

## Better(not bigger)Vermont



### *In this Issue*

- Finally, a Presidential candidate campaigns for Better, Not Bigger.
- The Vermont Chamber of Commerce wants even more.
- The Green Growth Delusion

### *Presidential Candidate*

A new candidate for President of the United States wants to implement policies that support a no-growth economy. The candidate is Dave Gardner, who produced the 2011 film *GrowthBusters*. A news release about Dave's campaign is attached, and his official website is [here](#).

### *Please, Save Vermont from the Chamber*

Wolfger Schneider, BnbVT's President, got wind of a new corporate-funded "social impact network" to

**increase Vermont's population by roughly 25%. Here's his report...**

## **The VT Business Community's Push for Growth**

**Since the economic downturn prior to 2010, Vermont's population had been fairly stable. Then came Covid, wildfires and the continuing drought out west enabling those with means to escape to greener and safer Vermont. Welcoming them was the relocation incentive of up to \$10K offered by the Scott administration. Then we had the S.100 legislation loosening the ACT-250 checks on development. And now...**

## **The Vermont Futures Project**

**“The Vermont Futures Project is setting a data-informed goal to increase Vermont's population to 802,000 people and its non-seasonal housing stock to 350,000 units by 2035. Achieving these goals will strengthen our economy, scale up Vermont's impact on sustainability, and help our state make progress on social equity.”**

**Click [here](#) to see who is behind this push for more than 150,000 people within the next 12 years, with**

total support approaching \$1 million and led by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

Interestingly, VFP set its target for growth before collecting public input. The lone staff member, Kevin Chu, will now “embark on a statewide tour on August 17, the latest research stage to inform the 2024 Economic Plan for Vermont” and convene “community conversations and make strategic stakeholder visits in all fourteen counties”.

So if any of you readers are strategic stakeholders and are able to find the schedule for these visits, please ask Mr. Chu how this rapid growth in population and housing units will “scale up Vermont’s impact on sustainability”? And have us meet our Climate Goals.

**FYI, an example of how the well-to-do use social impact networks to brush-aside democratic processes, check out this article...**  
<https://vermontdailychronicle.com/despathy-behind-closed-doors-wealthy-buy-a-vermont-climate-change-network/>

***Yes Grasshopper, “green growth” can be very bad***

**Our May Newsletter referenced an article about the fact that we cannot have “green” if we continue to have “growth” (see [here](#)). A followup article to this**

**series reports on a major collateral victim of green growth - indigenous people (see [here](#)).**

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