



GMP RESILIENCY ZONES

Empowering customers, keeping communities connected

[GreenMountainPower.com](https://www.GreenMountainPower.com)





GMP's Proactive Climate Plan

- Targeted initiatives to strengthen the grid
 - undergrounding, installing insulated wire, replacing poles, adding batteries
- Prevent outages
- Recover more quickly when they happen
- In addition to regular grid work
- Features faster timeline and Resiliency Zones



Stop the spread • Avoid close contact with others • Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others • Wash your hands often • Cover coughs and sneezes • Clean and disinfect often • Monitor your health daily

GMP pioneers with Panton microgrid



Solar panels cover more than 30 acres in Panton, as seen on March 16.

Solar project will be first of its kind in US

Dan D'Ambrosio
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

PANTON - Most of the pieces for a pioneering "microgrid" that will act as a giant solar-powered backup battery during electrical outages are in place on the wide-open fields of Panton outside of Vergennes.

The solar-powered microgrid will be the first of its kind in the country, according to Josh Castonguay, chief innovation and engineering executive for Green Mountain Power. So are the 677 souls (plus 3,528 cows and 74,239 chickens, according to the town website) in this small Vermont village beside themselves with excitement.

"Actually, no, they're not," said Howard Hall, chairman of the Panton Selectboard. "It's nothing really exciting for most of the people here."

Green Mountain Power first approached the town in 2015 about building the solar field in a farmer's leased field on Panton Road. Hall said that in a town where the purchase of a wheelbarrow is the subject of debate, the \$40,000 yearly in tax revenue the solar installation produces was a welcome boost.

"We have one store in our town," he said. "We've not collected tons of taxes."



Josh Castonguay, Green Mountain Power's chief innovation and engineering executive, explains how the Panton microgrid will work, as seen on March 16. PHOTOS BY DAN D'AMBROSIO/FREE PRESS

"With microgrids powered by clean energy and paired with batteries to store and deploy that power when it's needed,

SoBu hot air balloon event causes traffic jam Saturday

April Barton
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A hot air balloon event Saturday night was so popular it caused a traffic jam in South Burlington. Hundreds of cars lined up for the Light the Night event. Maybe it was the warm temperatures or the drivable event which allowed visitors to stay COVID-safe remaining in their cars that caused people to come out in droves.

South Burlington police put out an advisory that night saying "traffic is significantly backed up on Kimball Ave, Community Dr, Gregory Dr and Kennedy Rd due to a hot air balloon parade of some sort."

While the police may have not known all the details of the event, South Burlington Recreation & Parks were there to assist as motorists drove through Technology Park. Event organizers and partners of the nonprofit Light the Night handed out QR codes for people to electronically donate to the Vermont Foodbank and collected food donations.

The event was free, but donations were encouraged. It began at 7:30 p.m. and lasted a couple of hours. Traffic was able to get back to normal at that point.

Traffic jams caused by an event, not something experienced for about a year while many stayed in isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, could be the first signs of a return to normal.

Contact April Barton at abarton@freepressmedia.com or 802-660-2854. Follow her on Twitter @aprilbarton.



A hot air balloon glow entitled "Light the Night" brought out hundreds of cars in South Burlington on Saturday to support the Vermont Foodbank. FREE PRESS/APRIL BARTON

USA TODAY

Promising candidate

AstraZeneca and its research partner Oxford University released the first picture Monday of the large clinical trial they have run in the U.S. for their COVID-19 vaccine, finding that it is safe and prevents 79% of asymptomatic disease. Initial results

What's a Resiliency Zone?

- Community hub that stays connected, even when severe weather hits
- Can include: batteries, local power generation (solar), communications
- Custom plan in partnership with community





Panton microgrid

- Partnered with community several years ago
- Local solar first, providing clean power close to where it is consumed
- Then added batteries = this saves all GMP customers money
- Added microgrid capability, came online in 2022





How are Resiliency Zone communities selected?

- Reliability
- Communications infrastructure
- CDC social vulnerability
- Community's interest in partnering with GMP



What's next?

- ▶ **We'd like to work with 3 communities each year in pilot phase**
- ▶ **Offer help with planning, expertise, leveraging funding available**
- ▶ **Community questionnaire asks about:**
 - Community contact info
 - Planning
 - Community infrastructure





Questions?

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