## A few notes on the rough scale of generation technologies

Asa S. Hopkins, PhD Director of Energy Policy and Planning Public Service Department February 5, 2013

Vermont used 147 Trillion BTUs of energy in 2010 (30% heating, 36% transportation, 35% electricity).

About **11%** of this (16 TBTU) came from **in-state renewable sources** (60/40 split between electricity and heating with biomass).

## What would it take to generate 5% of all energy used in the state?

Neglect efficiency for now (changing the denominator), as the Commission is tasked to focus on supply. 5% of all energy is equivalent to about 14% of electricity.

Using *large wind* only: 288 MW (e.g. 96 3MW turbines)

4.6 times the capacity of the Kingdom Community Wind project *small wind*: lower capacity factor => more than 3,000 *Northwind 100*-scale turbines

Using *solar* only: 576 MW (5.4 square miles – ½ of Burlington or 1.3×Barre City) 262 2.2 MW standard-offer scale plants (slightly more than one per town, city, and gore in VT)

Using small hydro only: 173 MW

Almost twice the PSD estimated capacity available from powering 300 of the 1200 existing dams

Using biomass (electrical generator) only: 139 MW

Use addl. 1.1 million tons of fuel/year (state now uses 1.5 million tons/year total) Add *CHP*: Use half the waste heat to displace fossil fuel heating =>

Get to 5% of state energy with 89 MW plant(s) using 750,000 tons/year

What about with efficient *natural gas combined cycle*? Electrical generator only: 96 MW

Use 5 billion cubic feet of fuel/year (state now uses 8.6 bcf)

Emit 310,000 tons/year of  $CO_2$ 

Add *CHP*: Use half the waste heat to displace fossil fuel heating =>

Get to 5% of state energy with 81 MW plant(s) using 4.3 bcf/year (and emitting 260,000 tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>)

What about more imports from *HydroQuebec*?

New HQ contract is only 16 hours/day of approx. 220 MW (down from 24 hrs.). Expanding to 24 hours/day would be 4.2% of state energy use.