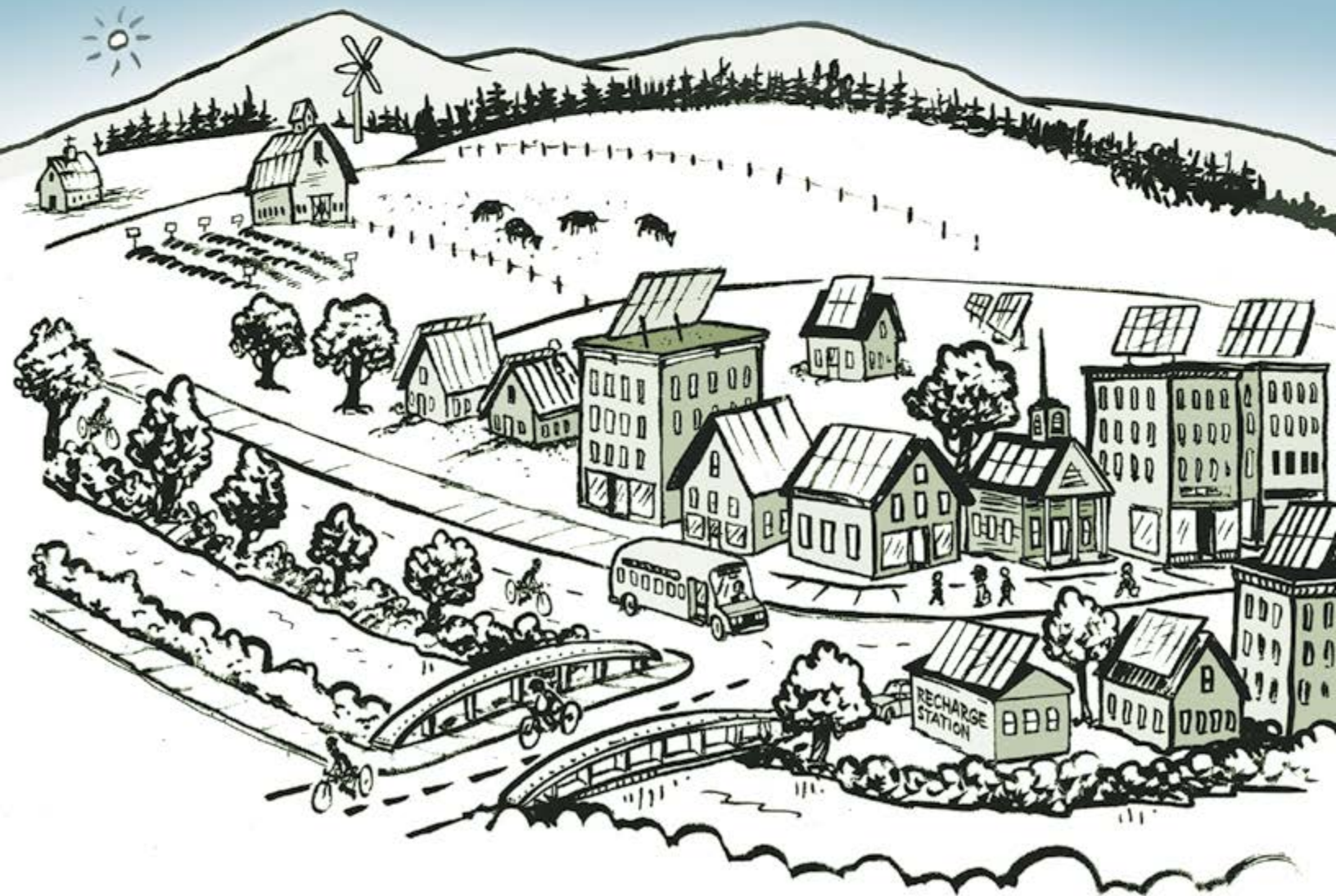


Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and  
University of Vermont Extension present

Saturday, December 2, 2017  
Fairlee, Vermont

# Transforming Vermont's Energy Future from the Ground Up

10th Annual! Community Energy & Climate Action Conference



Thank you to our premier sponsors:



**Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network,**

VECAN, is a network of organizations working to help start, support and strengthen town energy and climate action committees and their efforts to advance a sustainable, clean energy future. VECAN is coordinated by the Vermont Natural Resources Council, in collaboration with Efficiency Vermont, Energy Action Network, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Net Zero Vermont and Vital Communities.

**CONFERENCE HOSTS**



**Vermont Natural Resources Council**

has been the Green Mountain State's leading environmental education, policy and advocacy organization since 1963. Working from the grassroots to the legislature, VNRC advances policies and programs that Vermonters care about — vibrant, walkable communities, clean and abundant water, working farms and forests, and an efficient, clean, renewable energy future. VNRC serves as the coordinator for VECAN.



**Efficiency Vermont** is Vermont's statewide efficiency utility, helping Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen local economies and protect the environment by making homes and businesses energy efficient. EVT provides technical assistance, rebates and other financial incentives to help Vermont households and businesses reduce their energy costs. The Vermont Energy Investment Corporation operates EVT.



**Energy Action Network** is a diverse group of energy stakeholders working to end Vermont's reliance on fossil fuels and create clean, affordable and secure electric heating and transportation systems for the 21st century.



**New England Grassroots Environment Fund**

inspires, connects and supports local change from the ground up. To date, New England Grassroots Environment Fund has provided seed grants and helpful resources to over 1,600 community groups in more than 50 percent of New England's cities and towns.



**Net Zero Vermont** is dedicated to advancing sustainable, vibrant people-centered downtowns, transforming our transportation and energy systems to low carbon alternatives and raising public awareness about the importance of moving to a post-carbon future.

**University of Vermont Extension's**

mission is to improve the quality of life of Vermonters by providing research-based educational programs and practical information concerning Vermont communities, families and homes, farms, businesses and the natural environment. Located throughout the state, UVM Extension links Vermonters to the University of Vermont, providing timely, research-based information and education to individuals and families, supporting agriculture and the environment and strengthening communities.



**Vital Communities**

brings together citizens, organizations and municipalities in the Upper Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire to take on issues where an independent voice and regional approach are essential. Working together, Vital Communities makes the Upper Valley region a better place to live, work and play.



# Conference Agenda

- 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. **Registration Open**  
Coffee and light refreshments. Please browse sponsor exhibits in the Morey Room throughout the day.
- 
- 9:00 – 9:15 A.M. **Welcome – Terrace Ballroom**
- 
- 9:15 – 10:30 A.M. **Panel: Vermont’s High Impact Transformation Opportunities**  
This panel will outline and explore how to move the needle on high-impact clean energy innovation by harnessing the power of comprehensive energy solutions, economic development, policymaking and local leadership.
- 
- 10:30 – 10:45 A.M. **Break**
- 
- 10:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. **Concurrent Workshops Session A**  
Choose from a variety of concurrent sessions. See pages 5–7 for titles, descriptions and presenters.
- 
- 12:00 – 1:30 P.M. **Lunch / Browse Sponsor Exhibits**
- 
- 1:30 – 2:45 P.M. **Concurrent Workshops Session B**  
Choose from a variety of concurrent sessions. See pages 7–9 for titles, descriptions and presenters.
- 
- 3:00 – 3:15 P.M. **VECAN 10th Anniversary Celebration – Terrace Ballroom**
- 
- 3:15 – 4:30 P.M. **Keynote: Former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy – Terrace Ballroom**
- 
- 4:30 – 5:30 P.M. **Post Conference Reception**  
Keep the networking going and celebrate a solid day of work! Gather in the Steamboat Lounge for tasty hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar.

*Thank you for coming and for all you do!*



## Keynote

3:15–4:30 PM

### Stepping In and Stepping Up: Meeting Vermont's Clean Energy and Climate Goals



**G**ina McCarthy has been a leading advocate for common sense strategies to protect public health and the environment for more than 30 years, most recently serving as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under President Obama. At the EPA, Gina led historic progress to achieve the administration's public health and environmental protection goals as well as its Climate Action Plan. In 2015, Gina signed the Clean Power Plan, which set the first-ever national standards for reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants, spurring international efforts that helped secure the Paris Climate Agreement. During her tenure, EPA initiatives cut air pollution, protected water resources, reduced greenhouse gases and strengthened chemical safety to better protect more Americans, especially the most vulnerable, from negative health impacts. Before joining EPA, she served five Massachusetts Democratic and Republican administrations and was Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Currently, she is serving as a Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics.

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## Panel

9:15–10:30 AM

### Vermont's High Impact Transformation Opportunities

To make significant progress on clean energy and climate, there is far more Vermont must do. This panel, comprised of some of the state's leading policy and political experts, is intended to set the stage for today's conference and, more importantly, for the work ahead in 2018 and beyond. After grounding us in Vermont's current state-of-the-state, the panelists will describe high-impact comprehensive energy solutions, economic development opportunities, innovative policymaking and the need for greater state and local leadership:

*Linda McGinnis, Energy Action Network*

*Paul Costello, Vermont Council on Rural Development*

*Becca Balint, Vermont State Senator/Senate Majority Leader*

*Lauren Hierl, Vermont Conservation Voters*



*Illustration by Jeff Danzinger*

## Workshop Session A

10:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.



### **A1** Vermont's High Impact Climate Policies, Opportunities and Arenas

To make progress on clean energy and climate, Vermont individuals, communities and the state must lead. In this workshop, get an update on the progress and focus of the Vermont Climate Action Commission. Hear far more about the most impactful innovative ideas Vermonters put forward at the recent Climate Pledge Coalition Summit. And, get an in-depth overview of the exciting, uniquely Vermont approach to carbon pricing that could significantly accelerate the transition to clean, renewable energy for heating, transportation and electricity for all Vermonters.

*Johanna Miller, Vermont Natural Resources Council*

*Linda McGinnis, Energy Action Network*

*Tom Hughes, Energy Independent Vermont*



### **A2** Helping Low-Income Vermonters Participate in the Energy Transition

Many low-income Vermonters have a high energy burden – meaning a high percentage of their income goes toward energy costs. Come learn about resources available to help low-income Vermonters, including programs that help people learn about and take advantage of these services, as well as innovative approaches to providing direct services.

*Scott Campbell, 3E Thermal*

*Mike Evans, Williams College*

*John Heath, COVER Home Repair*



### **A3** People-Sized Solutions to Car Dependency

Greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector is by far Vermont's largest contributor to climate change. In this workshop, hear from a few of Vermont's leading transportation innovators. Learn about how they and others are working to change the drive-alone paradigm and make our communities more livable and affordable. Join this expert panel working to challenge the dominant paradigm of "automobility" with transportation options that promote physical and mental health, sensible planning, livable communities and ecological sustainability.

*Bethany Fleishman, Vital Communities*

*Dave Cohen, vBike*

*Ross Saxton, Local Motion*

*Continued on next page*

## Workshop Session A

10:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.



### **A4** Advancing Solar and Modern Wood Heat

There is tremendous environmental benefit and economic opportunity in helping all Vermonters invest in clean, locally sourced, renewable resources to heat and power our lives. In this workshop get an update on the current lay-of-the-land policy landscape for renewables, including obstacles and opportunities. Hear the results of the recently concluded “Solar Market Pathways Analysis” and learn about ways to communicate about – and help spur the uptake in – modern wood heat.

*Olivia Campbell-Andersen, Renewable Energy Vermont  
Damon Lane, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation  
Maura Adams, Northern Forest Center*



### **A5** Meeting Vermont's Goals Through Comprehensive Energy Planning

Act 174 requires regions and empowers communities to articulate – through regional and municipal plans – how they intend to help meet the state’s necessarily ambitious comprehensive energy plan goal of 90 percent renewable energy by 2050. In this workshop, get an update on how this nascent effort is working from the state and regional perspective. Hear how one community’s energy plan is being developed, informed and shaped with help from the local energy committee leaders. And, get an overview of how you might use the Vermont Community Energy Dashboard to engage your community and develop a strong plan.

*Jim Sullivan, Bennington County Regional Commission  
Catherine Bryars, Bennington County Regional Commission  
Dan Potter, Vermont Public Service Department  
Duncan McDougall, Waterbury Local Energy Action Partnership*



### **A6** The Art of Effective Advocacy

This workshop offers a unique opportunity to hear from a few of Vermont’s most respected elected officials, advocates and communicators on how to effectively influence key policy-making arenas and community conversations. Learn how you can hone your skills as a concerned citizen to shape policies and public conversations. Also, learn about – and provide input on – a new communications approach that aims to make it easier for climate and clean energy-interested Vermonters to stay informed and weigh in when the time is right.

*Becca Balint, Windham County State Senator/Senate Majority Leader  
Rebecca Ramos, Necrason Group  
Amber Collett, Vermont Natural Resources Council*

## Workshop Session A

10:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.



### **A7** Re-Energizing Energy Committees

Energy committee leaders across Vermont are facing the challenge of bringing in the next generation and developing new leaders. Join fellow local energy leaders for an open dialog about what it takes to re-energize energy committees. We'll discuss case studies from energy committees in the midst of succession, strategies for recruiting volunteers and teaming up with neighboring groups, and tools for identifying exciting new projects – even in communities who have already tackled the low-hanging fruit. Come learn about how we can keep energy committees a strong and vibrant force in Vermont communities for the next 10 years and beyond.

*Sarah Brock, Vital Communities*

*Bob Walker, Vital Communities*

*Ian Hitchcock, VNRC/Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network*

## Workshop Session B

1:30 – 2:45 P.M.



### **B1** Empowering and Electing Climate Champions

Being civically engaged is deeply ingrained in the culture of Vermont. At this critical moment, a more broad, engaged and climate-concerned citizenry is essential to help Vermont turn the crisis of climate change into economic opportunity and energy independence for all. In this workshop, hear about a new pilot program to identify, recruit and train Vermonters interested in running on a clean energy and climate economy platform. Hear from two successful elected officials – a Selectboard member and State Senator – about why and how to move up the leadership ladder. And, explore if a run for local, regional or state office might be right for you or others you know.

*Lauren Hierl, Vermont Conservation Voters*

*Rebecca White, Hartford Selectboard Member*

*Becca Balint, Windham County Senator/Senate Majority Leader*

## Workshop Session B

1:30 – 2:45 P.M.



### **B2** Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard: Progress to Date and a Look Ahead

In 2015, Vermont passed the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) law that requires Vermont electric distribution utilities to procure a defined percentage of their total retail electric sales from renewable energy, including a first-in-the-nation requirement for utilities to reduce their customers' fossil-fuel use. This "energy transformation tier" is the money-saving, energy-innovating requirement of the RES. Come learn how the RES is working, what utilities are doing to meet their requirements and how it might be strengthened and implemented – with your help.

*Robert Dostis, Green Mountain Power*

*James Gibbons, Burlington Electric Department*

*Sarah Wolfe, VPIRG*

*Dan Mellinger, Energy Futures Group*



### **B3** Energy, Working Farms, Birds and Bees

How can we create "win-win-wins" for energy, farms and other important environmental goals in Vermont communities? What role can food system businesses and working lands play in helping communities reach their collective energy goals (particularly in the context of Act 174 energy planning)? What are "preferred sites"? Where can we find examples of success that communities can build on? In this session, hear about energy projects that are supporting farm viability, forests, birds & bees, and more – all while moving our communities toward 90 percent renewables by 2050 at the local level.

*Alex DePillis, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets*

*Christine McGowan, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund*



### **B4** Climate Pledge Coalition and Running Local Energy Campaigns

In this workshop, get an overview of the new Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition and how you and your community can participate in this effort to make significant strides – at the grassroots level – to help meet the state's goals. Bring a laptop and dive deep into how to harness the Community Energy Dashboard's new campaign tool to support Climate Pledge Coalition efforts and run local, clean energy and climate campaigns in your community. Also, hear how partners, including VECAN, can support you and your community's participation in this effort.

*Rob Fish, Energy Action Network*

*Jennifer Green, Burlington Electric Department*

*Ian Hitchcock, VNRC/Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network*



## Workshop Session B

1:30 – 2:45 P.M.



### **B5** The 2018 Legislative Look Forward

Now, more than ever, strong state policy will be required to meet Vermont's clean energy and climate goals. This workshop will provide an overview of likely energy and climate-focused initiatives in the 2018 legislative session. Learn how Vermont's landmark land use law – Act 250 – might be expanded to better address climate change and energy issues. Hear about energy efficiency, renewable energy and transportation ideas on the table, and get an update on current, innovative efforts to help all Vermonters transition affordably to clean, efficient, renewable energy solutions by pricing carbon pollution. The conversation will also highlight how local leaders can help shape the policy-making arena.

*Mark McDonald, Orange County Senator*

*Christopher Bray, Addison County Senator*

*Diana Gonzalez, Vermont State Representative (Winooski)*

*Ben Walsh, VPIRG*



### **B6** Successful Strategies on Thermal Efficiency

Interested in trying to crack the tough nut of getting residents in your town to weatherize their homes? This workshop is focused on getting your neighbors excited about efficiency. Get the scoop on the results from the Weatherize Upper Valley and most recent Button Up Vermont campaigns, and join in the discussion about how to make strides around weatherization in your community.

*Sarah Brock, Vital Communities*

*Paul Markowitz, Efficiency Vermont*



### **B7** Making Vermont's Transportation Transformation Possible

This workshop will focus on transportation policies that will benefit all Vermonters – from rural public transit solutions, to EV technologies, rail and ship travel. Solutions will require investments and the raising of capital to fund massive infrastructure conversion projects by 2030. Join this policy discussion to hear perspectives on Vermont's future transportation system.

*Jennifer Wallace Brodeur, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation*

*Deb Sachs, Net Zero Vermont*

*Scott Johnstone, Intrepid Advocate for Public Good*

## Presenters

**Maura Adams** is a program director at the Northern Forest Center, a nonprofit that builds economic and community vitality while fostering sound forest stewardship across the Northern Forest of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Maura focuses primarily on advocating for automated wood heating systems and renewable, locally-made wood pellets as a replacement for fossil fuels. Previously, Maura built and managed the environmental stewardship program at St. Paul's School, worked as a green building consultant for the Jordan Institute, ran energy reduction campaigns at Harvard University, and conducted field ecology research in northern Wisconsin and the Northeast. She's a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and now resides in Concord, NH.

**Becca Balint** represents Windham County in the Vermont Senate, where she serves on many committees – including Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs – as well as the Senate's Majority Leader. Becca received her BA from Smith College, a Masters in Education from Harvard and a Masters in History from UMass Amherst. Becca has spent much of her career teaching in public and private schools in New England, as well as at the Community College of Vermont. Becca has also served on many municipal boards, often focused on economic and workforce development, and currently writes a popular weekly op-ed column in the Brattleboro Reformer. She lives with her wife, attorney Elizabeth Wohl and their two children in Brattleboro.

**Christopher Bray** represents Addison County, Huntington, and Buel's Gore in the Vermont Senate, where he serves as Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee. He has led the Senate's work on Act 174 (Energy Siting), Act 56 (Renewable Energy Standard), and Act 64 (Clean Water Act), amongst other bills. Earlier, as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, he was lead sponsor of Vermont's Farm to Plate Program and the Biomass Energy Development Working Group. Chris is also a former UVM trustee, chair of the College of Agriculture Board, chair of the Middlebury Area Land Trust and a director of the United Way of Addison County Board. Chris runs a publishing company, and his family operates an 82-acre farm in New Haven.

**Sarah Brock** manages the Energy Program at Vital Communities, a nonprofit organization based in White River Junction, serving the entire Upper Valley region. Sarah led the development and successful launch of Solarize Upper Valley and Weatherize Upper Valley, partnering with over 30 towns and 18 contractors to help over 470 residents go solar or weatherize their homes. Prior to joining Vital

Communities in 2013, Sarah was a fellow with the High Meadows Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation. Sarah lives in Warner, NH.

**Catherine Bryars** is a land use planner with the Bennington County Regional Commission, where she works on municipal planning and implementation projects. She helped to complete Bennington County's Regional Energy Plan, which in June of this year became the first Act 174-compliant energy plan in the state. Catherine is actively developing municipal energy plans with towns in Bennington County. She holds degrees from Amherst College (BA) and UMass Amherst (MRP) and lived in Mexico as a Fulbright Scholar prior to moving to Vermont in 2016.

**Scott Campbell** is Director of 3E Thermal, which provides analysis and consulting services, and cash incentives, for affordable apartment housing throughout Vermont. 3E Thermal partners with the Weatherization Assistance Program, Efficiency Vermont and other programs and is funded by state thermal efficiency funds administered by Efficiency Vermont.

**Olivia Campbell Andersen** serves as Executive Director of Renewable Energy Vermont, the state's non-profit clean energy trades, advocacy and education organization. Prior to that, Olivia served as Assistant Chief of Staff to Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, advising the Governor on environmental, sustainability, energy, budget and transportation issues, as well as six years at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Olivia also worked for Congressman Steny H. Hoyer during his time as Majority Leader and for the National Wildlife Federation, working to reduce mercury and carbon pollution. Olivia holds degrees from Vermont Law School and Gettysburg College. Olivia explores rivers and forests, bikes rail trails and digs in the garden with her daughter and husband in their latest homebase in Montpelier.

**Amber Collett** is the Communications and Community Relations Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Amber is a communicator, coalition builder, organizer and engagement specialist originally hailing from the Midwest. Amber has more than a decade of experience working with nonprofits in Minnesota, Oregon and Maryland on a range of issues, including transportation, land and water use, healthy communities and wilderness and wildlife initiatives. She holds a Master of Environmental Science from Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Russian Area Studies from St. Olaf College. An avid cyclist, Amber lives in Montpelier with her fiancé Tim.

**Dave Cohen** has over 30 years of experience promoting bikes for everyday transportation. Among numerous transportation-related projects in the San Francisco Bay Area, Dave founded Pedal Express in Berkeley, CA, a bicycle delivery service utilizing a fleet of cargo bikes. Pedal Express gained national recognition for its innovative business model and creative partnerships. In 2015, Dave founded VBike, an advocacy group dedicated to promoting new bicycle technologies and designs to help inspire a shift in Vermont's bike culture towards a far more transportation-oriented future. Dave also works as an integrative psychotherapist in Brattleboro specializing in approaches in mind/body modalities and ecopsychology.

**Alex DePillis** is a renewable energy specialist with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Alex is a seasoned renewable energy professional with a mechanical engineering background. For 15 years Alex focused on wind power, energy policy, land-use permitting for wind and solar projects, and assessing wind and solar potential. Rounding out his clean energy career so far is substantial work in solar thermal sales, and installation, as well as short stints with PV, hydropower manufacturing and installation, and hydrogen production via clean energy.

**Robert Dostis** is the Vice President of Government and Stakeholder Relations at Green Mountain Power and oversees the marketing and sales of products and services to help GMP customers transform the way they use energy for lower cost, carbon and greater reliability. Robert also leads customer services for GMP's 40,000 commercial and industrial customers, oversees the billing department and leads GMP's government affairs and legislative work.

**Mike Evans** is the Assistant Director at the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives. He oversees Winter Blitz, a one-day student-facilitated community service home weatherization program, in partnership with Bennington College and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

**Rob Fish** is a Community Energy Dashboard Field Coordinator for Energy Action Network. In this role he works with communities across Vermont to benchmark progress towards achieving 90 percent renewable energy by 2050. Rob has a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Vermont. He previously worked for the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Digital Economy Project, and he co-founded the nonprofit Food for Maine's Future.

**Bethany Fleishman** was born, raised, and still lives in the Upper Valley. She's listened to Amtrak's twice daily whistle nearly all her life. She manages the Transportation Program at Vital Communities, which convenes the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association (UVTMA) and the Vermont Transportation Efficiency Network (VTEN). She serves on the Governor's Climate Action Commission and on the board of directors for both Advance Transit and Upper

Valley CarShare. She also served a term on the Hartford Selectboard. But most notably, Bethany has been a bike commuter since getting her first "real" job at age 16.

**Jennifer Green** staffs Burlington's Sustainability Program, including work on the Legacy Action Plan, the Climate Action Plan and other related initiatives. Jennifer has over 30 years of community development experience, including work on gender equity, national planning, and environmental management with the Peace Corps, CARE International, Chemonics, and the World Resources Institute. Shortly after moving to Burlington in 1999, she consulted with the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation and later Efficiency Vermont. In addition to working for the City, Jennifer teaches sustainable development courses at the University of Vermont. She has a masters in public administration from Columbia University and earned her PhD in sociology from American University in 2005.

**James Gibbons** is Director of Policy and Planning for the Burlington Electric Department and a 27-year veteran of the public power industry in Vermont. At BED, James and his staff oversee power supply, renewable trading, long range planning and regulatory interactions. James lives in Hinesburg with his wife Lynn and a very expensive cat.

**Diana González** is a second term legislator from Winooski, Chittenden County and serves on the Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs. She approaches climate change from an environmental justice lens: Those of us who are most vulnerable are hurt the most. As a legislator she is passionate about economic justice and equity. In addition to legislating, she leads workshops on facilitation and is finishing a doctorate in education.

**John Heath** is the Home Repair and Weatherization Director for COVER Home Repair where he has managed the program for the past five years and has weatherized hundreds of mobile homes and stick built homes in low-income communities in the Upper Valley.

**Lauren Hierl** joined Vermont Conservation Voters as Political Director in 2014. Prior to that, she worked as an environmental advocate at VPIRG, and in Washington, DC at the National Audubon Society. She also ran the campaign to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at the Alaska Wilderness League. She conducted climate change research in Kruger National Park in South Africa, and oversaw an endangered species conservation program at San Diego State University. Lauren received her Master of Environmental Management and Master of Public Policy degrees at Duke University, and a Bachelors in Environmental Science at Dartmouth College.

**Ian Hitchcock**, an AmeriCorps member, serves as the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and Vermont Natural Resources Council's Community Energy and Climate Action Coordinator. Ian holds a B.A. in

Environmental Studies from Marlboro College. His senior thesis examined climate change from an interdisciplinary perspective, combining historical, literary, and ecological perspectives. He grew up in Dubois WY, where his appreciation for the natural world took root. Ian previously worked in Senator Sanders' Office, interned for Renewable Energy Vermont and was a canvasser with VPIRG. Ian lives in Richmond and enjoys hiking, writing, and playing the saxophone in his free time.

**Tom Hughes** is an accomplished entrepreneur and administrator with political, business and nonprofit experience. He uses his varied experiences to coordinate the Energy Independent Vermont coalition and manage the campaign to put a price on carbon pollution in Vermont. He earned a B.A. from UVM in Political Science and is a graduate of American University's Campaign Management Institute.

**Scott Johnstone** has focused his career on creating positive change at the intersection of nature, people and infrastructure. As former Public Works Director in Burlington, Vermont Secretary of Natural Resources, Executive Director of the CCMPO and Executive Director of VEIC, he seeks root causes to focus on to enable bold action. With climate mitigation as a driver, he believes bold transportation and mobility solutions, adaptations, and policy represent the biggest opportunity for progress.

**Damon Lane** is a lead analyst at VEIC specializing in energy planning. He has extensive scenario modeling and analysis experience, including leading the modeling for the Vermont Solar Pathways project, a DOE-funded examination of solar providing 20 percent of Vermont's electricity by 2025. Damon has conducted potential studies and energy plans for individual grid circuits, cities and towns, schools and other facilities, and for states; work that spans from the electrical engineering issues of grid operations to public policy and planning at the state and regional level. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Penn State and a master's degree in sustainable energy engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

**Mark MacDonald**, of Williamstown, represents Orange County in the Vermont Senate. He first served on the House Energy Committee. As senator he has served on the Natural Resources and Energy Committee (17 years) and Finance (19 years). These are the two committees most environmental and energy bills must go through. "I am fortunate." He says, "Often, it takes presentations in both committees to come CLOSE to fully understanding energy related bills." Mark is also a teacher, farmer and graduated from community college and then Clark University with Vietnam military service squeezed in.

**Duncan McDougall** is the founder and chair of Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership), a town energy committee and nonprofit in Waterbury and Duxbury. For 12 years, LEAP has actively encouraged central Vermonters

to move forward on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and emissions reduction. For their efforts LEAP volunteers have received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence as well as awards from VECAN, VNRC, and REV. Duncan is also founder and Executive Director of the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF), a nonprofit that supports and inspires almost 225,000 low-income, at-risk, and rural young readers and writers across Vermont and New Hampshire. Duncan is also active in grassroots organizing and local politics, and served as campaign treasurer for Sue Minter's gubernatorial campaign. He lives in Waterbury Center with his wife and son.

**Linda McGinnis** joined the Energy Action Network as Program Director in 2015, helping the EAN network realize its mission of helping Vermont meet 90 percent of its energy needs through efficiency and renewables by 2050. She serves as co-chair of the Clean Energy Development Fund Board and directed Governor Shumlin's Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission. Before EAN, Linda had a career in sustainable economic development policies and investments spanning five continents. She also serves on the South Burlington Energy Committee and as a Board Trustee for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

**Christine McGowan** is the Forest Products Program Director at the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF), where she collaborates with the Northern Forest Center, the Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Board and others with a goal of improving value chain investment opportunities for Vermont's forest products industry and increasing the value of sustainable forestry in the state. Before joining VSJF, Christine previously served in strategic communication roles for the National Wildlife Refuge Association, The Nature Conservancy and the National Wildlife Federation.

**Dan Mellinger** is a Senior Consultant with Energy Futures Group in Hinesburg where he works to advance clean energy policies throughout North America. His work includes commercial program design, lighting technology consulting, energy policy advocacy, expert witness testimony, and efficiency program planning.

**Johanna Miller** is the Energy Program Director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council and also serves as the coordinator of the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network. In these roles, Johanna works from the grassroots to the Legislature to help advance clean energy and climate action programs and policies. Johanna also serves on the Clean Energy Development Fund board, the Vermont Energy Education Program board, the Vermont System Planning Committee and the Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee. Recently, Johanna was also appointed to the Governor's Climate Action Commission.

**Dan Potter** is the Energy Policy and Program Analyst, at the Vermont Public Service Department where his responsibilities include the review of regional and municipal plans for

determinations of energy compliance under Act 174. Prior that, Dan worked as a Planner at the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission from 2010-2016. Dan holds a Bachelor of Community and International Development from UVM and a Master of Environmental Law and Policy from VLS.

**Rebecca Ramos** is a government relations expert and political strategist at the Necrason Group, a Vermont contract lobbying firm. She has worked with some of Vermont's finest political leaders, including Governor Howard Dean and Congressman Peter Welch. She is a proven expert at navigating Vermont's complicated political landscape to bring success to her client's issues. Her focus of work includes environment and conservation, energy reform, including climate and carbon pricing efforts, gun safety, women's and children's issues, appropriations advocacy, tax reform and labor rights. She lives in Burlington, Vermont, with her two children, and is an avid hiker, artist, poet and writer.

**Deb Sachs** is Executive Director of Net Zero Vermont and a native Vermonter. Deb is a change agent and passionate about sustainable development and a low carbon solutions. She has managed non-profits and consulted on numerous planning and sustainability projects including Sustainable Montpelier Design Competition, Way to Go! Challenge, Go! Vermont and other public transportation projects efforts supporting transit and trains. Deb oversees EcoStrategies, a consulting firm advancing energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy solutions to business and communities. Deb sits on the boards of Vermont Rail Action Network and is a co-founding partner of VECAN and Vermont Transportation Efficiency Network.

**Ross Saxton**, a native Vermonter, works to get more people commuting on bikes, improve our roads for cycling, and engage businesses to improve the bikability of Vermont communities. Ross is also focused on increasing e-bike usage across Vermont as an affordable and reliable way to travel that helps the state achieve carbon emission reduction goals. In addition to his work around bikes, Ross has worked with local and national organizations to ban oil trains, improve water quality and fisheries, and motivate Americans to become active with climate change solutions. Ross also managed a ski and bike shop in Burlington.

**Jim Sullivan** is the executive director of the Bennington County Regional Commission. During his 28 years at the BCRC he has worked in the areas of land use, transportation, and environmental planning and has most recently focused on energy planning and the local and regional levels. Jim graduated from Colby College and received graduate degrees in natural resource management, from Cornell University, and public administration, from Syracuse University.

**Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur** is director of VEIC's Transportation Efficiency group where she oversees a staff of consulting professionals and manages operations. Jennifer has spent 20+ years advancing program and policy solutions on a range of issues including active transportation, land use, and mobility for older adults at all levels. Jennifer led AARP's national livable communities program and pioneered AARP's work to engage stakeholders and advance integrated transportation and land use planning, improved mobility and active transportation for older adults. Jennifer serves on the Burlington Planning Commission and Electric Commission, and the Governor's Commission on Successful Aging. Jen is a graduate of Bowdoin College.

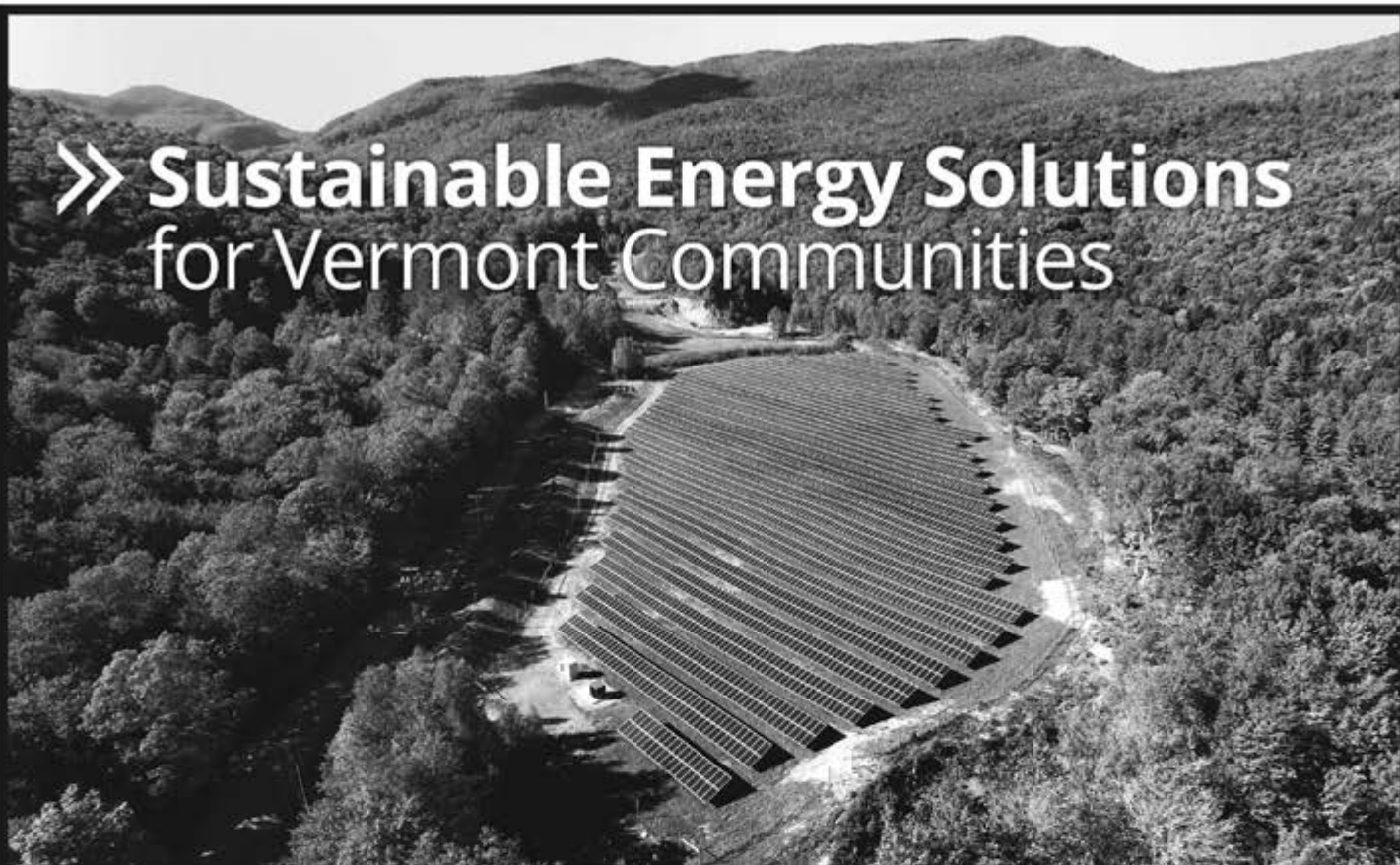
**Bob Walker** has been a community environmental and energy organizer in Vermont for more than 38 years. He was founder and director of Sustainable Energy Resource Group from 2001-2015, founder and chair of the Thetford Energy Committee from 2002-present and project director of the Elizabeth Mine Study Group from 1996-2012. Bob also served as community outreach organizer for the Vermont Consumer's Energy Co-op, the Vermont Citizens Coalition for Clean Elections and program director for EarthRight Institute. Bob is currently consulting with the Vital Communities energy program and an effort to stop the proposed natural gas pipeline in Lebanon and Hanover.

**Ben Walsh** has run VPIRG's climate and energy program since 2012, leading campaigns to expand Vermont's precedent setting CLEAN Contracts and net metering programs. At VPIRG, Ben works to research, identify and advance clean energy policy solutions. Prior to this role, Ben was VPIRG's Field Director, engaging and mobilizing thousands of Vermonters in support of VPIRG's campaigns. He learned the organizing trade in Green Corps, working with National Environmental Trust, Environment America and the Oregon Natural Desert Association, and later serving as Green Corps' recruitment director. Ben holds a BS in Environmental Studies and BA in Political Science from UVM.

**Sarah Wolfe** is the Clean Energy Advocate at VPIRG. A native Vermonter, she spent four years in California working on state level solar policy across the country before returning to focus on Vermont's renewable energy future in 2016.

**Rebecca White** is a seventh generation Vermonter who grew up in the village of Wilder in Hartford. She pursued a B.A. in History and Speech from the University of Vermont, and she filled her summers by grassroots organizing with Vermont's Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG). Rebecca has been working as a solar community organizer for SunCommon for over two years in Windsor county. She is a recently re-elected Selectboard member in her hometown, serves on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns governing board and is an active alumni of Emerge Vermont organization.

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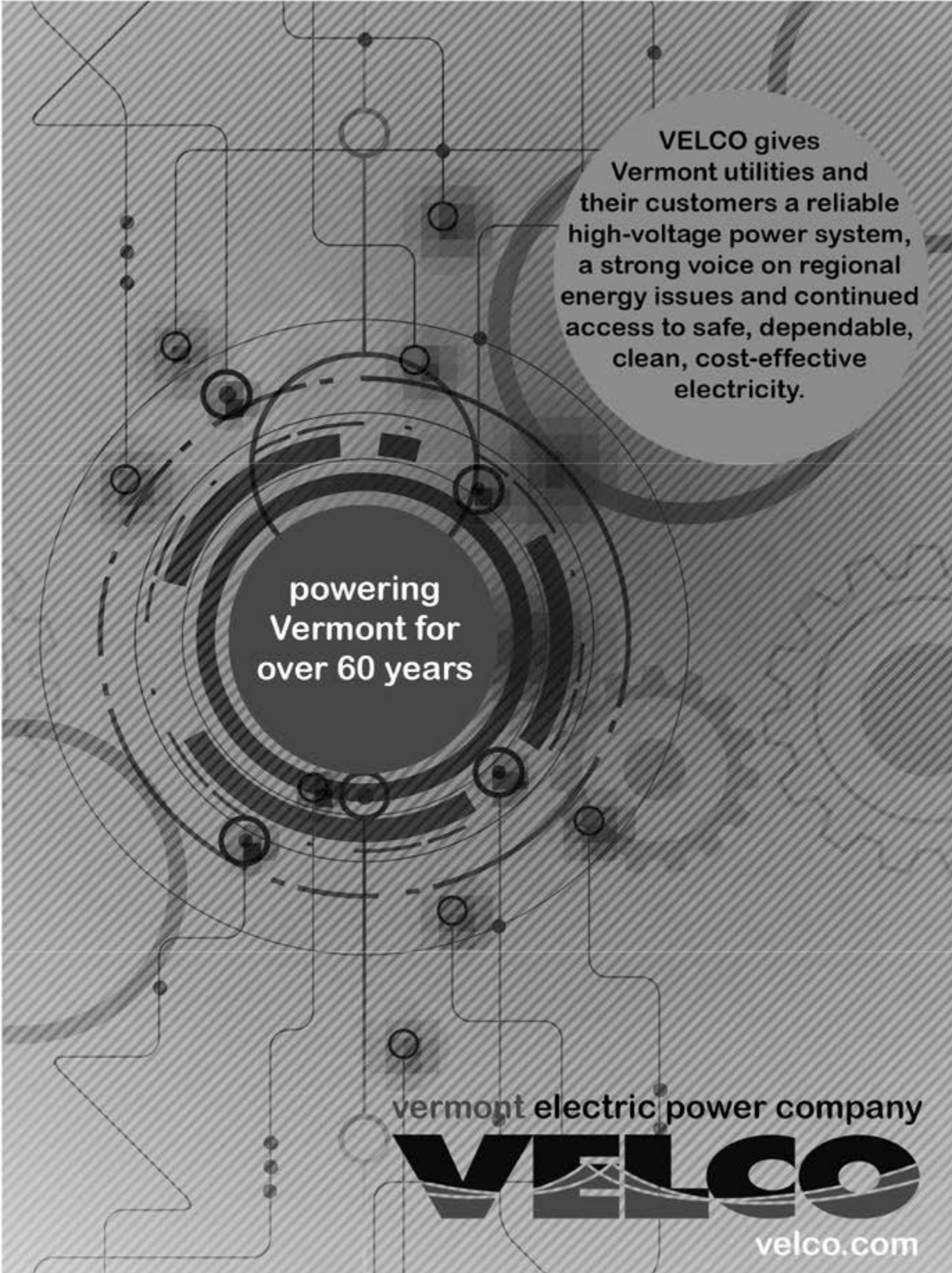
*Featured above: Stowe Electric Department Project – winner of Renewable Energy Vermont's 2016 Renewable Energy Industry Champion Award along with our Village of Hyde Park Project.*



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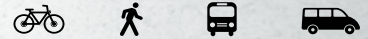
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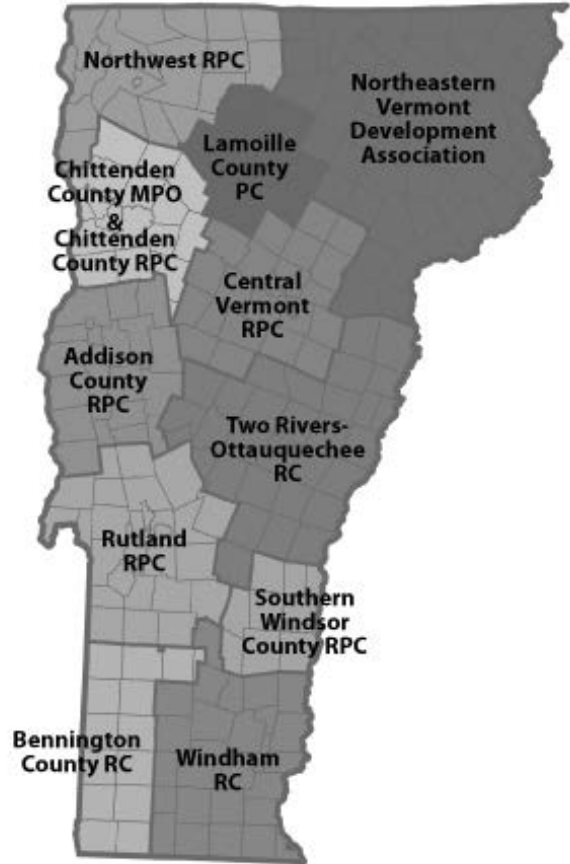


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