

A New Approach to Renewable Energy Development

Building Energy and Community

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Vermonters for a Clean Environment

Presentation to:
Vermont Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission
January 11, 2013

VCE was asked to present
The Energy Siting Process We Would Like to See

1. Community-Based Stakeholder Process
Collaborative Problem-Solving
2. Case Study of a Vermont Area
“Plunk it Down” Model Now Used by
Outside Developers
vs.
Community Development Model

ABOUT Vermonters for a Clean Environment

since 1999



- ✓ Bring environmental justice and corporate accountability to Vermont communities.
- ✓ Provide facts and information so people can make informed decisions.
- ✓ Respond to the needs of the community to have their voices heard.
- ✓ Collaborate with businesses and community members to facilitate solutions.

1. Community-Based Stakeholder Process

Collaborative Problem-Solving

VCE'S EXPERIENCE WITH STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES

2005 – OMYA SECTION 5 STUDY

<http://www.omyainvermont.com/C1257862004649D1/vwWebPagesByID/46733C612D250C7EC12578680034F82C>

In 2005, the legislature required a review of the environmental and human health impacts of calcium carbonate processing at Omya's Florence plant. The Oversight Team worked together to scope and detail the parameters of the investigation, select the independent consulting firms to perform the study, monitor the consultants' work, and communicate ongoing progress to their various constituencies. Stakeholder involvement in all stages of the review process strives to ensure a fair and transparent evaluation whose findings can be trusted by all participants.

OUTCOME: <http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080227/NEWS01/802270364/1002/NEWS01>

2007 – J.P. CARRARA & SONS EAST MIDDLEBURY GRAVEL PIT EXPANSION

<http://www.vce.org/Gravel Pit - Process Summary.pdf>

Together we interviewed experts, focusing on those that clearly understood and supported our process of getting a factual review with mitigation suggestions for any problems that might be found. The reviews were extensive to cover all local and Act 250 issues to hopefully save time and money in the long run.

OUTCOME: <http://www.vce.org/JPCarraraEMiddlebury.html>

2008 – CHLORAMINE HEALTH INVESTIGATION

<http://www.vce.org/EBB Facilitation for Stakeholder Group RFP.pdf>

To endeavor to resolve as soon as is feasible continuing questions and health concerns about the use of the chemical monochloramine for secondary disinfection of municipal water systems serving nearly 68,000 people in Chittenden County, and determine the best approaches for responding to those concerns.

2011 – VERMONT GAS SYSTEMS PIPELINE EXPANSION TO MIDDLEBURY

<http://www.hinesburg.org/documents/vt-gas-45-day-advanced-notice-sb-reply-120412.pdf>

Letter from the Town of Hinesburg to VGS, Dec. 4, 2012: "Most of our concerns revolve around the lack of information received to date, poor communication, and potential lasting adverse harm to the Town of Hinesburg as a result of this project... We want this process to be collaborative and respectful to this community."

WIND DEVELOPERS VCE HAS ASKED TO "DO IT DIFFERENTLY" AND COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITIES

2009 – Vermont Community Wind Farm – Ira

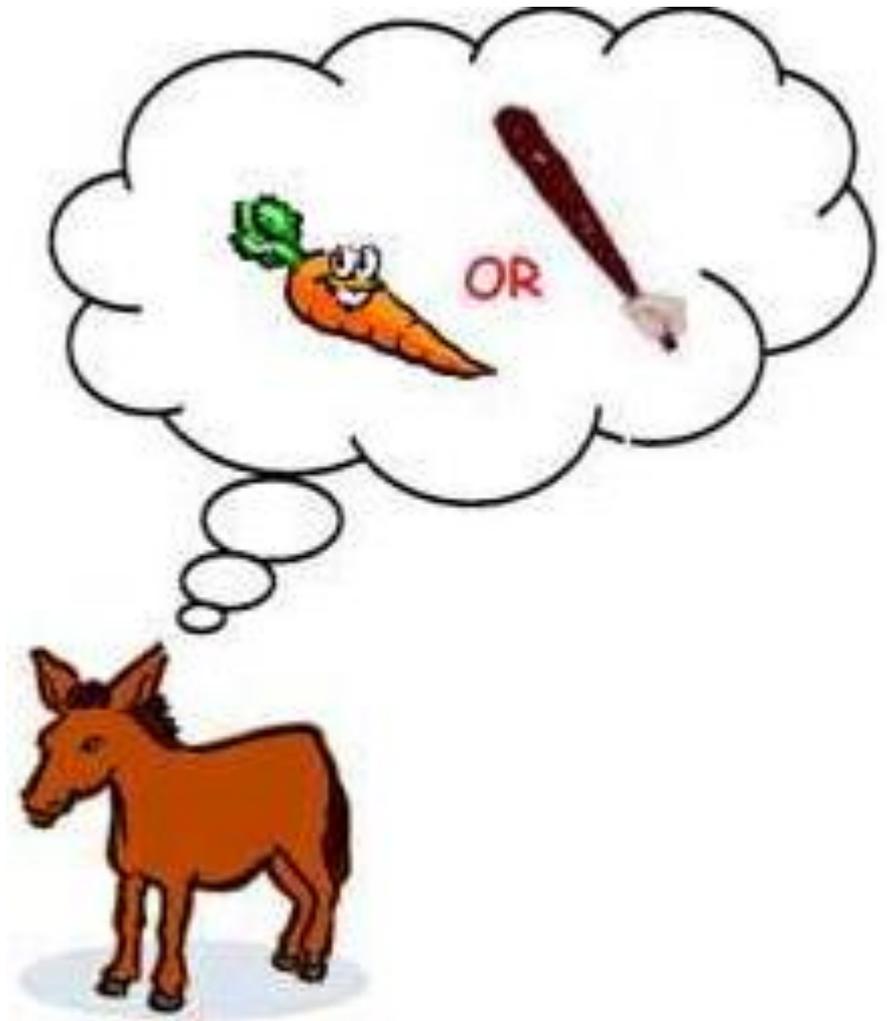
2011 – Encore Redevelopment – Derby Line

2009 – Green Mountain Power – Lowell

2012 – Eolian Wind – Newark, Brighton, Ferdinand

2011 – Reunion Power – Grandpa's Knob

**THE OPTIONS:
TYPICAL PROCESS
WITH
INTERVENOR
FUNDING
OR
COMMUNITY-
BASED
STAKEHOLDER
PROCESS**



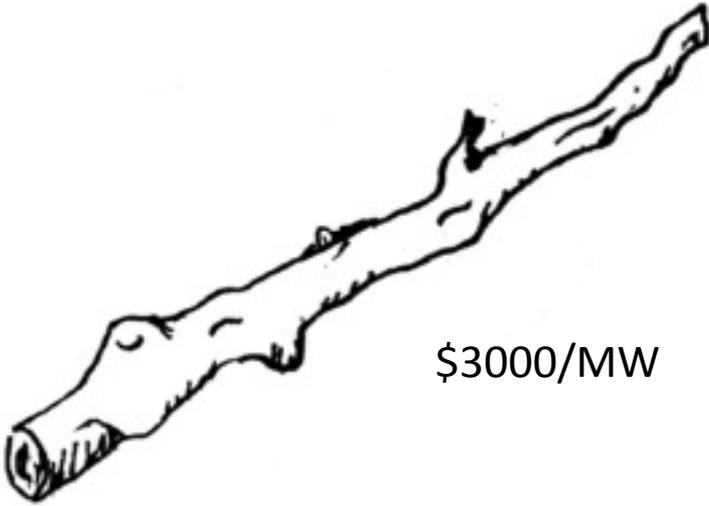
CONVENTIONAL APPROACH:

CONTESTED CASE = COURTROOM

To grant a permit to a specific proposal chosen by a developer



DEVELOPER



\$3000/MW



**INTERVENOR
FUNDING**

NEIGHBORS



COMMUNITY-BASED STAKEHOLDER PROCESS

MUTUAL GAINS APPROACH

COLLABORATION

to reach mutually-advantageous outcome



Sponsored by the Department of Energy



<http://vermontersforacleanenvironment.wordpress.com/2011/04/19/the-problem-with-wind-siting-policy-technology-impacts-or-negotiation/>

FACILITATING: WIND ENERGY SITING

Addressing Challenges around Visual Impacts, Noise, Credible Data, and Local Benefits through Creative Stakeholder Engagement

Ropes and Gray Room
Second Floor, Pound Hall, Harvard Law School
1563 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA, 02138

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

3 day workshop

<http://www.cbuilt.org/>

Empowering others to negotiate and collaborate more effectively using our Mutual Gains Approach.

FACILITATING: WIND ENERGY SITING

Addressing Challenges around Visual Impacts, Noise, Credible Data, and Local Benefits through Creative Stakeholder Engagement [Agenda](#)

Introduction and Opening Remarks by Lawrence Susskind. [Audio](#)
[Effective Stakeholder Engagement and Negotiation, A Better Approach: A Mutual Gains Approach](#), Lawrence Susskind, Ford Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [Audio](#)

[The Stakeholder and Community Engagement Problem](#), Kate Harvey, Consensus Building Institute. [Audio](#)

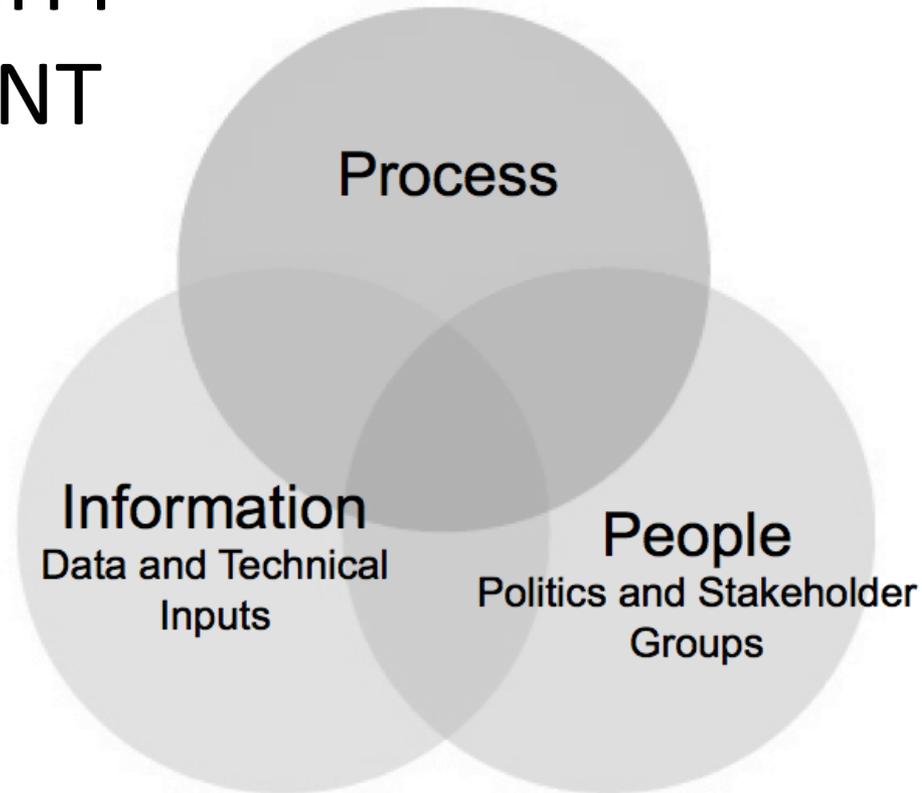
[The Credible Facts Problem](#), Lawrence Susskind, Ford Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [Audio](#)

[The Sharing Benefits Problem](#), Kate Harvey, Consensus Building Institute. [Audio](#)

Mutual Gains vs. Conventional Approach

	Conventional Approach	Consensus Building Approach
Goal	Technically viable plan	Technically and politically viable plan
Primary Client	Decision-makers	Decision-makers and stakeholder representatives
Tasks	Data-driven	Interest-driven with attention to data developed jointly
Skills	Technical	Problem-solving
Role of public participation	Provide input and advice	Build understanding and generate a proposed agreement

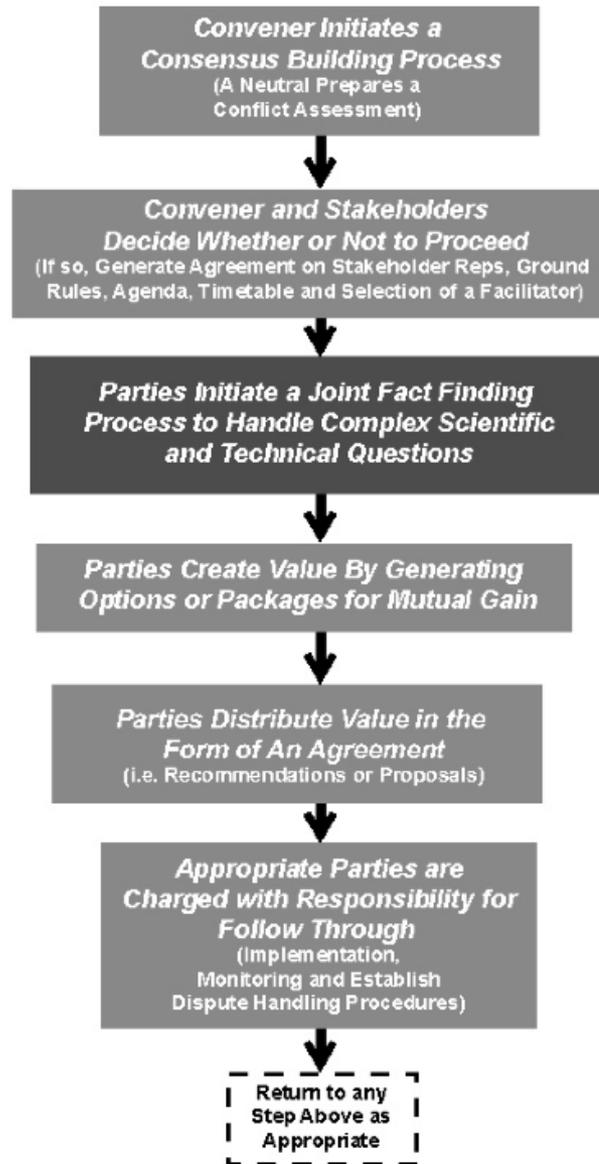
1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



***ALL THREE HAVE TO BE MANAGED
TO BE SUCCESSFUL***

2. CREDIBLE FACTS

THE CONSENSUS BUILDING PROCESS AND THE ROLE OF JOINT FACT FINDING



3. SHARING BENEFITS

- Local benefits are not always discussed or integrated into the dialogue about wind siting.
- Stakeholders feel that “benefit” is not shared equally.



Apply collaborative processes to jointly create, understand, and evaluate community benefits options.

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

IMPLEMENTATION IN VERMONT

Four Phases: Preparation, Value Creation, Value Distribution and Follow Through
Focus on Clarifying and Meeting Conflicting Interests of Stakeholders

PREPARATION

- Third Party Neutral – Act 250 District Coordinator
- Stakeholder Assessment – Build stakeholder group through outreach, interviews, and the Act 250 process; open to adding additional parties later

VALUE CREATION

- Convene Community-Based Meeting – Act 250 or RPC
- Develop Credible Facts through Joint Fact Finding – Do not use materials already generated by developers

VALUE DISTRIBUTION

- Negotiate Shared Benefits
- Participate in Community-Based Hearings – Act 250 District Commission (revised to reduce political influence and require expertise) + PSB for Electrical Issues

FOLLOW THROUGH

- Implement Final Decisions

Remain Flexible to Changing Circumstances
“No” is Always an Option
No Lawyers

What
Triggers
Intervenor
Funding or
a Community-
Based
Stakeholder
Process?

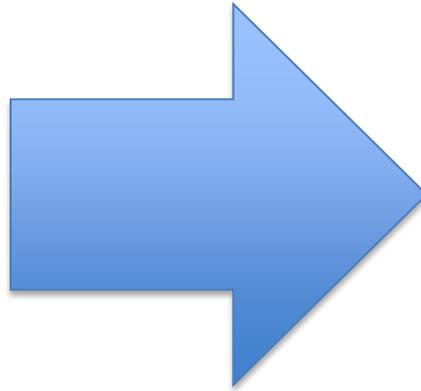


ROY ROGERS AND HIS HORSE, TRIGGER

**MERCHANT or UTILITY
DEVELOPER DRIVEN**



Developer



Public Service
Department

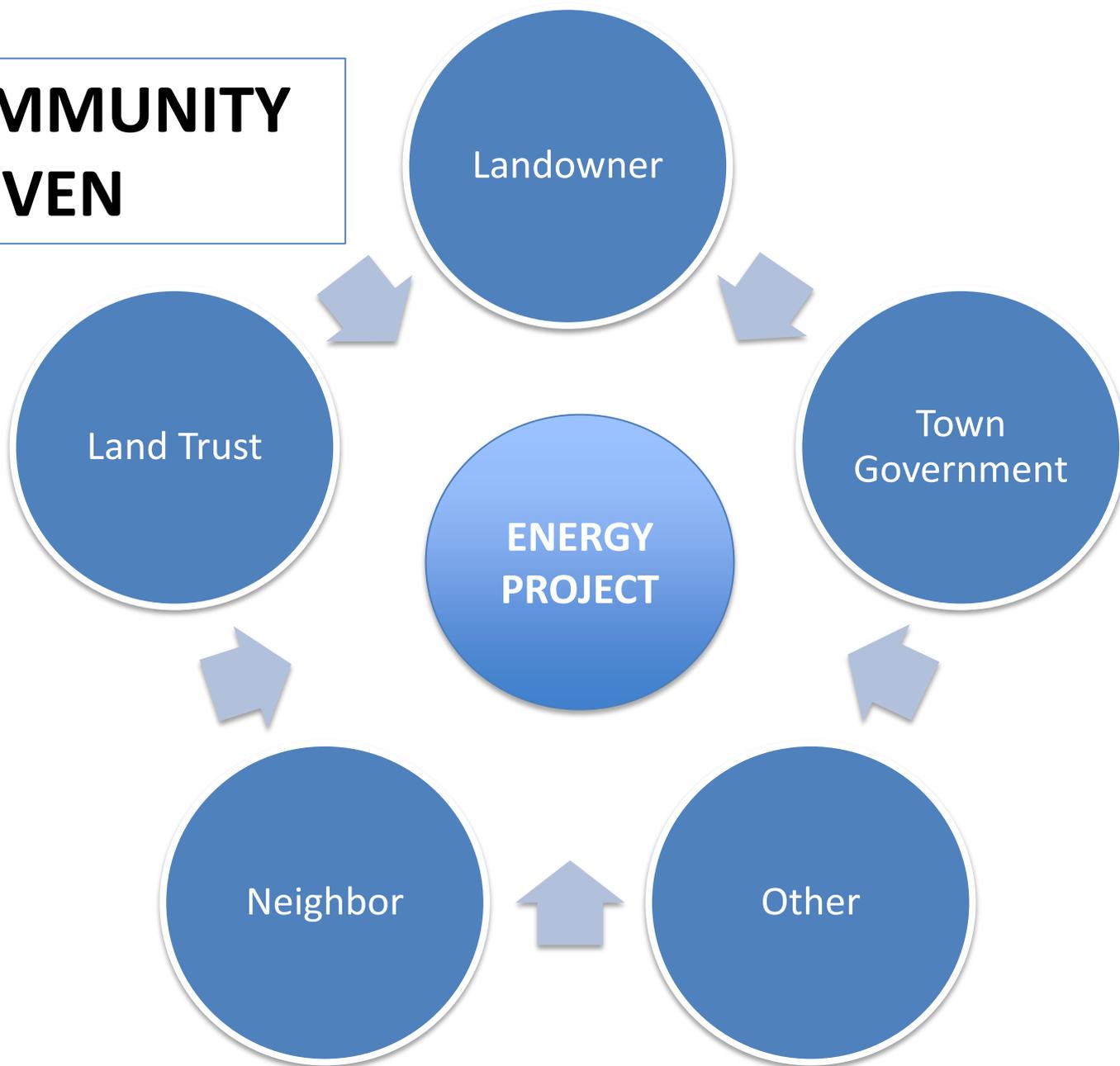
Agency of Natural
Resources

Regional Planning
Commission

Town

Other

**COMMUNITY
DRIVEN**



2. Case Study of a Vermont Area

“Plunk it Down” Model Now
Used by Outside Developers

vs.

Community Development Model

WINDHAM COUNTY

Case Study

**Merchant Developer
Driven Energy:**

Catamount Energy
Glebe Mountain Wind
Londonderry
+

Iberdrola
Atlantic Wind
Windham and Grafton

**Community Driven
Energy Planning**



Two Options:

Developer-driven
“Plunk It Down”
Model

vs.

Community-Based
Stakeholder Process

About ¼ Windham County

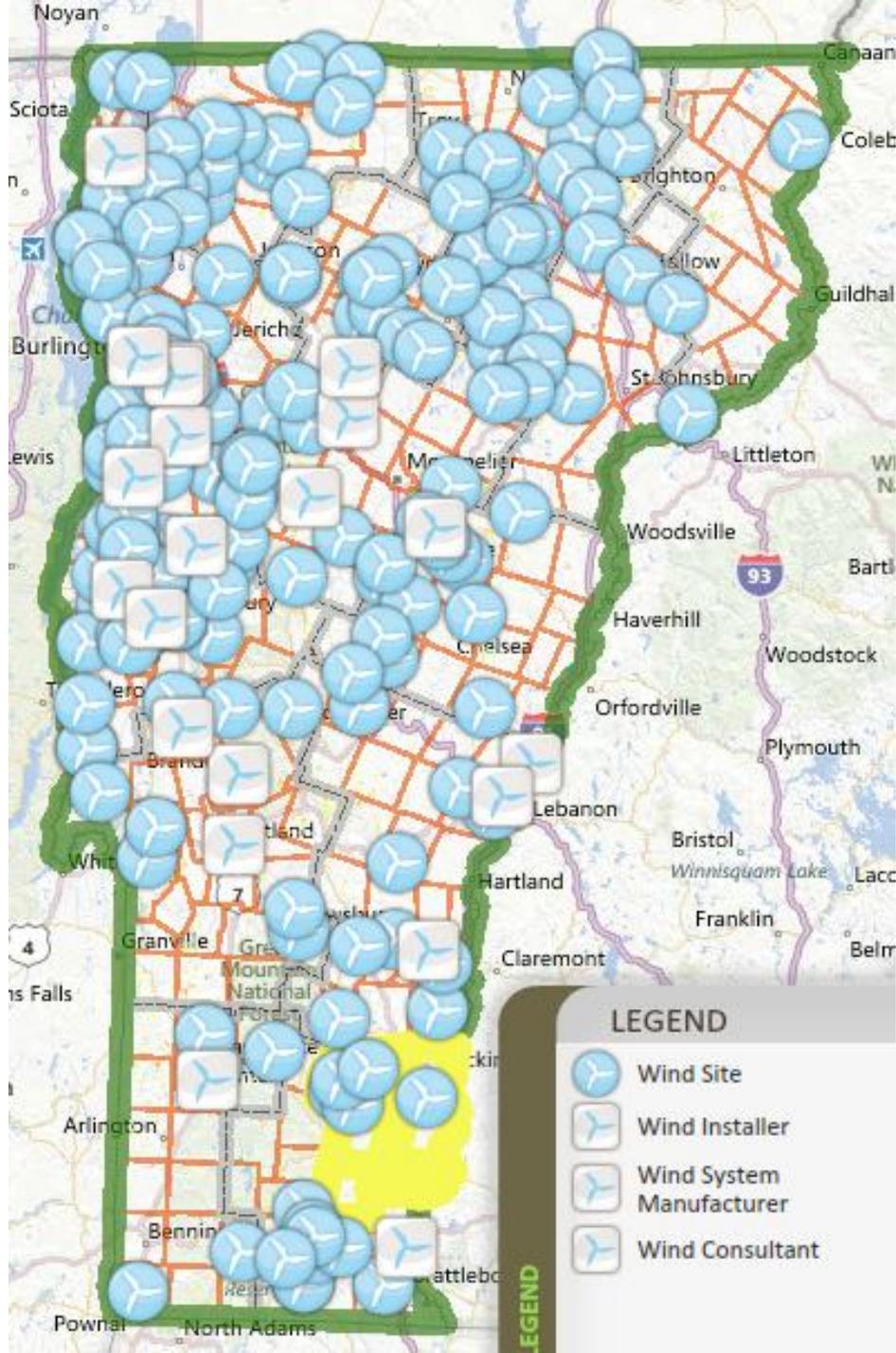


RENEWABLE ENERGY ATLAS OF VERMONT

FIND AN ADDRESS

START ANALYSIS

Layers



- LEGEND**
-  Wind Site
 -  Wind Installer
 -  Wind System Manufacturer
 -  Wind Consultant

WHPA Windmill Ridge Nature Reserve & Trail

Westminster, Brookline, Athens, and
Rockingham, Vermont

of the
Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association



- Trails**
- - white
 - - red
 - - yellow
 - - orange
 - - blue
- Distance, in miles, between dots (generally trail junctions)

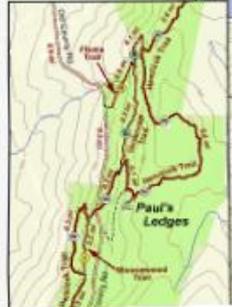
- Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association lands other conservation lands open to the public
- Town boundary
- Paved road
- Unpaved road
- Class 4 road or legal town trail when the unpaved road is accessible but often suitable for walking
- Stream
- Pond
- 50 foot contour (elevation in feet)
- Trailhead parking

April 2011

1 inch = 2 miles = 1 mile

Paul's Ledges inset map

1:12000 1 inch = 6000 feet



PMA Windmill Ridge Nature Reserve & Trail

Brookline, Putney, and Westminster Vermont

of the
Putney Mountain Association



- Trails**
- - white



Website: <http://windmillridgewindpark.com/>

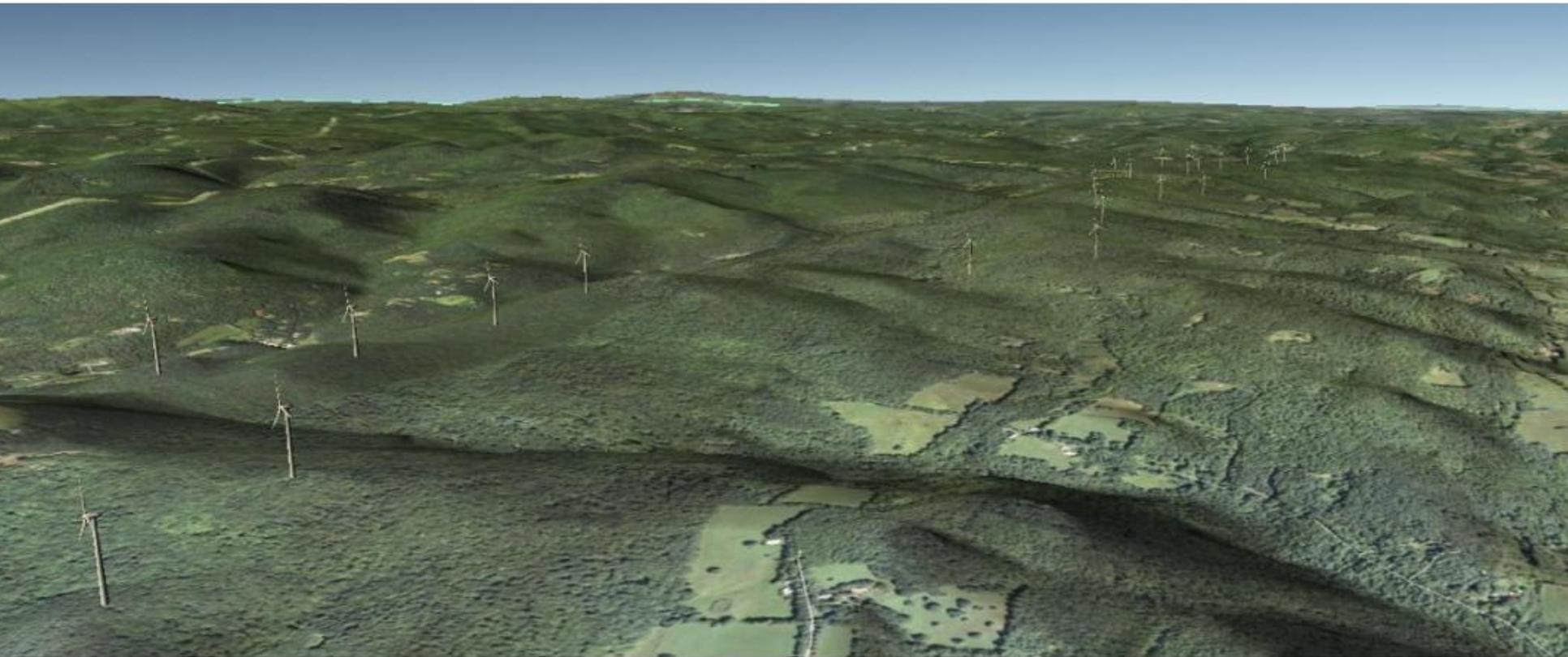
WINDMILL RIDGE WIND PARK

WINDMILL RIDGE WIND PARK

ABOUT

SOURCES

NEWS



of Structures

Windham	239
Grafton	248
Rockingham	2,184

Athens	152
Westminster	49
Townshend	18

Brookline	228
Putney	915
Newfane	738

About 13 x 14 miles

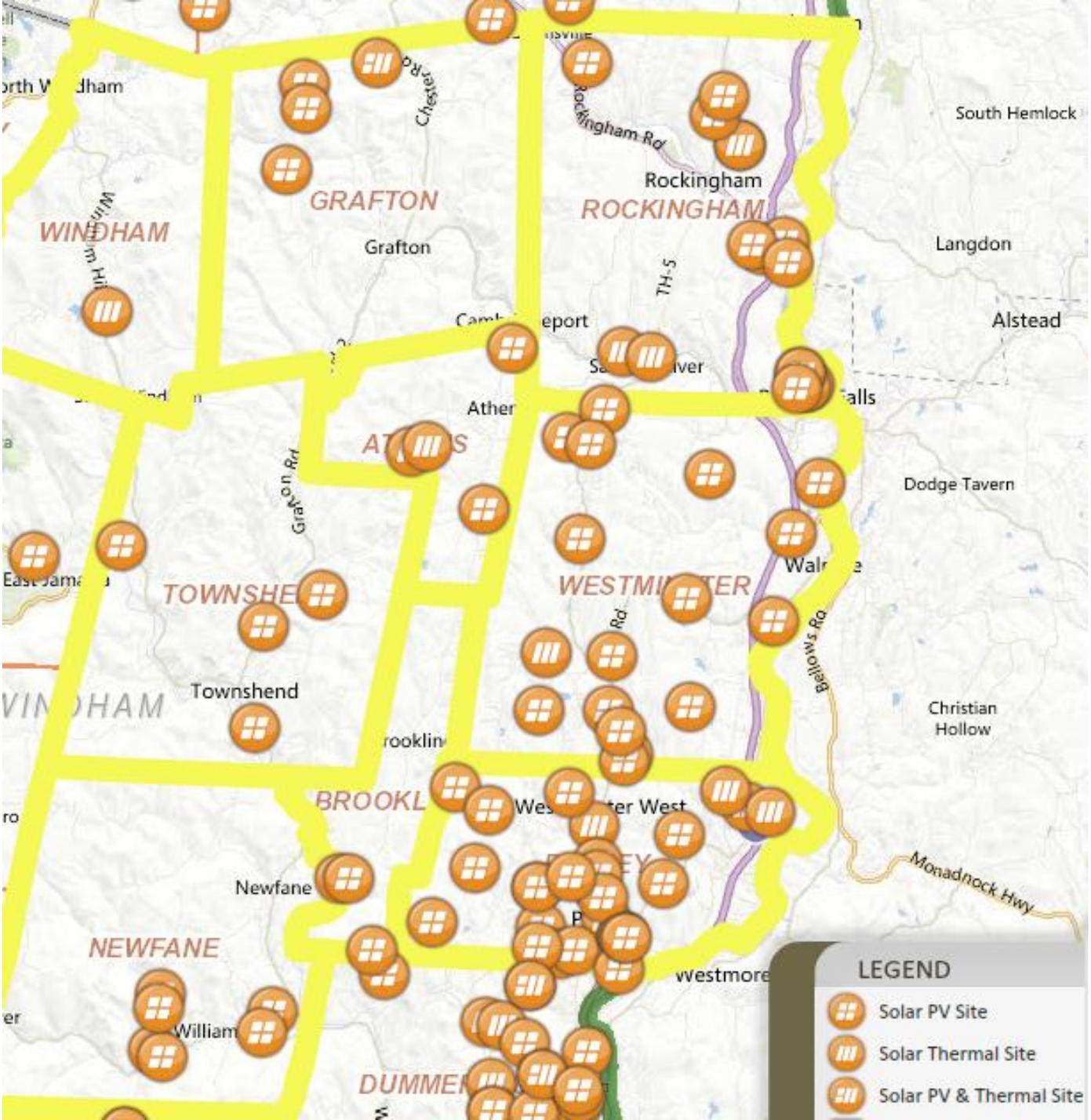
IGNORED







SOLAR

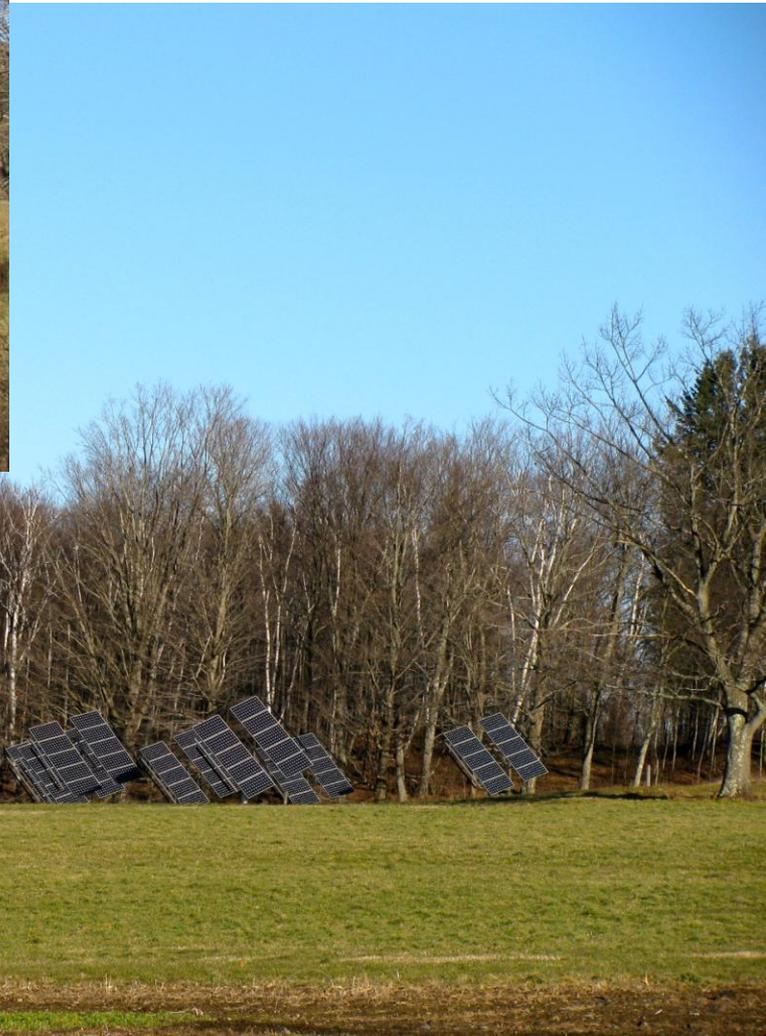


LEGEND

-  Solar PV Site
-  Solar Thermal Site
-  Solar PV & Thermal Site



Existing Photovoltaic Sites In the area



The Putney School





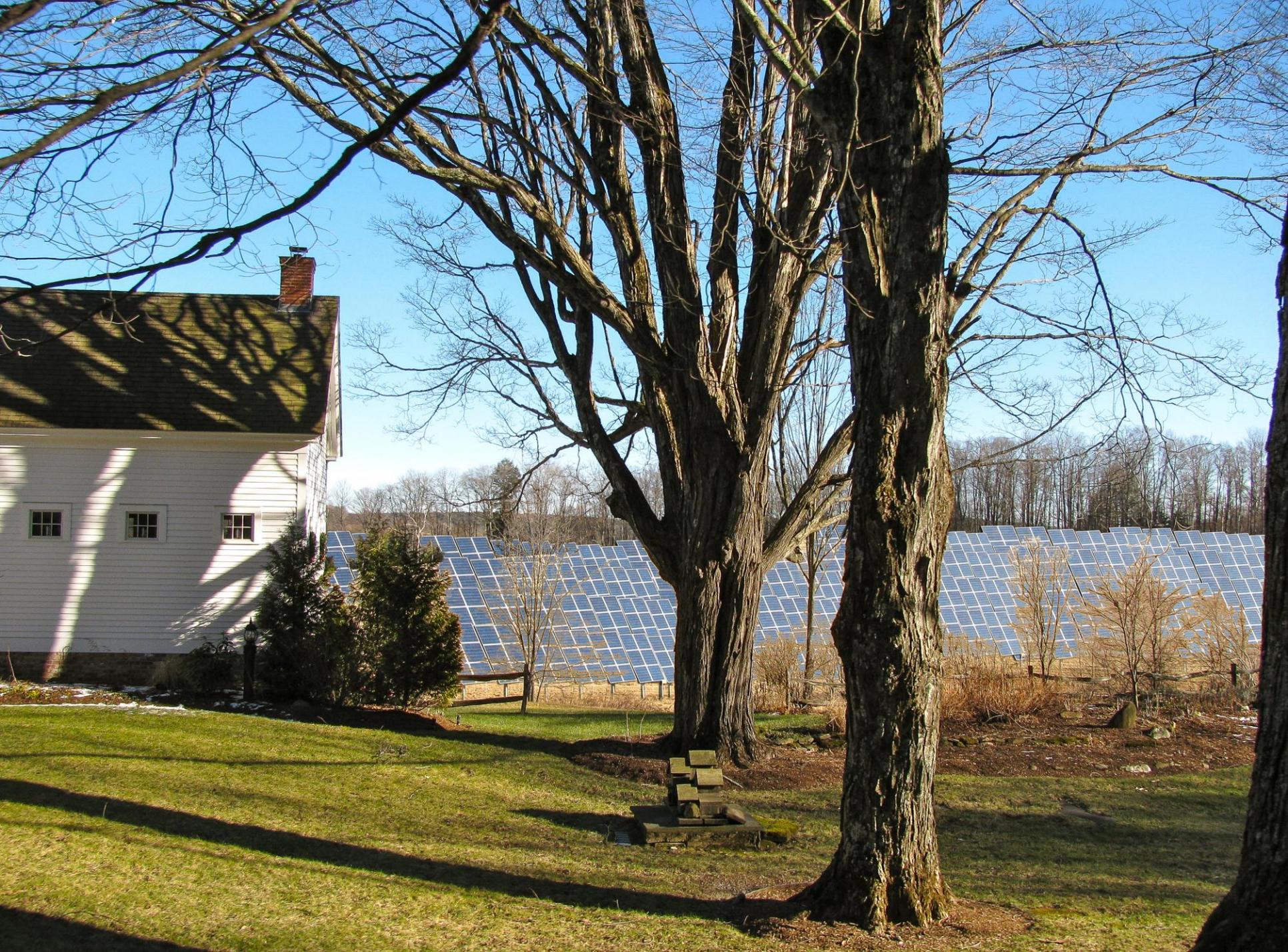
UNUTILIZED



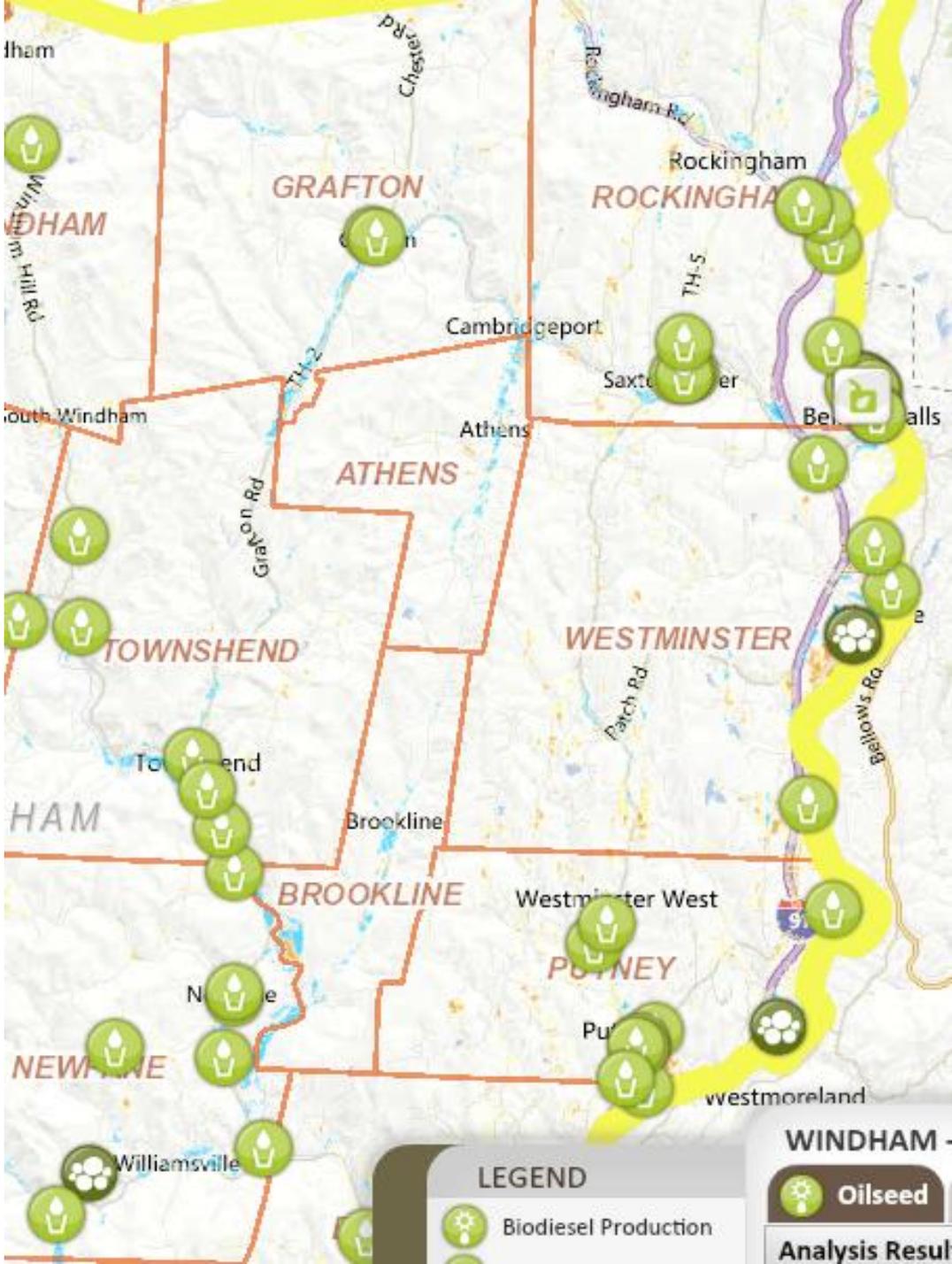




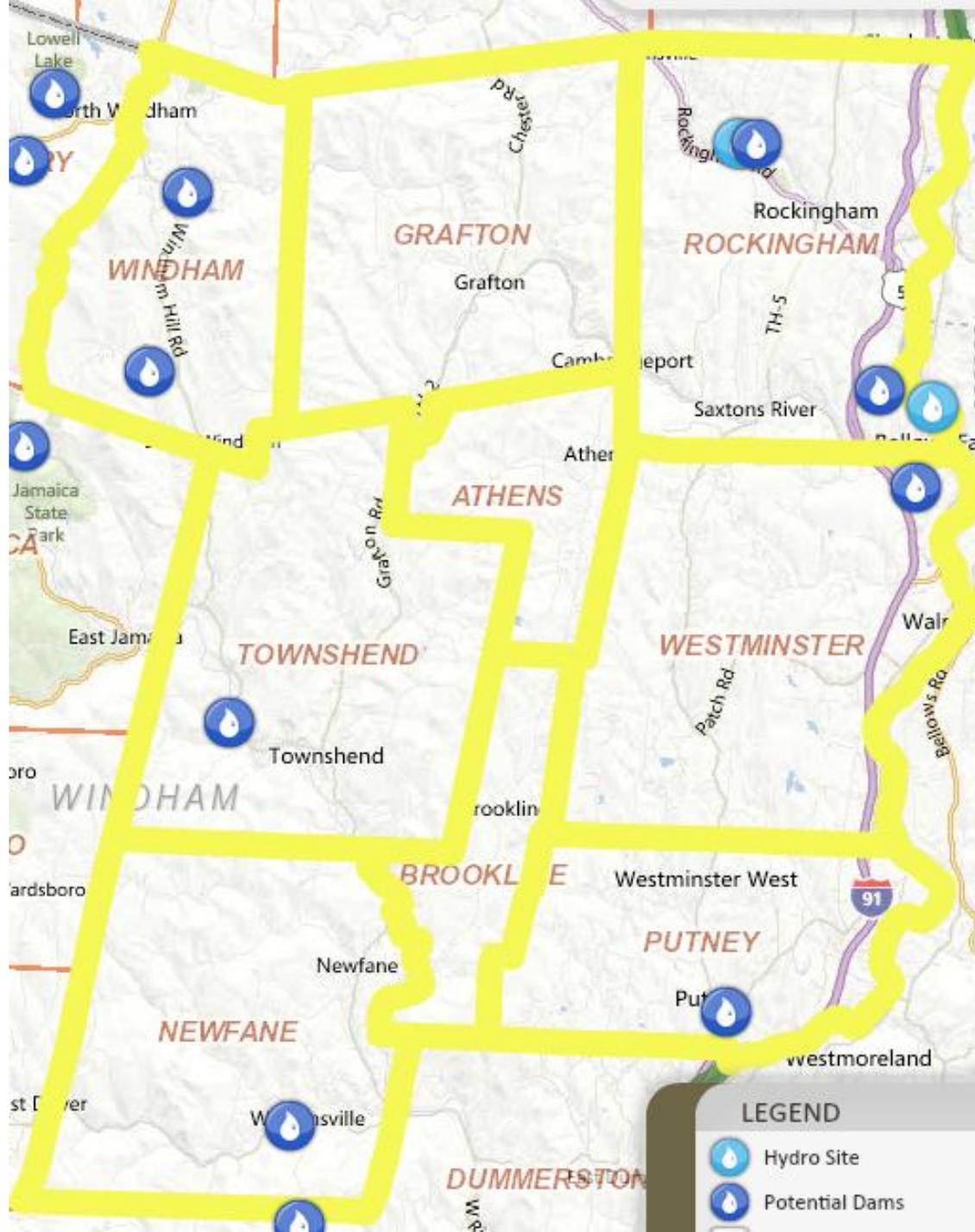




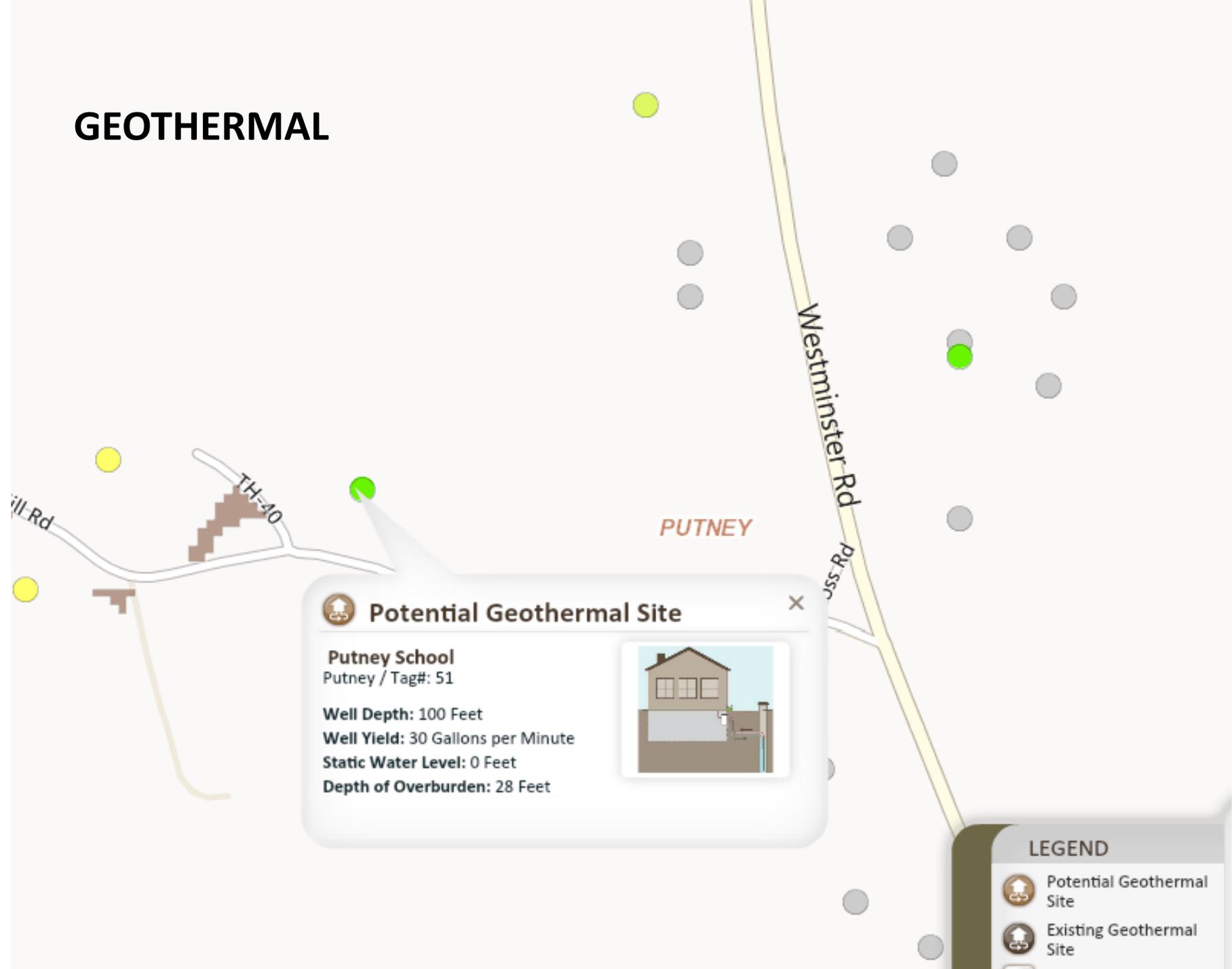
BIOMASS



HYDRO



GEOHERMAL



RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATES QUESTIONS

WIND

- What are safe setbacks from neighboring property lines for ice and blade throw, fire, collapse?
- What are safe setbacks from homes to protect public health?
- What standards should there be for wind turbines next to conserved lands?
- How should neighbors be compensated for loss of property values?
- What is the right noise standard to protect public health?
- If residents must abandon their homes because of noise, how will they be compensated?

SOLAR

- Should solar panels cover agricultural fields?
- What kind of aesthetic standards should apply?
- How much is too much?

BIOMASS

- How should forest resources be allocated?
- How much should be used for electricity vs. heating?
- Should any standards apply to producing food crops vs. energy crops?

GEOHERMAL

- Does it make economic sense?

HYDRO

- How to comply with FERC regulations?

CONTESTED CASE OUTCOME



AND
ZERO
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

Community Starts WITH Questions

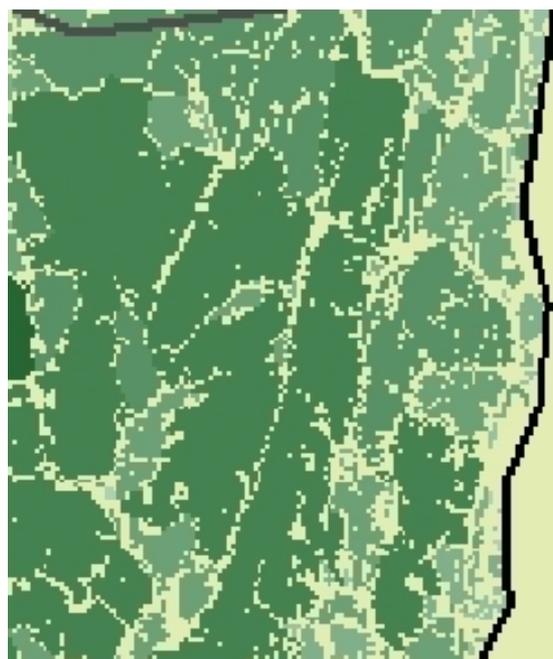
- Is there a need for the power?
- Is there capacity on the grid?
- Access to grid for big wind?
- 3-Phase power for solar?
- Focus on electricity or hot water or home heating or transportation or efficiency or conservation?
- Where are the available resources?

Community decides to initiate process to meet renewable energy goals

WHAT ARE THE NATURAL RESOURCE VALUES?



Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



Ecological Land Unit Groups

- acidic gentle hills
- mid elev acidic steep hills/mtns
- upper elev acidic steep hills/mtns
- calc/mod calc gentle hills
- calc/mod calc mid-upper elev steep hills/mtns
- coarse sediment flats
- fine sediment flats
- acidic low elevation steep hills with sed flats
- calc/mod calc low elev steep hills with sed flats

Wildlife Habitat Blocks

Biological and Physical Diversity Value



BioFinder Component Name
Landscape Components
Habitat Blocks
Grasslands & Shrublands
Rare Physical Landscape
Representative Physical Landscape
Connecting Lands (<2000ac)
Connecting Blocks
Anchor Blocks
Riparian Connectivity
Wildlife Road Crossings
Aquatic Components
Surface Waters & Riparian Areas
Representative Lakes
Important Aquatic Habitats & Species Assemblages
Species and Natural Community Components
Rare Species
Uncommon Species
Rare Natural Communities
Uncommon Natural Communities
Common Natural Communities
Vernal Pools (Confirmed)
Vernal Pools (Potential)
Wetlands
Mast production areas



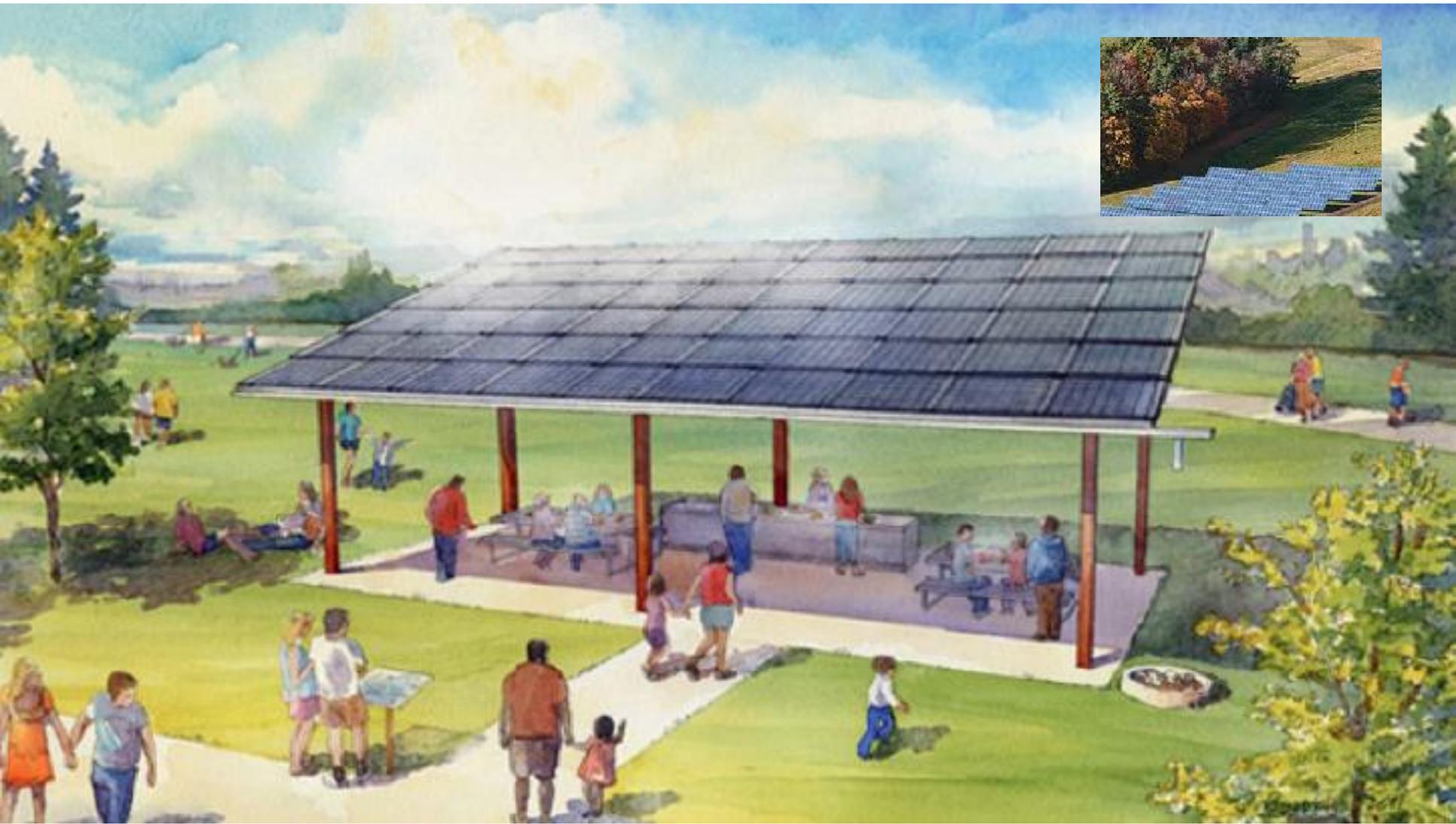
Community-Based Stakeholder Process

- Act 250 District Coordinator initiates stakeholder assessment
- Act 250 DC or RPC convenes stakeholder meeting
- Stakeholders write an RFP for experts to evaluate different technologies
- Companies respond to RFP, interviewed by Stakeholders who choose
- Stakeholders identify technologies and locations to meet the area's goals
- Implement decisions through refined Act 250 and PSB processes

Goal is to develop energy in a mutually-beneficial way, reduce conflict and expensive contested cases while building community.

Community-Based Stakeholder Process Outcome





Community Picnic Area Near Solar Orchard