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Form 990 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)	OMB No 1545-0047 2012
	The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements	Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2012 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2012 , 2012, and ending 12-31-2012

B Check if applicable ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending	C Name of organization VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP INC		D Employer identification number 03-0228267
	Doing Business As		
	Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) 141 MAIN STREET	Room/suite	E Telephone number (802) 223-5221
	City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 MONTPELIER, VT 05602		G Gross receipts \$ 955,284
	F Name and address of principal officer MATHEW RUBIN 141 MAIN ST 6 MONTPELIER, VT 05602		H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? ☐ Yes ☒ No H(b) Are all affiliates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "No" attach a list. (see instructions)

I Tax-exempt status ☐ 501(c)(3) ☒ 501(c) (4) ◀ (insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527		H(c) Group exemption number ▶	
J Website: ▶ www.vpirg.org			
K Form of organization ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other ▶		L Year of formation 1972	M State of legal domicile VT

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities VPIRG's mission is to promote and protect the health of Vermont's people, environment and locally-based economy by informing and mobilizing citizens statewide VPIRG conducts non-partisan public interest advocacy campaigns with the grassroots support of over 40,000 members and supporters See Page 2 for additional information on VPIRG's mission			
	2 Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets			
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	13	
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	13	
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2012 (Part V, line 2a)	5	112	
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	20	
	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0	
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b			
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)		Prior Year	Current Year
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)		730,082	849,968
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)		278,142	25,905
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)		1,354	3,659
	12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)		9,383	70,246
			1,018,961	949,778
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)			125,000
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)			0
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)		568,946	488,050
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)		17,169	12,631
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) 178,094			
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)		281,143	209,584
	18 Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)		867,258	835,265
	19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12		151,703	114,513
	Net Assets or Fund Balances			Beginning of Current Year
20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)		524,137	552,482	
21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)		108,278	22,110	
22 Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20		415,859	530,372	

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	***** Signature of officer			2013-08-09 Date	
	MATHEW RUBIN TREASURER Type or print name and title				
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name WALLACE W TAPIA CPA		Preparer's signature		Date
	Firm's name ▶ WALLACE W TAPIA PC			Check ☐ if self-employed	PTIN
	Firm's address ▶ 131 MAIN ST 8TH FL BURLINGTON, VT 05401			Phone no (802) 863-6370	

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Part III

Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part III

☐

1

Briefly describe the organization’s mission

VPIRG’s mission is to promote and protect the

2

Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If “Yes,” describe these new services on Schedule O

3

Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If “Yes,” describe these changes on Schedule O

4

Describe the organization’s program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

4a

(Code) (Expenses \$ 343,382 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ 25,905)

CLEAN ENERGY - VPIRG WORKS TO ADVANCE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT AIM TO STOP OUR CONTINUED RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUELS AND OTHER DIRTY ENERGY LIKE NUCLEAR POWER, AND TO DRAMATICALLY INCREASE THE USE OF CLEAN, LOCAL, RENEWABLE ENERGY THAT CAN POWER A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE FOR VERMONT TO THIS END IN 2012, VPIRG LED THE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO MAKE VERMONT THE FIRST STATE IN THE NATION TO BAN THE DANGEROUS PRACTICE OF FRACKING VPIRG ALSO CONTINUED TO TAKE PART IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS REGARDING THE FATE OF THE VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR PLANT AS A PARTY TO THE CASE BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD, VPIRG CONTINUES TO WORK FOR THE IMMEDIATE RETIREMENT OF THIS DIRTY, DANGEROUS AND UNRELIABLE PLANT VPIRG WORKED HARD TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS ACROSS VERMONT, RESULTING IN AN EXPANSION OF THE STATE’S STANDARD OFFER PROGRAM AND ENHANCEMENTS TO THE NET METERING LAW WE ALSO HELPED TO DEFEAT ATTEMPTS TO PUT A MORATORIUM ON BUILDING CLEAN WIND POWER PROJECTS IN VERMONT VPIRG ALSO CARRIED OUT A STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN AIMED AT MAKING IT EASIER FOR VERMONTERS TO INVEST IN WEATHERIZING THEIR HOMES AND SWITCHING TO CLEAN HEAT

4b

(Code) (Expenses \$ 69,802 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

HEALTH CARE REFORM - VPIRG WORKS TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WILL ENSURE THAT ALL VERMONTERS HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE WHEN THEY NEED IT VPIRG ENVISIONS A DAY WHEN OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS DRIVEN BY POSITIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES RATHER THAN THE PROFITS OF THE INDUSTRY AND INSURANCE BUREAUCRATS WE SUPPORT THE FEDERAL REFORM EFFORTS OF THE ACA AS A STEPPING STONE TO A GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE SYSTEM THAT WILL ENABLE VERMONT TO LEAD THE NATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SI

4c

(Code) (Expenses \$ 75,153 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - VPIRG WORKS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND OUR ENVIRONMENT FROM THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES VPIRG AIMS TO FUNDAMENTALLY REFORM HOW CHEMICALS ARE REGULATED, ENCOURAGING THE USE OF SAFER ALTERNATIVES WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND MINIMIZING EXPOSURES PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN VPIRG HELPED DRAFT AND PASS LEGISLATION THAT WILL REQUIRE THE USE OF GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS IN OUR SCHOOLS WE CONTINUED TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CHEMI

(Code) (Expenses \$ 35,114 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

Other programs include Democracy & Fair Elections and Consumer Protection See Schedule O for a and Consumer Protection See Schedule O for a

4d

Other program services (Describe in Schedule O)

(Expenses \$ 35,114 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e

Total program service expenses

523,451

Part IV

Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	1	No
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)? 	2	Yes
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>	3	No
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>	4	No
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i> 	5	Yes
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>	6	No
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>	7	No
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>	8	No
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>	9	No
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>	10	No
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI.</i> 	11a	Yes
b Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>	11b	No
c Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>	11c	No
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i> 	11d	Yes
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	11e	No
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	11f	No
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>	12a	No
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>	12b	No
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>	13	No
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	14a	No
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>	14b	No
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>	15	No
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>	16	No
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)</i>	17	No
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>	18	No
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>	19	No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>	20a	No
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	20b	

Part IV

Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to any government or organization in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>	21	Yes	
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>	22		No
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	23		No
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25</i>	24a		No
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	24b		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	24c		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	24d		
25a	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	25a		No
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	25b		No
26	Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highest compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>	26	Yes	
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>	27		No
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)			
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28a		No
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28b		No
c	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28c	Yes	
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	29		No
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	30		No
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>	31		No
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>	32		No
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>	33		No
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i>	34	Yes	
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	35a	Yes	
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	35b	Yes	
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	36		
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>	37		No
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	38	Yes	

Part V

Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part V

☐

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable.	8	
1b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable.	0	
1c			
2a		112	
2b		Yes	
3a			No
3b			
4a			No
b			
5a			No
5b			No
5c			
6a		Yes	
6b		Yes	
7 Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).			
7a			
7b			
7c			
7d			
7e			
7f			
7g			
7h			
8			
9 Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.			
9a			
9b			
10 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter			
10a			
10b			
11 Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter			
11a			
11b			
12a			
12b			
13a			
13b			
13c			
14a			No
14b			

Part VI

Governance, Management, and Disclosure

For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VI

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year	13	
If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O			
1b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent	13	
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2	No
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3	No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4	No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?	5	No
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6	Yes
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	7a	Yes
7b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b	Yes
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following		
8a	The governing body?	8a	Yes
8b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	Yes
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O	9	No

Section B. Policies

(This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a	No
10b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	10b	
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	Yes
11b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12a	Yes
12b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b	Yes
12c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	12c	Yes
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	No
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	Yes
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
15a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a	Yes
15b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b	Yes
If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)			
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a	No
16b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b	

Section C. Disclosure

17	List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed	
18	Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply. ☐ Own website ☐ Another's website ☒ Upon request ☐ Other (explain in Schedule O)	
19	Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year	
20	State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization MATHEW RUBIN 141 MAIN ST 6 MONTPELIER, VT (802) 223-5221	

Part VII

Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

- 1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year
- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid

List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any See instructions for definition of "key employee "

List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations

List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

List persons in the following order individual trustees or directors, institutional trustees, officers, key employees, highest compensated employees, and former such persons

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) DUANE PETERSON President	2 00	X		X				0	0	0
(2) JULIE ELMORE Vice-President	2 00	X		X				0	0	0
(3) MATHEW RUBIN Treasurer	2 00	X		X				0	0	0
(4) CREA LINTILHAC Secretary	2 00	X		X				0	0	0
(5) DAN BRUSH Director/Consultant	1 00	X						0	0	0
(6) ED FLANAGAN Director	1 00	X						0	0	0
(7) BARBARINA HEYERDAHL Director	1 00	X						0	0	0
(8) DREW HUDSON Director	1 00	X						0	0	0
(9) DR JOEL MILLER Director	1 00	X						0	0	0
(10) BIFF MITHOEFER Director	1 00	X						0	0	0
(11) FLOYD NEASE Director	1 00	X						0	0	0
(12) DR MICHAEL SCOLLINS Director	1 00	X						0	0	0
(13) MARK SINCLAIR Director	1 00	X						0	0	0
(14) STEFANIE SIDORTSOVA Director	1 00	X						0	0	0
(15) PAUL BURNS Executive Director	18			X				35,471	45,146	17,702

Part VII

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
1b Sub-Total										
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A										
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)								35,471	45,146	17,702

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization: 0

		Yes	No
3	Did the organization list any former officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	3	No
4	For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	4	No
5	Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>	5	No

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization 0

Part VIII

Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VIII

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a	Federated campaigns . . .	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b	327,603			
	c	Fundraising events	1c				
	d	Related organizations	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	522,365			
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$					
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f		849,968			
Program Service Revenue	2a	Solar Energy Consulting Revenue	Business Code 900099	25,905			
	b						
	c						
	d						
	e						
	f	All other program service revenue					
	g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f		25,905			
	Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)	3,659			3,659
4		Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds . .					
5		Royalties					
6a		Gross rents	(i) Real 13,308	(ii) Personal			
b		Less rental expenses	5,506				
c		Rental income or (loss)	7,802				
d		Net rental income or (loss)	7,802			7,802	
7a		Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other			
b		Less cost or other basis and sales expenses					
c		Gain or (loss)					
d		Net gain or (loss)					
8a		Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18	a				
b		Less direct expenses	b				
c		Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . .					
9a		Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19	a				
b		Less direct expenses	b				
c		Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . .					
10a		Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances .	a				
b		Less cost of goods sold	b				
c		Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . .					
		Miscellaneous Revenue	Business Code				
11a		Other Income	900099	2,381			2,381
b	Sale of Component Program Assets	900099	60,063			60,063	
c							
d	All other revenue						
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d		62,444				
12	Total revenue. See Instructions		949,778	25,905		73,905	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns All other organizations must complete column (A)

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.		(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1	Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States See Part IV, line 21	125,000	125,000		
2	Grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States See Part IV, line 22				
3	Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the United States See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4	Benefits paid to or for members	0	0		
5	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	43,034	35,100	3,193	4,741
6	Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7	Other salaries and wages	351,938	181,462	64,865	105,611
8	Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	3,325	1,967	1,107	251
9	Other employee benefits	53,310	32,131	17,136	4,043
10	Payroll taxes	36,443	19,085	6,109	11,249
11	Fees for services (non-employees)				
a	Management				
b	Legal	21,335	10,386	10,949	0
c	Accounting	12,567	9,625	2,942	0
d	Lobbying	4,500	4,500	0	0
e	Professional fundraising services See Part IV, line 17	12,631			12,631
f	Investment management fees				
g	Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)	76,136	43,228	417	32,491
12	Advertising and promotion	25,000	25,000	0	0
13	Office expenses	13,615	8,741	3,575	1,299
14	Information technology	3,035	1,952	711	372
15	Royalties				
16	Occupancy	16,518	10,715	3,997	1,806
17	Travel	1,358	710	70	578
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19	Conferences, conventions, and meetings	644	349	295	0
20	Interest				
21	Payments to affiliates				
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	6,908	0	6,908	0
23	Insurance	4,853	3,234	1,111	508
24	Other expenses Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O)				
a	Bank & credit card fees	7,488	2,323	4,865	300
b	Dues/publications/newsletter	12,822	7,943	2,805	2,074
c					
d					
e	All other expenses	2,805	0	2,665	140
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	835,265	523,451	133,720	178,094
26	Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation Check here ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X

Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part X

				(A)		(B)
				Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing		130,250	1	37,962
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments		165,587	2	177,422
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net			3	
	4	Accounts receivable, net		106,183	4	4,149
	5	Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L			5	
	6	Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions) Complete Part II of Schedule L			6	88,795
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net			7	
	8	Inventories for sale or use			8	
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		17,371	9	17,795
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a26,246			
	b	Less accumulated depreciation	10b13,443	16,751	10c	12,803
	11	Investments—publicly traded securities			11	
	12	Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11			12	
	13	Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11			13	
	14	Intangible assets			14	
	15	Other assets See Part IV, line 11		87,995	15	213,556
	16	Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)		524,137	16	552,482
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses		108,278	17	22,110
	18	Grants payable			18	
	19	Deferred revenue			19	
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities			20	
	21	Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D			21	
	22	Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L			22	
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties			23	
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties			24	
	25	Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24) Complete Part X of Schedule D			25	
	26	Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25		108,278	26	22,110
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☒ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.					
	27	Unrestricted net assets		415,859	27	530,372
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets			28	
	29	Permanently restricted net assets			29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☐ and complete lines 30 through 34.					
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds			30	
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund			31	
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds			32	
	33	Total net assets or fund balances		415,859	33	530,372
	34	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances		524,137	34	552,482

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	949,778
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	835,265
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	114,513
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	415,859
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	530,372

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XII

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual ☐ Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☒ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis	Yes	
2b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis		No
2c	If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O	Yes	
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		No
3b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

SCHEDULE C

(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527
▶ **Complete if the organization is described below. ▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**
▶ **See separate instructions.**

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public
Inspection

If the organization answered “Yes” to Form 990, Part IV, Line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations Complete Parts I-A and B Do not complete Part I-C
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations Complete Parts I-A and C below Do not complete Part I-B
- Section 527 organizations Complete Part I-A only

If the organization answered “Yes” to Form 990, Part IV, Line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-A Do not complete Part II-B
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-B Do not complete Part II-A

If the organization answered “Yes” to Form 990, Part IV, Line 5 (Proxy Tax) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax), then

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations Complete Part III

Name of the organization VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP INC	Employer identification number 03-0228267
--	--

Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.

1	Provide a description of the organization’s direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV	
2	Political expenditures	▶ \$
3	Volunteer hours	

Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).

1	Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955	▶ \$
2	Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955	▶ \$
3	If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?	☐ Yes ☐ No
4a	Was a correction made?	☐ Yes ☐ No
b	If “Yes,” describe in Part IV	

Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).

1	Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities	▶ \$
2	Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities	▶ \$
3	Total exempt function expenditures Add lines 1 and 2 Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b	▶ \$
4	Did the filing organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	☐ Yes ☐ No
5	Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization’s funds Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC) If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV	

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds If none, enter -0-	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization If none, enter -0-

Part II-A

Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

- A
- Check ☐ if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures)
- B
- Check ☐ if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
1a Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)															
b Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)															
c Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)															
d Other exempt purpose expenditures															
e Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)															
f Lobbying nontaxable amount Enter the amount from the following table in both columns															
<table><tr><td>If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:</td><td>The lobbying nontaxable amount is:</td></tr><tr><td>Not over \$500,000</td><td>20% of the amount on line 1e</td></tr><tr><td>Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000</td><td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000</td></tr><tr><td>Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000</td><td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000</td></tr><tr><td>Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000</td><td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000</td></tr><tr><td>Over \$17,000,000</td><td>\$1,000,000</td></tr></table>		If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:	Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e	Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000	Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000	Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000	Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000		
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:														
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e														
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000														
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000														
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000														
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000														
g Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)															
h Subtract line 1g from line 1a If zero or less, enter -0-															
i Subtract line 1f from line 1c If zero or less, enter -0-															
j If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?		☐ Yes ☐ No													

4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h)
(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the instructions for lines 2a through 2f on page 4.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) Total
2a Lobbying nontaxable amount					
b Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					
c Total lobbying expenditures					
d Grassroots nontaxable amount					
e Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					
f Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

Part II-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

For each "Yes" response to lines 1a through 1i below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity.		(a)		(b)
		Yes	No	Amount
1	During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of			
a	Volunteers?			
b	Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)?			
c	Media advertisements?			
d	Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?			
e	Publications, or published or broadcast statements?			
f	Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?			
g	Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?			
h	Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means?			
i	Other activities?			
j	Total. Add lines 1c through 1i.			
2a	Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)?			
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912.			
c	If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912.			
d	If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?			

Part III-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).

	Yes	No
1 Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?	1 Yes	
2 Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?	2	No
3 Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political expenditures from the prior year?	3	No

Part III-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No" OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."

1	Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members	1	
2	Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
a	Current year	2a	
b	Carryover from last year	2b	
c	Total	2c	
3	Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues	3	
4	If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year?	4	
5	Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions)	5	

Part IV Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1, Part I-B, line 4, Part I-C, line 5, Part II-A (affiliated group list), Part II-A, line 2, and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
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SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP INC	Employer identification number 03-0228267
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Part I

Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1	Total number at end of year	
2	Aggregate contributions to (during year)	
3	Aggregate grants from (during year)	
4	Aggregate value at end of year	
5	Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? ☐ Yes☐ No	
6	Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? ☐ Yes☐ No	

Part II

Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1

Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)

☐ Preservation of land for public use (e g , recreation or education)☐ Preservation of an historically important land area☐ Protection of natural habitat☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure☐ Preservation of open space

2

Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

	Held at the End of the Year
a	Total number of conservation easements
b	Total acreage restricted by conservation easements
c	Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)
d	Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register

3

Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶_____

4

Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶_____

5

Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?

☐ Yes☐ No

6

Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶_____

7

Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶\$ _____

8

Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?

☐ Yes☐ No

9

In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

Part III

Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a

If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items

b

If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items

(i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

▶\$ _____

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X

▶\$ _____

2

If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items

a

Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1

▶\$ _____

b

Assets included in Form 990, Part X

▶\$ _____

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets *(continued)*

3

Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)

a

☐ Public exhibition

d

☐ Loan or exchange programs

b

☐ Scholarly research

e

☐ Other

c

☐ Preservation for future generations

4

Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII

5

During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a

Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?

☐ Yes

☐ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	

c

Beginning balance

d

Additions during the year

e

Distributions during the year

f

Ending balance

2a

Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21?

☐ Yes

☐ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

☐

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a)Current year	(b)Prior year	b (c)Two years back	(d)Three years back	(e)Four years back
1a	Beginning of year balance				
b	Contributions				
c	Net investment earnings, gains, and losses				
d	Grants or scholarships				
e	Other expenditures for facilities and programs				
f	Administrative expenses				
g	End of year balance				

2

Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as

a

Board designated or quasi-endowment

b

Permanent endowment

c

Temporarily restricted endowment

The percentages in lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%

3a

Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by

(i)

unrelated organizations

3a(i)

☐

☐

(ii)

related organizations

3a(ii)

☐

☐

b

If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

3b

☐

☐

4

Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b)Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements		2,741	834	1,907
d Equipment		23,505	12,609	10,896
e Other				
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).)				12,803

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12			
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a		
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b		
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	
5	Total revenue Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)		5	

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a		
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1 :			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	
5	Total expenses Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)		5	

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
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Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments and Individuals in the United States

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Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.
▶ Attach to Form 990

Name of the organization
VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP INC

Employer identification number

03-0228267

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance?

☒ Yes ☐ No

2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States

Part II **Grants and Other Assistance to Governments and Organizations in the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

[illegible]

2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table **1**

3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table 0

Part III

Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals in the United States. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 22.
Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a)Type of grant or assistance	(b)Number of recipients	(c)Amount of cash grant	(d)Amount of non-cash assistance	(e)Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f)Description of non-cash assistance

Part IV Supplemental Information.		
Complete this part to provide the information required in Part I, line 2, Part III, column (b), and any other additional information		
Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
Pt I Line 2		VPIRG's governing Board serves the same role for the grantee organization,
		allowing for the regular oversight of granted funds

Schedule L
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Transactions with Interested Persons
▶ **Complete if the organization answered**
"Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, lines 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c,
or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.
▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.**

OMB No 1545-0047
2012
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Name of the organization
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Employer identification number

03-0228267

Part I

Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3) and section 501(c)(4) organizations only).
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b

1	(a) Name of disqualified person	(b) Relationship between disqualified person and organization	(c) Description of transaction	(d) Corrected?	
				Yes	No

2 Enter the amount of tax incurred by organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 ▶ \$

3 Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization ▶ \$

Part II

Loans to and/or From Interested Persons.
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a, or Form 990, Part IV, line 26, or if the organization reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 5, 6, or 22

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship with organization	(c) Purpose of loan	(d) Loan to or from the organization?		(e) Original principal amount	(f) Balance due	(g) In default?		(h) Approved by board or committee?		(i) Written agreement?	
			To	From			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
(1) SOLARCOMMUNITIES	See Part V	See Part V		X	86,000	88,795		No	Yes		Yes	
Total ▶ \$						88,795						

Part III

Grants or Assistance Benefitting Interested Persons.
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of assistance	(d) Type of assistance	(e) Purpose of assistance

Part IV Business Transactions Involving Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 28a, 28b, or 28c.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of transaction	(d) Description of transaction	(e) Sharing of organization's revenues?	
				Yes	No
(1) SOLARCOMMUNITIES INC	See Part V Below	86,000	Sale of Program Assets		No
(2) SOLARCOMMUNITIES INC	See Part V Below	2,795	Accrued Interest to 12/31/12		No

Part V Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule L (see instructions)

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
1		As of 1/1/12, VPIRG has recognized revenue and a receivable from
		an entity (Solarcommunities, Inc) in which a Board
		member and officer (Duane Peterson) is an owner and
		representing the sale of assets previously employed in a
		program conducted by the filing organization
2		Accrued interest receivable at the WSJ Prime Rate from
		1/1/12 to 12/31/12

2012

Open to Public Inspection

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

**Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or to provide any additional information.**
► Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Name of the organization
VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP INC

Employer identification number

03-0228267

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
Pt VI, Line 11b		A draft of Form 990 is reviewed by management with a copy of Form
		990, in pdf format, made available to the Board prior to filing
Pt VI, Line 12c		Board members are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest
		annually with compliance monitored by management
Pt VI, Line 15a		The Executive Committee of the governing Board reviews comparability
		information as part of the annual salary review of all top officials
Pt VI, Line 15b		See above description for Part VI Line 15a
Pt VI, Line 19		The Organization does not release its financial statements
		or other governance documents General financial information is
		provided annually to the members
Pt VI, Line 6		Supporters of VPIRG who make contributions of at least
		\$30 per year - to either VPIRG or its affiliate VPIREF - are
		automatically considered members
Pt VI, Line 7a		Directors serve two-year terms with the membership generally electing
		half of the Directors each year via mail or electronic ballot
Pt VI, Line 7b		Members must approve any changes to the Organization's bylaws
Pt III, Line 3		The Organization ceased conducting its "Solar Communities" program
		designed to encourage the utilization of solar power in 2012
		The program's assets were sold to an entity whose owners include
		a VPIRG Board member and officer (See Schedule L)

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
Pt III, Line 4d		Democracy & Fair Elections - VPIRG actively supports
		efforts to make our democracy more open and transparent
		We also seek to ensure that elections are fair and
		balanced by reducing the undue influence of money in our
		political processes We continue to draw attention to
		the devastating impact of the disastrous Supreme Court
Form 990, Part III, Line 4d		OTHER PROGRAMS INCLUDE DEMOCRACY & FAIR ELECTIONS 35114 0 0
		verdict in Citizens United With VPIRG's support, in 2012,
		the Vermont Legislature passed a joint resolution urging
		Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution
		to make clear that corporations are not people and money
		is not speech We continue to work towards passing
		meaningful campaign finance reform and watchdogging the
		role of money in Vermont politics
Part III, Line 4d		Consumer Protection - VPIRG serves as a watchdog,
		protecting the public interest when corporations attempt
		to put profits over people, and ensure that the policies
		and laws that we do pass to protect the public interest
		are in fact enforced In 2012, VPIRG launched a major
		consumer protection effort to assert and protect

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
		consumers' right to know what's in the food they eat
		Working with partners in the Right to Know GMOs Coalition,
		VPIRG campaigned to require the labeling of foods that
		contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs) VPIRG
		worked with legislative allies to introduce a bill aimed
		at labeling GMOs and VPIRG organizers turned out hundreds
		of activists to a hearing at the State House supporting
		the bill

SCHEDULE R
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35, 36, or 37.
▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP INC

Employer identification number
03-0228267

Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 33.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity

Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No
(1) VT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH & EDUC FUND 141 MAIN ST 6 MONTPELIER, VT 05602 51-0163801	EDUCATION	VT	501(c)(3)	509(a)(1)	NA	Yes	

Part III

Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income(related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512- 514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V—UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	

Part IV

Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end- of-year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512 (b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No

Part V

Transactions With Related Organizations (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.)

Note. Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule

1 During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?

a Receipt of (i) interest (ii) annuities (iii) royalties or (iv) rent from a controlled entity

b Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s)

c Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s)

d Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s)

e Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s)

f Dividends from related organization(s)

g Sale of assets to related organization(s)

h Purchase of assets from related organization(s)

i Exchange of assets with related organization(s)

j Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s)

k Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s)

l Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s)

m Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s)

n Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s)

o Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s)

p Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses

q Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses

r Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s)

s Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s)

Yes

No

1a

1b

1c

1d

1e

1f

1g

1h

1i

1j

1k

1l

1m

1n

1o

1p

1q

1r

1s

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

No

Yes

Yes

No

No

No

No

2 If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds

(a) Name of other organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1) VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND	d	212,056	Cost
(2) VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND	n	23,597	Cost
(3) VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND	o	259,586	Cost
(4) VERMONT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUND	b	125,000	Cash

Schedule R (Form 990) 2012

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization. See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships.

[illegible]

Part VII **Supplemental Information**

Complete this part to provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule R (see instructions)

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
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