



Charles "Charlie" Van Winkle

Greetings, I'm seeking your permission to continue to represent the members of District 5 on the board of Vermont Electric Cooperative. For the last four years as your representative, I've been an active member of the Finance and Power Supply sub-committees, as well as the Community Fund where I served as chairman. The Community Fund program allows members to round up their bill to the nearest whole dollar and the Coop aggregates the money into a fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide money to non-profits that promote Economic Security, Energy Education, Emergency /Disaster Relief and Community Development. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and disbursements are made quarterly. During my tenure as chairman, the community fund experienced a 250% growth in revenue and disbursed over \$40,000 to over 50 distinct entities.

In recent years, global warming, greenhouse gas emission and carbon emission are words that have migrated into the public lexicon. In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, there has been a move away from fossil fuel-based energy sources. What most folks didn't realize is that nuclear energy is carbon free. Based on our membership surveys most respondents wanted VEC to obtain power from non-nuclear sources, in addition to being carbon free. In 2021, the VEC board made a commitment to a zero-carbon emission power supply by 2023, and longer-term commitment of being 100% renewable by 2030. VEC as a net importer of electricity, will need to walk a fine line balancing the wishes of membership while maintaining overall rate stabilization. Fortunately, the cooperative has an excellent leadership team and a strong board that sets the strategic direction for the Co-op. I believe there remains work to do and one of the primary reasons I am seeking re-election.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to linger, one of the positive revelations resulting from it was the fact that broadband service is an essential component for modern day living. Recognizing this need, the Coop looked long and hard at getting into providing broadband service but made the conscious decision not to enter the business. The primary reason for the decision was risk, cost and overall rate impact. What we did decide was to become proactive in assisting broadband providers and CUD's in deploying services to our members. We have actively engaged providers in our service area and developed a make ready program to accelerate broadband rollout.

I have a diverse background in both telecommunications and energy infrastructure including micro grid development, community scale wind, commercial solar and utility scale energy storage. I've continued my energy education by obtaining the Credentialed Cooperative

Director certification offered by NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association). My focus is to listen to the members that I represent, rate stabilization while advancing energy policy.

To find out more about me check my Linked In profile:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/charlesvanwinkle/>

Thanks for your support!