discussed in section 13.2.2 of this plan. This task will be part of the municipal energy planning effort called for in section 11.5. Also, the use of renewables will be added, in combination with energy conservation, to the incentives offered in the town's residential growth management system. Bylaw revisions shall include revised standards for energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.

11.1.3 Demonstrate Renewable Energy Projects. The town can take the lead and install renewable energy systems to town buildings and operations. Examples might include a biomass fueled district heating system for the village offices and school, methane recovery from the sewage treatment plant operated in Essex Junction, and photovoltaic panels for the school or town offices. When price of natural gas exceeds $2/ccf (hundred cubic feet) then the town should initiate planning for long-term improvement measures including major building renovations, solar installations, shared pellet boiler, etc. When the price of natural gas exceeds $3/ccf then the town should consider those measures because at that point the cost to make those large scale improvements will be comparable to the cost of natural gas based on a cost benefit analysis.

11.1.4 Prohibit Residential Property Assessment Increases for Renewable Energy Equipment. Under Vermont law, a town can vote to exclude certain renewable energy systems from local property tax. This means that renewable energy improvements to the home will not increase the property assessment. By applying this policy, the Town of Williston will both promote and enable the use of renewable energy.

11.1.5 ***Provide Electric Vehicle (E.V.) Charging Stations.*** The town shall develop standards for allowing and encouraging E.V. charging stations is both newly proposed and existing development. E.V. charging stations should be incorporated into the town's parking standards, and E.V. charging stations should be added to existing development whenever feasible.

11.1.6 ***Update Energy Efficiency Incentives in the town's Residential Growth Management System.*** The town's residential growth management allocation system has incentives for developments incorporating energy efficiency design. The current incentives are outdated and need to be updated. The town should consider adopting the "stretch codes" developed by Efficiency Vermont in order to reward those developments providing the highest level of energy efficiency.

11.2 – Future Utilities Siting - The Town of Williston will continue to require that utility lines serving new developments be underground, will continue to regulate the siting of telecommunication facilities, and will urge the Vermont Public Service Board to ensure that new regional transmission lines, substations, and similar support facilities are located within existing utility corridors, minimizing impacts to natural, scenic, and historic resources.

The Vermont Public Service Board has jurisdiction over the permitting of major utility installations. Towns may regulate telecommunications facilities, but local control is limited by federal law. Renewable energy projects that are tied to the electric grid will be regulated under the net metering provisions of the Vermont Public Service Board.

11.2.1 Place Local Utilities Underground. Utilities serving new developments, including natural gas, power, telephone, and cable television lines, etc. must ordinarily be placed underground. Installation above ground will be considered only where the presence of bedrock or other environmental constraints makes underground installation prohibitively expensive. Careful siting and screening will be required for above ground utility lines.

11.2.2 Place Regional Transmission Lines in Existing Corridors. The Public Service Board should confine new transmission lines and associated facilities to existing utility corridors, and require that they

be placed underground where feasible. Utility line and pole placements, and substation siting or expansion should minimize disturbance to wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat, the viewshed, and other natural and historic resources.

11.2.3 Limit the Impact of Telecommunication Installations. The town will continue to regulate telecommunication facilities, including cell, radio, and microwave towers, as provided by the current town bylaws. Such installations should be co-located or creatively hidden in existing structures where possible. Abandoned facilities must be removed immediately.

11.2.4 Encourage Utility Scale Cogeneration Projects. The town should seek opportunities to facilitate the use of cogeneration projects to better utilize the heat and electrical energy generation from fuels. Cogeneration projects capture waste energy and convert this energy into clean power and processed heat. For example, an on-site combined heat and power (CHP) plant provides electricity and heat to industrial facilities and other large institutions. These plants typically run on natural gas, biomass, or other fuels. As they produce electricity, the plants recycle excess heat emitted in the process, generating power twice as efficiently as large, centralized plants. Institutions that use CHP generally pay substantially less for energy.

11.2.5 Encourage Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Projects. Farm methane plants, solar orchards, and ridgeline wind farms are examples of large-scale renewable energy projects that will likely have a significant impact on regional energy production in the years to come. The Town of Williston should support these utility-scale technologies as clean energy sources continue to develop. Permitting these projects should consider the renewable energy benefits along with environmental and aesthetic impacts.

11.3 – Municipal Energy Efficiency - Town government and local schools will lead by example, incorporating cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation measures into existing facilities and operations, as well as into plans for new buildings, additions, and renovations.

At the 2003 town meeting, Williston voters agreed to join the 10% Challenge, an effort to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The following policies are derived from this support.

11.3.1 Review and Improve the Energy Performance of Existing Buildings and other Town Operations. The town completed energy audits on its existing municipal buildings in 2010 and 2011. As a result of these audits, a number of energy efficiency upgrades were undertaken at the Town Hall, the Town Hall Annex, and the Dorothy Alling Library. The town should continue to monitor energy usage in all town facilities and utilize additional energy conservation strategies whenever feasible

11.3.2 Use "Green Building" Technology, as Feasible. The town and schools should consider "green building" technology for new buildings, additions, and renovations. town and school administrations should work with architects, engineers, and contractors to document the long-term savings gained by adhering to "green building" standards like those established by Leadership on Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

11.3.3 Consider Energy Consumption When Purchasing. Energy efficiency and conservation should be considered in decisions to purchase everything from traffic signals (which should continue to have energy-efficient LED indicators) to copiers (which should have a double-sided printing feature). The town and schools should buy Energy Star rated appliances, heating equipment, and office equipment. The purchase of recycled paper materials and environmentally-friendly office products should be considered.

outlined in Part 6 of this section and in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) included in this plan.

iv. Collaborate with the State of Vermont and utilities to ensure that state energy policy implementation (i.e. permits for non-renewable fuels) reflect state energy goals and our policies in Section b.

v. Encourage the State of Vermont to implement a single energy standard which includes a process for verifying compliance.

vi. Provide assistance to municipalities when requested to enhance town plans to be consistent with Act 174 standards for the purpose of enabling municipalities the ability to gain substantial deference in the Certificate of Public Good Section 248 process. This assistance will include working with municipalities to identify natural, cultural, historic, or scenic resources to be protected from all development types, identify preferred locations for renewable energy generation facilities, and encourage municipalities to lead by example with respect to energy efficiency for buildings and transportation and the deployment of renewable energy.

vii. Use the Energy Action Network (EAN) Community Energy Dashboard to educate residents and municipalities about opportunities to reduce energy use and switch to renewable energy sources. Additionally, institutions (including municipalities, institutions of higher education, businesses and non-profits) can use the Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition Tracker to upload actions that will help the State achieve its 90% renewable energy 2050 goal.

viii. Support a wide variety of renewable energy generation types, including sustainable uses of biomass for heating, passive solar building design, bio-digesters for electricity generation, photovoltaic solar, wind turbines, and optimizing the energy potential for existing hydro-electric dams.

ix. Work with the utilities on long-range infrastructure capacity planning.

xi. Support in-place upgrades of existing facilities, including existing renewable energy generation, storage, transmission lines, distribution lines and substations as needed to reliably serve municipalities and the region.

xii. Support changes in federal, state, and local policies to achieve the state of Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan goals.

b. CCRPC supports the generation of new renewable energy in the County to meet the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan's goal of using 90% renewable energy by 2050, in a manner that is cost effective and respects the natural environment. Specifically, Chittenden County needs to generate a total of 756,250 MWh (Megawatt hours) of energy to meet the low target (a 51% increase), or 1,265,134 MWh to meet the high target (a 152% increase). Currently, Chittenden County generates 501,661 MWh of renewable energy. The targets are technology neutral, meaning that they can be met with any mix of technologies. The following statements are CCRPC's renewable energy generation facility siting policies and will inform CCRPC's preferred sites policy.

   Constraint Policies: Ground mounted renewable energy generation is constrained in certain areas due to state and local restrictions on development.

   i. Site renewable energy generation to avoid state and local known constraints and to minimize impacts to state and local possible constraints, as defined in Strategy