

Randy Brock's Strategy on Climate Change

Vermont is not going to stop global warming. Our small size and low carbon footprint makes us a marginal contributor to efforts to combat climate change.

But the measures that mitigate climate change offer direct benefit to Vermont's families and to our state's economy. These measures will impact the cleanliness of our air and water, how we heat our homes and the affordability and reliability of our electric supply. We must work to ensure that we have an energy supply that is adequate, reliable, secure and sustainable. It must be affordable, environmentally responsible and, as an added plus, should encourage our efforts to create new economic activity and jobs. To these ends, here are a few things we can and should do:

- *Develop a sound, long-range energy policy.* We need a policy that relies less on fossil fuels and more on renewable sources of energy. The legislature needs to review Vermont's 2009 Comprehensive Energy Plan, ensure that it adequately addresses the relevant issues and enact legislation as needed to support it.
- *Renegotiate Hydro-Quebec.* We must craft the best deal possible to replace our expiring contracts.
- *Encourage Alternatives.* We need to encourage the development of alternative energy sources, including wind, solar, natural gas and bio-fuels. We should explore incentives to attract these alternative energy providers to develop their businesses and their products in Vermont.
- *Vermont Yankee.* Yankee provides one-third of Vermont's electric power and is our lowest cost electricity provider. There is no other source of available power that can replace it in 2012 without crushing cost increases. We should relicense Vermont Yankee, provided — and this is critical — we assure ourselves that it is safe.
- *Conservation.* We should encourage conservation, including working with banks to fund energy efficiency through low-interest loans to homeowners.