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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Vermont Public Service Department Releases Benchmarking Evaluation of the Energy Efficiency Utilities**

**Montpelier, Vermont** – The Vermont Public Service Department has released its benchmarking comparison of electric energy efficiency program performance in Vermont with performance of programs in eight other states. The evaluation shows that Vermont's electric energy efficiency programs save more energy than comparable programs, with costs that are very similar to their peers.

“Benchmarking is an appropriate tool to ensure Vermont’s programs compare well to programs in other jurisdictions. We are pleased to see Vermont’s Energy Efficiency Utilities perform so well compared to their peers” said Asa Hopkins, Director of Energy Policy and Planning in the Department.

Burlington Electric Department ("BED") provides electric energy efficiency services to Burlington residents and businesses. Vermont Energy Investment Corporation provides electric energy efficiency services to the rest of the state as Efficiency Vermont ("EVT"). Both energy efficiency service providers are referred to as Energy Efficiency Utilities ("EEUs"). The evaluation compared program performance for both EVT and BED to that of twenty-seven other energy efficiency service providers spanning eight jurisdictions (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Maryland and Minnesota).

The Department's benchmarking analysis compares reported program savings and costs for program years 2011 and 2012. The analysis includes results for energy savings as well as for peak demand; peak demand savings reduce the need to build new electric generators or power lines. Conclusions included the following highlights:

- EVT’s and BED's energy efficiency programs have higher energy savings compared to most of the organizations benchmarked. EVT's programs saved about 2.4% of utility electric sales per year, while BED's programs saved about 1.9%. The median savings for the benchmarked organizations is 1.7% of sales.
- EVT's first year cost of saved energy is slightly less than the median for the organizations benchmarked in this analysis while BED's is just above the median.
- EVT’s and BED's energy efficiency programs have the second and third highest peak demand savings compared to the rest of the benchmarked organizations. EVT’s and BED's programs each saved about 1.3% of retail peak demand per year, while the median savings for the group of compared organizations is less 1.0% of retail peak demand.
- EVT's cost of peak demand savings is less than the median for the organizations benchmarked while BED's cost of peak demand savings is above the median.

Every three years the Department assesses the EEUs' performance relative to other entities conducting similar efficiency efforts in other jurisdictions. Such comparisons normalize for program maturity, funding, demographics and other important variables. Benchmarking is also considered in the Overall Performance Assessment conducted by the Vermont Public Service Board every six years. This a review process that considers the effectiveness of Vermont's EEUs and determines whether it is in the best interest of Vermont ratepayers to solicit competitive bids for delivery of efficiency services, or to re-appoint the incumbent providers.

A copy of the full Benchmarking report is available at:

[http://publicservice.vermont.gov/topics/energy\\_efficiency/eeu\\_evaluation#Benchmarking](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/topics/energy_efficiency/eeu_evaluation#Benchmarking)

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