QUESTIONS

How else can we help?

What don't we know?

How soon can we start?

