Vermont's Energy Future

Regional Workshops: *Final Report*

November 2007

RAAB ASSOCIATES, LTD.

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with

Consensus Building Institute

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Chapter 1: Overview of Regional Workshops

Vermont's Energy Future has sought to engage the public in helping to shape Vermont's electricity future. This effort is informing decision makers about how best to plan for Vermont's future electricity needs. Input generated through this process will help all parties involved in energy planning and decision making—the Governor, the Legislature, the Department of Public Service, and the utilities—to understand Vermonters' concerns and priorities as they consider the best mix of energy resources to serve Vermont in the coming years. Authorized in 2006 by the Vermont Legislature (Act 208), this process was endorsed by the Governor and the Joint Energy Committee.

Why plan now? Currently, Vermont imports about half of its electricity from out-of-state sources, primarily from Hydro-Québec and the New England Power Pool. Vermont obtains approximately one-third of its electricity from the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. The state has been a leader in biomass-produced electricity for over 20 years and spends more per capita on energy efficiency than any other state. As a result of previous decisions, Vermont has the lowest electricity rates in New England, and one of the lowest electricity-related carbon footprints in the nation.

However, in 2012, contracts providing for two-thirds of the state's electric power will begin to expire. This leaves the future sources of Vermont's electricity open for discussion and examination. Choices about the future will have to be made and will require weighing trade-offs among cost, reliability, environmental impact, large and small scale generation, and in-state versus out-of-state sources.

What is the overall process? *Vermont's Energy Future* employed two important means to enlist the public's help. First, five regional workshops were held across the state over the month of October. Interested Vermonters were asked to attend a workshop in their region to learn more about electricity choices, to deliberate with fellow citizens, and to offer their views using a technology called keypad polling. The second means of involving Vermont citizens was a process called Deliberative Polling®. Deliberative Polling® selected a representative sample of some 165 participants from across Vermont and brought them together for a weekend of education, deliberation, and polling. This report discusses the results of the five regional planning workshops, and a separate report describes the results from the Deliberative Polling® event. In addition to the Regional Workshops and Deliberative Polling®, there was also an option to obtain materials and provide input to the state on-line.

Who has helped shape the process and create these documents? An Advisory Committee and Resource Panel made up of individuals representing diverse points of view spent many hours together to help develop background documents which were distributed to registrants prior to the regional workshops.

Advisory Committee

Name	Organization
Robert Griffin	Green Mountain Power
Richard Sedano	Regulatory Assistance Project
Patricia Richards	VT Public Power Supply Authority
James Moore	VT Public Interest Research Group
James Matteau	Windham Regional Commission
David Lamont	VT Department of Public Service
Steve Blair	IBM
Steve Costello	Central Vermont Public Service

Resource Panel

Resource	Name	Organization
Efficiency	Patrick Haller	Efficiency VT
Solar	Andrew Perchlik	Renewable Energy VT
Wind	John Zimmerman	VT Environmental Research Association
Nuclear	Dave McElwee	Entergy
Hydro	Sylvie Racine	Hydro-Québec
Gas	Elileen Simollardes	VT Gas
Trans-mission	Kerrick Johnson	VT Electric Power Company
Biomass	John Irving	Burlington Electric Department

The goal was to prepare materials to expose Vermonters to the full range of views and the many issues involved in planning for Vermont's electricity future. Not all of the advisors or panel members would agree about what Vermont's energy future should be, but all concurred that Vermonters should have the benefit of hearing a variety of perspectives.

The Advisory Committee and Resource Panel also assisted in developing the polling questions used at both the Regional Workshops and the Deliberative Polling® event.

Raab Associates, Ltd., in partnership with the Consensus Building Institute, designed and ran the five Regional Workshops. Raab Associates and CBI collaborated with the organizers of the Deliberative Polling® event in the development of both the background documents and the polling questions. This included the Center for Deliberative Opinion, University of Texas at Austin; Center for Deliberative Democracy, Stanford University; and Public Decision Partnership.

Where were the regional workshops held and how were they structured? The free regional workshops were held over the month of October at five locations around the state of Vermont.

Oct. 3, 2007	St. Johnsbury Elementary School, St. Johnsbury
Oct. 17, 2007	Tuttle Middle School, S. Burlington
Oct. 18, 2007	Montpelier Elks Club, Montpelier
Oct. 29, 2007	Howard Dean Education Center, Springfield
Oct. 30, 2007	Holiday Inn, Rutland

Each workshop proceeded according to the following basic format:

Vermont's Electricity Future Regional Workshops Agenda 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (or later)	
5:00	Registration and light dinner
6:00	Welcome by Commissioner David O'Brien of Vermont DPS
	Overview and Demographic Polling
6:20	Presentation: Vermont's Current Electricity System, Upcoming Challenges, and Future Options
6:40	Facilitated Discussions: Most Significant Challenges and Promising Options for Vermont, and Additional Questions for Panel
7:35	Break
7:50	Panel Responds to Questions
8:45	Polling on Most Significant Challenges and Best Options for Vermont
9:30	Open Mike for Participants to Make Brief Additional Comments to Commissioner O'Brien
	Adjourn (when comments done)

The workshops began promptly at 6:00 p.m., following check-in and a light dinner, with a welcome from Commissioner David O'Brien. Dr. Jonathan Raab, President of Raab Associates, Ltd. then reviewed the entire Vermont Energy Future process, and went over the agenda for the Regional Workshop. Pat Field, Managing Director at the Consensus Building Institute led participants through a keypad polling exercise to capture and show the audience the

demographics in the room. Dave Lamont, of the Vermont Department of Public Service, then made a brief presentation on Vermont's electricity system, future challenges, and potential options, based on the work done by the Advisory Committee, Resource Panel, and the consultants.

Following the presentation, the participants took part in facilitated discussions in groups of up to ten Vermont citizens on what they individually believed were the most significant challenges and promising options for Vermont. At the end of the facilitated discussions, each group came up with questions to ask a panel of experts, and then prioritized the questions. For the next hour, a panel of experts comprised of Dave Lamont, from the Vermont Department of Public Service, Richard Sedano from the Regulatory Assistance Project, and rotating experts from the local utilities, fielded questions from the audience. Depending on the size of the audience, each table was able to ask one to two questions of the panel.

After the panel answered questions, participants used their keypads to respond to over 40 polling questions on a wide range of electricity related goals, issues, and priorities. The results of the polling were immediately shown to the participants on two large screens.

Once the polling was completed, there was an open mike for participants to make brief additional comments to Commissioner O'Brien and his staff. The open mike sessions ranged in duration from 30 minutes to over an hour.

What's in this report? This report contains the results from the Regional Workshops. Chapters 2 and 3, respectively, contain the results of the demographic and substantive polling from all of the five regional workshops combined. Chapter 4 contains an evaluation of the regional workshops by the participants.

The appendices contain numerous other important elements of the regional workshops, including:

- A roster of all of the workshop participants
- Meeting summaries from each of the five workshops (focusing exclusively on the Q and A with the panels, and the open mike comments)
- Polling data by regional workshop
- Distributions of some of the polling data for which only the means are shown in Chapter 2
- The background document and appendices available prior to the workshops

Chapter 2: Who Came?

Close to 800 Vermont Residents registered as full citizen participants for the five regional workshops. This meant they were eligible to participate in the small group facilitated discussions and in the keypad polling. Over 650 full citizen participants actually attended the regional workshops, where they were joined by more than 175 observers, facilitators and panelists.

All told, more than 800 people attended the workshops. Attendance at each workshop ranged from just under 100 in St. Johnsbury to approximately 200 in South Burlington, Springfield and Rutland.

Vermont's Energy Future
Regional Public Workshop Attendance

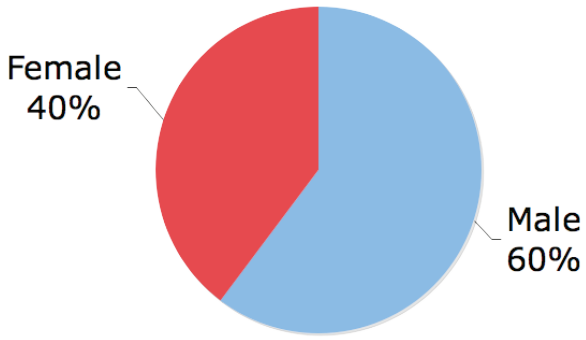
	Citizen Registrants	Citizen Attendees (voting)	Other Attendees*	*Total Attendees*
St. Johnsbury	60	58	29	*87*
South Burlington	208	155	41	*196*
Montpelier	133	114	32	*146*
Springfield	186	168	38	*206*
Rutland	198	157	39	*196*
Total	*785*	*652*	*179*	*831*

* Panel, Observors, Facilitators (non-voting)

Sixty percent of full citizen participants[1] were male and 40% were female. Gender distribution at each site ranged from an even 50-50 split in Montpelier to a 68% male and 32% female composition in Rutland.[2]

How do you identify yourself?

n=629 [3]



1. From this point forward in all statistics "participants" refers to the "full citizen participants" who were participating in the polling and not the observers, et al.
2. For a full set of cross-tabs for each question by the five locations, see Appendix B.
3. "*n*" represents the number of respondents. Respondent numbers were higher at the beginning of each workshop (during the demographic polling, from 6:00–6:30 p.m.) than during the more substantive polling (about 9:00–9:30 p.m.).

Participants ranged in educational background from those with less than a high school education to those holding graduate degrees. Over 80% of participants reported having a college degree or having completed at least some post graduate work. Of these, 36% claimed to hold at least one graduate degree. The distribution of participants with graduate degrees ranged from 28% in St. Johnsbury to 48% in Montpelier.

Which of the following best describes the highest level of education you have completed?

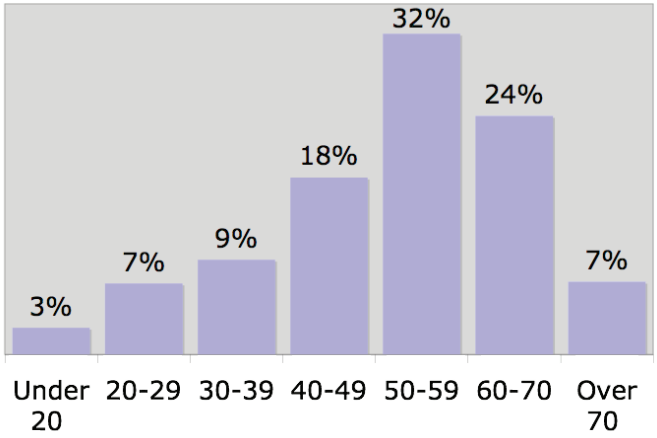
n=638

Less than high school	1%
High school	3%
Some university / college	13%
University / college graduate	31%
Some graduate work	15%
Graduate degree	36%
Other	1%
Total	*100%*

The age of participants ranged from under 20 to over 70. More than 60% were older than 50, with 30% over 60 years of age. Participation of those over 50 ranged by workshop, from 47% in South Burlington to 77% in Springfield.

How old are you?

n=634



Employment status varied widely among participants. Those defining themselves as "self-employed" constituted 23% of all participants, followed by those employed by non-profits (14%) and by large businesses (13%). Retirees made up 13% of participants. Government employees came in at 9% of the total, while employees of small and medium sized businesses combined made up 13%. Students accounted for 5% and farmers constituted 3% of workshop participants. Appendix B shows a significant regional variability in employment status across the five workshops (e.g., 20% of participants at the Rutland workshop represented large businesses).

Which best describes your employment status?

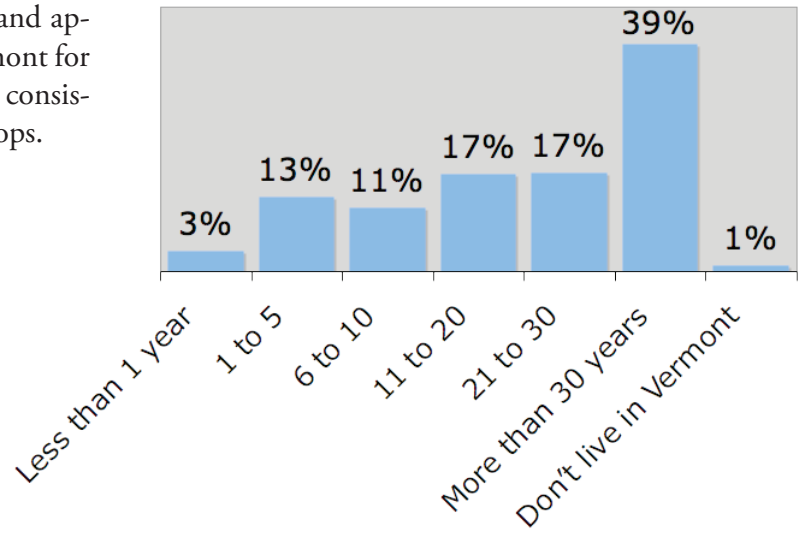
n=632

Self-employed	23%
Non-profit	14%
Retired	13%
Large business (› 100)	13%
Government employee	9%
Other	8%
Small business (‹ 25)	7%
Medium business (25-100)	6%
Student	5%
Farmer	3%
Total	*100%*

Almost 40% of the participants have lived in Vermont for 30 years or longer, and approximately 75% have lived in Vermont for 11 years or longer. This was fairly consistent across the five regional workshops.

How long have you lived in Vermont?

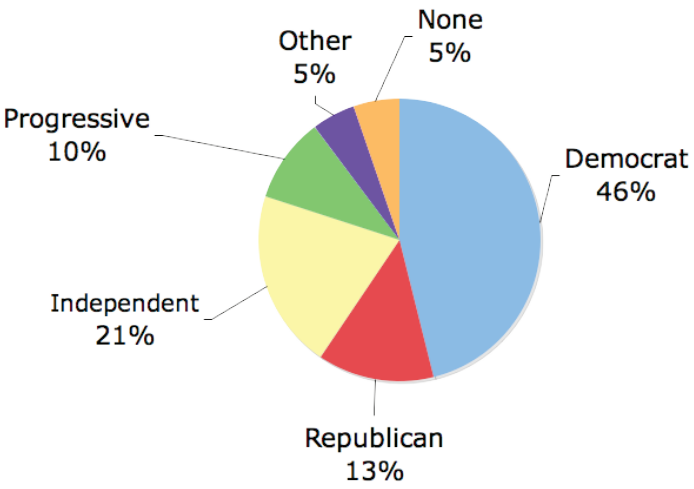
n=640



Over 45% of participants said they generally vote for Democrats, as compared to 13% who said they generally vote Republican. Another 21% said they generally vote for Independents and 10% said they tend to vote for Progressives. The remaining 10% was evenly divided between those who claim to vote for "Others" and those who do not vote.

Generally speaking, which party candidates do you generally vote for?

n=632



Workshop participants are served by nine different electric utilities. Nearly half get their electricity from Central Vermont Public Service, about one quarter from Green Mountain Power, and the remaining quarter from among seven different municipal and cooperative utilities. Close to 5% chose "Other" when polled as to their local electric utility. These were mostly Vermont residents not served by any electric utility, in other words, those who are "off-grid".[4]

Which is your local electric utility?

n=632

Central Vermont Public Service	48%
Green Mountain Power	25%
Burlington Electric	8%
Vermont Electric Coop	5%
Other	4%
Washington Electric Coop	4%
Village of Lyndonville	2%
Village of Hardwick	2%
Village of Northfield Electric	1%
Village of Stowe Electric	1%
Total	99%

4. When the Montpelier workshop participants were asked how many of them lived "off-grid," about ten people raised their hands.

Chapter 3: What Did They Say?

Toward the end of the regional workshops, participants took part in keypad polling on a wide range of electricity-related topics—responding to more than 40 questions. In this section, we present the results from that polling. These results have been clustered into topical areas that do not necessarily follow the order in which questions were asked in the polling itself. To view the original sequence of the polling questions or the polling results by workshop location, see the data tables in Appendix B.

Overall Goals

Participants were shown a list of 11 potential electricity-related goals and asked to consider how important each one was to them. Although the mean scores indicate that participants, on average, did not consider any of these goals as "not at all important", there was a clear relative ranking.

The three goals of relative *greatest* importance were:

- Minimizing air pollution
- Reducing the emissions of gases that may contribute to climate change
- Getting electricity from resources that will never be used up

The three goals of relative *least* importance were:

- Avoiding facilities in Vermont that detract from its scenic beauty
- Keeping electricity rates low for the consumer
- Keeping electricity rates stable for the consumer

Although there was little regional variability in the overall ordering of priorities, Appendix B shows what variability existed from workshop to workshop in terms of the ranking of each goal. Perhaps more significant is the distribution around the mean for each of the 11 potential goals, which can be viewed in Appendix C.

Thinking about the ways in which Vermont might meet its future electricity needs, please rate how important each of the following goals is to you using a scale of 1 (not at all important) to 9 (critically important):

mean n=509

	Mean
Minimizing air pollution	8.07
Reducing the emission of gases that may contribute to climate change	8.05
Getting electricity from resources that will never be used up	7.91
Reducing dependence on overseas energy sources	7.83
Reducing radioactive wastes	7.67
Having a reliable supply of electricity	7.40
Creating jobs in Vermont	6.83
Using power produced in Vermont	5.66
Keeping electric rates stable for the consumer	5.33
Keeping electricity rates low for the consumer	4.92
Avoiding facilities in Vermont that detract from its scenic beauty	4.56

When participants were polled on five environmental impacts associated with electricity generation from different sources, the mean results indicate that the top concerns were greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels, radioactive waste from nuclear power plants, and other air pollution from electricity combustion. Meanwhile, concern about the visual impact of wind farms on the scenery of Vermont ranked low in both absolute and relative terms. Concern about damage to river habitats caused by the building of hydro power facilities fell into in the middle range in both absolute and relative terms. The distribution around the mean for each of these five specific concerns can be found in Appendix C.

On a scale of 1 (not concerned at all) to 9 (extremely concerned), how concerned are you about each of the following? *mean n=517*

	Mean
Greenhouse gases produced by burning fuel to make electricity	7.78
Radioactive waste from nuclear power plants	7.47
Other air pollution produced by burning fuel to make electricity	7.23
Damage to river habitats caused by building facilities to produce hydro power	5.33
The visual impact of a wind farm on the scenery of Vermont	2.40

The previous question on environmental impacts was followed up by a question that asked specifically about the impact of five different resources on Vermont's scenic beauty. The only concern scoring above the middle range was about the potential impact of a coal plant on Vermont's scenic beauty. Natural gas plant lines and electricity transmission lines scored in the middle of the range, and utility and residential wind farms scored below the middle of the range, with residential scale wind farms ranking significantly below utility scale wind farms. Again, the distribution around the mean for each of these five specific concerns can be found in Appendix C.

On a scale of 1 (no threat at all) to 9 (an extremely serious threat), how much of a threat to Vermont's scenic beauty would you say is posed by locating each of the following electricity sources in Vermont? *mean n=514*

	Mean
A coal fired electric generating plant	7.36
A natural gas fired electric generating plant	5.35
Electricity transmission lines	5.30
A utility scale wind farm	3.02
A residential scale wind farm	1.75

Resource Prioritiaztion Summary

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked which resource options they thought should constitute Vermont's highest and lowest priorities for meeting its future electricity needs, considering all factors (cost, environmental attributes, reliability, etc.).

Participants' three highest priority resources were:

1. **Energy efficiency**
2. **Wind**
3. **Hydro**[6]

Participants' three lowest priority resources were:

1. **Coal**
2. **Oil**
3. **Nuclear**

There was some variability from region to region which can be viewed in Appendix B.

Which resource options do you think should be the highest or lowest priorities to meet Vermont's future electricity needs considering all factors (cost, environmental attributes, reliability, etc.)?

mean n=507

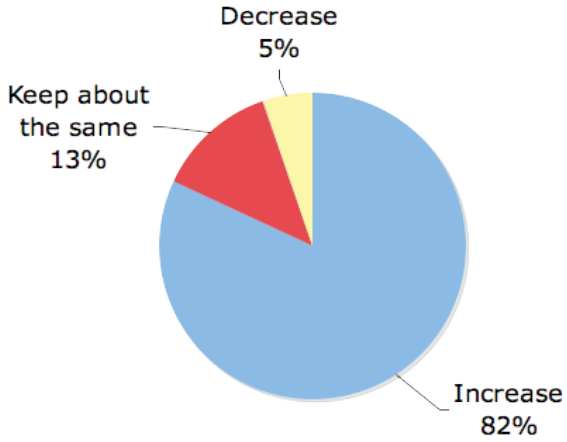
Resource	High %	Low %	Difference[5]	Rank
Energy Efficiency	25%	1%	24%	1
Wind	22%	2%	20%	2
Hydro	15%	0%	15%	3
Solar	16%	2%	14%	4
Wood	8%	2%	6%	5
Methane from farms or landfill	7%	2%	5%	6
Natural gas	1%	8%	-6%	7
Nuclear	6%	24%	-19%	8
Oil	0%	27%	-27%	9
Coal	1%	32%	-32%	10

5. "Difference" was derived by subtracting the "Low %" from the "High %" and rounding to the nearest whole number. Difference was used to determine the relative ranking.
6. Solar was a very close fourth place to hydro.

As seen in the previous section, energy efficiency ranked as participants' highest priority resource for Vermont. It was mentioned in both the background document and by the presenters that Vermont already has the highest per capita electricity energy efficiency expenditure in the United States, and that the Vermont Public Service Board recently approved a substantial increase in those expenditures.

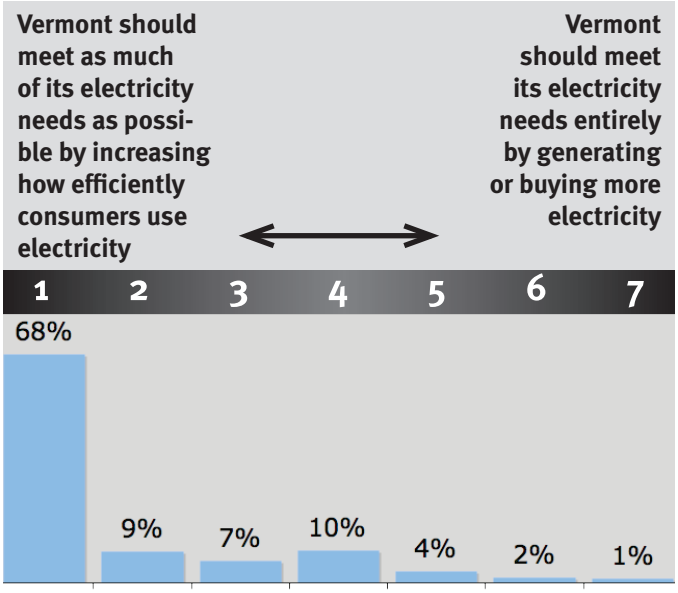
Over the next ten years, would you like to see Vermont increase, decrease, or keep about the same funding for its energy efficiency program?

n=535



Participants were asked two additional questions about energy efficiency. 82% of participants thought the expenditures should be further increased, 13% thought they should remain the same, and 5% thought they should be decreased.

n=510



When asked whether Vermont should "meet as much of its electricity needs as possible by increasing how efficiently consumers use electricity" or "meet its electricity needs entirely by generating or buying more electricity," 77% of the participants thought efficiency should be increased first, to the extent possible. Only 3% thought Vermont should meet the need entirely by generating and buying, leaving approximately 20% of participants falling somewhere in between.[7]

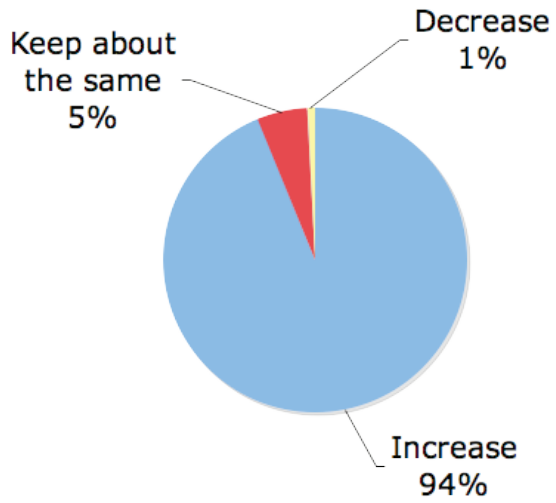
7. For seven point scaled questions, we group 1 and 2; 6 and 7; and 3, 4, and 5 essentially into 3 buckets.

Renewables

Renewables include wind, hydro, solar, wood, and methane. All of these resources ranked high in the overall participant prioritization, with the exception of wood and methane, which ranked more toward the middle. Several additional renewables-related questions were posed to participants.

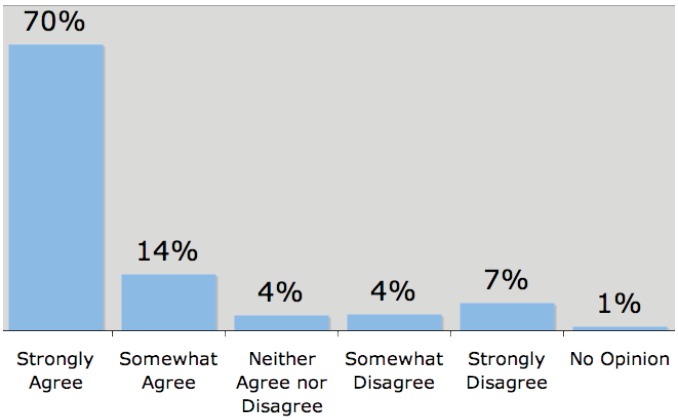
Over the next ten years, would you like to see Vermont increase, decrease, or keep about the same the percentage of electricity it uses that comes from renewable resources? *n=535*

When asked how the percentage of electricity coming from renewables in Vermont should change over the next 10 years, 94% of participants thought it should increase, 5% thought it should remain about the same, and 1% thought it should decrease.



Vermont should require that a minimum percentage of the electricity sold to Vermonters come from renewable sources. Do you: *n=522*

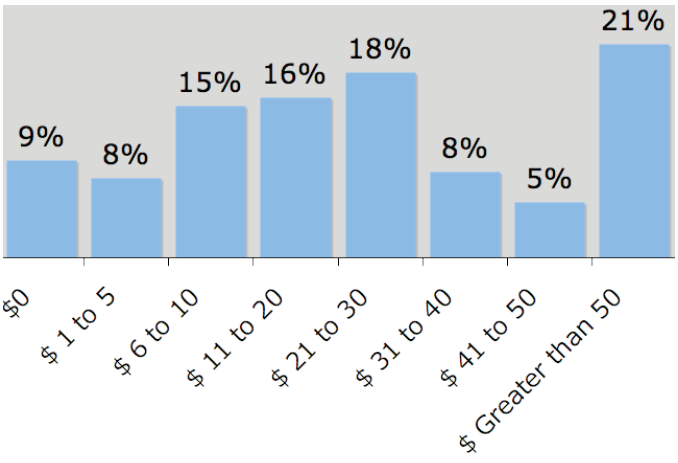
When asked whether Vermont should require that a minimum percentage of its electricity should come from renewable sources, 84% agreed somewhat or agreed strongly. Only 11% disagreed somewhat or disagreed strongly. This is probably indicative of participants supporting a renewable portfolio standard type mechanism.



When asked how much extra per month they would be willing to pay, if necessary, for energy (electricity) that would come exclusively from renewable resources, participants on one end of the spectrum (9%) said $0. On the other end of the spectrum, 21% said they would be willing to pay more than $50 extra per month for energy coming entirely from renewable sources. In the middle range, 38% said they would be willing to pay $1 to $20 extra per month, and 32% said they would be willing to pay $21 to $50 extra per month for electricity from entirely renewable sources.

How much more per month would you be willing to pay, if necessary, for energy that came entirely from renewable energy resources?

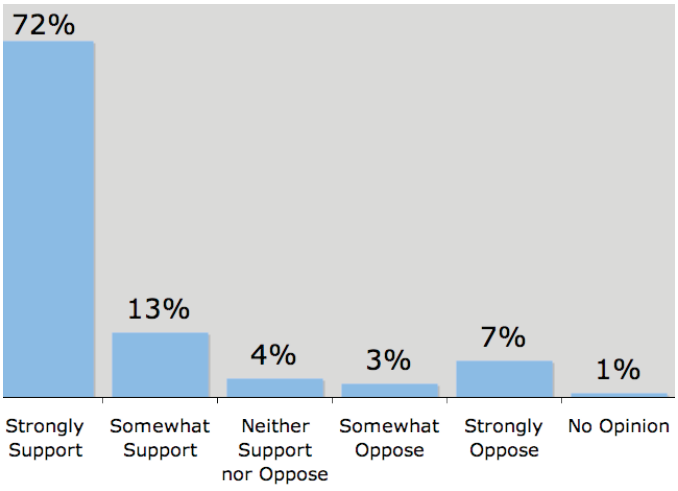
n=516



When asked how strongly they would support or oppose a wind farm being built if it were visible from where they live, 85% of the total participants said they would strongly support or somewhat support it, and 10% said that they would strongly oppose or somewhat oppose it. The only significant regional difference was in St. Johnsbury, where 57% said they would strongly support or somewhat support it, and 35% said that they would strongly oppose or somewhat oppose it.

How strongly would you support or oppose a wind farm being built if it were visible from where you live?

n=516



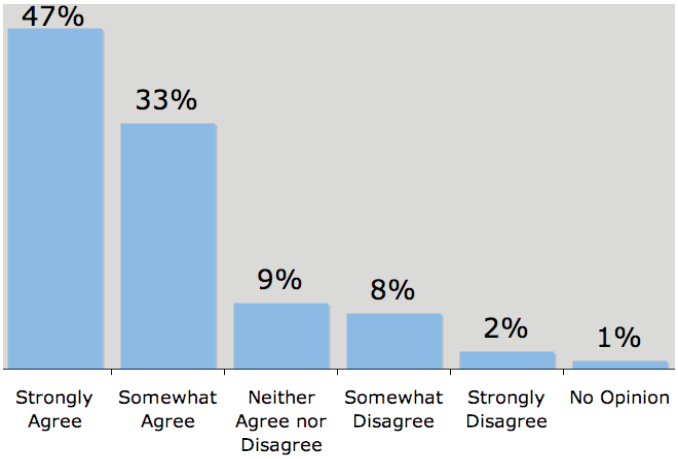
Hydro Québec

Although the overall resource prioritization question above does not differentiate between different types of hydro projects, there were three questions asked specifically about Hydro Québec (HQ), which currently provides Vermont with about one-third of its electricity. The HQ contract is almost completely serviced by hydro resources, and will expire between 2012 to 2016.

First, participants were asked whether Vermont should continue to purchase electricity from HQ. Eighty percent agreed strongly or somewhat that Vermont should continue, as compared to 10% that disagreed strongly or somewhat that Vermont should continue to purchase electricity from HQ.

Vermont should continue to purchase electricity from Hydro Québec. Do you:

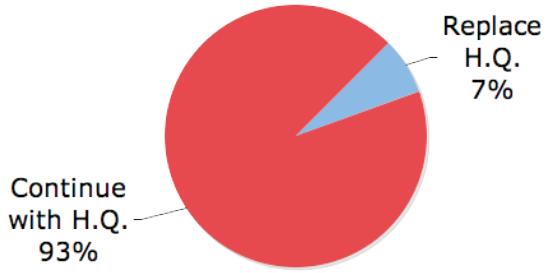
n=544



Later, participants were asked whether Vermont should continue to purchase electricity from HQ, assuming that the alternative for base load power was fossil fuel generated electricity or out-of-state nuclear power. Under those circumstances, support for HQ was strengthened further, with 93% saying that Vermont should continue contracting with HQ, and 7% saying that it should not.

Hydro Québec (predominantly hydro) provides base load plower, meaning power is usually available 24/7. If you learned that discontinuing power from H.Q. would require another base load source of power, and that only natural gas, coal, out of state nuclear power, or oil were available to replace this power, would you choose to:*

n=468



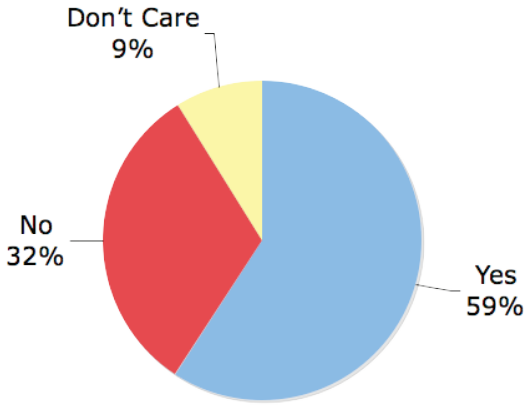
*This question was added after the St. Johnsbury workshop by the VT DPS

Hydro Québec

Finally, participants were asked whether they would be willing to pay more to have HQ provide power to Vermont exclusively from wind—59% said yes, 32% said no, and 9% did not care.

Hydro Québec can sell Vermont power from any mix of their resources we choose (hydro, wind, fossil fuels). Would you be willing to pay extra to get power exclusively from their wind resources?*

n=544

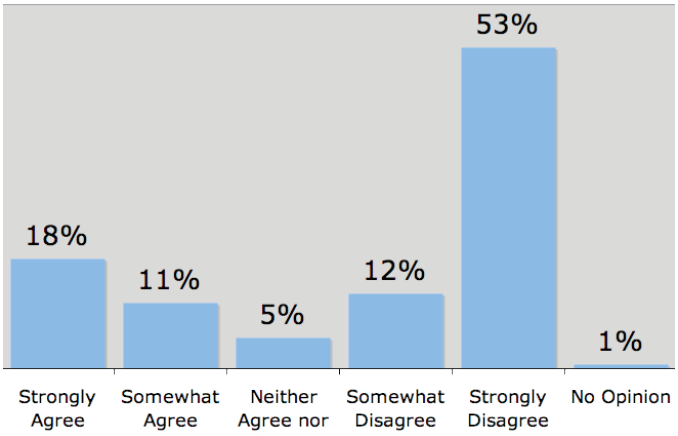


*This question was added after the St. Johnsbury workshop by the VT DPS

The questions above refer to nuclear power generally. Two questions were also included that specifically address Vermont Yankee's contract with Vermont, currently slated to expire in 2012. Vermont Yankee currently supplies about one-third of Vermont's electricity.

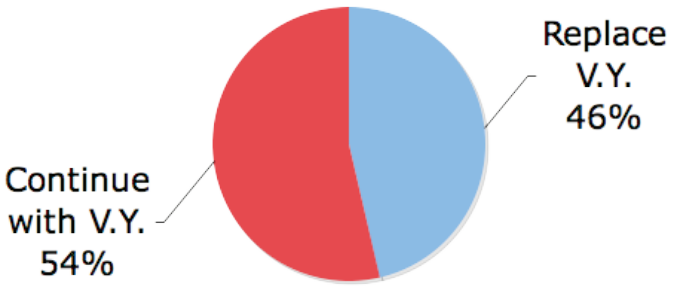
First, participants were asked whether Vermont should continue to purchase electricity from Vermont Yankee—almost two-thirds (63%) felt that Vermont should not continue to purchase electricity from Vermont Yankee, while less than one-third (29%) thought that Vermont should.

Vermont should continue to purchase electricity from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. Do you: *n=546*



Later, participants were asked whether Vermont should continue to purchase electricity from Vermont Yankee, if the alternative for base load power was fossil fuel generated electricity or out-of-state nuclear power. Under that circumstance, support for the Vermont Yankee contract flipped from a strong negative to a slim positive, with 54% saying that Vermont should continue contracting with Vermont Yankee, and 46% saying that it should not.

Vermont Yankee provides base load power, meaning power is usually available 24/7. If you learned that discontinuing power from V.Y. would require another base load source of power, and that only natural gas, coal, out-of-state nuclear power, or oil were available to replace this power, would you:* *n=386*[8]



*This question was added after the St. Johnsbury workshop by the VT DPS

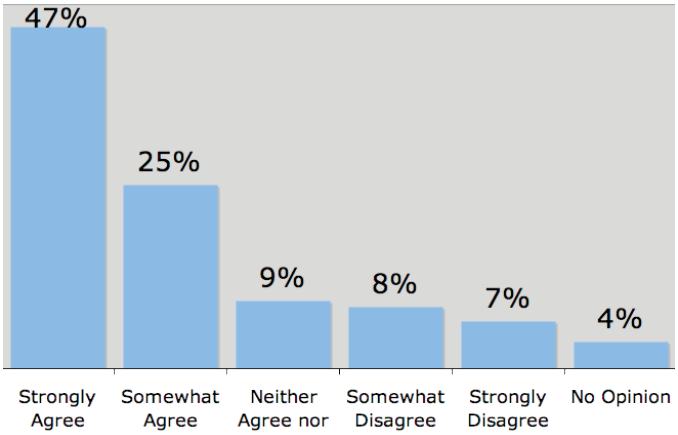
8. Of all of the polling questions, this question had the lowest number of respondents, since many participants chose not to answer.

Rate Issues

Participants were asked several questions related to rate and pricing issues. Rate approaches such as dynamic pricing can affect resource decisions relating to energy efficiency and demand response. Rate and pricing issues can also impact decisions, including whether or not to engage in long-term contracting for resources and whether to pay more for resources with fewer environmental impacts.

Participants were asked whether the rates Vermonters pay for electricity should be higher when the cost of generating is higher, and lower when the cost of generating is lower—72% of participants agreed strongly or somewhat, and 15% disagreed strongly or somewhat. This could be indicative of support for some form of dynamic pricing.

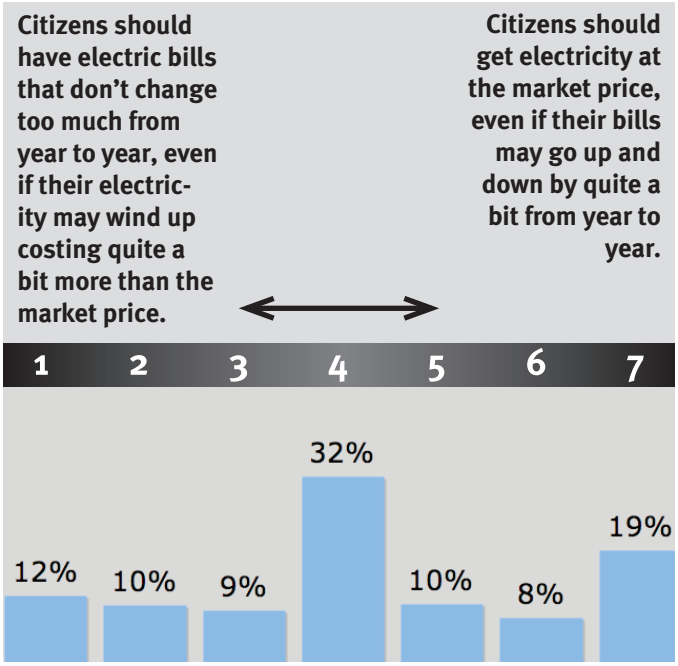
The rates Vermonters pay for electricity should be higher when the cost of generating it is higher and lower when the cost of generating it is lower. Do you: *n=520*



Rate Issues

n=503

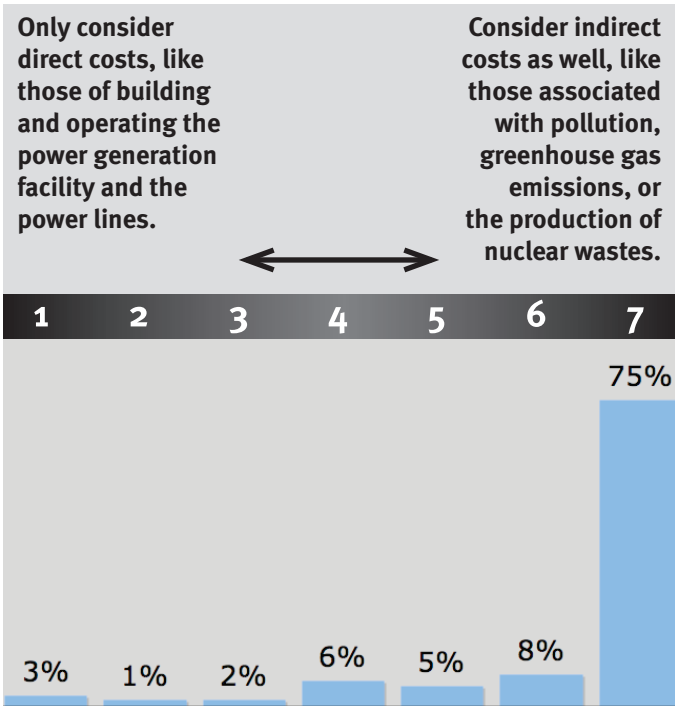
Participants did not show a strong preference between 1) having electric bills that don't change too much from year to year, even if their electricity may wind up costing quite a bit more than the market price (22%); and 2) getting electricity at the market price, even if their bills may fluctuate quite a bit from year to year (27%). Approximately 51% were in the middle of the range, expressing no strong preference for either option.



In choosing a source for electricity, Vermont should:

n=481

Participants showed a strong preference for considering indirect costs such as those associated with pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and the production of nuclear wastes (in addition to direct costs) when choosing among energy resources (83%). By contrast, only 4% of participants preferred considering only direct costs, such as the costs of building and operating power generation facilities and power lines. This is most likely indicative of strong support for resources that produce fewer pollutants and other negative externalities, even if they result in increased total costs.

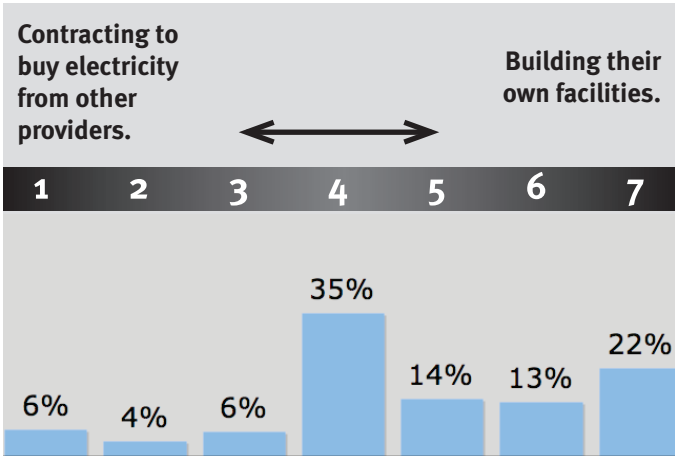


Participants were asked several questions that cut across a range of resource types, such as whether they prefer that Vermont utilities contract for resources or build their own power plants, whether they prefer centralized vs. decentralized electricity resources, and how important in-state vs. out-of-state resources are to them.

Vermont's electric utilities should meet the state's future energy needs by:

n=510

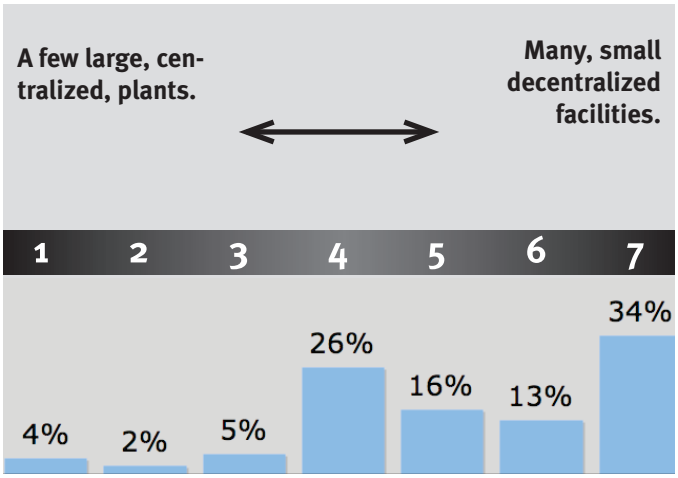
Participants expressed a relative preference for having Vermont utilities build their own power plants (35%) as opposed to contracting for resources (10%), but most participants were relatively indifferent (55%).



Vermont's electricity should be produced by:

n=498

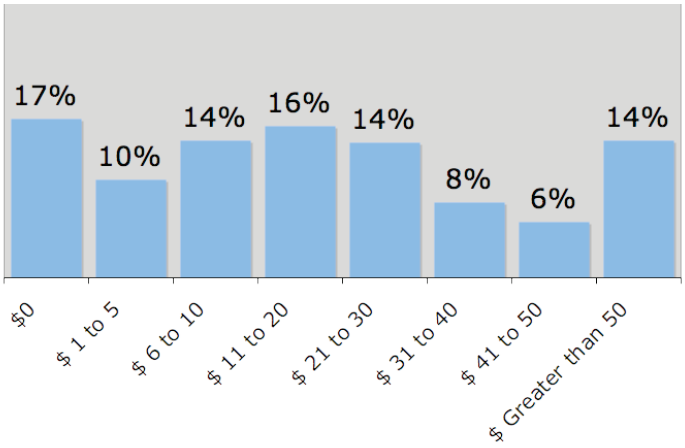
Participants expressed a strong preference for producing Vermont's electricity using many small distributed plants (47%) as opposed to a few large centralized plants (6%). However, 47% were in the middle. This number probably includes both those who would like to see a mix of decentralized and centralized facilities, and those who do not have a strong preference either way.



When asked how much more they would be willing to pay to procure all of their electricity from smaller decentralized plants, 17% said $0 and 14% said more than $50 extra. In the middle range, 40% said they would be willing to pay $1 to $20 per month, and 28% said they would be willing to pay $21 to $50 per month. Thus there was less willingness expressed to pay for decentralization than for renewable resources.

If it costs more to generate electricity from smaller decentralized plants, how much more would you be willing to pay per month to procure all your power from smaller decentralized plants?*

n=477

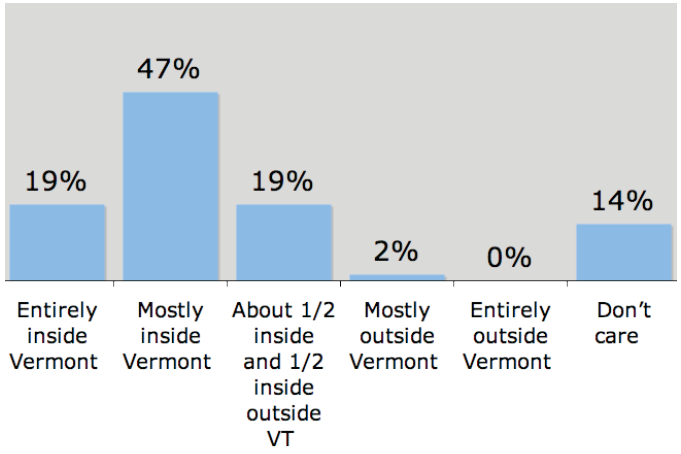


*This question was added after the St. Johnsbury workshop by the VT DPS

Participants expressed a relatively strong preference for having Vermont's electricity produced in-state, with 66% stating that it should be entirely or mostly produced in-state. Only 2% maintained that Vermont's electricity should be mostly, or entirely, produced out-of-state, with 19% preferring that electricity be produced half inside and half outside the state, and 14% having no preference.

Would you like to see the electricity used by Vermonters produced:

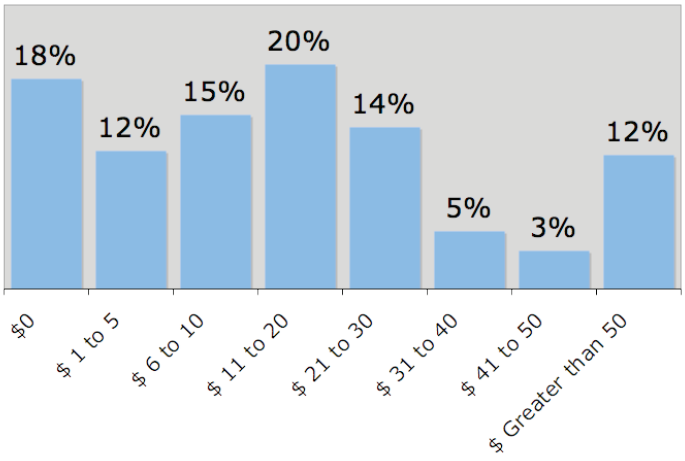
n=526



When asked how much more they would be willing to pay to procure all of their electricity from in-state sources, on one end of the scale, 18% of participants said $0. On the other end of the scale, 12% said more than $50 extra. In the middle range, 47% said they would be willing to pay from $1 to $20 extra per month, and 22% said they would be willing to pay from $21 to $50 extra per month. Although there does appear to be a willingness to pay for in-state resources, there appears to be less willingness to pay for this than for decentralized sources, and less still than for renewables.

If electricity produced inside VT were more costly than that produced outside VT using comparable resources, how much more would you be willing to pay per month as a premium for all your electricity to be generated by in-state resources?*

n=477



*This question was added after the St. Johnsbury workshop by the VT DPS

Chapter 4: Evaluation of Regional Workshops

At the conclusion of each of the five regional workshops, participants were asked to rate how valuable they found various aspects of the workshop, from 1 (not valuable) to 5 (very valuable). On average, participants assigned a medium to high value to all aspects of the workshop. They assigned the greatest relative value to the keypad polling, followed closely behind by the small group facilitated discussions. Participants assigned the lowest relative value (a middle-range ranking) to the question and answer sessions with the panel of experts. They found the written materials that were made available prior to the meetings of slightly higher value than the Q and A with the panel of experts, but not as valuable as the facilitated discussions of the keypad polling.

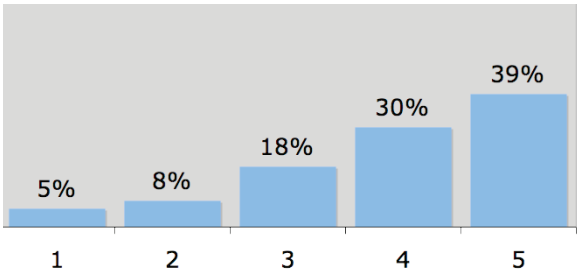
How valuable to you were each of the following elements of the workshop on a scale of 1 (not valuable) to 5 (very high value)?

mean n=516

	Mean
Keypad polling	4.07
Small group facilitated discussion with other Vermonters	3.89
Written materials available ahead of time	3.64
Questions and answers with the panel	3.44

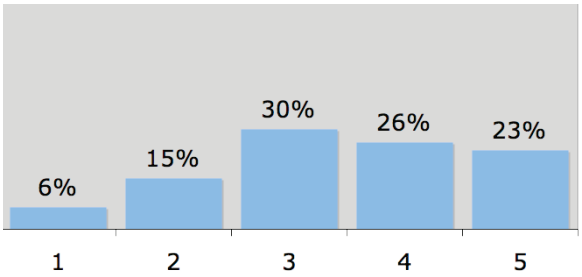
Small group facilitated discussions with other Vermonters.

n=514



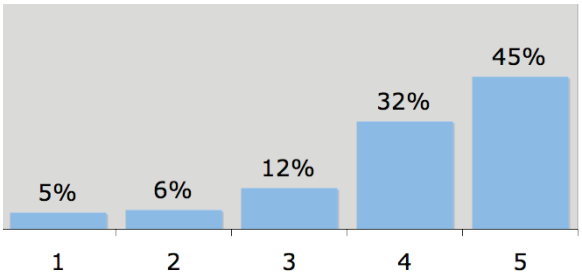
Questions and answers with the panel.

n=515



Keypad polling.

n=516



Written materials available ahead of time.

n=518