

# MICHAEL HOROWITZ

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## QUALIFICATIONS

- Renewable energy professional with 20 years of experience as a Solar Energy Designer, Hydronic Heating Specialist, and Energy Efficiency Consultant
- Consistent 30-year personal and professional commitment to environmental advocacy and stewardship
- Communications and negotiations skills honed on state and local boards and committee appointments, all allied with sustainability goals
- Decades of field experience with roof and ground mounted solar electric and hot water equipment, grid connected inverters, and biomass boilers
- Proficiency designing, drafting, and reading architectural, mechanical and fabrication drawings related to renewable energy implementation
- Masters in Leadership & Public Policy, with emphasis on Environmental Policy

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Partner/Owner**

#### **SunFire Energy Systems LLC, Marshfield, VT**

2014 – Present

Design and install residential solar and wood-based energy systems for SunFire, a worker cooperative. Attending trainings in biomass-based heating system design interfacing with solar thermal systems and conventional boilers.

### **Owner**

#### **Sustainable Solutions**

1993 – Oct 2014

Owned and operated Sustainable Solutions, devoted to designing sustainable solutions to technological problems. Advocated and installed wood and solar heating systems, solar electric systems, and consulted on energy conservation and efficiency. Designed homes to use renewable energy and create comfortable living spaces. Designed central solar thermal system providing 50% of DHW needs for a 62-unit elderly housing development.

### **Design and Technology Teacher**

#### **U-32 Middle and High School, Mount Abraham Middle and High School**

Jul 2005 – Jun 2018

Taught Design and Technology classes to middle and high school students. Successfully developed Renewable Energy curricula, established and maintained budget, and delivered lectures on renewable energy to both students and concerned local groups. Classes taught also included Architectural Design, Graphics, Engineering, and Video Production. Project-based learning incorporated STEAM and problem-solving proficiency.

### **Director of Education, Center for Sustainable Building, 1998-2000**

Center researched and provided clearinghouse information and workshops for sustainable building practices in Central Vermont. Accomplishments included development and grant assistance, material library development and workshop calendar.

**Founding Member of VBG Program Committee**

**Building for Social Responsibility, 2000-2008**

Committee created Vermont Builds Greener, a home-rating program, widely considered the most stringent U.S. residential green building evaluation program. Committee work led to Good Ideas Grant via Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.

**Board of Directors, Winooski Valley Food Cooperative of Plainfield, VT**

1996-1999, 2001-2004, including several years as President of the Board. Built coalitions, facilitated board meetings, fostered consensus process for small retail co-op. Planned and established energy efficiency improvements, building renovations, new site evaluations, acquisition analysis, and a new management structure.

**Board of Directors, Wellspring Land Cooperative, Marshfield, VT**

President, 1994-1999; Treasurer 2000-2004.

Organizational purpose is ownership and stewardship of agricultural and silvacultural land in central Vermont. Accomplishments: permitting and legal liaison, budgeting and accounts for 4 years, plans for inclusion in sustainable land use tax exemptions.

**Advisory Group, Community Supported Agriculture at Snow-Baker Farm**

(Wellspring CSA), 2003-2004

Local organic food direct distribution organization. Accomplishments included assisting in marketing to 65 member families, distribution logistics to 3 locations.

**Lecturer, Independent Contracted, UVM, Goddard College, Institute for Social Ecology, VBG**

Delivered 15 workshops, classes, and lectures on Solar Electric, Solar Hot Water, and Passive Solar Design, Hands-on installation, and project siting.

**EDUCATION AND LICENSES**

**Union Institute and University, Montpelier, VT**

*Master of Leadership, Public Policy, and Social Issues* with concentration in *Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management*, October 2012

Research included community-based social marketing and environmental behavior

Thesis topic: Non-correlation of house size and carbon footprint to HERS scores

**Vermont Plumbing License & Heating System Specialist**

Maintain *Vermont Specialist Plumber License*, 2009-present

**Woodbury College, Montpelier, VT**

*Certification, Community Planning Program*

Volunteered at Vermont Department of Public Service for wood heating survey and data.

Certificate research included Vermont policy in sustainable development and environmental law, wetland delineation, and US public trust doctrine.

**Goddard College, Plainfield, VT**

*Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Design*

Designed and build grant-funded earth sheltered solar greenhouse as undergraduate.

Building continues to be utilized 30 years later.