

# **Helping New Hampshire Support a Strong Economy Through Creation of An Efficient and Sustainable Energy Future:**

## **Growing the Framework**

VEIC proposes to work with the EESE Board to help plan and facilitate a retreat during which the Board will address the question:

*What programs, structural and institutional arrangements, and policy changes will best support New Hampshire businesses, institutions and consumers as they move toward a more efficient, less costly, more reliable, and environmentally beneficial energy future?*

New Hampshire is blessed with many dedicated and innovative individuals and organizations working hard to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the wise and just use of resources. Business readiness, widespread participation in community energy planning and involvement in the work of the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board are just a few indicators of this high level of passion and good will.

There is no “right” answer to this question. On the other hand, the scale of the changes New Hampshire is seeking to make (many of which are outlined in the recently issued New Hampshire Climate Change Action Plan) means that the issues of structure and institutional capacity must be a part of the discussion about how to proceed.

To put it another way, the current energy system in New Hampshire and the US is not the result of happenstance...it has been built very consciously and deliberately to do what it does remarkably well...deliver relatively cheap and abundant energy supply to most businesses and individuals. The fact that some of the negative side effects of this system are becoming apparent, and some of its vulnerabilities are being revealed suggests that not only the pattern of end uses and energy types need to change, but the production and delivery systems that have been put in place need constructive change as well.

Our understanding is that the EESE Board seeks to fulfill its mandate by providing a forum to identify and address these structural and institutional issues. The goal is not to create new “winners and losers” but to identify new roles, create incentives that align with new goals, and support an integrated process of change that is informed by the creativity and innovation being shown by New Hampshire businesses, communities and individuals.