Michael J. Buscher, ASLA

Principal / Landscape Architect

Education

1992-1998	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, College of Arts and Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania
Spring 1996	Roman Urban Studies, Penn State Department of Landscape Architecture, Rome, Italy

Professional Registration

2011 – Present	Licensed Landscape Architect, Vermont No. 81719

Professional Experience

2007-Present	Principal / Landscape Architect, T. J. Boyle Associates LLC, Burlington, Vermont
2001- 2007	Landscape Architect, T. J. Boyle and Associates, Burlington, Vermont
1998-2001	Landscape Architect, Greenhorne & O'Mara Engineers & Planners, Inc., Germantown, Maryland
Summer 1998	Private Contractor, Centre County Historical Society, State College, Pennsylvania

Related Project Experience

Green Lantern Capital Solar Development

Manager for the visual analysis for the development of over 5.5-MW or solar electric generation facilities, broken into 500 to 1,000 kW net metered Projects. Many of these projects will be co-owned by the towns in which they are located.

Northern Pass Transmission Environmental Impact Statement

Co-manager for the visual impact assessment portion of the EIS for a 180 mile proposed 300 HVDC transmission line in New Hampshire. T. J. Boyle is a sub-consultant to SE Group to provide EIS services for the U.S. Department of Energy and the White Mountain National Forest.

Technology Drive Solar Project

Managed the visual analysis for a 2.2-MW solar electric generation facility in Brattleboro, Vermont. The Project received a Certificate of Public Good from the Vermont Public Service Board in 2013 and is currently awaiting construction.

Whitcomb Solar Project

Managed the visual analysis for a 2.2-MW solar electric generation facility in Essex Junction, Vermont. The Project received a Certificate of Public Good from the Vermont Public Service Board in 2013 and is currently awaiting construction.

Claire Solar Project

Managed the visual analysis for a 2.2-MW solar electric generation facility in South Burlington, Vermont. The Project received a Certificate of Public Good from the Vermont Public Service Board in 2013 and is currently under construction.

Chester Solar Project

Managed the visual analysis for a 2.2-MW solar electric generation facility in Chester, Vermont. The Project received a Certificate of Public Good from the Vermont Public Service Board in 2013 and is currently under construction.

Environmental Assessment for Wind Resources Offshore Georgia

Provided project management for the visual impact assessment portion of the Draft and Final EA to install meteorological measurement towers and buoys on the outer continental shelf, near Tybee Island, GA. This project will be used to assess the potential for offshore wind development in the area.

Harbor View Solar Project

Evaluated potential visual impacts for a proposed 2.2-MW solar electric generation facility in St. Albans, Vermont. The Project received a Certificate of Public Good from the Vermont Public Service Board in November 2012 and is currently awaiting construction.

Visualization Study for Offshore North Carolina

Managed the creation of multiple high quality visualizations including: 234 single-frame photographic simulations, 21 panoramic simulations, 48 animated videos and six simulated movies for potential offshore wind development. The visualizations were used by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to assess aesthetic impacts and finalize the federal offshore lease program for renewable energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf.

VELCO: Bennington Substation

Managed the visual analysis of a proposed electrical transmission substation located in Bennington, Vermont including coordination of public outreach efforts and investigation of several alternatives with VELCO to gain support from local officials. The analysis included the preparation of testimony, a report, and exhibits including photo simulations of several different design alternatives. The Project received a Certificate of Public Good from the Vermont Public Service Board in August of 2012 and completed construction in 2014.

Lamoille County Sheriff Public Safety Project

Provided aesthetic assessment services, including review under the Quechee Analysis, for the replacement of an existing wireless communication tower in the town of Hyde Park. Several emergency service communication networks will be collocated on the new tower. The project received its Certification of Public Good in 2011 under Section 248a of the Vermont State Statutes.

VELCO: Ascutney Substation

Managed all aspects for the visual analysis of a proposed electrical substation located in Weathersfield, Vermont. Responsibilities included preparation of testimony and report, and oversight of exhibit preparation including photo simulations, for inclusion with the Section 248 petition to the Vermont Public Service Board. The Project received a Certificate of Public Good in April of 2012 and completed construction in 2013.

"SunGen Sharon I" Solar Farm Project – VT Department of Public Service

Reviewed the applicant's petition for a Certificate of Public Good and performed an evaluation of potential aesthetic impacts on behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Service. Responsibilities included preparation of testimony, an aesthetic analysis report, and exhibits for inclusion with the Section 248 filings to the Vermont Public Service Board. This project received a Certificate of Public Good in 2011 and completed construction in 2012.

VELCO: Jay Substation

Evaluated potential visual impacts that would result from a proposed electrical transmission substation in Jay, Vermont. Responsibilities included preparation of testimony, report, and exhibits for inclusion with the Section 248 petition to the Vermont Public Service Board. This project received a Certificate of Public Good in 2011 and construction was completed in 2012.

Williamstown Solar Farm

Evaluated potential visual impacts for a proposed 2.0-MW solar electric generation facility in Williamstown, Vermont. The Project received a Certificate of Public Good from the Vermont Public Service Board in November 2010 and went on line in December 2012.

FairPoint Communications Wireless Broadband

Provided aesthetic assessment services for the permitting of multiple wireless towers throughout the State of Vermont. An initial three-tower project that involved coordination of archaeological and historic resources was approved by the Vermont Public Service Board. Studies for several other sites were completed, but FairPoint discontinued the project.

Vermont Community Wind

Conducted a visual resource study in preparation of filing testimony and exhibits to the Vermont Public Service Board for a proposed 85 MW industrial wind turbine project in Ira, Vermont. Responsibilities included assessment of 60 potential turbine locations, coordination and quality control of GIS data for multiple consultants, coordination on public outreach events and the creation of project visualizations. This project is currently on hold.

Southern Loop Project

Evaluated potential visual impacts as the result of proposed transmission upgrades including the addition of a second 345 kV transmission line within an existing corridor, new and expanded substations and a new 345 kV loop. Responsibilities included preparation of testimony, reports, and exhibits for inclusion with the 248 petition to the Vermont Public Service Board. This project received a Certificate of Public Good in February 2009 and construction was completed in 2011.

East Avenue Loop Project

Managed all aspects of the visual analysis for a proposed 115 kV transmission line upgrade between Williston and Burlington, Vermont, including preparation of a visual analysis report, exhibits, and testimony. This project involved the creation of a highly detailed 3-D model that was presented at several key stakeholder meetings and public open house sessions to help inform the public of the visual characteristics of the proposed upgrades. The Certificate of Public Good for this project was issued in May, 2008. Construction was completed 2009.

Deerfield Wind Project

Co-authored a report, created exhibits, prepared joint pre-filed testimony and testified at a technical hearing before the Vermont Public Service Board to evaluate aesthetic impacts of a seventeen 2.0-MW wind turbine project within the Green Mountain National Forest in southern Vermont. This project has received a Certificate of Public Good and is awaiting construction. Co-authored separate report for the EIS.

Beekmantown Wind Project

Conducted a visual resource assessment for a proposed thirteen-turbine industrial wind farm in Beekmantown, NY. Findings were presented in a Visual Impact Assessment Report, along with maps, photo simulations, sections and other exhibits, and filed as attachment D of the Full Environmental Impact Assessment.

Middlebury Spur Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared a visual assessment for inclusion with an Environment Impact Statement of proposed alternates of a railroad spur and loading facilities in Middlebury, VT. Several photo simulations were prepared in order to evaluate alternate proposals, including at-grade and grade-separated crossings of public roads. The final EIS for this project has been completed.

East Haven Windfarm

Completed a report summarizing the visual analysis of a four-turbine industrial wind project in East Haven, Vermont, and provided testimony to the Vermont Public Service Board. This project was denied a Certificate of Public Good due to inadequate avian impact studies.

Independent Wireless One – Pritchard Mt. Telecommunication Facility Expansion

Prepared exhibits, including several photographic simulations, in support of testimony submitted to Act 250 District Commission #4 for approval of substantial changes to a pre-existing telecommunication tower.

Northwest Vermont Reliability Project

Prepared exhibits in support of testimony submitted to the Vermont Public Service Board for approval of electrical transmission line upgrades from West Rutland to South Burlington to ensure the reliability of Vermont's transmission system. Construction of this project was completed in 2009.

Rensselaer Greens

Provided aesthetic assessment in opposition to a 550-MW cogeneration facility and a recycled newsprint facility, and testified before a joint hearing of the New York State DEC and DPS.

Memberships and Affiliations

1998-present	Member, American Society of Landscape Architects
2002-present	Member, Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
2003-2010	Member, Vermont Landscape Architecture Licensure Committee
2003-2011	Treasurer, Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
2007-2010	Member, Outdoor Lighting Advisory Board – State of Vermont
2007-present	Member, Vermont Planners Association
2007-present	Member, Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association
2008-present	Affiliate Member, the Vermont Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
2009-present	Member, Vermont Green Building Network
2010-present	Advisory Board Member, Vermont Technical College – Architectural and Building Engineering Technology Department
2010-present	Member, Village Steering Committee, Town of Hinesburg

Awards

- 2011 Vermont Chapter ASLA – President's Award
- 2009 VPA Plan of the Year Award: Neshobe Farm Planned Unit Development
- 2009 Vermont Chapter ASLA - Honor Award: Neshobe Farm Planned Unit Development
- 2007 Vermont Public Space Awards - Honorable Mention: Lake & College Project
- Spring 1999, Greenhorne & O'Mara Award of Merit
- Grant recipient, City of Gary, Indiana, for nomination of the Lincoln Street Historic Neighborhood to National Register of Historic Places.
- First place, 1996 ASLA Undergraduate Team Research Award