

## Pat Barnes

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I have been a resident of Vershire, Vermont for thirty years. My career has been dedicated to science education and my volunteer work has included being an EMT and firefighter, wilderness search and rescue, Justice of the Peace and member of the Board of Civil Authority, and a member of a school board.

I now operate a home weatherization firm dedicated to helping customers use energy more effectively to increase their comfort and reduce costs and carbon emissions, whatever energy source (petroleum, biomass, electricity) they use.

I wish to be a member of the WEC board to be part of the team that helps carry our Co-op into the next era. I believe that Co-op members should be producing and consuming more electricity. We need policies that enhance resilience by diversifying our renewable generation (such as solar and wind) while encouraging the transition to efficient electrical power for heat and transportation.

The challenges that we face are numerous: increasing electrical use; maintaining our power lines in the face of increasingly destructive storms and forest threats like the Emerald Ash Borer; increasing our grid's capacity to accommodate distributed sources of electrical power; all the while delivering great service at an affordable price.

We will need to combine the right incentives and rate structures with the Co-op's clout in persuading the Vermont Public Utility Commission to craft policies that serve our members in this decade and the next.

Coop members are free to contact me with needs or concerns about the Coop at BPatBarnes@gmail.com.