Building a CHP/Micro-Grid for Burlington, Vermont

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Ever-Green Energy

Overview

- Phase 1
 - Baseline concept
 - Initial feasibility
- Phase 2
 - Refining the concept
 - Partners
 - Burlington resilience
 - Financial analysis
 - Environmental benefits
 - Future opportunities
- Current status and next steps





Burlington, Vermont





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Baseline Concept

- Existing McNeil Station
- 50 MW biomass-fired power plant
- Improve efficiencies
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Stabilize energy costs





Managing Market Volatility





Initial Feasibility

- Combined heat and power opportunities
- Thermal Storage integration
- Service Areas
 - Alternative 1 Focused area in downtown Burlington
 - Alternative 2 Broad coverage of downtown area
 - Alternative 3 Downtown plus Fletcher Allen and UVM Campus



Refining the Concept

- University of Vermont integration
- Fletcher Allen Health Care integration







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Partners in Environmental Leadership

Burlington District Energy Service (BURDES): "BURDES is a group of citizen-volunteers who are committed to taking advantage of the underutilized heat from the McNeil Electric Generating Station."

"Fletcher Allen named Top 25 'green' hospitals"

Vermont Business Magazine, July 2014

"Burlington, Vermont is Now 100% Powered by Renewable Energy"

– Care 2.com, September 2014

"UVM Reports STARS Gold from AASHE"

- The University of Vermont, University Communications, April 2014



Burlington Study Mission

- Develop a community energy plan that is implementable.
- Develop a plan that provides customers with stable, competitive energy rates
- Utilize local, renewable energy sources
- Reduce the carbon footprint for the Burlington community
- Improve the overall efficiency of the community
- Establish an initial customer base that is technically and economically feasible.



Burlington Resilience

- Burlington Electric generates enough electricity to meet the needs of the city
- Largest hospital in Vermont
- Integration with the local University
- Thermal grid can serve the hospital and portions of the University
- Establish a micro-grid in the event of an emergency event



System Integration

- FAHC Hospital as a customer and system backup
- UVM Primary and Trinity Campuses
- University Health Clinic
- Potential for connecting adjacent private buildings



Pipeline Route Alternates Study Buildings Phase 1 Base Transmission Line Potential Customer UHC-FAHC BURDES DISTRICT ENERGY STUDY Phase 1 Trinity Transmission Line Alternate Willard St Transmission Line Alternate Willard St Transmission Line Alternate Burlington, Vermont

Establish a platform to serve greater Burlington in the future



Potential Initial Customer Load



Existing Building Loads

- Peak Load 70 MMBtu/hr
- Annual Energy -160,000 MMBtu/yr
- Primarily steam-based
- Mostly hot-water compatible



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Advanced Technology Integration

- Proven technologies
- Ease of installation
- Reduced costs





Photo courtesy of Alfa Laval Inc.



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Economic Feasibility

- Business structured as a private, non-profit entity
- Cost based rate structure
- Total financing costs of ~\$31 million
- Aggregate energy rate of ~\$20/MMBtu
- Stable, predictable utility rates
- Life-Cycle costs found to be competitive with on-site generation



Break-Even Analysis

	Estimated Annual Cost		Natural Gas Rates	
	On-Site	CES	Present (2014)	Break-Even
	(\$/Year)	(\$/Year)	(\$/MMBtu)	(\$/MMBtu)
UVM Waterman Hall	\$208,800	\$284,995	\$4.92	\$8.90
UVM Dewey Hall	\$61,812	\$94,618	\$4.92	\$10.00
UVM Trinity Campus	\$332,353	\$310,841	\$7.88	\$6.90
UHC	\$185,861	\$191,769	\$4.92	\$5.30
FAHC	\$2,060,973	\$2,515,236	\$4.92	\$6.70



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Sensitivity Analysis





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Environmental Benefits

- Supporting Burlington's Climate Action Plan carbon reduction goals
- Phase I would reduce heating-related CO2 emissions by 78%
- Reducing CO2 emissions by 14,400 tons per year
- Equivalent of taking 2,700 automobiles off the road



Renewable Energy Credits (REC)

- McNeil sells Class 1 REC's on Connecticut Market
- Recently awarded contract by CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to sell RECs on CT Market
- One of only two biomass plants to receive contract
- 7.5 MW at a fixed rate
- 42.5 MW at market rates
- 10-year contract commencing in 2015
- CHP credits may become more valuable in the future



Future Opportunities

- Further integration with UVM
- FAHC expansion
- CHP REC's
- Adjacent private buildings
- Growth to downtown Burlington
- Establishing a micro-grid in Burlington



Next Steps - Business Plan Development

- Verify initial anchor customers
- Establish the preferred business structure
- Establish a structure for the energy services agreement
- Develop a system financing plan
- Verify distribution system routing
- Refine the conceptual design
- Identify needed permits
- Identify a franchise/easement strategy
- Update costs & schedule for System Development



Questions?



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