

Rep. Scott Campbell

What's the Plan?

Heating oil prices average \$4.50 to \$5.00 a gallon right now, 50% higher than a year ago. That's a drag for most of us — and a serious threat to the most vulnerable.

What can a small state like Vermont do about that?

Not a darn thing. Oil is a global commodity controlled by huge companies and "petro-states" like Saudi Arabia and Russia.

But climate change is changing the game. Look around. Ford and GM will have only electric vehicles in a few years. Solar panels and heat pumps are popping up everywhere. Why? They are far cheaper to run, and electric prices are stable compared to fossil fuels' runaway rollercoaster.

It's true that EVs, solar, and heat pumps are too pricey for most Vermonters right now. Prices are coming down, but we should help people get over that purchase hump, so we can stop being hostage to Putin and Big Oil.

Moving to electric vehicles and heating also helps Vermont's economy. It is a golden



opportunity for businesses and workers ready for it. And it helps us get ahead of what's coming at us anyhow as the world's economy shifts from near-total reliance on oil.

Such a major shift is not without costs. We must start planning now to minimize them, fairly share them, and help those most impacted. The longer we wait, the more it will cost.

The point is, climate change is not only an environmental challenge, it's an economic challenge. How will we meet it?

We know rural Vermont has an aging and shrinking population. We know we need better housing, childcare, broadband, education, healthcare and more to attract and retain working families. We would be wise to make a virtue of necessity and use the energy transition to build a foundation for sustainable prosperity for all. My plan is to work on that.

I hear a lot of NO from other candidates and some writers to this paper. It's easy to say No. But preparing Vermont's economy for the inevitable can't be ignored. What's your plan?

Paid for by Campbell For Vermont, Bob Swartz, Treasurer
761 Crow HL, St. Johnsbury VT 05819

CampbellForVermont.com