

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUBJECT: GOVERNOR HIGHLIGHTS FARM-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS -- FARM ENERGY TOUR SHOWCASES EXPANDING RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO & 25 BY '25 INITIATIVE**

Montpelier, Vt.—Governor Jim Douglas toured several farms today to highlight innovative, renewable energy technologies used by farmers to reduce energy costs and increase profitability.

The Governor said Vermont is well on its way to helping the nation produce a significant percentage of renewable energy from forests and farms.

“My administration has made it a priority to promote renewable energy options both on, and off, the farm,” Governor Douglas said. “It was a pleasure to showcase a few examples of Vermont’s innovative, agriculturally-based renewable energy efforts. As these options continue to grow, so too will our entire renewable energy portfolio. Vermont will continue to be a leader in the effort to produce 25 percent of the energy consumed in the United States from renewable sources from our forests and farms by the year 2025.”

Governor Douglas visited farms that are producing bio-diesel, methane generated electricity and hay pellets for electric generation.

The Governor noted that Vermont’s farms and forest products industry are key components of meeting the 25 by '25 challenge. 25 by '25 is a new national energy initiative aimed at producing 25 percent of the energy consumed in the United States from renewable sources from America’s forests, farms and ranches by the year 2025. Governor Douglas and Lt. Governor Dubie have both pledged to help facilitate a 25 by '25 coalition in Vermont.

Douglas said the 25 by '25 organization shares his goal of a nationwide energy discussion, focused on developing responsible, long-term, sustainable and affordable energy future.

“This vision is inline with much of the work we are doing here in Vermont and can play an important role in America’s long-term energy future,” the Governor added. “Nevertheless, building a cleaner, more efficient and truly independent energy future requires us to look beyond our borders and engage more states in this effort. “That’s why Lt. Governor Dubie and I both look forward to helping to facilitate our own state-level 25 by '25 alliance here in Vermont.”

Governor Douglas said the new initiative would have many benefits for Vermont. “In addition to being a great boost to our farmers and foresters, this program can help us create jobs in our rural

areas, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, inspire new renewable energy technologies and reduce global warming." Vermont is the first New England state and the 14th state overall to join the 25 by '25 coalition.

25 by '25 is a grassroots renewable energy initiative started by farm leaders. Across the country, farmers, ranchers, forest land owners and other leaders are coming together in state-level alliances to explore how the 25 by '25 vision can help accomplish state energy, environmental and rural development goals.

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