

Fare Thee Well, Will

Will Lindner, 22-year editor of Co-op Currents, puts down his pen

For 22 years, Will Lindner has kept Washington Electric Co-op members informed with his sharp reporting and his neighborly style. The July 2017 issue was the last with Lindner as editor of *Co-op Currents*. Lindner, of Barre, is moving on to other pursuits.

He's leaving an appreciative staff and board. "Will really came to know and love the Co-op. It was just such a pleasure to work with him, because he certainly understood what Washington Electric was all about," said WEC board treasurer Don Douglas, who worked closely with Lindner on the *Currents* editorial committee. "He has a real gift for connecting with a lot of members. He writes like he's close to the ground."

In addition to his long tenure as editor of *Currents*, Co-op members may know Lindner, with his trademark long white whiskers and expressive blue eyes, from other fields of work and play. He's reached Vermonters through Saturday night entertainment and the Sunday paper. He works with his hands, whether that means writing, playing music, or building the house that brought him to Vermont in the first place.

That house was his brother Dan's, in Marshfield. The brothers grew up in Baltimore, and Lindner was still living in the mid-Atlantic region when he came up to help Dan build. And then

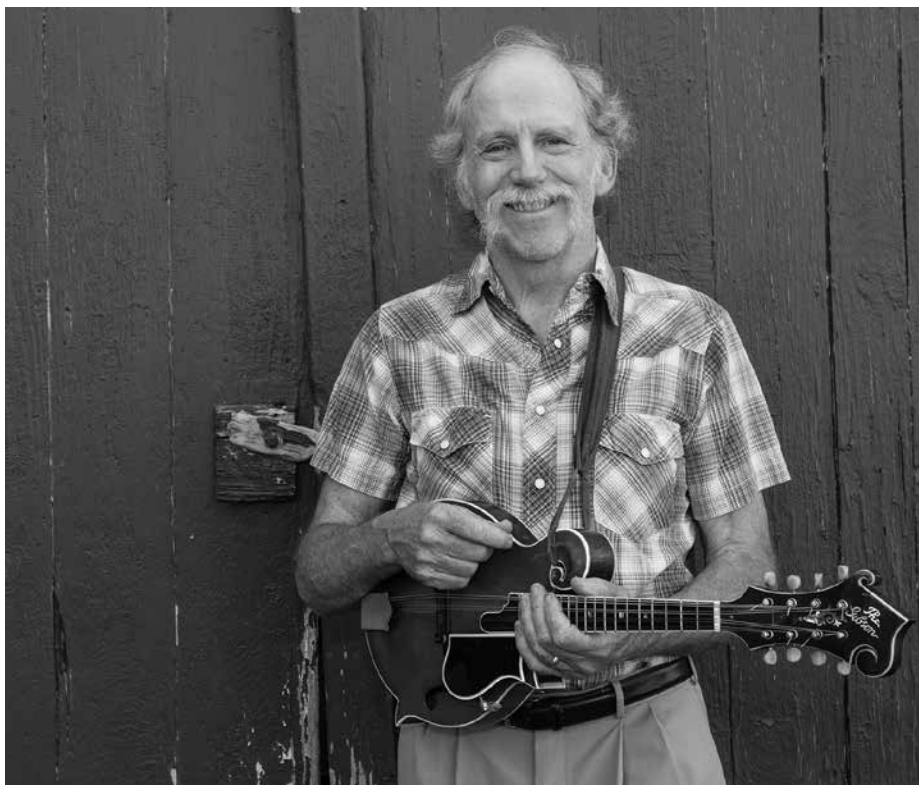
he never left. The two brothers played music together—Will mostly on mandolin, Dan on banjo. Lindner said, "Before I knew it, we'd formed a band and had been hired to play music at ski resorts." In 1972, with two minutes to come up with a name before the their first gig, the brothers and their bandmates dubbed themselves Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys.

The name, and the band, stuck around. A now-legendary Vermont bluegrass band, the Plowboys performed for 40 years: frequently in the Northeast, and all over the world. Their sold-out final concert at the Barre Opera House in 2012 drew fans from 11 states.

As Willy Lindner the musician evolved, so did Will Lindner the writer. He soon realized that music alone wasn't going to support his young family, so he began visiting Vermont newsrooms, picking up freelance jobs.

He "inherited the writing gene," he said, from his father: the respected psychoanalyst and writer Robert Lindner. His book *Rebel Without a Cause* lent its title, though not its subject matter, to the landmark film starring James Dean and Natalie Wood. The elder Lindner died tragically young, at age 41, and had already written several influential

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Mitch Moraski

Outgoing Currents editor Will Lindner, a true Renaissance man. An accomplished musician and writer, he departs for new adventures after 22 years with the Co-op.

That Rate Refund on Your September Bill

Beginning this September, Co-op members are receiving a one-time credit on their energy bills. This is a refund related to a change in rates that began earlier in the year.

WEC filed for a rate increase of 6.52% on November 15, 2016 for rates that went into effect January 1, 2017. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) approved the increase at the end of July, but regulators and WEC worked together to reduce the percentage to 5.95%.

Rules for cooperatives are that the rate increase kicks in 45 days after filing. "Once we request the rate increase, we have to implement it as

a temporary surcharge until approval is received from the PUC," explained Member Services Supervisor Susan Golden.

That surcharge showed up as a line item on bills for service provided from January through August 2017. When approval came through with a lower number, that meant WEC owed its members a refund to the tune of 0.57% on those prior eight months of surcharges.


"What they will see on their bills is a line item refund, and that's the difference between the 6.52% that we asked for and the 5.95% that was approved," said Golden.

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Washington Electric Cooperative
 East Montpelier, VT 05651

Inside

- Cash to weatherize:** how much can Button Up incentives save you on energy-efficient purchases?
- Focus groups** forming soon to bring member perspectives to the rate design process. See more in the General Manager's Report, p. 3.
- Credits on your bill:** coming in the form of rate refunds and capital credit distributions. Know former members who qualify? Check the list: pp. 4-5.
- You're invited to two October events:** WEC's annual Community Meeting is in Worcester, Oct. 12: details and registration on p. 8. Members' tour of WEC's Coventry plant is Oct. 17: details p. 7.



Pearl Keene of Topsham at the 2016 Community Meeting in Cookville.

President's Message

Finding Balance in Rate Structure and Renewable Growth

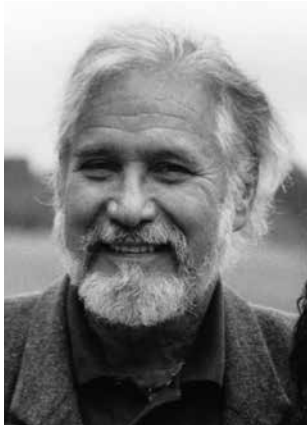
By Barry Bernstein

As summer winds down, you can feel the autumn in the air. Warm days, cool nights with that cool breeze, just causes you to realize it's time to start buttoning up around the outside of the house and inside too.

Speaking of buttoning up, take a look at the graphic on page 7 showing how our Button Up! program saves you money on energy efficient purchases. It's an opportunity for you to make your house warmer, more energy efficient, and less dependent on fossil fuels.

Rate Design

The board of directors is discussing



rate design, or how WEC charges for its services. The philosophy behind our current rate structure is to encourage energy conservation. Low energy users find WEC rates to be very reasonable. I can personally attest to this on my own bill which is typically only \$30 a month.

But we need to evaluate this structure as our state moves toward 90% renewable energy by 2050. Our concern is if we encourage folks to move toward electric vehicles and electric home heating sources, that means more electric energy use. We want to help get members off fossil fuels, but our current rate structure doesn't incentivize electric energy use at higher levels.

What's the middle way between reducing our carbon footprint by using WEC's 100% renewable energy instead of fossil fuel appliances, and staying committed to our core value of energy efficiency? We need your input. We will hold focus group discussions with members this fall. If you're called, I hope you'll chime in.

Too Much Power?

I feel it is important for our members to understand that in fully embracing a renewable grid, we must be forward-thinking in not stepping over ourselves.

In the northern half of the state we are already experiencing curtailment of existing renewables to enable new renewables

to come on line. We simply have too much generation in some areas in the state and limitations on the lines that connect projects to the grid. Some existing wind projects have had to be backed down to allow newer, smaller solar projects to operate.

In the energy industry, they call this "renewable cannibalization." The grid operator doesn't have dispatch control over many of the smaller and newer projects, so to maintain reliability of the grid, they back down the larger projects that they do have control over. The Sheffield wind project is producing less than it could, and we receive less value when energy is produced, due to lower market prices for the electricity in the area.

This affects generation at our renewable landfill methane plant in Coventry, too. We get fewer dollar credits for power produced at Coventry than we should, due to too much generation.

Any new projects built in northern Vermont now add to the curtailment of existing renewables. State regulators, all electric utilities including the state's transmission operator VELCO, and other stakeholders are meeting to identify short and long-term solutions. This issue affects all Vermont utilities. It adds to rate increase pressure along with other regional costs for transmission and reliability.

From the Home Front

My summer focused on recovery from my back surgery in late June. I am on the upswing of a six month recovery process, nearly at the halfway point. I had my surgery at Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC) in Berlin, by

Dr. John Braun and his extremely capable staff.

Spending eight days at CVMC made me really appreciate what a jewel we are fortunate to have in the heart of Central Vermont. All of the staff on the second floor—nurses, nurse aides, physical and occupational therapists, nutritional and environmental specialists, and kitchen staff go out of their way to be professional, caring, and personal.

These are our neighbors and they are a vital part of our communities. I want to acknowledge their commitment and thank them for the work they do, which I am sure too often goes unrecognized.

Coventry Tour and Community Meeting

We have a few events coming up I hope you will attend. We have an open house at our Coventry landfill generation plant on October 17 (see page 7 for more information). Staff will give fun and lively tours through the plant and answer your questions. This is a great time to see the plant up close. You can also check out the recent investment we made in the scrubbing technology that removes siloxanes from the gas stream. We spent \$1.8 million on this new system (called an SRS) and the unit came on line in January 2017.

On October 12, we will be in Worcester for our annual fall community dinner and meeting. This is a great time to share a meal with neighbors, find out what's going on at your electric Co-op, and talk to board members and staff. We want to hear what's on your mind. Please see page 8 for details and reservation information.

Have a hopefully late Indian summer, and a great fall.

Co-op Currents

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WEC is part of the alliance working to advance and support the principles of cooperatives in Vermont.

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The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Dawn Johnson, at 224-2332.

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Rate Refund

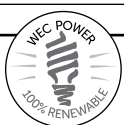
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Going forward, the 5.95% increase will be reflected in regular billing. This is the first rate increase since 2014, and lower than the increase anticipated: in the October, 2016 issue of *Co-op Currents*, WEC predicted an increase between 6-8% would be necessary.

General Manger Patty Richards

noted, "Unfortunately, from time to time WEC must increase rates to cover the cost of maintaining the wires and poles that bring power to the rural landscapes we serve and to cover rising costs to run the utility."

WEC is committed to keeping its rates as low as possible for its members. Rates have risen about 2% per year since 2000, in line with the rate of inflation.



Manager's Report

Focus on Rate Design, from WEC Focus Groups to Statewide Regulation Workshops

Also: Goodbyes, Welcomes, and Button Up!

By Patty Richards

Thank You Will Lindner

Please join me in a heartfelt thank you to Will Lindner, our long time editor of *Co-op Currents*, who is hanging up his editor hat. I don't think Will is retiring in a classic sense, but I do think he will be enjoying more free time and less deadline-driven work.

It has been a complete pleasure working with Will over the past several years. We had a delightful gathering with Will, his wife Nancy, and dog Jameson at his home. Board members, past and present WEC staff, and layout designer Tim Newcomb and his wife Sharon came together to wish him well and celebrate his 22 years of writing for *Co-op Currents*. We shared a meal, reminisced, and talked about Will's future plans, including family fun, travel, and music. We all hope Will's creative writing juices continue to flow, and we look forward to seeing him on the bestsellers list.

Welcome New Employees and New Editor

We are excited to bring on a few new faces to the WEC team: Tyler Skinner joins us as an apprentice lineworker. He will be out and about working with our seasoned line crew to perform regular maintenance and to restore power during storms.

Rick Stergas joins us as Safety and Environmental Coordinator. His important role maintains the deep-rooted safety culture for all of us at WEC.

Inside the building, Sy Daubenspeck joins us in the position of Plant Accountant. Sy joins us with many years of utility accounting experience, and we look forward to tapping his wealth of knowledge.

We also introduce you to our new editor Katie Titterton, who is taking over the reins from Will. You will see Katie at upcoming meetings and events, and we look forward to working with her to provide you updates and energy news through *Co-op Currents*.

Please join me in welcoming all our new employees and our new editor to the WEC team. We are all dedicated to providing you, our member-owners, top-notch service each and every day!

Button Up Your Home

Many members are taking advantage of incentive dollars from our Button Up! program (formerly known as Tier III program) to help lower their



fossil fuel use. We still have dollars available, so please contact us! WEC gives members money to lower their carbon footprints. Yes, you read that right, and in combination with Efficiency Vermont incentives and others, it adds up to a lot. Please see the table on page 7 to see how much you can save on energy-

efficient appliances through Button Up!. The program includes financial incentives to weatherize homes; install solar hot water systems, heat pump hot water systems, and wood-pellet boiler systems; and to add cold climate heat pumps in tight, well-weatherized homes.

WEC is committed to working with its members to achieve meaningful changes, and we want to work with you to lower your carbon footprint and Vermont's greenhouse gas impacts. So if you are looking to weatherize your home and to make some energy-saving changes, this is a great time to do it. We encourage you to call Bill Powell, the Energy Coach here at Washington Electric, to learn more: 802-223-5245 or energycoach@wec.coop.

Rate Design Focus Groups

Vermont's goal is to use 90% renewable energy by 2050 for all types of energy: electric, transportation, and heating. Even though WEC's power supply is already 100% renewable, we are still affected by state mandates and changes in the statewide energy landscape. As we look to the future, WEC is evaluating how it charges for service.

The fundamental question is: Can we reach the state's goals using the

current way we charge for electric service? As you may know, WEC has a low monthly fixed charge (\$12.97). This charge covers only a small portion of WEC's basic service and fixed costs. The vast majority of WEC's fixed costs are covered in its two tiered energy rate: the first 200 kWh is inexpensive at 10.373 cents per kWh. Anything used above 200 kWh is charged at the rate of 23.16 cents per kWh. The rate structure is designed to encourage energy conservation.

We want to know what our members think about the current way we charge, and we also want to find out what folks think about alternatives. For example: one idea is to increase the monthly fixed charge, but to lower how much we charge for energy use. This could encourage more folks to switch to electric vehicles, rather than burning gasoline to get around. Since WEC's power is 100% renewable, that change would significantly benefit our environment.

However, we know this is complicated. So, in order to find out what members think, we're assembling focus groups to gain your important feedback, reactions, and opinions.

What this means is we'll ask a small representative sample of Co-op members to discuss our rates and how we charge for service. This sample group will give us information about what our larger membership thinks. The focus group research technique is commonly used to learn about a population's perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes towards a product or service. We believe focus groups will be a very informative and helpful part of WEC's rate design discussion and process. If you are called on, we hope you will share your thoughts with us.

Public Utility Commission Rate Regulation Proceeding

At the same time WEC is exploring how it charges for electric service, the state's regulators are asking questions regarding rate regulation and rate design as well. WEC is attending these workshops and we will work with regulators on this important topic. WEC will factor in the regulatory work and outcomes as it explores rate design options. The proceeding is expected to span several months. We will keep you apprised.

Cyber Security

The risks of cyber threats and our duties of reliability and maintaining member data privacy are constantly on our minds. Occasionally we are asked questions about cyber risk from members. Recently a member called and asked about cyber security threats of losing power long term. We had a productive and inspiring discussion; I explained that yes, we are aware, and most importantly, we are prepared. Cyber threats not only include risks to the grid, but also hacked access to WEC financial data or member data, damage to computer equipment, and more. This is a detailed and complex topic. We are planning a series of articles to address and explore cyber security threats and risks, and how WEC stays ahead of the tech curve to keep data and systems safe. Stay tuned to learn more about this important and multi-dimensional issue in future editions of *Co-op Currents*.

Integrated Resource Plan Public Hearing

Every three years WEC must complete and file an Integrated Resource Plan with state regulators. This document describes how WEC meets members' electricity needs reliably, securely, and sustainably. It's a public document on where your power comes from—now and for the next twenty years. The newest plan is on WEC's website and we welcome feedback.

Or, learn more and give WEC and state regulators feedback in person. A public hearing run by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) will be held on October 3rd at 7 p.m. at WEC's office in East Montpelier.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may submit written comments to the Public Utility Commission via email at puc.clerk@vermont.gov, through the ePUC electronic filing system, or via regular mail sent to Vermont Public Utility Commission, 112 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2701. Please include the case number, 17-3664-PET, when submitting written comments.



WEC General Manager Patty Richards and Board President Barry Bernstein (right) salute Will Lindner (left) for his years of thoughtful reporting for *Co-op Currents* at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

WEC's 2017 Equity Distribution Plan

Co-op Seeks Former Members For Capital Credit Refunds

One of the ways WEC is different from other utilities is that as a cooperative, we return money to our members. This fall WEC will issue capital credit refunds to current and former members, as authorized by the Board of Directors. Under the 2017 Equity Distribution Plan, capital credits will be returned to eligible members for years 1994 and 2016. An extra retirement will be made to members of record in 2013 for Contribution in Aid of Construction (CIAOC). The Board of Directors aims to distribute approximately \$720,000 in 2017, which is \$260,000 more than the amount allocated for refunds in 2016.

Capital credits are allocated to Co-op members for those years in which WEC's revenues exceed its operating expenses. The credit a member receives for any given year is determined by the amount of excess revenue received and the amount that member paid WEC for electricity.

WEC's practice is to divide capital credit distributions between FIFO (first in, first out) and LIFO (last in, first out) plans. This pays out to both longtime or former (or "first") members and current (or "last") members. FIFO distribution plans reach back to pay off historical capital credit accounts. Since WEC started distributing capital credits in 1998, it has retired all allocations from 1939 through 1993. LIFO distribution plans pay the most recent allocations, so current members may enjoy the benefits of belonging to a cooperative.

Former Co-op members must have a minimum \$20 capital credit distribution,

and must submit an authorization form to the Co-op by **September 29, 2017** to be eligible for a refund. Eligible current members will receive refunds as a credit on their electric bills, regardless of the amount.

Any current or former member may donate their capital credit refunds to the Community Fund administered by Washington Electric Cooperative. More than 1,300 members choose for their refunds to support community causes. Funds contributed by members in 2017 will add to any unspent monies in the Fund. The Fund makes financial contributions to qualifying community causes, per WEC Policy 6. A year-end report on 2017 Community Fund activities will be published in *Co-op Currents* in 2018.

All individual retirements will be reduced by any uncollectible or delinquent amount(s) owed to the Cooperative, as permitted by the WEC Bylaws. No early retirements will be made to the estates of deceased members.

Earlier this summer WEC sent Capital Credit Patronage Refund Authorizations to eligible former members. Listed below are the names of people or accounts whose authorizations were returned as undeliverable. **WEC asks friends, acquaintances, and relatives of the people listed here to contact those potential recipients or their rightful heirs, and have the former member or beneficiary contact Washington Electric Cooperative directly, at 802-223-5245.**

WEC will issue this year's capital credit refunds in November, 2017.

Adams, Steven	Benoit, Lori	Burnett, Candis	Cold Creek Hunting Club,	Derosier & Grader, Mara T &	Fairbrother, Lawrence	Glines, Kermit
Adams, Sr, Earle E	Bent, Robert	Burnham, Ellen	Cole, Virginia	Derek T	Falzarano, Lawrence	Gloria's Salon , Of Beauty
Aiken, Kenneth	Bergeron, Laurie	Burns, Marjorie	Collins, Donald	Desmeules, Mark	Farnham, Jennifer	Goddard, Norman
Albarelli, Joseph	Bernard, James	Burrington, Elise	Collins Estate, Norbert	Deth, M	Farnham, Sonja & Toni	Godfrey, Brian
Alexander, Joan	Bernier, Judy	Bushey, Ralph	Colomb, Edward	Dexter, Tammy	Fazio, Joseph	Godfrey, Marion
Alexander, Scott	Bernita M Dexter, Estate	Buska, Donald	Coltey, George	Deyo , Donald	Fenner, Ernest	Goldberg, Gary
Allard, Marsha	Berry, Alan	Butler, Francis	Conard, Waller	Diebold, James	Ferland, David	Goldsborough, Pamela
Allen, Charlotte	Betts, Peter	Butler, Donna	Connolly, Dorothy	Dilts, William	Ferno , Herbert	Gomes, Jerry
American Tel & Tel Co,	Betz, Sara	Buttitta, Mary	Constant & Berry, Susan &	Dinsdale, Janice	Finley, James	Gonsalves, Joseph
Amwest Surety Ins. Co,	Beuchler & Uzabel, Rachael	Buxton, William	David	Dixon & Sherman, Evelyn	Fishbach , Michael	Gonyaw, Myrtle
Anderson, Mark	& Anthony	Cabral, Debra	Converse, Joseph	& Zach	Fisher, Robert	Gonyaw, Dean
Anderson, Roland	Biggar, Margaret	Cadorete, Dorothy	Conway, Katherine	Doane, Stanley	Fisher, Stephen	Goodenough, Beverly
Andrews, Kathleen	Bilbrey, Christine	Cady, Mary	Cook, Christopher	Dobrich, Carlo	Fisher, Gregg	Goodrich, David
Andrus, George	Billings, John	Cahill, Robin	Cooper, Jon	Dodge, Albert	Fisk, Stephen	Goodrich, Matthew
Argent, Parker	Bingham, Kimberly	Camara, Albert	Corbitt, Michael	Dolan , Gladys	Fitch, Judy	Goodrich, Donna
Arndt, Walter	Birutta, Gale	Cameron, William	Corron, Laurie	Donnelly & Sanders, Robert	Flad, Margaret	Goodrich , Deanna
Ashe, William	Blair, Gregory	Camire, Norman	Corti, Dan	& Michelle	Flanagan & Ouelette, Rain &	Gorchinski, Edward
Ashe, Alison	Blair, Richard	Campbell, Maureen	Cosker Estate, Robert	Doody, George	Jeremy	Gordon, Alexis
Ather, Joanne	Blakslee Sp, Ralph	Cano, Victor	Coughlin, David	Dorr, Cynthia	Flanders, Arlene	Gordon, Susan
Atwood, Renee	Blanchard, Walter	Cano Estate, Antoinette	Coulter, Kathryn	Douglas, Michael	Flinn, Edwin	Goslant, Ruby
Atwood, Stanley	Blau, William	Capone, Frank	Countryman, B Anne	Dowd, Blanche	Foley, Nola	Gosselin, Jacqueline
Audette, James	Blow, Paul	Carbee, Everett & Joyce	Coutant, Florence	Doyle, John	Foote, Peter	Gottfried, Leslie
Ausfeld, Thomas	Boadway Executor, Linda	Carbo, Kathy	Coutu, Raymond	Doyle, Virginia	Ford, Elizabeth	Gould, Jefferey
Austin, Deborah	Boisvert, Robert	Carleton, Helen	Couture, Laurent	Doyle, Heather	Fortin, Lawrence	Gove, Robert
Averill, Deborah	Bolin, Oscar	Carpenter , Paul	Covey, Merle	Doyle , Betty	Fortman, Frederic	Govoni, Patricia
Avery, Anthony	Bolles, Jason	Carpenter, Eric	Covey, Buddy & Morgan	Drake, Richard & Cindy	Foster, James	Grab, Robert
Avery, Brian	Bolton, William	Carrig, Leslie	Coxon, Cynthia	Dresser, James	Foster, David	Grady , Jeremiah
Ayer, Patrick	Booth, Gordon	Cartier & Trombley, Monique	Cragin, Rebecca	Drew, L Leonar	Foster Estate , Kenneth	Grant, Donna
Badeau, Cynthia	Booth, Robert & Shirley	& Richard	Craw, Robert	Drew, Dennis	Francis, Lori	Gravel, Edward
Baginski, Dan	Bordonaro, Patricia	Casparo, April	Crawford, John	Drew, Sandra	Francke, James E	Graves, Gregory & Debbie
Bair Estate, Samuel	Bouchard, Kent	Cassidy, Janice	Creps, Wenda	Drew , Frederic	Frank, Elizabeth	Gray, Bernard
Baker, Gail	Boutin, Sandra	Catlin, G Peter	Crisante, James	Drinkwater, Gene	Frappier, Larry	Gray, James
Baker, Kevin	Bowen, Roscoe	Ceplikas, Alison	Crosby, Jeanie	Driscoll, John	Freeman, Bill	Greenan, Eileen
Baldwin, Dave	Bowen, Sterle V	Chadwick, Brian	Cross, Joseph	Driscoll, Peter	Freeman, Ronnie	Greenberg, Leo
Baldwin, Estate, Oflorraine	Bowin, William	Chaffee, Jean	Crouse, David	Drury, John	French, Stella	Greenslit , Darcy
Ball, Nancy	Bowley , Barbara	Chaffee , Michael	Crowell, Scott & Andrea	Dubois, Betty	French, Thomas	Gregoire, Glenn
Balog, Michael	Bragg, Donald & Karen	Chafin, Brian	Crowley, Sally	Dubuque, Robert	French, Beverly	Grier, Paul
Bankes, Tina	Braman, Daniel	Chalmers, Wayne	Crown, Deborah	Ducharme, Susan	French, Bert	Griffin, Bridget
Barberi, Joy	Braunlich, William	Chaloux, Claire	Crowther, Irene	Duggan, Rita	Freund & Sandusky, Leonard	Griffin, Valda
Barfield, Coy	Breen, Patrick	Chaloux , Brent	Currier, Raymond	Dukette, Rose	& Cynthia	Grimm, Marianne
Barnaby, Terri	Brennan, Marty	Chamberlin, Jay	Curschmann, Craig	Duling, Donnie	Frey, Terry	Grobove, Marcene
Barnard, Craig	Brewer, Raymond & Lynn	Chamberlin (Norton), Debbie	Curtiss, Robert	Dunbar, Pamela	Friedman, Penni	Grohs, Earl & Shirley
Barnett, Dorothy	Brey Mayer, Geraldine	Chapin, Dorothy	Cyr, Estelle	Dunbar , Bernard	Friedman, Howard	Grossman, Henry
Barnett, Duane	Bricket (Estate), Vera	Chartier, Theodore	Czajkowski, Frances	Duncklee, Norman	Fullam, Everett	Grossman , Sallie
Barnocky, May	Brickett , Wilmoth	Chartoff, Marion	Dahlne , Arlene	Dunn, Monique	Fuller, Gail	Gte Vermont,
Barral, Robert	Brigham, Karen S	Chase, Chris	Dale, Laura	Dunn & Hallock, Brandi &	Gadapee, Edward	Guadagnoli, Donald
Barrett, Rita	Brigham , Marshall	Chase, Candis	Daly, Robert	Brian	Gaelic, Susan	Guarcello, Giovanni
Barrows, Michael	Broad, Martha	Chateauvert, Janet /	Darling Gary, Estate Of	Dunn Estate, Jane	Gagne, Michael	Guillette, Robert
Barry, Daniel	Brochu, Donald	Santamore Es	Daunhauer, Andra R	Dunsmore, Susan	Gagnon, George	Guilmette Estate, Donald W
Barry, Douglas	Brock, Bernard	Choen, David & Gertrude	Davenport, Shannon &	Dupont, Roxann	Gahagen, Jacqueline	Gumbrell, George
Barteau, Carl	Broe & Flood, Kimberly &	Cholewa, Raymond	Cynthia	Durocher, Mitch	Gallagher, Ruth	Guy, Stuart
Bartlett , Robert	Ray A	Christie & Gillian, Sueann &	Davidson, Nick	Dushesney, Theresa	Garcia, Florentio	Habeck, Edward
Bash, John	Brolin, Herbert	Ronald	Davies, Dave	Dusseault, Kimberly	Gardner, Ross	Hackmann, Jeff
Bates, Bess	Brolin, Ruth	Clancy, David	Davis, Lloyd	Dutcher, Margueri	Garneau, Traci	Haggett, Phoebe
Baumgardner , Earl	Bronson , Robert	Clark, Daniel	Davis, Lorena	Putra & Wheeler, David &	Garone, Francis	Haile, Dennis
Baxter, Megan	Brooks, Virgil	Clark, Danny	Davis & Monier, Richard &	Jody	Garron, Edmund	Hall, Kristin
Bayley, Kenneth & Shevaun	Brosnahan , Kristen	Clark, Harry	Debbie	Dwinell, Joanna	Gates , Philip	Hall, Raymond & Heidi
Bean, Kenneth	Brown, James	Clark, Peter	Davis & Zencey, Kathryn	Dworkin, David	Gauthier, Linda	Hall Sr, Kenneth & Shirley
Bean, William	Brown, Margaret	Clark, Robert A	& Eric	Eastman, David	Gauthier, Eric R	Halpin, Robert
Beardsley, John	Brown, Julia K	Clark-Booth, Kimberly	Davis Estate, James E	Eastman, Shirley	Gazaway, David	Hamelin, Charles
Beardsworth, Rhonda	Brown , Leticia	Clarke, Rodney	Davulis, James	Edson, Theresa	Geiger, Carolyn	Hamlett, Teresa
Beck, Florence	Bruleigh, Kendall	Clavin, William	Deaquair, Dwight	Eldred, Allan	George, Joyce	Hance, Borden
Beckler, Minnie	Bryant & Dailey,	Cleland, William	Defelice, Frank	Eldridge, Laura	Giles, Scott	Haney, Shirley
Bedell, John C	Buck, Stephanie	Clifton, Ernest	Deforge , Kathleen	Elkin, Milton	Gilfether , Shirley	Hanks, May
Bedle, Julia	Buckley, John	Cloutier, Michael	Delaney, George	Emerson, Russell	Gillander, Mae	Hanley, Robert
Beede, Penny	Budzyn , Frederick	Codling-Terhune, Sarah	Delia, Muriel	Engborg, Evelyn	Gillespie, Robert	Hannett, Donna L
Beier , Deborah	Burdett, Jerome	Coffey, George	Delisle, Maurice	Eniti, Anita	Gilman, Charles	Hansen, Winifred
Belcher, Alden	Burgielwicz, Seila	Coffin , Barry	Delorenzo, Andrew	Ennis Executor, James	Gilman, Gary	Hanson , Lisa
Belval, Martin	Burke, Francis	Cofrin, Tabor	Demers, Karen	Estes, Brian	Gilman, Kathleen	Hanzimanolis , Margaret
Benedini, Betty	Burke, Peter	Colbeth Estate, Bernard	Dente, James	Facini, Chris	Gilstrap, Kristi L	Hardy, Angela S
Bennett, Patrick	Burnell, Robert	Colburn, Judith	Depalo, Caroline	Fair, Melissa	Glidden, Benjamin	Hardy , Viola



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Harrington, Claudette	Jones, David	Lumbra, Donald	Nadeau, Philip	Randles, Jamie	Smith, Philip	Vasquez, Claire
Harrington , Dean	Jones, Warren	Lund, Gail	Narma, Silvia	Rapp, Dorrie	Smith, Stuart	Veech, Roberta
Harris, Fredrick	Jones, Deborah M	Lyford, Nelson	Nader, Rhoda	Rashid, Sikander	Smith, William	Vermette, Thomas
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Hart, Amy	Jones , Jeff	Lyn , Vincent	Neubauer, Karl	Raynor, Raymond	Smith, George	Victory, Carole
Hart, John	Jones, Allison	Lynch, Douglas	Neveau, Nicole	Reed, Barbara	Smith, Kenneth	Vitkauskas, Janine
Hart, Lillian	Jorstad, Laura	Lynn , John	Newman, Benjamin &	Reed, William	Smith, Peter	Vitti, Marion
Hart, Mark	Jose, John	Lyon, Jean	Marilyn	Reese, Brenda	Smith, Trent	Volpini, Frank
Haskins, Peter & Teresa	Joslyn , Bruce	Lyons, Robert	Newton, Grant	Reid, William	Smith, Sandra	Vt Institute For Self,
Hastings, Susan	Joyal, Robert	Lyons & Towne, Prescott &	Nichols, Ginger	Renaudette, Sheila	Smith , Barbara	Wachtel , Deborah
Hatch, Danle	Jurkiewicz, Helene	Barbara	Nichols Trust,	Resource Of Comm , Liv Inc	Smith , Barry	Wagner, Howard I
Hatch, Margaret	Justice, Marjorie	Macie, Ronald	Nielsen, Kevin	Rice, Joseph	Smith , Joyce	Wakefield, H Paul
Hatch, Marguerite	Kachadoorian, Maria	Mack, Roger	Nishiyachi, Estsuro &	Richards, Jeffrey	Snyder, William	Walbridge, Frances
Hatch, Ralph	Karr, Lawrence	Magoon, Robert	Suzanne	Richards Estate, Alfred	Snyder , Marvin	Walbridge, Gerald
Hathaway, Lynn	Katz, John	Magoon, Jerrol	Noble, Gregory	Richardson, Elizabeth	Solomon , Terry	Walsh, Christopher & Darcy
Haupt , Karen	Kauczka, Sylveste	Magoon, Edgar	Noel, Lorenzo	Richardson, Joseph	Somers, Steven	Walsh , Deborah & Arnold
Hawkes, Glenn	Kay, James	Magoon & Appleton, Laurie	Northrup , Jack	Richer & Doris Demick,	Sorensen , Mary	M
Hawkins, Wanda	Keefe, Carolyn	& Steve & Alan	Noyes, Catrina	Raymond & Evelyn	Soshnick , Jeffrey	Wanzer, Shawn
Hawley, Melville	Keel, Jimmie	Mahon , Patricia	Nunn-Hudson, Martin	Richmond, William	Sothard, Gustave	Ward, Gary
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Hayes, Kathleen	Keith, David	Mallary, R	Nye, Dorothea	Riddel, Douglas	Spencer, Carolyn	Wasley, Randall J & Vikki
Haynes, Larry	Keith, Gail	Manavola, Joseph	Nye, Jason & Jennifer	Rider, John	Spencer, Fred	Wasow, Mona
Hayslett, Elizabeth	Keith-Hynes, Meghan	Mangene, Jim	O'brien, Sandra	Riley, Thomas	Spinelli & Rousseau,	Watker, Wayne
Hazelton, Peter	Kelley, Elizabeth	Mangino, Albert	O'donnell, David	Robertson, Ella	Michael & Lisa	Watkins, Timothy
Healey, Robert	Kelley, Leslie & Lori	Mangum , Thomas	Oliver, Sheila	Robertson, Walter	Spooner, Howard	Watson, Bryant M
Heath, Donald	Kelly, Kevin	Manley, June	Olsen, Kathy	Robinson, Charlotte	Spooner, June	Watson, Wendy A
Heath, Parker	Kelton, Mary Ellen	Manning, Kelly	O'meara, Kelly	Robinson, Marilyn	Spooner Estate, Forrest	Watson , Christopher
Heath Estate, Richard	Kemp, Marcia & Stephen	Mansur, Amy	Ordway, Michael	Robtoy, Bonnie	Squires, Jeffrey	Watts, Barbara
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Hebert, Ernest	Kiefer, James M	Marsh, Douglas	Otten, Richard	Rogers, Joyce	Stark, Ivy	Weiss, Stephen
Hedenberg, Todd	Kilian , Jon	Marsh, Christine	Ouellette , Arthur	Rogers, Fay Ann	Starr Estate, William	Weiss, Deborah
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Hetzler, Gregory	Knowlton, Deborah	Mcbride, Christin	Parker, Lyman	Roux, Robert	Stone, Harvey	Whalen, Thomas
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Hill, Arthur	Kramer, Donald	Mccullough, John	Parrot, Kenneth	Roya li, Leonard & Barbara	Strayhorn, Alvin	Wheeler, Gerald
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Hill, William	Kruger, Laura	Mcfarland , Stephen	Paton , Kenneth	Russell, Alexander	Suarez , Donald	Wheeler, Richard & Marilyn
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Hinton, Henry	Lacasse, Robert	Mcgrath, John	Paul , Harry	Rutledge, Roy	Sullivan, Robert	Wheeler Estate, Leona
Hiscox, Lisa	Ladd , Gordon	Mcintosh, Jean	Payne, Douglas	Rutledge, Shirley	Sullivan, William	Whitcomb, Lawrence
Hoblin, Harry	Lafogg, Bertha	Mclane, Michael	Pc Cellular, Of Vt	Ryan, Erla	Sumner, Sherri	White, Sherry
Hodgdon, Clara	Lagerstedt , Robert	Mcmahon, Thomas	Pearl, Logan	Sainsbury, Scott	Surviva, Joyal	White, Dawn & Douglas
Hoehl, Heather	Lahart, Russell	Meeks , Charles	Peatman, Philip	Saldi, Robert	Sweeney , Ethel	Whiteley, Thomas
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Holmes, Donna	Lalli, Luciano	Menard , Robert	Peduzzi, Norman	Salter, Gary	Sweetser, Clyde	Denise
Holmes , June	Lambert, Gordon & Barbara	Merchant, Melvyn	Perdue, Brian	Sanborn, Beth	Symons, Helen	Wiese, Peter
Holmstrom, Raymond	Lamoille Valley Rr,	Merritt, Barry	Perkins, Edith	Sanborn, Raymond	Szulc, Alfred	Wight, Donald
Hood, Lynn	Lamp, Michael	Merritt, Robert	Perkins, Timothy	Sanders, Gregory	Tanner, Michael	Wild, David & Darlene
Horton (1/2) & Wehe 1/4,	Lance, John	Merritt Sugarhouse,	Perreault, Amanda	Sangermano, Peter	Taplin, Roger	Wild , David
Marilyn	Landa, Anita	Messer, Richard	Perry, Courtland	Santor, Sarah	Targett, Steven	Wilder, Wayne
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Howell, Gail	Lapan, James E	Misiak, Ronald	Petra, Charles	Kemp	Therrien, David	Williams, Leslie
Howell, Nancy	Lapierre, Margaret	Missner, Richard	Pettibone, Mary	Savidge, Evelyn	Thibeault, Georgette	Williams, Steven
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Hull, Marc	Lavallee , Lois	Mooney, Eleanor	Pierce, Linda	Sayers, Willie	Thomas, Kathleen	Wilson, Richard
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Hunter , M Kelley	Lawrence , Albert	Moore, Mavis	Pilbin, William	Schlipf, Steve	Thompson, Jason	Timothy
Hurt, Charles	Lawrence, Frank	Moore, Pearl	Placa, Antonio	Schlosser , Frank David	Thompson, Velvet	Wintle, Serena
Hurta, Vernon & Margaret	Leclerc, Michael	Morey , Roger	Plante, Kathy	Schneider, Eleanor	Thompson, Constance &	Wires, John
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Illuzzi, Joseph	Lee, Lisa	Moriarty, Kevin	Plaster, Cheryl	Schumaker, Esther & Burt	Thompson, Robert R	Wnukoski, Joseph
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Isaak, Lauren	Leggett, John	Morin & Jauhola, David &	Polumbaum, Nyna	Sclafani, Joseph	Thurston, Andrew	Wood, Gregory
Isham, Christine	Leibold, Jonathan & Raylene	Christine	Poole, Todd	Scott , Laurette	Thurston, Diana	Wood, Patricia
Izzo, Anthony	Lemay, Juliette	Moroch, Grace	Pope, Arthur	Setien, Cecilia	Thurston, Pamela	Wood, Susan
Jackson, Stuart	Lemay , Francis	Morrison, David	Pope, Ruth	Seigny, Diane	Tibbetts, Germaine	Wood, Harriet P
Jackson, Robert L	Leno, Deborah	Morrison, June	Poplawski, David	Shatney , Harry	Tibolt, William	Wood, Leonard & Karen
Jaeger, Paul	Lenz, Lilli	Morrison & Ford, David L &	Porcello, Ute	Shatney , Lori	Tidd, Robert & Priscilla	Wood, Linn
Jamele, Peter	Leonard, Milford	Gail S	Porter, John E	Shaughnessy , Mark	Tierney, Patricia	Woodard, Stanley
Janes, Melissa	Leonard , Ellen	Morse, Linda	Potok, Charlotte	Shaw, John	Tighe, Scott	Woodbury, David
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M Morin	Levarn, Corinne	Morse, Ceylan	Powers, Roger	Sherer, Dana	Toffling, Rose	Woody's Power Products,
Jenner, Amy	Lewis, Brice	Morse & Renfrew, Tammy	Precht, Patricia	Sherman, Cindy	Tomaszewicz, David	Wootton, Matthew
Jensvold , Erik & Chris	Lewis, Norton	& Alan	Preston, Brenda	Sherman, Patricia	Tonnissen, Kenneth &	Wright, Christine
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Jewell, Adelaid	Ling, Shelly	Moses Estate, Richard	Procopio, Walter	Shor, Betty	Toohey, William & Marion	Wright , Florence
Johnson, Charles	Livingston Estate, Elizabeth	Moulton, Evelyn	Proof, Janice	Shor, Betty	Tousignant, Edith	Yoder, Margie
Johnson, Christopher	Locke, Norman	Moulton, Carolyn	Prosser , Robert	Shuttle, Donald	Towle, Bruce	Yon, Jennie V
Johnson, Jeffrey	Long, Eugene	Mox, Jane	Protas, Alan	Shuttle, John	Towle, Susan	Young, J Peter
Johnson, Lanae	Lonsdale, Paul	Mras, Barbara	Proulx, Annie	Sicely, Michelle & Richard	Towne, John	Young, Jackie
Johnson, Pauline	Lord, Marian	Mujkanovic, Ramiz	Provencher, William	Sicely , Sicely	Townsend, Mark	Young, Marcia
Johnson, Robin	Lord , Charles	Mullen Estate, Jeremiah	Pryce, Steve	Silver, Ruth	Trainor , Joanna	Young, Roland
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Johnson , Harold & Mary	Lori, Michael	Murac, Robert	Purcell, Timothy	Simmons, Scott	Trombly, Joanne	Zaremski, Thomas
Johnson , Gregory	Loring, William	Murphy, George	Pushee, Dale	Simpson, Isabelle	Tucker, Diane	Zdon, Victor
Johnson & Hinckley, Brent &	Lovelette, Lisa	Murphy, Harold	Pyle, Nekol	Sinon, Joanne	Turner, Elizabeth	Zeno, Nancy
Heather	Loving, William	Murphy, James	Pyte, Anders	Slopnick, Patricia	Uhouse, Martha	
Johnson Lumber, Jane C/O	Lowell, Carol	Murphy, Marie S	Quagliano, John	Smalheiser, David	Unverzagt, Daniel	
Steven	Lowell , Neil	Murray, Nancy	Racine, Daniel	Smith, Bonnie	Upmal , Martin	
Johnston, Kenneth	Lowney, Paul	Murray, Scott	Randall, James	Smith, David	Vaczy, Charles	

What's It Really Like to Drive An Electric Vehicle?

Electric vehicles are becoming mainstream. Washington Electric Co-op now has five EV charging stations, and recently partnered with Freedom Nissan to offer members a steep discount on the all-electric Leaf.

But what's it like to actually be behind the wheel every day?

We asked WEC board member Steve Knowlton of Montpelier, who with his wife Lindy Biggs, leased a Nissan Leaf in 2013. "We liked the idea of an electric vehicle for various reasons: the obvious benefit of reducing our fossil fuel usage, but also kind of an experiment," Knowlton said. The couple already drove a pickup and a hybrid. "Maybe I was expecting a glorified golf cart, thinking it was a toy, not a real car," he said. "But it was. It's fun to drive and responsive."

Knowlton and Biggs do most of their traveling locally, so "for us it was the perfect around-town car," he said. They continued to use their hybrid for longer journeys, though. "I think everyone who's driven an EV ultimately suffers from the disease of 'range anxiety.' Are you going to get where you want to go? That's a real concern," he said.

2017 Leafs are advertised to have a 107-mile range. It's worth noting that range numbers are improving quickly, according to David Roberts, the Drive Electric Vermont Coordinator for Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC), and a 2015 Leaf driver himself. The most common reasons people hesitate to go electric, he says, are too-high cost, too-low range, and too few all-wheel drive options for rural drivers.

Manufacturers are listening. "Cost is continuing to come down and range is increasing," Roberts said, pointing to an anticipated increase in range in the 2018 Leaf, the 238 mile range of the 2017 Chevrolet Bolt, and improved electric range in plug-in hybrids. All-wheel options tend to be offered by higher end brands, like Volvo and BMW, he said, but more options are coming soon, including a Mitsubishi Outlander hybrid, and Volkswagen's just-announced electric Microbus.

So what about Vermont winter driving? Cold weather causes the defroster to drain the battery—Knowlton said one cold night, they realized they'd need to leave the defroster off to make it home. "So it was like we were driving in a 1960s VW Beetle," he said, clearly familiar with the quirks of that other iconic vehicle.

But, he pointed out, newer EV models have more efficient heat pump defrosters. And their Leaf is a peach in the snow. It's heavy, and Knowlton says it has higher clearance than a Prius. And for those of us with a different



WEC board member Steve Knowlton, wife Lindy Biggs, and their Nissan Leaf. Knowlton's take on driving electric: it's tons of fun, just monitor any symptoms of "range anxiety." Fortunately, newer models show a marked improvement in range.

kind of anxiety—let's call it Cold Start Anxiety, "if it's 20 below and you've got a dicey carburetor or battery," Knowlton said, those fears are gone: "No matter what the temperature, this thing will go."

Usually, Knowlton and Biggs plugged in the Leaf at home and forgot about it—but once or twice, they arrived at an EV station needing a charge only to find it was in use, or the credit card machine didn't work. Hunting out a charging station in an unfamiliar area is a little nerve-wracking, Knowlton said. But all you really need, he pointed out, is an outdoor socket. And the time it takes to charge the car.

"I've been saving money on maintenance and gasoline," said Roberts. The cost to charge is equivalent to about \$1.50, he said, which is roughly \$0.90 less than a gallon of gas these days. He's been paying for annual inspections, tire rotations, battery checks, and nothing else.

Knowlton suggested the car is currently best for commuters, or people driving about 40 miles out and back each day. Or people, like Knowlton and Biggs, who are interested in trying something new: "It's fun to pay attention, as you go downhill, the battery charges back up again," said Knowlton. "You get some of that kinetic energy returned to you. You pay attention to the nuances of a road, whether you're going down

or uphill. It adds a little bit of curiosity to one's driving experience."

In sum:

Pros: Tight turning radius, quiet, needs no oil changes and virtually no other service. Charging is cheaper than gas. Plenty of torque, no trouble getting up steep hills or starting under any circumstances. Knowlton: "I just love the way it drives! It's like putting on sneakers."

Cons: Range anxiety, range goes down in cold weather, long charge times (if you're in a hurry).

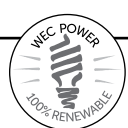
Good for: Around-town driving

and commuting. Knowlton: "If you live within 30-40 miles of where you work, there should be no problem with range anxiety at all. If you live 60-70 miles, then you'll just have to count on charging up wherever it is that you're going."

Co-op members who drive all-electric vehicles—we want to hear from you! Why did you go electric? What do you like? What needs fixing? Write to currents@wec.coop. And if you're curious about range, cost, and availability of different electric vehicles, visit driveelectricvt.com.



WEC members and staff enjoy dinner before the 2016 Community Meeting in Cookeville. See p. 8 to register for this year's meeting in Worcester on October 12.



Annual Open House at Coventry Landfill

Join Washington Electric Co-op for an open house and tours of our Coventry landfill methane generation facility in Coventry, Vermont.

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

184 Landfill Lane, Coventry

Reservations are not required for individual visits.

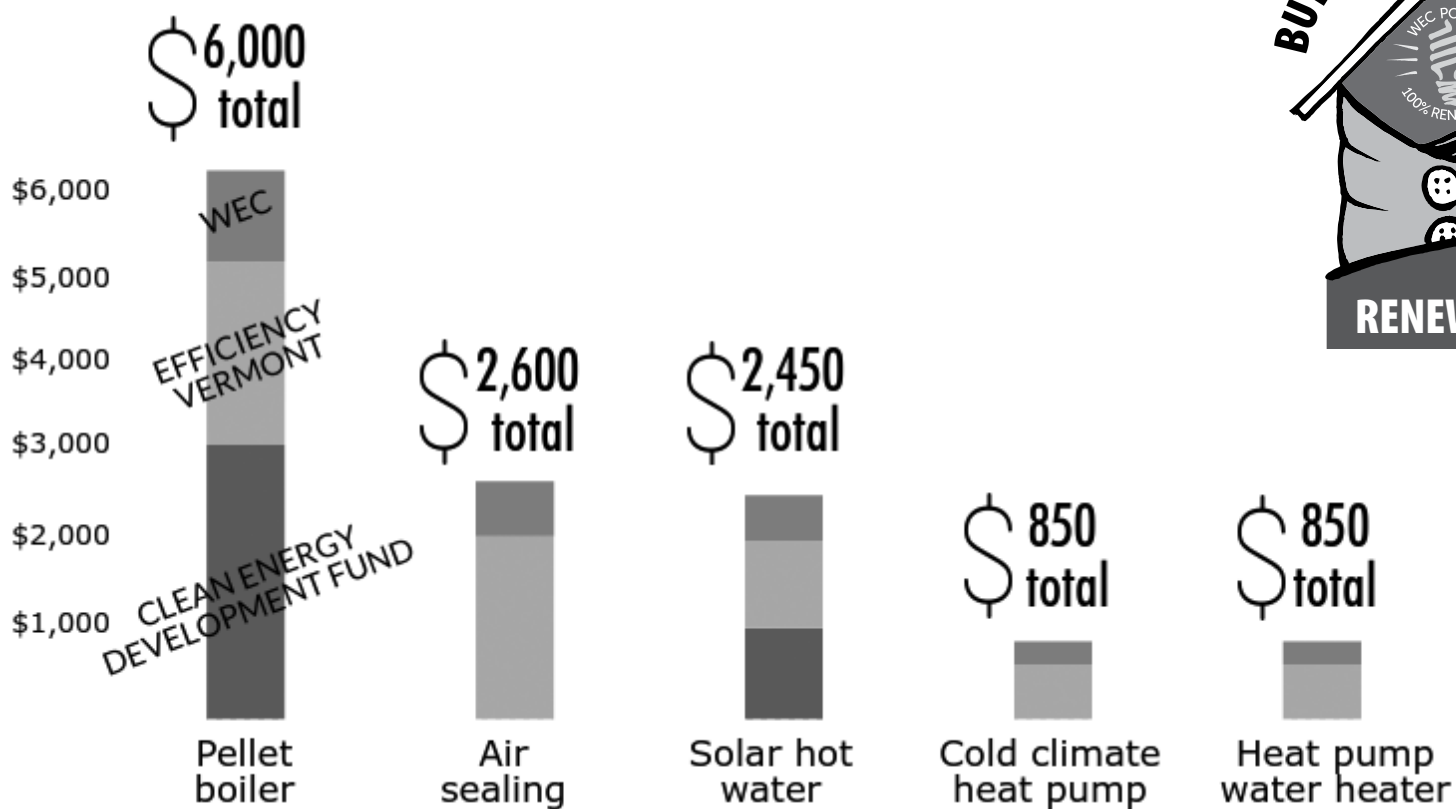
To join a carpool or book a specific tour time for a large group, please contact Dawn Johnson at 802-224-2332 or dawn.johnson@wec.coop.



An aerial view of the Coventry Landfill plant from 2009. The plant generates electric power from landfill methane, harnessing a greenhouse gas into a renewable energy resource and supplying WEC members with an environmentally and financially stable electric source.

What's my incentive to Button Up?

If you're looking to seal up your home, or are in the market for energy-efficient heating systems, WEC's Button Up! home energy efficiency program offers cash incentives to members. In combination with Efficiency Vermont discounts and grants from the Clean Energy Development Fund, you could save a lot of money:



Before you buy any new energy-efficient appliance, call Bill Powell, WEC's Energy Coach, to learn how you can take full advantage of this program:

802-224-2329

energycoach@wec.coop



Fare Thee Well, Will

continued from page 1

works.

But the “hero of my life,” Lindner said, was his mother, Eleanor Lindner. Widowed young, she became a teacher and raised three kids by herself. Lindner remembers her as a courageous and hardworking woman, “conscientious and devoted” to her children and students.

With raw talent and values sculpted by these parents, Lindner, who began writing in college, soon established himself as a journalist. He was hired by the *Times Argus* as a reporter, and in short order became the editorial page editor and a columnist.

It was around this time he began paying close attention to Vermont’s decision whether or not to deregulate utilities, and to the Co-op’s response. The leadership of then-General Manager Joe Bongiovanni and Board President Barry Bernstein showed “a real commitment to the cooperative way of doing things,” he recalled. It wasn’t so much about self-preservation, he remembered, but concern that a deregulated, for-profit utility landscape would have no incentive to serve WEC’s rural membership nearly so well as the Co-op did.

This drew him in. In 1995, Lindner became the editor of *Co-op Currents*. Since the deregulation debate, he said, the board and staff have shown “a commitment to the membership that’s played out in so many ways. Working for them has enabled me to feel like I’m part of a mission I really believe in.”

Lindner has covered some big stories during his tenure. His most memorable milestones include the Co-op leaving its contract with now-idle nuclear plant Vermont Yankee; the 2011 May floods that swamped the Co-op offices; WEC’s advances in renewable energy, including the development of



Nancy Mosher

Will Lindner, beginning to adjust to life with vacations, judging from this photo taken by his wife Nancy Mosher on a recent trip to Maine.

Sheffield Wind and the construction of the Coventry landfill generator; and net metering.

“The Co-op has been really great about taking stands I think are courageous,” he said with admiration, including supporting renewable energy sources early on, and standing up for every member along the power line. Perhaps it’s his journalist’s sense of curiosity, or his musician’s understanding of rhythm and harmony, but Lindner said he’s always enjoyed tackling the complex issues WEC faces—and is often first among utilities to address.

“His uniqueness is he was able to go into whatever story he covered, on any issue, and be receptive and be with the person he was interviewing and writing about. He’s got a realness to him that comes through in his stories,” said Bernstein. “He’s part of the Co-op fabric. He opened himself up to all of

our employees, all of our history, all of our membership in an honest and forthright way. That’s a great trait to have for someone who’s writing about other people.”

Indeed, Lindner said that more than anything, he loved working with the people of WEC.

“I have always liked writing about what people do for their work,” he said.

All Co-op staff, he said, are “really dedicated to the work they do. And dedicated to the cooperative aspect of the work they do, serving people, helping people out. You hear great stories from the line crew: they were working all night, got somebody’s power on, and that person comes out with coffee and cupcakes.”

That’s the most important part of the job, he said, showing the people behind the work. “That’s not just a truck out there. There are people in it with families and kids, and they come to work every day and work hard.” During outages, he pointed out, line crews and office staff alike work all night, “and they don’t complain about it.”

So what’s next for Lindner? Well, he’d really like to take some long winter trips in warm climates with his beloved wife Nancy Mosher, he said. Mosher, now a leadership consultant and Reiki practitioner, is retired from a 30-year nursing career with Planned Parenthood of Northern New England that culminated with nine years serving as CEO and president.

And certainly more music, he said. Recently, he’s been playing with the Nisht Geferlach Klezmer Band, which he described as an “Eastern European

“I have always liked writing about what people do for their work. All Co-op staff are really dedicated to the work they do. And dedicated to the cooperative aspect of the work they do, serving people, helping people out. You hear great stories from the line crew: they were working all night, got somebody’s power on, and that person comes out with coffee and cupcakes.”

—Will Lindner

shtetl version of Dixieland,” and points out is a WEC-heavy ensemble—including members Rick Winston of Calais and former WEC General Manager Avram Patt of Worcester, as well as Kathy and Steven Light of Marshfield.

Lindner and brother Dan play and sing together now as the Sky Blue Boys, with a busy schedule that includes a recent gig at Spruce Peak

Performing Arts Center. They’ve always played music together, and they always will, he said. And Lindner’s adult children, both graduates of Spaulding High School now far-flung, have been known to chime in. His daughter Shannon, now in Portland, Maine, and son Travis, now in Los Angeles, each contributed a tune to Lindner’s recent CD *Life, Still, with Mandolin*.

Recently, driving home from visiting his daughter, Lindner stopped to walk his pup, Jameson, in Seyon Pond State Park in Groton. Attuned to the power landscape after 22 years on the beat, he could tell, out in the middle of the forest, that the poles were from the 1940s.

It caused him to reflect on his time at the Co-op. Thinking about the crews that installed those poles 70-something years ago, he said, “That’s how hard it is to serve rural people. That’s the Co-op’s mission. And I think that’s great. The people at the ends of those lines are as important as the people close to the substations.”

Lindner exits the stage with a tip of his ball cap. “I really wish the Co-op luck. I believe so strongly in their values as an organization and the way they conduct themselves. It ain’t easy or simple.”

You Are Invited— Thursday, October 12, 2017

WEC Community Meeting

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner begins at 6 p.m.

Please join WEC staff, directors, and members at a dinner meeting and informational discussion on Thursday, October 12, 2017. The meeting will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. followed by discussion on topics of interest to you and your community. While reservations are required for the dinner, it is not necessary to preregister for the discussion which will begin at approximately 7 p.m.

The dinner meeting, to benefit the Doty Local Foods Program, will be held at the Worcester Town Hall, 20 Worcester Village Road, Worcester, VT 05682. The menu for the evening includes: soup, salad, sandwiches, dessert and beverage, catered by the Post Office Café.

To make a reservation for the dinner meeting, please fill out the reservation form and return it to WEC, Attn: Dawn Johnson, PO Box 8, East Montpelier, VT 05651. There is no charge for the meal.

Reservations must be received at the Co-op by the morning of October 4. Thank you.

Dinner Reservation

(No charge for the dinner.)

2017 Community Meeting

Worcester Town Hall • October 12, 2017

Doors open: 5:30 • Dinner: 6:00pm • Meeting: 7:00pm • Wrap up: 8:00 pm

Meeting Agenda:

- Meet and greet WEC staff and Board of Directors
- What’s on your mind • Reliability • Rate Design

Name _____ Vegetarian Member or Guest
(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Vegetarian Member or Guest
(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Vegetarian Member or Guest
(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Vegetarian Member or Guest
(Please print clearly)

Address _____

Account # _____ Map # _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Special needs (food or accommodations): _____

Reservations must be received at the Co-op by the morning of October 4.

WEC/ Attn: Dawn Johnson, P.O. Box 8, East Montpelier, VT 05651

